

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Sept 5th - 11th, 2021 - Vol 71

THEME VERSE:

*"Thus says the high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
I dwell in the high and holy places; I also dwell with him who is contrite in spirit and lowly,
to restore the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

Isaiah 57:15

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1971 Saskatoon Revival (Part 2)

It was October 13th, 1971, that the evangelists Ralph and Lou Sutura gave the first of many messages for their 10-day spiritual campaign at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Saskatoon, Canada. It was no ordinary day, for God, over many years, had heard the persevering prayers of His people crying out in extraordinary supplication for an outbreak of revival. That evening, with just 150 in attendance, the brothers shared the Gospel and saw 5 people put their trust in the Lord. But, more than that, the presence of God began to flow through that place and through people's hearts with the force of revival fire.

Over the course of the week, the Spirit of God began to impress upon those in attendance the stark need to confess their sins and make things right. The Holy Spirit alighted upon the people to touch them with His grace, to break their bonds of slavery to self, and to set them free. Men and women would take to the stage to admit their own weaknesses and failings and to seek to do what is right. Estranged brothers put aside their long-standing injuries, made amends, and joined together to worship Christ in song. A family with a long-standing grudge against an adversary drove over 30 miles to another town, even though it was well after midnight, to ask that person for forgiveness.

The reality of God's very presence started to draw more and more people to the meetings. By the end of the first week, the sanctuary where they met was filled to capacity. Within 2 weeks, they were allowed to meet at the 600 person capacity Anglican Church nearby. That space was outgrown in just two days! God gave them favor with the biggest church in town, a Christian and Missionary Alliance church, so they moved once again to their facility that could hold well over 1000 people at a time. Yet once again, the Spirit of God was moving so powerfully that it quickly reached its attendance limits. They eventually moved into a much larger venue that could hold around 2000 people, and still the people continued to come, keenly spiritually hungry, seeking to meet with God there.

All during this time, there was great excitement surrounding what God was doing. However, no excessive emotionalism was reported. There was strong conviction of sin, and a determined desire for forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing. The Gospel was presented simply, and many folks surrendered to the Spirit and were saved. The mark of this revival was a contagious joy in the Lord that ushered in complete honesty before God and men. The police chief in Saskatoon testified that people were showing up at the police station to confess to crimes they had committed. Almost half of those attending were young folks, and the Lord met with them there and set them free from drugs, alcohol, and other addictions. Even those with mental illnesses found themselves profoundly touched and healed by the hand of God.

As the meetings wrapped up for the evening, typically no one wanted to go home. No one was in a hurry. Many churches would open up afterwards and allow people to come and share stories and give thanks to God for His work upon their hearts and lives. Intercessors would gather in small groups to keep on praying fervently after each meeting. And as all this was happening, churches all around the region started seeing revival fire burst to life among their people. Although the revival meetings in Saskatoon only lasted 7 weeks, these flames of revival would spread to distant cities in Canada, the United States, and nations around the globe. It left an unmistakable mark upon the soul of Canada. To this day, many pastors in Canada can say, "I was saved at the revival in Saskatoon!"

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God that in the midst of this past week's disastrous Hurricane Ida, much-needed relief was sent from the Carolinas to hard-hit areas via volunteers and the Red Cross and Samaritan's Purse. Also praise God for recent legislation in North Carolina that reinforces the right of clergy to visit a needy patient in a hospital even during times of emergency or a pandemic.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **OVERCOMING THE DELTA VARIANT.** Please pray that the spread of the Delta variant would be contained and minimized in the coming weeks. Pray for divine protection for those infected, that symptoms would be mild and last only a short time. Pray for good health in our colleges, at the workplace, and within our communities. Pray for new treatments and effective cures.
- **SAFETY FROM VIOLENCE IN THE SCHOOLS.** Pray for God to break through into difficult schools where a spirit of violence and murder has been cultivated. Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring fresh hope and peace into such areas and that those promoting violence would be subdued.
- **RECOVERY FROM HURRICANE IDA.** Pray that God would speed relief and recovery in our nation in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. The storm ravaged many communities in Louisiana and along the East Coast, causing more than 60 deaths and leaving many areas flooded with water and without power for many weeks. Pray that the Church would step up to assist physically, financially, and spiritually to help those who are feeling very hopeless at this time.

FOR OUR JOBS AND THE WORKFORCE:

- **MINIMIZING COVID'S IMPACT.** Pray that the upward trend in COVID incidents would be reversed and that the impact upon businesses and workers would be minimal. Pray that supply chain interruptions would be quickly resolved, and that impacted businesses would quickly recover. Pray for more workers to be able to rejoin the workforce and that everyone would be able to conduct business safely without any fear or anxiety.
- **FOR MILLENNIALS.** Pray for millennials in the marketplace, 40% of which claim no faith affiliation at all. Making up the largest percentage of the workforce, they could factor significantly in the next awakening as revival makes its way through the marketplace. Pray for a move of the Holy Spirit on this generation: for believers to provide Godly role models, to show them the love of Christ, to speak the truth, and to train them to become disciple-makers. Pray that God will raise up leaders among them who catch the revival fire and let the Holy Spirit use them to change our world.

FOR OTHER MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Pray for their Youth for Life prayer walk taking place this week in Charlotte, North Carolina, on September 11th this year. Pray that many youth will gather to pray, to worship our God, and to testify to God's goodness and faithfulness that offers true hope to those seeking abortions at the Latrobe abortion clinic.
- **AFGHANISTAN.** Keep praying for believers in Afghanistan, for their faith and for their safety as the Taliban takes over their nation. Pray for supernatural power and provision to share the Gospel.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray that God would increase our belief in His ability to intervene supernaturally and do the impossible in our city. Pray for a desire to pray diligently and to regularly fast as we seek the face of God (Hebrews 11:6, Mark 9:23, James 5:16-18, Isaiah 58:6-12).

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