

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

Igniting Prayer for Revival in our City • 5 Minutes to Read • 5 Minutes in Prayer

FOR THE WEEK OF Oct 25th-31st, 2020 - Vol 26

THEME VERSE:

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
We do not know what we ought to pray for,
but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.*

Romans 8:26

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1745 Revival among Delaware Indians

On April 1st, 1743, a young 27 year old missionary named David Brainerd started work among the tribes of the Delaware Indians in the New England area. Brainerd had put his faith in Jesus when he was 21 years old, and he was often described as serious in demeanor, self-deprecating, and extremely hard-working. It was also evident that he was especially zealous about prayer and fasting, and his writings later revealed how his life was saturated in prayer alone with Father God and also with spontaneous prayers with others around him. Prayer was a key defining trait of his faith and life.

The Delaware Indians traditionally believed that spirits inhabited everything in the world. Shamans helped to control the evil spirits in the world and to placate the more helpful ones. Many natives of that time were caught up in idolatry, drunkenness, or dishonesty. In January 1745, when Brainerd started working with the tribe in Crosswicks, New Jersey, he sensed initially an appalling sense of apathy and hardness towards the Gospel. He felt such a heaviness in the air and a spirit of depression as he preached. Yet he faithfully shared the Word of God and pressed on with his prayers.

In the summer of 1745, something started to change. Brainerd sensed God's leading to preach on the kindness and goodness of God. As he preached about the Savior's compassion and mercy, he noticed that many of his listeners seemed visibly moved, and others were distressed at the realization of the badness that was in their hearts. They were overwhelmed by the amazing grace of the Gospel, and almost the whole crowd would be in tears by the end of the service.

On August 8th, he began preaching to a large group from Luke 14:15-23, about the great banquet and how God yearned intensely for people to come to the feast, even those who seemed completely unworthy. This stirred something deep in their hearts. And then the power of God seemed to descend like a mighty rushing wind upon the whole group. Like an irresistible flood, the listeners appeared distressed about their sins, crying out to God for mercy, weeping in conviction. Those who were already believers began speaking words of comfort and peace and giving others invitations to trust in the Savior. Revival had ignited among them and began to spread!

A few days later, a young Indian woman who lived as an atheist and had mockingly dismissed what was happening came to the services. She too was overcome with awareness of her own sin and desperation for the peace only God could give. She started praying in her native tongue, over and over again: "Have mercy on me, and help me to give You my heart!" She prayed this non-stop for hours on end until she too finally received the gift of salvation.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- FURTHER INVESTMENT INTO CHARLOTTE. Thank God for new investments into our economy as Raytheon plans to build a \$650 million plant in western North Carolina soon, opening up opportunities for 800 new jobs.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS. As schools continue to navigate the education of our young people during this pandemic, pray that our teachers and kids will stay safe when they are on campus and that the online learning will become more effective for all our students.
- ELECTIONS. Pray for the shalom peace of God to blanket the City of Charlotte as Election Day draws near. That every plan of the enemy will be thwarted. That any violence, fraud, hatred, jealousies, and illegal activities would be exposed and dealt with.
- HEALTH. Pray for those, about 100 people, at a recent church event who caught COVID-19. Pray for their quick recovery and safe quarantine. Continue to pray for God's raising up effective vaccines and treatments in the days ahead. Pray for an end to the pandemic here and globally.

FOR MISSIONS AND THE WORLD:

- DRILLING WELLS. Pray for the Christian well-drilling ministries world-wide providing fresh water and the Gospel: Gospel for Asia, Hydromissions, Christian Aid Mission, the Borewell Mission (in India). Pray for new openings and favor for these workers to travel to various world regions to carry out this ministry.
- ADYGHE PEOPLE. Pray for the minority people group in Serbia called the Adyghe people (a Muslim group). Pray for this group which lacks a strong Christian witness to be evangelized and that there would be a church planted in one of their communities.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- PASTORS. *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.* - 1 Peter 5:2, 7.
Pray that pastors and church leaders will be filled with wisdom; that they will be honored by those they serve; that God will pour His Spirit upon them in power and humility, giving fresh intimacy with Jesus; for protection from the plots of the enemy against their families; that deep friendships with other pastors will grow.
- REVIVAL. *Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your unfailling love, O Lord...I will listen to what God the Lord will say; He promises peace to His people, His saints – but let them return from folly.* - Psalm 85:6-7-8.
With hope-filled urgency we cry: Revive us again! Dare we ask that You would revive us once and for all? Revivals in history have come and gone after a few months or years, but Lord would you send a revival that lasts? Move upon us by Your powerful love! Speak in life-giving power and lift our fluttering hopes. We will receive all that you say. Come upon Your people with heaven's peace and save us in ways that surprise us. Impact entire cities with resurrection life.

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