

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

FOR THE WEEK OF March 7th - 13th, 2021 - Vol 45

THEME VERSE:

*And He (Jesus) told them a parable to the effect
that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.*

Luke 18:1

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1921 Fishermen's Revival

In the years prior to the 1920's, Scotland was devastated by the long years of death and war and disease. Men came back from the world war disillusioned, and many people were numb and weary in their faith. It was easy to seek comfort in the often ungodly entertainment and distractions of the world. Yet, there were those whose hearts did not waver. In many small villages in Scotland like Whinnyfold and Peterhead, Christians steadfastly gathered in church to pray for revival, often for hours every Sunday, early in the morning or late into the night.

To set Scotland on fire again with Holy Spirit, God used an unusual pathway by igniting spiritual flames first in the southeastern coastal town of Lowestoft in England. For years, Pastor Ferguson in Lowestoft had been grieved by how many folks had allowed their hearts to lose sight of their Savior. The town itself was growing secularized and seemed little interested in the things of God. Pastor Ferguson started a weekly prayer meeting that met on Monday evenings to seek God to release a palpable expression of His presence and power. For several years, almost a hundred townsfolk persistently sought the Lord each week.

In 1921, God orchestrated a series of Gospel meetings to take place on March 7th -11th in Lowestoft under the direction of Pastor Ferguson. Ferguson invited a minister from London, Douglas Brown, to speak at these gatherings. Pastor Brown had served the Lord for many years in London but initially resisted God's urging to go out to preach the Gospel. He eventually surrendered completely to God to do whatever He asked. And now Brown found himself preaching at the small fishing village of Lowestoft. Over 700 gathered on that first Monday night, full of anticipation for God to move, and dozens of people gave their lives to the Lord. The Spirit of God caused larger and larger crowds to come each night. The meetings were extended to 3 weeks, but soon this revival spread out to other English towns, lasting many months and seeing many more saved.

In fall of that year, thousands of fishermen and their families made their way down from Scotland on their boats to the southeastern coast of England to catch the annual herring migration. Storms ravaged the coast that year, and the catch of fish was relatively poor and disappointing. But the workers would not be disappointed with the revival fire God had in store for them. A young evangelist named Jock Troup was working among the Scottish fishermen. God had prepared Mr. Troup by means of an encounter that resulted in total trust and surrender to the Holy Spirit. When the fishermen arrived in Lowestoft and Yarmouth, they stumbled onto full-blown revival ablaze in the towns!

Young Jock Troup partnered with Douglas Brown to preach the Gospel. Sometimes they would both be onstage, energetically and passionately calling for sinners to repent and find their Savior. There was great comradere and unity of spirit among these revivalists. One evening in October, Troup was preaching in the open air marketplace. As the message reached its peak, the Spirit of God fell upon the audience, and huge swathes of the rough-and-tumble fishermen grappled with strong conviction of their sin. Many fell to the ground under the powerful moving of God. It was described like a battlefield of souls all around the marketplace. The very air was electric with revival fire, and in the coming days many trusted in Jesus Christ or re-dedicated themselves wholly to the Lord.

News of the revival among the fishermen quickly spread across the nation and back to the northern region of Scotland. By the time the boats made their way home and into the familiar Scottish harbors, one could hear the boisterous singing of Christian songs aboard the ships and among those waiting in the ports. The

revival fires leaped from the boats to each of the towns of the fishermen, touching Port Seton, Wicks, Dundee and more. Revival meetings sprung up everywhere, even despite condemnation from some local clergy. As a result, thousands would find salvation. Addictions were broken. Pubs closed up. Gambling almost ceased. People eagerly talked of eternity, stepped out to share the Gospel with the lost, and encouraged one another as they met daily. The waves of awakening would ripple for almost 10 years in the region, immersing the nation in its transforming power.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **CELEBRATING LIFE.** Praise God that the Love Life ministry, which started in Charlotte, North Carolina, is celebrating 5 years of loving moms, rescuing babies, and creating a culture where broken and hurting people can run to the church instead of to abortion clinics. With over 2000 families and babies rescued, 70000 believers gathered to pray on-site, and 300 churches plugged in and engaged, it has been used by God to bless our cities and build up the church.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **HOMELESSNESS.** Continue to pray for the homeless community in our city as many are still in need of shelter and other resources. Pray for the church to serve and bless them compassionately and strategically.
- **DANGEROUS LAWS.** Pray our city's leaders to oppose the proposed Equality Act and recognize the danger it poses to women and religious rights in our nation.
- **COVID-19.** Praise God that overall the COVID-19 numbers have been dropping in our city and around the nation. Keep praying for an end soon to this pandemic and for His protection and healing upon all who are affected.

FOR JOBS AND ECONOMY:

- **RE-OPENING BUSINESSES SAFELY.** Pray for the re-opening of many businesses. Pray for further relaxation of restrictions permitting businesses to get back to full operation, and that employees and customers will be respectful of safe health practices. Pray for those receiving government loans to be able to manage their business finances well.
- **WORKERS.** Pray for good jobs to be available for all. Pray that believers in the marketplace be aware of their role as ambassadors for Christ and ready to share their hope and faith.

FOR MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Pray that God will oversee the launch of this ministry in 5 new cities this month. Pray for an effective and uplifting training for sidewalk missionaries in April.
- **EASTER PREPARATION.** As churches look ahead to Easter, pray for them to be bold as they present the Gospel to neighbors and the community during this important season of the year. Pray that this would also be a time for pastors to rest and renew with the Lord.
- **FIRST LOVE.** Even though church attendance is shrinking, pray for a revival among the believers in your church and community – asking God to powerfully restore our first love for Him (Rev. 2).

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