

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Nov 7th - 13th, 2021 - Vol 80

THEME VERSE:

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

John 3:3

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

Revivals of the Carolinas: Ripples from the First Great Awakening (Pt 1)

As the Moravians saturated the Heavens with their prayers in the 1730's, God responded with the release of Holy Spirit fire that would become the First Great Awakening in America. One of the most prominent revivalists to be called into the fray was a man from England named George Whitefield. He represented the Methodist movement, which pushed against the mainstream dead orthodoxy of the time and emphasized a vibrant personal relationship with God. The keys were faith and being born again, and listeners were enthralled by the ideas of true freedom in Christ to individually express themselves in worship.

Whitefield was anointed to preach a revival message that resonated with the hearts of the people. He called them to repent of their sin, to find a restored relationship in Christ, and to experience a true encounter with the God who loved them so. In his extensive travels across all 13 American colonies, he preached with holy power and dramatic confidence, and thousands, if not tens of thousands, of colonists would sense the urgency and the compulsion to hear his words. God was moving mightily in their midst.

North Carolina would see Whitefield visit first in 1739 and multiple times through 1765, making a total of 7 visits over that period. Whitefield's initial visits there were met with spiritual apathy, and he eventually shifted his attention to South Carolina and elsewhere. But God was far from done with North Carolina.

In the 1740's, a Congregational minister named Shubal Stearns and his family heard Whitefield preach in Massachusetts. The Spirit of God pierced their hearts, and they experienced being truly born again in Christ. A few years later, God would use another pastor who had been influenced by Whitefield to baptize Stearns and commission him to minister as part of the Separate Baptists. In 1755, sensing the Spirit's leading to set up in a strategic location from which to reach out to the lost, Stearns would settle in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, northeast of present-day Charlotte and between Asheboro and Liberty. Over the next few years, revival fire broke out in the area, and then the Gospel was carried powerfully throughout the state and nearby Virginia and South Carolina.

God also used a man named Devereux Jarratt, who grew up in the Anglican faith in Virginia. Jarratt lived his youth in rebellion against God, but he encountered Jesus in the 1750's through the caring guidance of a Presbyterian family who pointed him to the Word of God and how he could be born-again. He became very familiar with the work of revivalists like George Whitefield and John Wesley. Eventually, he sought ordination within the Anglican Church so that he could bring evangelical reform from within.

From 1763 - 1775, Rev. Jarratt ministered in North Carolina and in Virginia. His message was one of abandoning sin and seeking a personal encounter with Christ. He delivered sermons that enthusiastically and passionately invited his listeners to pursue and rely on Christ alone. He patiently

sowed the seeds of revival wherever he went. Later in 1776, as he focused his energies more in Virginia and partnered with the Methodists, he witnessed a mighty awakening take place there. At one meeting, it's recorded that the power of the Lord came down like a rushing mighty wind. The house was filled with God's presence, and "a flame kindled and ran from heart to heart". No less than 14 of the 52 counties of Virginia were set afire by this revival.

North Carolina's spiritual history may have initially been a bit rocky, but God was relentless in sowing Gospel seeds and implanting a longing for the flames of revival. This would not end up as a waste of time, but instead its soil would become good ground for God's future plans for powerful awakening time and again.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for answered prayers at the Help Pregnancy Center here in Charlotte! Babies are being saved through the counseling and resources offered to the parents, and also many of the future fathers are agreeing to be discipled and mentored. God is rescuing powerfully one life at a time.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **SCHOOL BUDGETS.** Pray for the schools in our city. Since the pandemic began, there has been a significant drop in enrollment in our schools. This is leading to destabilizing budget cuts that threaten to weaken and undermine our kids' education. Pray that there might be unity and Godly solutions to solve the crisis and help the children to keep learning effectively and safely.
- **COVID-19 UPDATE.** Please pray for God's ongoing hand of healing and provision during this pandemic. Pray for great wisdom and compassion for all our leaders and an end to any political corruption. Pray for an increase in real viable solutions and understanding of one another's perspectives. Pray for a fresh unity that will honor Christ, the truth, and one another.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **PAPUA NEW GUINEA.** Pray for translators and missions workers on the Ukarumpa mission base in Papua New Guinea. They are understaffed due to COVID and there are many nationals dying as a result of the disease. Meanwhile, lockdowns are preventing care from getting to those who are most sick. Pray for supernatural healing and divine opportunities to share about Jesus.
- **AFGHANISTAN.** Pray for the Afghan Christian workers who still need to evacuate from Afghanistan and for the persecuted believers who remain behind. Pray for protection. Pray for provision. Pray for boldness in the name of Christ.

FOR OTHER MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **CHURCH.** Matthew 18:4 says "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Pray for many believers who have strayed away to return home to the Father in genuine humility. Pray for Christians, from this foundation of humility, to aspire to the greatness of serving Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **REVIVAL.** "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit... John 7:37-39. Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Pray that God would surprise many who seek Him with a soon-to-come mighty outpouring of the Spirit, so that we become open rivers of God's life to others.

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