

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF July 25th - 31st, 2021 - Vol 65

THEME VERSE:

*One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.*

*For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion:
in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me upon a rock.*

Psalm 27:4-5

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1997 Baltimore Revival

Throughout the 1980's, Rock City Church was a congregation that earned a reputation for serving the outcasts and outsiders in their home city of Baltimore, Maryland. They started many ministries to work with the homeless, the hungry, and others in desperate straits. Yet, even as they stepped out in faith every week to care for those on God's heart, they sensed an increasing longing to see a greater move of God.

In 1987, they began meeting for daily prayer. Using the Lord's prayer as a template, they gathered each day to pray for one another, for a fresh touch of God upon their city of Baltimore, and for revival to ignite within the USA. All through this time, God continued to stoke an increasing hunger in the church for more of Him. In January of 1997, a pastors conference was held in St. Augustine, Florida. The pastor of Rock City Church, Bart Pierce, and his wife Coralee attended the conference. They had seen the Lord work mightily through their church, but they still wanted desperately to go deeper with God.

One of the speakers at the conference was the evangelist Tommy Tenney. Tommy shared story after story of how God had birthed revival at a church in Houston, Texas, the year before. Those listening to Tommy were overcome with strong emotion as they heard what God had done. Many of them fell to the ground, prostrate upon the floor, as the presence of God alighted upon them. Pastor Bart Pierce was one of those there who spent the night weeping on the floor. The next day, Bart persuaded Tommy to return with them back to Baltimore. They drove 18 hours to get back in time for the Sunday service. During the drive, all the stories of God-on-the-move led to a powerful encounter with Him that, at times, caused the passengers to simply sit in the car and weep. They finally arrived home late Saturday night.

As Pastor Bart and his guest Tommy pulled into the church early Sunday morning, it was clear something significant was happening. Two elders at the door were weeping profusely as Bart entered. Apparently, a very strong manifestation of the glory of God was in the sanctuary. People approaching the altar began to cry out and to weep. Some fell down as they sensed God's presence. A spirit of repentance, like an irresistible wave, swept across the people. Neither Bart nor Tommy got a chance to speak that day. They finished late the next morning around 2AM.

The people returned on Monday evening and experienced the same things again. Then also on Tuesday. From there on, they met every Monday and Tuesday for more than 3 years. People from around the city showed up at the church, without any advertising or human invitation. The Holy Spirit would simply tell them to go to this place. Without a doubt, the distinguishing mark of the Baltimore Revival was this remarkable sense of God's very presence. It drew the people in to respond to the Father with pure heartfelt worship. And the Spirit would touch believers with visions and prophetic words and incredible closeness to God. The church also understood that they had to regularly lead the way in repentance, not just talk about it. The meetings blazed with waves of repentance and celebration and healings and worship.

Tommy Tenny would continue to return every week to assist with the revival. The very nature of the church shifted to become one that was very sensitive and responsive to the Spirit's presence. Their ministries to the outcasts of the city deepened as a result, with increased God-intimacy and power, and those touched by

drawing near to Him would find their marriages and other relationships profoundly restored and strengthened. In the first year of revival, the crime rate in the city also dropped by 11% as God's touch enveloped the town.

There would be many visitors from around the USA and from other nations, yet most of the attendees over the years came from Baltimore and from the local churches. Visitors were always encouraged to return to their home church and carry the fire back. This built up the trust and unity of the Church in their city. On any given night in which they were gathered for revival, there would be over a dozen pastors from around the city joining in. Christians might come from different denominations or traditions, but one thing was always clear: God was here in our midst.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God for how He has been increasing the cooperation between our city's churches and police department. Last Thanksgiving several churches and the police partnered together to prepare hundreds of hot meals for displaced people. The 2nd half of this year will be an opportunity to expand this unity and reach more people with Christ's love and compassion.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CITY.** Recent reports show that the city's plans for building a new major stadium may clash with its actual ability to take on new debt. Pray that the city will use all incoming funds in a wise and accountable fashion that is best for our communities.
- **RESPONDING TO COVID-19.** The latest guidelines for North Carolina seem to indicate that unvaccinated youth be advised to wear masks in classrooms and on campus this fall. Pray for wisdom and patience as we work through these tough periods, and keep praying for God's healing of the sick and ultimate eradication of COVID-19 concerns from the earth.

FOR JOBS, ECONOMY, AND BUSINESSES:

- **MINI-SUMMIT.** Praise God for the powerful messages on servant leadership at the recent Queen City Leaders Mini-Summit. Pray for the re-broadcast on the Queen City Leaders app on Saturday, July 24 at 8 AM, and on-demand the following week, that hundreds will see it and be inspired to lead as Jesus did, by serving.
- **RECOVERY.** Pray for small businesses impacted by the pandemic as they try to recover from losses during the restriction periods. Pray for resources – human, financial, material – to enable full operations and return to profitability. Also pray for protection for workers and customers in the face of new threats from variants. Pray for no fear, and that people will put their trust in the Lord.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE.** Pray for this pro-life ministry that impacts far beyond Charlotte now. Pray for the raising up of new regional shepherds/directors, and for victory in the intense spiritual battle they face.
- **LOCAL CHURCHES.** Pray for wisdom and faith as local churches deal with a surge of COVID-19 infections, trusting the Lord to guide as they serve their communities and follow His lead.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray that God's people will not be proud or self-sufficient, but that we would see our great and desperate need for God's help, provision, and protection. May we trust, obey, and follow our God in Jesus' name and by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 15:5). May we passionately seek only Him and His life-transforming power as we long for fresh revival fire.

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