

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Aug 23-29, 2020 - Vol 17

THEME VERSE:

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and
pray for each other so that you may be healed.
The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

James 5:16

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Red River Revival in 1800

By the late 1700's, Logan County, Kentucky had gained infamy at the western frontier as the home of many troublemakers who had fled the northeastern colonies to avoid pursuit and punishment for their crimes. The region was full of murderers, horse thieves, highway robbers, and money counterfeiters, and it was nicknamed "Rogues' Harbor" and the "Devil's Den". Considered by many to be one of the most wicked places in the country, it was a rough-and-tumble area that terrorized anyone foolish enough to attempt to bring any semblance of law and order.

But in 1796, a preacher named James McGready decided to move to Logan County. In fact, he felt God calling him to this location all the more because of its dark reputation as the most ungodly place in all of America. James McGready had been born in Pennsylvania but grew up in North Carolina. After training to be a Presbyterian minister and experiencing revival in Virginia, he spent several years pastoring a church in North Carolina before God led him to Logan County. Rev. McGready believed that all true revival is essentially a supernatural move of God upon people's hearts, and the way that precedes it must be saturated with persistent prayer. Before leaving for Kentucky, McGready persuaded hundreds of Christians in North Carolina to commit to a "Carolina Covenant" in which they promised to pray without ceasing until God finally brought revival to Logan County. He began to pastor three churches in Kentucky: along the Red River, the Gasper River, and the Muddy River. He stirred his people to pray passionately for the coming revival: exhorting each member to pray every Saturday at sunset and each Sunday morning at sunrise, and then gathering with the three congregations together on the first Monday of each month. He encouraged them to seek revival by asking for three things: repentance, redemption, and Pentecost!

In June of the year 1800, McGready called a meeting for all 3 churches to conduct a multi-day communion service at Red River. At the close of the service on the final day, a minister cried out, "Let the Lord God omnipotent reign in your hearts!" and the whole group was overcome with an intense sense of God's manifest presence. Those who were far from God were struck with deep conviction of sin. Others fell to the ground in anguish, while others beamed with the joy of experiencing God's goodness up close. A mighty flood of God's Spirit came upon all the attendees as people were urged to give themselves fully to God.

Seeing such a powerful move of God, the ministers planned another camp meeting in July at the Gasper River Church. By faith, they cleared out trees and undergrowth to make room for extra people to show up, but they were still amazed as 8000 people arrived to the site, some traveling over 100 miles on difficult roads to attend. Once again, the power of God swept through the service, shaking the entire assembly. No one wanted to go home. People weren't concerned with hunger or sleep. Eternity was the only thing on their minds.

By the end of 1800, a large section of southern Kentucky and part of Tennessee was caught up in revival fire and saw it spreading north to other states. The very presence of God reversed the course and character of these places. Logan County, once known far and wide for its lawlessness, came to be described later as the most moral place you could visit. When Christians persevered in prayer, when they expected greater things to come, God met them and transformed them and transformed entire regions with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God for the \$30 million expansion of government programs that assist small businesses in Charlotte. Over \$8 million in grants have already been given to 753 businesses locally, and these future funds should enable more small businesses to survive and provide employment and services in our community.
- Praise God that the winds of revival are fanning to flame in Portland with Sean Feucht as he leads worship on beaches and in parks. May we see it spread like wildfire to other places nationwide.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- Pray for those that are struggling to pay their rent during the pandemic. The eviction moratorium, recently extended in North Carolina, states it does 'not forgive rent or excuse the obligation to pay rent'. Pray for good jobs and financial opportunities to open up for people so that they can make ends meet.
- Pray for the Charlotte-Mecklenberg school teachers & students as they adjust to virtual learning during this new school season. Pray for students to be able to pay attention and learn effectively while online.
- Pray for the many Charlotte-area restaurants and their owners who have faced unprecedented challenges in the past five months, forcing several establishments to shut their doors for good.
- Pray that Christ followers in the marketplace will be anchored in God's peace and ready to share the reason for the hope that is in them with those who are fearful and discouraged at this time.

FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR CITY:

- Please pray for the mental health of people in our city. Pray that the anxiety induced by the pandemic, the forced lockdown, and unemployment would be replaced with the peace of God and confidence in seeing His provision.
- Pray for an end to the pandemic soon. Pray that safe vaccines or effective treatments would soon surface and no longer allow this disease to hold our communities hostage in fear.

FOR LOCAL CHURCHES AND REVIVAL:

- As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to cause a lot of disruption in church ministries, there are predictions that a significant number of pastors may leave the ministry in the coming year. Pray for grace for pastors, their families, and their congregations, that God will bring much-needed encouragement, wisdom, and provision.
- Psalm 19 says that the heavens declare the glory of God, that the earth speaks the reality of God to all people. Pray that the church will encourage others to realize the truth of who God is and how Jesus has come to save and deliver. Pray for eyes and ears to be opened so that our neighbors might realize the truth of the grace and love of God in Christ Jesus.
- Pray for Christians to be ardent intercessors and bold witnesses to Christ's power through these tough times, so that God might revive the Church and cause spiritual awakening in our communities. It is usually in the darkest of times that God chooses to send revival and powerfully transform our city. Pray that He will move dramatically in the coming days.

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