

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Mar 6th - Mar 12th, 2022 - **Volume 95**

THEME VERSE:

*On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen;
All day and all night they will never keep silent.
You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves*

Isaiah 62:6

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Revivals of the Carolinas: 2nd Great Awakening: In Waxhaw

From Mecklenburg county, the revival moved further south into Waxhaw and South Carolina. The next planned meeting took place in May of 1802. By then, reports of the revival had captured the attention of those as far away as New York and London and certainly in the various corners of South Carolina. Many Christians visited from towns and cities outside of the host city, and they would write extensive reports and letters about what they saw. They would often make mention of how critics tried to explain away the experiences of the revival, but none of the explanations could account for all the surprisingly extensive impact of God's presence.

Pastor Brown, a Presbyterian minister, was placed in charge of the Waxhaw camp meeting. Even though he had a fairly large worship hall in his church, he knew it would be far too small for the expected crowds. He directed his team to clear out and to set up space in a nearby forest area that could accommodate thousands of people and their families. They chose a place that was bordered by a hill in the north and a stream in the south. Within this area, there was a huge vacant field that ran 300 yards by 150 yards, almost the size of 5 football fields. Rows of tents were set up on each side, and room was reserved for the many wagons and carriages that were coming.

The meeting began on Friday afternoon, May 21st, 1802. More than a dozen ministers gathered to work together for God's Kingdom, most of them Presbyterians but also many Baptists and Methodists. Over the course of the weekend, there were at least 4000 visitors in attendance, with some estimates as high as 8000. Rev. McCorkel delivered the first sermon to the vast crowd. After they were dismissed, all the ministers spent the rest of the evening and late into the night visiting the folks in their tents to encourage them, worship with them, and pray for them. This was the pattern of ministry that was repeated each night of the revival.

Several worship services were planned each day for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. There was a hunger and eagerness among the people, as well as a sense of serious anticipation of a holy moment in time. Salvation was a topic on everyone's mind, and even when folks were not in a worship service, they would be singing praises and lifting up their voices in prayer to their God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

During the gatherings, as in the past revivals, the Holy Spirit swept across the crowds and imbued them with a deep conviction of sin, touching even those with the most hardened and immoral reputations. A good number of people demonstrated strong physical responses, with some falling to the ground for minutes or even hours and others shaking uncontrollably. This afflicted not just the poor and the uneducated, but also the defiant atheists, the cynical deists, and highly-trained professionals. After a time, smiles of joy and abundant praise for the goodness of God would follow. The revival in Waxhaw saw many give their lives to Jesus, and many more re-commit themselves to the faith.

However, there were some negative results. The unusual display of raw emotion and physical reactions drew its share of criticism from journalists and observers. Also, the willingness of the local churches and pastors to work with the various denominations made some leaders angry and suspicious. And Pastor Brown, who helped organize the event, would later be targeted and face censure from within his own church because some believers could not stomach the messiness and unfamiliarity of revival.

Nonetheless, this revival meeting profoundly touched the attendees that weekend, affecting their day-to-day relationships and eternal destiny. Several guests, who had traveled more than 70 miles to attend, sensed God's power and presence in that place, and upon their return to their home churches, they saw an extraordinary revival ignite from there. The flames of fresh revival spread out in all directions across the state and into new ones. As one eye-witness writer penned: "(despite the opposition)... the work (of revival) in North Carolina increases greatly!"

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for the many ways God is reaching out to hearts around our city and the world! Praise Him for His answering our prayers to stir up a mighty longing for prayer among the 150+ attendees at last weekend's Charlotte Call to Prayer. We are also thankful for God's powerful use of Mr. Hoffman, a successful real estate executive, who spoke to and challenged 75 conference visitors at this week's Queen City Leaders' Mini Summit. Finally, we praise God for how He is working among the young men at various tribes in Africa, including one warrior who was known for violence and great strength. He recently heard the Gospel and put his trust in Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **END TO THE PANDEMIC.** Let's keep praying for a soon end to the pandemic, even as the weather here in Charlotte is warming up and hinting at springtime. Pray for less and less people to catch COVID-19 and for a significant drop in the already-decreasing number of serious cases. Pray for lockdowns to end and for anxiety and dangers from illness to be behind us.

FOR BUSINESSES AND THE ECONOMY:

- **THRIVING AT WORK.** Pray for our businesses and workers to thrive, even as they continue to experience staffing issues, supply chain complications, and severe inflation (especially rising energy costs). Pray that followers of Jesus at the workplace would grow in favor, leading with confidence and being prepared to share the reason for the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15).

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **FOR LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Pray for protection over their leadership team (there's been afflictions within the team the last few weeks). Pray for peace for JD (the Director in Charlotte), whose father-in-law passed away this week, and for Lisa (Director in NYC), who lost her brother recently. Lift up Josh (Vice President of Love Life), especially for his wife's sudden health issues. And keep praying for the mentoring training & post-abortive healing training this Saturday.
- **FOR REVIVAL.** Father God, increase our hunger for more of You. Stir up a greater anticipation of what You will do this year in our city and our nation. Let us press on even when there is apathy or persecution or great personal cost. Grant us a fresh touch of the Holy Spirit that will spark new revivals all across our land and this world!

FOR MORE, VISIT WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM

For Discussion Questions, go to: www.thinkrevival.com/Stories/HistoricBlog/