

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Jan 3rd - 9th, 2021 - Vol 36

THEME VERSE:

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him,
and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

Psalms 28:7

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1804 Revival on the Isle of Arran

The Isle of Arran is found off the southwest coast of Scotland. In the late 1700's, this island, with a population of 6000 people, had witnessed the Christian church there dwindle and weaken over time. The people, especially the youth, tragically turned away from following God and turned to pursuing their own pleasures and selfish goals.

It was here in 1804 that the first wave of revival swept over the northern towns of the island. In Christian history, sometimes revivals start very fast and with explosive growth. At other times, they start small and spread slowly over a region. On Arran, it began quietly with small groups of Christians who saw a reviving of their faith that radically transformed their attitudes and actions in the community. As the attendees worshiped and prayed and listened to the Word, the Holy Spirit would stir up in their hearts a keen awareness of personal sin and also a sense of helplessness to fix this problem on their own. The good news of the Gospel became very clear, and many sensed the Spirit powerfully revitalizing their faith. This gradually spread to various towns in the region.

However, the majority of the island population in 1804 strongly opposed this first wave of revival, even as the revived remnant started to burn more and more brightly in the following years. Those who had been spiritually ignited were filled with a deep compassion for the lost, and this compelled them to pray consistently and fervently for those far from God. They would set aside entire days to fast and to pray for the lost and for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the year 1811 especially, they persistently saturated Heaven with intercession and cries for spiritual breakthrough.

In March of 1812, the Lord started to stir up revival fire in the midst of the prayer meetings. People of all ages began to experience and respond to the Holy Spirit's move. Some would cry out loudly in heart-torn grief over those who were lost. Many were overwhelmed by a strong conviction of sin in their lives. Others would tremble in the midst of their anguished prayers. Still others would describe experiencing the profound sense of God's supernatural love, His peace, and His incredible joy.

The revival continued to spread that year throughout the island as the hunger for God's Word intensified. People would travel long miles by horse or by foot. They would crowd into residences and halls to hear the preaching. After services, folks would take time to excitedly discuss what the Spirit had shown them. The awareness of God's presence and favor marked those who attended. And many hundreds of non-believers received the Gospel and found salvation in Christ. God's love had awakened the church once again on this little island.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God for how cities nationally have been relatively peaceful the last few weeks. Also thanks be to God for helping Congress to release a new stimulus bill that provides financial relief to individuals, families, and small businesses.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **GOVERNMENT.** Pray that our government continues to improve the stimulus bill to best help our nation. Pray that the money which is allocated will find its way to small businesses owners and to those in need in and around Charlotte. Pray that money will not be wasted on unnecessary expenses and programs. Pray for favor and compassion to families who struggle to meet rent.
- **RESOLUTION IN THE ELECTION.** Pray that all concerns about the election and any potential fraud will be laid out and dealt with transparency and honesty. Pray that nothing will be hidden, that wrongful things be exposed, that the nation will begin to heal from the distrust and animosity, and that God will bring a healthy unity to the church and our nation.
- **COVID-19.** Pray for safety from illness for our neighbors, friends, and family. Continue praying for the availability of safe and effective vaccines and treatments.. Pray for God to bring comfort, healing, and an end to the pandemic soon.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **NORTH KOREA.** Pray for the North Korean Christians, that God would encourage those in the secret churches and those imprisoned for their faith. Pray that God would provide food for the people of the country and change the hearts of the oppressive government leadership.
- **OPEN DOORS.** Pray for the Open Doors ministry to abused women in the Middle East, for the team workers to help contact women in need and for the Lydia Center to operate unrestrained as workers reach out to help in these situations.
- **BANGLADESH.** Pray for elderly Christians in Bangladesh who have been abandoned by their families and who are praying for their loved ones to come to Christ

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **CHURCHES.** Pray for the hope and peace of God to flow through our churches as a new year begins. Pray for renewed trust and emboldened faith for each person. Pray for fresh vision and provision for each church and its leadership.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray that God would increase the church's passion and burden for reaching the lost and most needy. Ask the Lord to draw us closer to His heartbeat for our city. May God bring us into fresh and powerful experiences in His presence this year that catapult us into new ministries to serve and bless and be light to those in the darkness. Let this be the year of a great awakening of the church!

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