

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF Oct 10th-16th, 2021 - Vol 76**

### THEME VERSE:

*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

**Philippians 4:11-12**

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### Revivals of the Carolinas: Charlotte Overview

Along the southern border of North Carolina, next to South Carolina, lies the fair city of Charlotte. This city is known for many things: a center for international banking, the home to NASCAR racing, and the birthplace of renowned preacher Billy Graham. But what might not be as well-known is its rich spiritual history and sense of destiny.

The city of Charlotte was founded by European settlers in 1768 and named after Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George III, who ruled over England, the most powerful nation at the time. She was known to be well-educated, compassionate to the sick, and a patron of the music and arts. She, most importantly, was a devout believer. She once wrote in 1774: "There is a contentment which the world can neither give nor take away from me... each day I pass in this world, I discover little by little that the Royal Crown and the title of Majesty do not bear comparison with that of [being] a Christian." There is a 15 foot high statue of her today in Charlotte's airport that portrays her holding up a crown to the sky. Many interpretations exist, but one that may personally reflect her the best is that she is joyfully offering her earthly crown to the one King above all kings. The Queen City, if it faithfully reflects the heart of its namesake, has a far greater future spiritually than most people realize.

From the city's humble beginnings, the Christian faith has played a significant role in the life of its people. Settled in 1768 by mostly Scottish-Irish Presbyterians, this led to the forming of its first 7 Presbyterian churches soon afterwards. Most of these original churches still are in existence and have congregations today (as of 2021). Over the centuries, many other denominations such as the Baptists, Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, and Roman Catholics built their own churches, and in great numbers, leading historians to nickname Charlotte "The City of Churches". In 2020, with some estimates claiming over 1400 churches in our city, the label is well-deserved, as this puts the city among those with the highest density of churches per capita in the world.

However, besides the surface evidence of religious sentiment and sacred buildings, there are fascinating stories over the centuries of God's profound movement in this place. Many smaller revivals have arisen over the years, birthed in local churches or Christian groups, and have impacted their communities and sometimes large segments of the entire city. And, unbeknownst to most of its citizens, there has been a large and potent undercurrent of revival-seeking prayer throughout its history. Prayer - with its always-present and ever-faithful contingency of intercessors - has been one of its keys to spiritual power and resulting blessing.

For example, it was in May 1934 that one particular group of Christian businessmen met at a dairy farm to cry out to God for souls in Charlotte to be saved and for their city to be ignited with the Holy Spirit. They had met many times before in various locales to agonize and pray for mighty spiritual awakenings, stirring the very heart of God. One man in this little group was named W.

Frank Graham. That day, someone suggested adding a new prayer item: To ask God to raise up a native of Charlotte to be a great evangelist who would take the Gospel around the world. Little did they know that W. Frank Graham's son, Billy Graham, just 15 years old at the time, was working in the nearby barn and would eventually be God's destined answer to their prayers.

Yet, although God answered that prayer request for a powerful evangelist, there is still the original prayer that has still gone unanswered. These persistent intercessors had always prayed for resounding revival to sweep throughout Charlotte, this nation, and the entire world. The time is coming soon when God will graciously give what His sons and daughters have so deeply longed for: a great revival in this city that will surge across the globe in Jesus' name!

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

- Praise the Lord!: the recent Scripture dedication at JAARS was truly a beautiful celebration and God was glorified in all that He is doing through Bible Translation around the world. Also praise God for how He provides light in the darkness through His Good News to those who feel like there are no more options for them. This week at the Help Pregnancy Center a young couple visited and put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ!

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **VICTORY OVER COVID-19.** Pray for God's mercy and healing as we continue to navigate through this pandemic. Pray for more safe and effective vaccines and treatments to arise. Pray that God would receive glory in the midst of this, and that the Church would shine brightly in His name.
- **FOR SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS.** Pray that our city's schools and students would find a way through the sporadic episodes of violence that have surfaced around the city. Pray that the city leaders would see what the roots of this violence is and begin to deal with it, at the physical and spiritual level. May those caught up in sin repent and turn to God for His help.

### FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **NIGERIA AND TANZANIA CRUSADES.** Pray for all the people conducting evangelistic crusades with Christ for All Nations in Nigeria in October. They are doing 6 crusades a week and thousands are being saved and healed. In addition, in Tanzania, praise the Lord that 607,352 people made decisions for Christ recently. The director, Daniel Kalenda says, "It's as if the second chapter of Acts is playing out again..."
- **MISSIONS AIRCRAFT.** Pray for the completion and safe delivery of the Cessna 20 going to SAM Air this month for service in Peru. May this be used to bring the Gospel to many new populations.

### FOR OTHER MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **TOWARDS REVIVAL.** What is it going to take to see a move of God such as this nation has never seen? We must beg for forgiveness for the lack of taking bold stands against sin that has so violently entered our culture and society. We must fight in Jesus' name for the souls of men, women, boys and girls to know Jesus in a passionate way, to believe on His name and be saved. We are living in the last of the last days and what a responsibility we as Christians have. Lord, may we be found faithful, help us to pray and expect Revival to break out across America, to spread across the world before the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to believe and not forget that while it appears that we face overwhelming odds, God can change everything with the snap of His finger through the power of the Holy Spirit. Come quickly with fire of Revival from above, in the powerful name of Jesus! Amen.

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