Features of the 1839 Revival in Kilsyth and Dundee.

1. **The Word.** People gave serious attention to the word of God. Christ and eternity were the focus of the preaching. They preached specifically to bring people to salvation. “Ruin in the fall. Righteousness in Christ. Regeneration in the Holy Spirit” in McCheyne’s words. (See Awakening p 168.)

2. **Prayer multiplied.** McCheyne discovered 39 regular prayer meeting going on when he returned. Some of them were run by children for children. (See Awakening, p 120 for a detailed description)

3. **Youth and Children.** The revival affected all ages but it was especially strong among the youth. It was young ministers in their 20s who were the leaders in the revival. (Awakening p120 Edwards p166.)

4. **It was cross denominational.** (See Awakening p 115)

5. **Ripples went out from Kilsyth and Dundee** – to Perth and Perthshire, Ross-shire, the Borders.

6. **Hundreds were saved.** Around 800 people sought help from the ministers in Dundee – 400 from McCheyne alone. Not all of those were converted but many were. They kept clear records about who responded and how they were getting on some months later. (See McMullen p 39.)

There was criticism – from the church and from the press. The Presbytery of Aberdeen sent a questionnaire to assess whether the revival was genuine or not. They asked full questions and received detailed answers from Burns and McCheyne. Much of what we know today comes from these answers. (See Awakening p 162-172.)

In everything McCheyne trusted in the Holy Spirit to do His work (Awakening p 156.) He was absorbed by Jesus Christ. He had a passion for souls. He was convinced that only the Holy Spirit could convert but that he was an instrument of the Holy Spirit. He faithfully sowed the seed of the word and waited patiently for the Holy Spirit to bring the results.

Andrew Bonar summed him up saying “His lamp was always burning.”

**Early Death.** Sadly, Robert caught typhus while visiting the poor and weakened by overwork he died at the age of 29 in 1843. He was deeply mourned by his congregation. His friend, Andrew Bonar wrote a memoir of Robert in 1844. This has been in print ever since along with McCheyne’s sermons and bible reading plan. The influence of Robert Murray McCheyne goes on today even though his ministry were so short.

**Books on Robert Murray McCheyne.**

- Brian Edwards. Revival – A People Saturated with God. (Evangelical Press.)
- Derek Prime. Robert Murray McCheyne. (Day One.)
- Andrew Bonar. Robert Murray McCheyne, Remains and Memoir. (Banner of Truth.
- Michael McMullen. W C Burns, God’s Polished Arrow. (Christian Focus.)
- David Robertson. Awakening. (Paternoster.)