

## **REVIVAL FIRES FOUNDER – CECIL TODD – CELEBRATES ALMOST SEVEN DECADES OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY!**

**BRANSON WEST, MO.,** “Dr. Cecil Todd, Founder and President of the world-wide ministry of Revival Fires, now headquartered in the Branson area, is celebrating almost seven decades of Christian ministry this year,” according to Gail (Todd) Stallman, Todd’s Administrative Assistant and his youngest daughter.

“It all started in a little country church, called “The Nagle Christian Church,” near Houston, Mo. in 1949, where Todd preached his first gospel sermon,” says his daughter, Gail. “It lasted only twelve minutes – and my dad still has the outline to this message. My dad was a freshman student at Ozark Bible College at the time, now known as Ozark Christian College, in Joplin, MO.”

Born to a family in poverty, of eleven children (nine boys!), Todd was raised in a house built by the Choctaw Indians, in southeastern Oklahoma! His dad, “Cecil Todd Senior” received a monthly check for \$27 for being wounded defending our country, in World War I. This small check was used to raise this family of nine sons and two daughters!

“The Kiamichi Mountains in Oklahoma, where Todd was raised, was known as a land of “poor people,” “bootleggers,” “moon-shiners,” “cattle rustlers,” and other outlaws”, says Todd. “But things changed when the Kiamichi Mountain Christian Mission was started by A.B. McReynolds (Brother Mac). At the time, I was only fifteen years old!” At fifteen, Todd made his public profession of faith in the Nashoba Public School, in a revival conducted by an elder, Dave Curry, from Carthage, Mo.” Todd entered his first church building, “Christ’s Church” of Nashoba, at age seventeen. He is now eighty-six years young!

Cecil Todd is now known as Dr. Todd, since he has three “Doctor of Divinity degrees”, plus his Bachelor of Sacred Literature degree from Ozark Christian College.

As an “Ozark” student, Todd pastored the Rinehart Christian Church near Nevada, Mo, for three years, before entering the evangelistic field in 1954!

His revival crowds soon overflowed the church buildings and were then moved to ball stadiums; to a huge 2,000 capacity gospel (tent) Cathedral he purchased; and later to large city and municipal auditoriums, and “memorial halls” to accommodate the huge crowds!

Todd’s largest crowd to preach to was to over one million, when he was invited to be the guest speaker on Russia’s Red Square for their annual “**MAY DAY**” celebration in May of 1992. “**USA TODAY**”, a national

daily publication, carried a front page story of this historic event! No one from the U.S., especially a preacher, had ever spoken to this historic gathering!

Todd's weekly TV program, "Revival Fires" was carried on a nation-wide network of 154 TV stations from 1965 to 1985. The programs featured such well-known personalities as "The Gospel Lads," The Good Twins, Dale Evans, Anita Bryant, Lowell Mason, The Gospel Couriers, Russ Martin and Cecil Todd! In addition to the 900, "thirty-minute" programs produced, Revival Fires also made twelve "one hour" TV specials that were carried nationally!

"Some of the highlights of this almost seven decades of ministry," according to Ms. Stallman was, "My dad preaching in over thirty countries around the world...taking twenty-seven mission trips in Moscow, Russia, where he distributed over two million Bibles and he also founded and pastored a church, "Christ's Church" of Moscow...He provided 300,000 New Testament Bibles for our Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan – at the personal request (in a phone call!) of the Chief Chaplains of the Pentagon...He and his wife, Linda were invited by President Ronald Reagan to join him on **AIR FORCE ONE**...Todd also made several visits to the White House to visit and pray with Reagan. Reagan was featured on two of Todd's "Revival Fires TV Specials" ...His largest crusade crowds were in Port Limon, Costa Rica, where over 35,000 overflowed a 5,000 seat soccer stadium – over 4,000 converts for Christ were counted...and, under Todd's leadership, a four-story **MERCY (MISSION) HOSPITAL**, and a two-story "Out-Patient" Clinic were built in Valakom, Kerala State, India, plus sixty-five church buildings were built and two 'Jesus Loves Me' orphanages! Mercy Hospital treats over 200 sick and hurting people daily."

His daughter Gail reports that her dad has traveled over **THREE MILLION MILES** around the world to win more than **THREE MILLION SOULS TO CHRIST!** Two million people came to Christ in Todd's Russia outreach alone!

For twenty-five years, Cecil Todd's "Revival Fires" ministry was headquartered on Joplin's North Main Street – across from Ozark Christian College, but about thirty-years ago...the offices were relocated to Branson West, Mo. For five years, Todd also rented Branson's 4,000 seat Grand Palace for "turn away" crowds – Many have said that the largest crowds to ever come to Branson came to attend the "Revival Fires Campmeetings!"

After almost seventy-years of Christian ministry, Todd tells why he hasn't retired... **"HOW CAN I RETIRE, WHEN HELL IS ON FIRE!"** Dr. Todd will start his seventieth year of ministry in November of this year!

#### **SOME OTHER INTERESTING INFORMATION:**

1. Cecil Todd's favorite scripture is Proverbs 11:30. ***"The fruit of the righteous is the tree of life... and he that wins souls is wise!"*** He has requested this verse be chiseled on his headstone.
2. His favorite gospel song is **"OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS!"** He has requested it be sung at his

Memorial service.

3. The three people who influenced Cecil Todd the most has been **A.B. McREYNOLDS (BRO. MAC)**, the Founder of the Kiamichi Mountain Christian Mission; **DR. BILLY GRAHAM** and at the top of his list is his “little Mama”, **EMILY C. TODD!** At the age of only sixteen, she was brought, to the U.S. as a “war-bride,” from Paris, France. She moved from living under the shadow of the “Eiffel Tower” and was brought to the “wilds of S.E. Oklahoma,” where she raised her eleven children almost single-handedly – since her husband, Cecil Todd, Sr. was wounded in battle, he could only do limited labor! Five of her sons became ordained ministers, plus her two son-in-laws became ministers.
4. After traveling around the world several times, Todd says, **“My favorite place in all the world is the Ozark Mountains of southern Missouri!”**
5. **HIS GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT, (IN HIS OPINION)**, is to raise six wonderful children, two daughters and four sons...all who became followers of Jesus Christ and all have been ordained into the Christian ministry!
6. **HOW DOES CECIL TODD WANT TO BE REMEMBERED?**

*“As an undeserving servant of our Lord Jesus...who gave his best to all he attempted to do...  
A “fighter” for America’s spiritual foundations” and an example of “what God can do  
with ‘mountain do!’”*

7. **TODD’S BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT?**

Cecil Todd says that after twenty-five years, the failure of his first marriage to Barbara Todd is his biggest disappointment – even though they both tried so hard to make it work! *“In my opinion, the reason it failed was that I was gone traveling too much, and our personal relationship “fell apart,”* says Todd. “He and his wife, Linda, have been married for almost thirty-eight years and have a beautiful relationship,” says Ms. Stallman.