

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF Oct 18th-24th, 2020 - Vol 25**

### THEME VERSE:

*But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies,  
do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,  
pray for those who mistreat you.*

Luke 6:27-28

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### The 1742 Cambuslang Revival in Scotland

In the 1700's Christianity faced vast challenges from the rampant deism that flowed from the Enlightenment movement in Europe. People were taught to hold onto an impersonal detached view of God and to focus on mere rules of morality. At the same time, there were bursts of harsh persecution against believers in Scotland and elsewhere for "non-conformity" if they were caught reading the Word or praying spontaneously. In those days, the idea of being "born again" was shunned in the public square and also from the pulpit. The vitality of Christianity had dimmed to an all-time low.

William M'Culloch was a Church of Scotland pastor, recognized for his academic diligence but fairly unimpressive as a preacher. Nevertheless, his hunger and passion for God continued to intensify in 1741 as he preached in February to his parish in Cambuslang, Scotland, about the significance of being born again. M'Culloch would often hear news about revival in America from his friend Jonathan Edwards. He would read out loud the stories to his church, and you could sense the spiritual hunger stirring embers in their hearts. In August of that year, the preacher George Whitefield spoke at the nearby town of Glasgow. Some residents of Cambuslang heard his message that day, witnessed the power of the Gospel to draw people to God, and went home with increased fire burning in their souls for revival.

In February of 1742, M'Culloch started holding daily prayer meetings in his home, and many would seek to know more of what salvation was really about. The pastor began giving sermons daily as spiritual hunger continued to build among the parishioners. Then in July of that year, God used George Whitefield and M'Culloch as they preached at Cambuslang. People eagerly listened to God's Word late into the night, worshiping and praying also. At one gathering, over 20,000 folks attended, and over 500 clearly trusted in Jesus to be born again. Thousands of people would be overcome with conviction, many in tears or visibly agitated. This would be followed by similar events with an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 listening to the preached Word. And similarly, the Holy Spirit would bring about conviction and repentance and a yearning to know Christ.

During these meetings, there was no shortage of opposition. Some hecklers would march through the crowds beating a drum or sounding a trumpet, while others would mock and jeer near the stage. Some troublemakers threw pieces of dead cats at the preacher, while one person even indecently exposed himself during a message. But in spite of all these disruptions, the Spirit would deeply touch those in attendance. The revival spread quickly to all other towns within a 12 mile radius of Cambuslang, and then it jumped to various cities in Europe, even to some locations far far away. In the next 10 years that followed, more than a third of the inhabitants in the region would be awakened spiritually and begin living out their faith with great passion and faithfulness. God had reversed a region that was near death spiritually and set afire new life with Holy Spirit revival!

## **THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:**

- **AID TO THE UNEMPLOYED.** Praise God for how our state is providing additional help to those who are still unemployed during this pandemic. Increases to their weekly benefits will begin this week.
- **NEW DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE CITY.** Thank God for an injection of new jobs and housing for our economy. Plans have been made for a 16.7-acre site on the edge of Dilworth. Called Centre South, the \$400 million project will include affordable housing, retail, a hotel, and office space.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **SAFE VOTING.** As early voting has begun, pray for a peaceful and efficient process, with 33 voting spots across Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Pray for safety and good health for all voters and volunteers at the booths. Pray for protection from any attempt at voter fraud.
- **HEALTH.** Pray for COVID-19 to be contained and minimized even as the weather grows colder. Pray for those who are sick to be healed and to recover quickly. Pray for those most vulnerable to the illness to be protected from sickness and also shown compassion in these tough times.

### FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR ECONOMY AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY:

- **LEADERSHIP.** Pray for business leaders to model Biblical principles of integrity, empathy, and practical love during this hard season for our economy. Praise God for companies like Coke Consolidated who are willing to share knowledge and experiences with other companies.
- **PROVISION.** Continue to pray for those who remain unemployed or under-employed and for employment flexibility for parents as many children are still required to stay at home during the school day.

### FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **VALUING LIFE.** Pray for the Love Life ministry and their leadership team as they prepare for their Week 40 Prayer Walk on November 21st. Pray for wisdom to make good decisions and for God's favor over all the logistics and details for that day.
- **CHURCHES.** Pray that the Churches in Charlotte would rise up and become a mighty army to live, fight and die for Almighty God as in Ezekiel 37. May the church in Charlotte recognize its power in this election to put competent people in public office who honor God, who honor the Bible and stand strong for Jesus Christ. Pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire our churches to unite now as never before in the name of Jesus, whose power can cleanse every sin and conquer every foe.
- **REVIVAL.** Billy Graham prayed in 1949 and again in 2012: "And we are praying for an old-fashioned, Heaven-sent, Holy Ghost revival that will sweep our nation from coast to coast." May the Lord bring conviction of the need to personally and consistently pray for a mighty movement of God in Charlotte and in our nation. May it be that individually we would become "walking revivals," that we be men and women who live for revival, expect revival and earnestly pray for revival and the next great awakening.

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