

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF Oct 24th-30th, 2021 - Vol 78**

### THEME VERSE:

*The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.*

**Leviticus 6:13**

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### Revivals of the Carolinas: The Moravian Effect (Part 2)

When the Moravians, led by Count Zinzendorf, experienced their Pentecost moment in 1727 at Herrnhut, powerful spiritual forces were set in motion. Within 2 weeks of that fateful day in August, members of the community instituted a system to pray around-the-clock for those who did not yet have the Gospel nor the outpouring of the Spirit. They looked to the Bible verse Leviticus 6:13 as their inspiration: "The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out." This non-stop prayer watch was run by at least 2 adults each hour, but later more adults joined in this endeavor hourly, and even children committed to participate in this. The 24-7 prayer movement started small, but amazingly it would last for over a hundred years.

As the Moravians surrendered to the move of God in their midst, a spirit of profound faith and sacrificial obedience swept through their ranks, and it created a burning impetus to go out into the world and carry the Gospel to those still unreached. The revival touched their hearts so deeply that missions to a lost world only made sense. This small community of Christians, about 300 in number in the year 1727, contended for the great honor to be chosen to serve as missionaries. At one point, 29 of them sold themselves into slavery so that other slaves could hear the Gospel. The Moravians became an unstoppable launchpad for Christian missions. By 1760, when Zinzendorf finally passed away into His Savior's arms, the Moravians had sent out 226 missionaries from their church into 10 countries around the world.

When the opportunity arose to go to the New World in the Americas in the mid 1700's, many Moravians wished to go, partly because persecution was indeed bad at home, but even more importantly, because they adamantly wanted to share Jesus with the native American Indians and with other colonists who were unchurched. They also wanted to be able to worship and serve God freely with all their hearts. In their records, they stated: "Let us seek an estate where we can worship God without restraint, and where we will be able to use our lives and our means to promote His glory."

The Moravians are often mentioned as contributing greatly to the 1st Great Awakening in the American colonies. It was not because they demonstrated an abundance of supernatural signs and wonders as they travelled. Instead, they were positioned at the right place at the right time, walking fully in the Spirit's embrace. When John Wesley, who would play a significant role in this Awakening, was crossing the Atlantic Ocean to Georgia in 1736, the ship encountered a ferocious storm. As the fierce winds and waters swept across the ship's deck, most people despaired of making it out alive. Yet, Wesley noticed one group onboard - the Moravians - who remained strangely calm and sang songs of praise all through the storm. They did not fear death. They steadfastly trusted in Jesus. This would leave a strong impression upon Wesley, even as the storm departed and allowed the ship to safely make it to port.

Two years later, in 1738, Wesley would find himself back in England, struggling with doubts about his own faith, when he ended up at a Moravian meeting at Aldersgate Street. There he heard the Gospel preached as he had never heard before, and he ultimately put his faith in Christ alone for

his salvation. Wesley would go on to be a key founder of the revival-minded Methodists and a prominent figure in the great spiritual awakening in America. One lesson is clear: those who find themselves radically touched by revival - like the Moravians were - often go on to be God's agents to set others ablaze for God's great purposes.

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

Praise God for the Businessmen's Leadership Summit that took place last Thursday morning! Thank God for godly speakers who shared their stories and pointed to their Savior. May many non-believers put their faith in Christ, and may the Christians be encouraged and emboldened to live for Him in the marketplace.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **FIGHTING DIVISION IN SCHOOLS.** Please pray for the High Schools in Charlotte, for an end to the divisive spirit that's splitting the students along racial lines . Pray especially for Butler High and Charlotte Catholic High school, as their faculty will be sitting down with leaders & students to dialogue. Pray for truth to be lifted up and for compassion and mercy to flow freely.
- **RECOVERY FROM DIFFICULT TIMES.** A water main broke recently in the city. This forced many businesses to close down temporarily, causing additional loss of income and further stress for the owners and their workers. Pray for God's presence to give them peace and direction as they move forward from here. Pray for many small businesses and restaurants who have been affected by the extended lockdown and need God's favor to stay open.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **TENSIONS IN ASIA.** Pray as China continues to escalate tensions in Asia, threatening Taiwan and anyone who dares stand up to its militant advances. Pray that God would protect the democracies, like Taiwan and Japan, and the people's freedom there. Pray that any evils being perpetrated by Communist China would be thwarted and that any persons hostile to Christianity would be turned around so that they put their faith in Jesus.
- **KIDNAPPINGS IN HAITI.** Pray for the 17 missionaries recently kidnapped in Haiti while going to visit an orphanage. Pray for safety and deliverance and that they would show the love of Jesus to their captors. Also pray for the safety of the local children in Haiti, many who are kidnapped and exploited each year. Pray for the ministries of Compassion International as they help children and churches in Haiti.

FOR OTHER MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **REVIVAL.** Ask that God would put a burning longing in our churches to commit to pray relentlessly with a fierce dependence on His provision and power. Lord, change out thinking so that we don't just rest on our own strengths and cleverness. Bring us back to You. Make us hungry for You. Make our hearts more and more like Yours, and propel us into our communities and into the world as bearers of God's love and light. Pour out revival fire on us and send us out!

**FOR MORE, VISIT [WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM](http://WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM)**

**For Discussion Questions, go to: [www.thinkrevival.com/Stories/HistoricBlog/](http://WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM/Stories/HistoricBlog/)**