

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2022 - **Volume 90**

THEME VERSE:

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:18

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Revivals of the Carolinas: 2nd Great Awakening: Towards Mecklenberg

The fierce revival fires that began in the camp meetings in Kentucky in 1800 could not be contained there. It quickly spread to the Carolinas as the 2nd Great Awakening surged into full flame on the western frontier of the United States. All the years of committed prayer - all the heartfelt longing of God's people - were now being answered in the early 1800's. An outpouring of revival would inevitably sweep across North Carolina and stir up old wells of revival in the Mecklenberg county region.

When people saw God's power and presence in the Kentucky camp meetings in 1800, those present knew that this was it: God was releasing a new wave of a mighty spiritual awakening. Camp meetings were planned in various counties in North Carolina. Back in those days, Christians did not have the opportunity to celebrate the Lord's Supper often. People might have to wait months before they could take Communion together. The revivalists and pastors coordinated the meetings to give people a chance to take the Lord's Supper and also see how God was moving powerfully in their midst.

The first of these meetings took place in Alamance County, just east of modern-day Greensboro. It began in August of 1801 at the local Cross Roads church, with many leaders filled with earnest anticipation of the Spirit's outpouring. And so, the crowds gathered. The messages were preached. Songs were sung. But the first few days seemed to fall flat as folks responded very little. On the last day, Monday, August 31st, the main speaker rose to speak, but he felt so overwhelmed by disappointment that he quickly sat back down, silent. Then, another minister, an eye-witness of the recent revivals in Kentucky, stood up and calmly spoke out: "Stand still and see the salvation of God!" All at once, the crowd was swept over by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Sobs and groaning flooded the area. Some people fainted and fell to the ground. Deep conviction of sin and an urgent need for repentance permeated the gathering. The meeting went on in this way, with singing and prayer and joyful salvations, for the rest of the day and then the next few days. Revival had broken out forcefully in North Carolina...

This wave of revival continued to spread westward in early 1802 to Raldolph County, then to Rowan County, then to Iredell County by March of that year. Some of the largest turnouts happened there in Iredell, just 30 miles north of Charlotte and Mecklenberg County, with some astounding estimates of up to 12,000 people in attendance. As news of God's new work of revival spread, people travelled for days through harsh cold weather

to join the meeting. Some folks, deeply touched by God at previous meetings, would follow along to the next revival site, eager to experience more of God's outpouring. All through these meetings, there was a previously unseen amount of unity on display, as congregants and pastors from all denominations worked and worshiped together. And God would also bridge the differences between the races and between the poor and rich. It was something that took the world by surprise, but it pointed all the more to the stunning reality of God during this awakening.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Thank God for all the ways He answers our prayers for people in our lives. Praise God for how He heals those who are sick or have been in the ER facing difficult surgeries. Praise Him also when He steps into shackled lives to break their addictions and set them on a path to freedom. The journey may not be easy, but God is willing to walk closely with these folks on the road to full recovery.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **RISING HOPE.** Pray that our city and our nation - and nations around the world - will turn a corner soon and find hope again for a better future. Pray that people of all backgrounds and cultures will turn to the One who gave His life on a cross for our sins. Pray that many will find hope in their Savior Jesus and find renewed resolve to press forward: past this pandemic, past the wild inflation, past the woes of our divided country. Pray for hope in God to rise again!

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **SAT-7 MINISTRY.** Pray for the SAT-7 broadcasting ministry's "My School!" programs that reach millions of children in the most unreached parts of the world. Their positive messages draw viewers from the Middle East to begin watching other SAT-7 programs and discover that the truth that God loves them and sent Jesus to die for them.
- **JESUS FILM IMPACT.** The Jesus Film project has had a tremendous impact around the globe for many decades already. And, it continues to be used powerfully today. Pray that it will stir viewers to want to know more about Jesus. Ask God to touch deeply many people so that those who have never ever heard about Christ will soften their hearts and be drawn to the Lord.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH.** With everything happening globally, especially in eastern Europe and in China, pray for the local church to be faithful in the midst of challenging times and persecution. Pray that the church will remember the truth of 2 Timothy 3:12 – "Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." May God spare us when it can be avoided but also make us ready and resolved in our hearts when persecution for our faith eventually comes.
- **FOR REVIVAL.** Pray that Christians will experience a burden to pray for revival in their own lives and in their churches. No significant reviving work in modern times has happened apart from the faithful, fervent praying of God's people. Pray for a burden to P.U.S.H. – Pray Until Something Happens. Ask God to help us not to grow weary as we seek for more of God, more of His presence, and more of the Holy Spirit to ignite revival in our land once again!

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