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## Dry Bones

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# DRY BONES

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***“I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord” (Eze. 37:14, NIV).***

I listened to a good young preacher give a modern application of this prophecy. “The valley,” he explained, “represents the church. Without the Holy Spirit it is full of lifelessness and people who are dead in trespasses and sins. All the doctrines and teachings of the church can be presented as church members ‘hear the word of the Lord’ (Eze. 37:4), but that is not enough to bring the necessary life.

“The bones rattle together and are covered with flesh. However, all the organization, ceremonies, policies, and institutionalism—no matter how successful they may look—cannot open the graves (verse 12). It is only as the Spirit of God fills each life that the church can rise up like a mighty army (verse 10) and move forward in conquering power for Jesus.”

Though I knew that the primary application of this prophecy related to the Jews in exile in Babylonia and God’s desire to bring them back to

their homeland, where again a remnant could live in spiritual vitality, I agreed with the pastor’s application. There have been times when, even as a minister, I have had no living relationship with the Lord. I knew how to do and say everything right, but true spiritual life was lacking.

A person in this situation usually is not aware of what has happened, because the dead do not know anything (Eccl. 9:5). But God in His love and mercy is constantly leading His people to places where they can be exposed to prayer ministries, revival, and a new awareness of the gospel. It is exciting to see the dramatic changes that take place when a person rises from the grave of spiritual deadness. I praise God for His resurrection power in my own life, and I invite you to ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with His life today. □

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*\*Garrie F. Williams is pastor of the Denver South Seventh-day Adventist Church.*