

1: 'IT IS TIME TO SEEK THE LORD.'

Conditions in Lowestoft after the First World War. The prayers of God's people and Hugh Ferguson's invitation to the Rev.

A Douglas Brown of Balham. God's dealings with Douglas Brown prior to the invitation to Lowestoft.

2: THE CLOUDBURST

The outpouring of God's Spirit on Lowestoft in the first week of March 1921. The meetings continue and so does the blessing, with Christians revived and hundreds converted.

3: THE SHOWERS CONTINUE

Douglas Brown returns to Lowestoft for Whitsun-week and revival continues in Oulton and other villages.

4: AN EAST ANGLIAN REVIVAL

The Revival spreads to Ipswich, Great Yarmouth, Norwich and Cambridge.

5: WHEN SCOTLAND COMES TO YARMOUTH.

The Holy Spirit poured out on the

preaching of Jock Troup and Douglas Brown during the herring fishing in the Autumn of 1921.

6: THE SCOTTISH DIMENSION.

Jock Troup and then the fisherfolk return home, and a powerful movement spreads along the north-east coast of Scotland.

7: 'THIS IS THE END.'

Why was there no nation-wide revival in England? The work continued in Scotland.

A simultaneous movement in Ulster in 1921, under the preaching of WP Nicholson.

8: THE FRUITS OF REVIVAL

The lasting results of revival in Lowestoft and Ipswich. Two decades of evangelism in England and Scotland.

9: A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE.

A number of the Biblical principles of revival are found in Psalm 85, and they are illustrated in the revival that began in Lowestoft in March 1921.

APPENDIX 1.

The left water-pot, a sermon preached in Lowestoft by Douglas Brown in March 1921.

APPENDIX 2.

Our Records and God's Remedy, a typical gospel sermon preached by Jock Troup.

APPENDIX 3.

Lowestoft, Twenty five years after the Revival. Recollections by the author.

From its first publication in 1992 it was encouraging to see *A Forgotten Revival* go into a second printing. But it is even more encouraging to know that in this new edition we have the result of Stanley Griffin's continued research. So, with new material and additional illustrations, we now have a fuller account of the revival that began in Lowestoft in 1921. For those who, through this book, will be introduced to the revival, it will be worth me repeating what I wrote in the first edition about this 'Forgotten revival'.

From one point of view it is hardly surprising that a revival in Lowestoft should have been forgotten. The wild and beautiful East Anglian coast, together with its rich agricultural hinterland, is not one of the best known corners of England. The coastal town of Lowestoft is known by many today only for its dwindling fishing fleet and a theme park. But the work of God that began in Lowestoft in 1921 and then spread rapidly across East Anglia and into northeast Scotland, should not have been overlooked by evangelical Christians for so long. It was, after all, the last widespread revival in England. I love the coast of East Anglia and have spent many holidays there. The fact that my father was born at Caister where my grandfather was a coast guard, and that my parents returned to Suffolk on retirement, all added to my natural interest in the area. I have East Anglian blood in my veins! I first discovered accounts of the revival in Lowestoft whilst I was researching for my own book on revival in the 1980s. At first I was frustrated by the almost complete absence of published material relating to this great work of God. Articles and cuttings were available only to those who had both time and ability to ferret them out. Then I met Stanley Griffin and discovered that for years he had been quietly and patiently combining his daily work with diligent research into the Lowestoft revival. It was crucial that his work should be published for the benefit of all who are concerned with the subject of spiritual revival.

Stanley Griffin has written a carefully researched account of a revival, not from a dry academic perspective, but with his own heart on fire with the hope that God will come again to this nation. His scriptural analysis of the revival and its aftermath provides both encouragement and warning for today's church. For all who are not merely interested but

Foreword

urgently concerned for true revival, this new edition will fill a significant gap in your library, your knowledge and your heart. My prayer, and that of Stanley Griffin, is that the remembrance of a revival that had been almost forgotten will encourage us to pray that God will remember his people and come to us again as he did in 1921.

Brian Edwards, Surbiton, Surrey September 2000

The seeds of this record of revival history were sown in my mind when I was a boy. My mother was showing me a photograph of a silver-haired preacher clutching a Bible to his chest. She told me how the Rev. Douglas Brown had preached in Lowestoft and so many people wanted to hear him that they were sitting on the window-sills of St. John's Church. My father was one of the early converts in the revival, but that knowledge did not make much impression on me at the time.

It was in 1971, when an article appeared in the *Life of Faith* to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the East Anglian Revival, that I first wrote about the subject in the *Lowestoft Journal*. Sometime later I began to research the movement in earnest, I discovered that over fifty reports and articles which had appeared in the Christian and secular press had been collected by a former deacon of the Baptist Church who, before he died, had passed them on to the minister. These have been an invaluable source of information.

People who have been personally involved in revival are becoming increasingly rare, but it has been my privilege to know and talk to many who were connected with the movement, chief among these were my parents; but both died before I began to prepare this book. It was exciting to meet MJ Micklewright, deacon emeritus of Westminster Chapel, who, as a young lay-pastor and protege of Douglas Brown visited Lowestoft during the revival and reported on the events for *The Christian*.

The Rev. Robert Browne, Wycliffe Preacher, Baptist Minister and hymn writer, was a local boy of fifteen when he was converted in the revival. My first contact with him came when he was the visiting preacher at the Baptist Church in Lowestoft on the day before I left to do my National Service. He was a great help to me then, and particularly in recent years, he has been a leading eye-witness of the events I have recorded. Finally, I mention the Lowestoft businessman Harold G Hannant, a deacon of the Baptist Church for many years and a member there even before the revival began. Active and alert in his great age, he has been able to give me vivid descriptions of events and personalities.

Although I have a personal interest in the East Anglian revival, my main reason for writing this book is that it was the *last* revival in England! Every revival starts somewhere, and the one which began in Lowestoft in March

Introduction

1921 soon spread to other parts of East Anglia as it continued throughout the summer. When the Scottish fishermen came to Great Yarmouth for the autumn herring fishing, it broke out with renewed vigour under the preaching of Jock Troup. When they returned to their homes at the end of the season, those fisherfolk carried the revival back to Scotland, only to find that in the meantime God had already begun to move there. It is significant that it was also in the spring of 1921 that the Rev. WP Nicholson began to preach to great crowds in Ulster. This shows how far the revival had spread throughout the United Kingdom at that time, and it is sad to note that, apart from the powerful revival in the Scottish Hebrides in 1949, there has been nothing comparable to it for eighty years. It is of the utmost importance therefore, while it is still within living memory, that this revival should be recorded. Its principles, its strengths and weaknesses, should be considered, so that God's people are stirred to seek Him to revive us again.

Stanley Griffin

Pictured opposite: *Going Fishing* by photographer, Sidney Reynolds