

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Aug 30th - Sept 5th, 2020 - Vol 18

THEME VERSE:

*But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt,
because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea,
blown and tossed by the wind.*

James 1:6

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1801 Cane Ridge Camp Revival

In many ways, the revival that took place at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, was a follow-up burst of awakening fire that ignited from the Red River Revival the year before. However, it would result in being one of the largest and most well-known camp meetings of the 2nd Great Awakening in America. At this time in history, the state of Kentucky - along with Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee - were at the fringes of the western frontier that beckoned more than a million people to migrate west. Many of these pioneers were illiterate and had never read a Bible or heard a sermon preached.

When the Presbyterian minister Barton Stone experienced revival at the Red River Revival in 1800, he was so moved, he immediately started making plans to hold a similar camp meeting among the churches at Cane Ridge, Kentucky for August 1801. Yet even as Barton labored to prepare for this camp meeting, God kept pouring on fuel to spread the fire of revival. When Barton would simply read the accounts of the Red River Revival to the congregation, he observed that God would stir up strong emotion and manifestations among the listeners. As the date drew near for the Cane Ridge meeting, God continued to touch other camp meetings in the region. At one such gathering in Harrison County, Kentucky, a crowd of over 10,000 people made their way to the service.

The meeting at Cane Ridge followed the format of a Scottish communion event, gathering from Friday all the way until Monday. In August of 1801, droves of people began to assemble on a Friday afternoon, with estimates of 12,000 to 30,000 in attendance. What is even more amazing is that the largest towns of that time had a population of only 1800 people. They came by foot, by horse, or by wagon, often from other states, traveling well over 25 miles in some cases. As folks arrived, they would find different sections of the camp led by various denominations - Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists - all working together. Preaching teams would oversee the sharing of the Gospel to each section over the course of several days. During this weekend, numerous men and women would be overwhelmed by the Spirit, some crying out for God's mercy, some trembling, many falling on their faces or onto their knees. The power and presence of God was keenly felt, and as God supernaturally touched the crowd, even children would stand up to exhort listeners with the Word of God. The vast camp gathering was filled with the cries and shouts and songs of those desperate to encounter God. One minister described it like this: "The noise was like the roar of Niagra [Falls]. The vast sea of human beings seemed to be agitated as if by a storm."

Following the Cane Ridge camp meeting, revival fire continued to surge to more of the frontier states. When stories of this camp meeting reached North Carolina, revival broke out in various locations. Camp meetings held in Mecklenberg, North Carolina, in 1802, reached about 5000 people, while other gatherings later set up in South Carolina continued to fan the flames of

revival. The frontiers of America saw God's presence take these regions by storm, and God would build up His church and His Kingdom as people heard the Gospel clearly and encountered a powerful living God.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God for evangelists in our city like Sam Bethea, who go out regularly to join peacefully in protests and to share about God's love and the good news of Jesus. Praise God that even when other protesters rudely drench him in oil, flour, and silly string, Sam humbly and patiently continues to tell them that God loves them. Thank God for such a powerful witness for Him!

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **VULNERABLE YOUTH.** Let us continue to pray for the teachers and faculty involved in providing schooling for the young people of our community during the lockdown. Although great efforts are being taken, we know many youth will still be left behind due to a lack of technology access or personal mentoring. May the Church arise to such an occasion as this to care for our communities.
- **GOD'S COMFORT.** With the CMPD body cam footage from June incidents being released this week, any trauma that was experienced by those in the crowd will resurface, so pray for emotional healing, justice, and mercy.
- **PRO-ABORTION VOLUNTEERS.** Pray for those volunteers who continue to assist in pro-abortion activities. Pray that many more would reach out for help and for counseling, and that their hearts would soften and receive Jesus as Savior.
- **HEALTH.** Pray for the health of the city: for diminishing COVID-19 infections and deaths. For safe vaccines and effective treatments. For God's healing power and provision for the sick.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **MURLE PEOPLE.** As we pray for our city locally, we also pray for those in spiritual need around the world. Pray for the Murle people of Southern Sudan. Pray for a translation of the Old Testament to be completed. Although the New Testament has been finished, having the whole Bible translated is crucial for both evangelism and discipleship efforts.
- **SAT-7 MINISTRY.** Pray also for SAT-7, as their ministry broadcasts Christian television and radio programs in Muslim countries. They have two series we can pray for - the first focuses on underprivileged women of lower socio-economic strata, and the second one deals with addiction issues in communities. The series are produced in either Arabic, Turkish or Persian with an emphasis on redemption through Christ.

FOR LOCAL CHURCHES AND REVIVAL:

- **GOSPEL.** Pray that Christians and their local churches would find ways to continue to share and live out the Gospel to those around us. Pray for creative initiatives to pray for those who are hurting and to demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit. May the name of Jesus be lifted high!
- **REVIVAL.** Pray for the church to believe God for greater things to come to our city. Pray that we might have deeper faith to believe that God can supernaturally turn around the most tangled situations as we pray, and that He can press into the hardest of hearts and ignite a longing for forgiveness and salvation. Pray that revival would soon come with a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit once again in the Carolinas.

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