

# FIRESTARTERS 5

# PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF Oct 17th-23rd, 2021 - Vol 77**

## THEME VERSE:

*On your walls O Jerusalem, I have set watchman;  
all the day and all the night they shall never be silent.  
You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise on the earth.*

**Isaiah 62:6**

## THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

### Revivals of the Carolinas: The Moravian Effect (Part 1)

Revivals are birthed at specific times and places in history. Usually they expand as non-local people start visiting to see for themselves the presence and power of God first-hand and then return home with the revival spark. Alternatively, small bands of leaders often go out from the original site purposefully to take this touch of God to uncharted areas.

In the case of the Moravians, you have a small rag-tag group of radical Christ-followers who experienced a powerful Holy Spirit outpouring on August 13th, 1727. And they, through their unrelenting prayers and life-example, would become explosive catalysts for many significant spiritual awakenings in history over the next few centuries. Even though their early stories arose in the towns of Moravia and Germany, yet the rippling effect of their lives would carry into far-away America and even into the revival history of North Carolina.

What caused this powerful Moravian effect? One aspect of this was the connected prophecies given by God throughout this group's history. These Christians believed in God's promises. John Hus was an important Bohemian voice in the 1400's that pre-dated the Moravian church yet directly influenced their spiritual thinking. Hus was known as a priest and a reformer of the dominant Christian system of that time. He advocated following the Word of God over mere church traditions; he called for all believers to turn from sin and to adhere to a higher level of moral purity; he sought for all laymen - not just clergy - to be involved in ministry and leadership. Unfortunately, this got him branded a heretic and excommunicated. He died for his faith. But, before he died, he prophesied that his message of spiritual reformation would not fade away but become a hidden seed that would fall to the ground and die and one day bear great fruit.

In the 1480's, Bohemian Christians who followed John Hus' reforms formed the Unity of the Brethren, an ancestor group of today's Moravians. They faced great persecution because of their beliefs, often suffering physical violence and seeing their homes torched. Yet they persevered in Christ and lived their lives for Jesus. Around the 1600's, one of their leaders, John Comenius led this group to leave their native land to find a safe place to live. Comenius faced disdain and exile for his role with these believers. In 1627, he gave a prophecy that bore similarities to Hus' prediction: This group will become a hidden seed that will die but also bear fruit unto revival... in 100 years!

Count Zinzendorf of Germany, born into a wealthy family, had always been groomed to serve in some official high-capacity government position. But, from a young age, he also had been drawn devotedly to his Savior Jesus and was an intense prayer warrior. In college, he helped initiate 7 prayer fellowships during his time there. When he was 22 years old, in 1722, Zinzendorf compassionately opened his private estate to house a Moravian refugee who had faced grave persecution for his faith. Soon, not only did more Moravian refugees arrive but also many other spiritual dissidents who had nowhere safe to go. As this grew into a small town, discord and disharmony soon followed. In May of 1727, Zinzendorf gathered the group of 300 together to agree to and sign a contract that pursued unity in love and re-dedicated their lives to Christ. Everyone agreed. Many committed to praying fervently for revival.

This became the 2nd key aspect of the Moravians' vast influence: They prayed incessantly. Their devotion attracted the Holy Spirit. On July 16th, Zinzendorf appealed to his community to seek God even more. As he

poured out his heart in prayer, his tears and passion provoked his listeners to delve wholeheartedly into God's Word and His presence. It was like gasoline on an open fire! Some of the youth, after spending days in prayer, experienced a mighty personal revival, with an unshakeable reassurance of salvation and God's unflinching love. On August 5th, Herrnhut began their first "Night Watch" in which Zinzendorf and 14 others labored in worship and anguished prayer all night long. Finally, on Wednesday, August 13th, they all met together. Zinzendorf shared a message about the cross. Time was given for confession and reconciliation. Then they proceeded to the Communion table, and it was then that the Holy Spirit broke out in full power! Such an amazing outpouring of God's love flowed upon them and spilled out in extraordinary love for those around them. There was singing and weeping and praying. After an astounding summer of rising revival anticipation, the Moravians encountered their own Pentecost that day and in the days which followed. And it all happened, bearing great fruit, almost exactly 100 years after the given prophecy.

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

Praise God for the ministry of Love Life. As a result of their ministry and partnerships, this week, across all of their cities, 15 families who were considering abortions decided to choose life instead.

Also, we thank God that new cases of Covid-19 are dropping across the Carolinas, with the percent of people testing positive down to 7%

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **SAFETY OF MISSING WOMEN.** Across the Charlotte area, three women have recently gone missing and are still apart from their families as of this past Tuesday. The women are also mothers, so let's keep praying, along with their children, as we ask for their safe return back home.
- **TAKING A STAND FOR TRUTH.** Pray that Christian leaders will graciously and firmly take a stand against any attempts to dilute God's Word and to propagate lies in our school system. Pray for North Carolina's Lt. Governor Mark Robinson, as he has spoken out against liberal and immoral agendas in our schools. Pray for courage and peace in his heart, even while facing the attacks from vocal politicians who dislike his taking a stand for God's ways.

FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY:

- **COVID-19 CHALLENGES.** Pray for businesses being forced to comply with mandatory COVID vaccinations for 100% of their work force, who risk losing government business and/or financial penalties for non-compliance. Pray for workers who must decide to comply with mandate against strongly-held beliefs or terminate their employment. Pray for wisdom and God's direction in decisions by all involved, and provision for many employees who have already quit.
- **LEADERS SUMMIT ON THURSDAY.** Pray for Stick Williams and Casey Crawford on October 21st at the Queen City Leaders Summit as they share with business leaders what it looks like to "Love Your Neighbor" in the marketplace. Pray that guests will be encouraged and inspired, and that many non-believers in attendance will respond to the Gospel. Praise God for His provision through sponsors and partners.

FOR OTHER MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Please pray for their main leader Justin Reeder, for his father to quickly recover from COVID-19. Continue to lift up his family for peace and faith in this time.
- **LOCAL CHURCH PRAYER.** Please, Lord, may our churches be a testimony to Your Word in the world. (John 17:6) Also, Father, help us to become dependent upon You in prayer. (John 17:9)
- **REVIVAL PRAYER.** Please Lord, make our churches into catalysts for selfless prayer toward revival. (John 17:4) And, Lord, let us cry out powerful prayers for all the nations. (John 17:5)

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