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During the days of John and Charles Wesley, God started a wonderful spiritual movement. The brothers struggled for the spiritual restoration of the Church of England.

The Wesleys planted small groups at Oxford University became the first Methodist platform on which biblical Christianity was built.

John Wesley's main goal was to establish biblical Christianity in England. He surrendered everything to this heavenly purpose. Because of the supernatural work of Holy Spirit and John's Wesley's efforts, hundreds of thousands of the people started to walk in obedience to the gospel.

Today, we take as normal things such as public evangelism, small group meetings, classes, prayer and fasting, and the involvement of lay people in every area of the church ministry and life. However, it wasn't so at the beginnings of Methodism. When John Wesley started to preach outside of church buildings, it was a shock to many people.

Two years ago we held a public evangelistic gathering in Košice, the second largest town in Slovakia. United Methodists from Texas were amazed that we preached the gospel so publicly. They said they don't have the same freedom.

This was shock to me. In earlier decades, the United States brought many blessed fruits and I assumed it was a nation of great freedom. It seems the reality is not so pretty.

The United Methodist Church has diverted from direction set by John Wesley.

Present day Methodism is more concerned with ceremonies, orders, structures, and secular social projects, than it is to reaching lost people.

Early morning meetings, regular fastings, strong evangelism and mission initiatives, and the emphasis on holiness and Christian perfection are missing.

John Wesley and George Whitfield didn't depend on great numbers of church members. Wesley would rather have 50 Christians that seriously walk with God than 300 church members that made compromises with God and denied God's word.

When Christians in local churches genuinely followed Jesus, Wesley gave them full membership rights. Of course he was wise and sound in executing discipline. He preferred quiet personal communication (Galatians 6:1) and correction in Christ's spirit.

Compare Wesley's emphasis on holiness, Christian perfection, and applying discipline with the practices of The United Methodist Church. What would happened if we would take away membership from people that obviously love sin more than godly matters?

Who would dare excommunicate a successful man who committed adultery? Most would not want to lose his financial support and they would fear losing favor with the congregation.

How many United Methodists really want a world-wide revival movement, that God promised through prophet Joel in the last days (Joel 3:1)? Are we content with a beautiful Methodist heritage?

I long for a United Methodist Church that is hungry and thirsty for God's word—a church that uses all of its resources to preach salvation to the lost—and a church that worships Jesus in spirit and in truth.