

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Dec 12th - Dec 18th, 2021 - **Volume 85**

THEME VERSE:

*Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
Let those who love Your salvation say continually,
"The LORD be magnified!"*

Psalm 40:16

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Revivals of the Carolinas: 2nd Great Awakening (Pt 1): Camp Meetings

The early 1800's were electrified with God's presence. Following the Red River revival in Logan County and the Cane Ridge camp meeting, the revival fires of the 2nd Great Awakening surged outward to more frontier states. Many people started to call this the Great Revival. John Rankin was one of several leaders that the revivalist McGready had impacted in North Carolina. Rankin followed McGready to minister in Kentucky and then helped carry the revival fire into eastern Tennessee and the Carolinas. It usually took place in the form of outdoor camp meetings, where thousands of residents would travel afar and be drawn to hear the traveling revivalists.

During these meetings, it would be common to see folks from all walks of life, black and white, young and old, groaning over their sins, collapsed upon the floor, overcome by strong conviction by the Holy Spirit. And some of the crowd who had earlier been the most unruly and disrespectful would find themselves completely laid flat on the ground, praying intensely, and crying out for the Lord's mercy. As the Gospel was made clear to the listeners, hundreds of people would put their trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. And, sometimes, the Spirit would energize and transform a formerly lost person to get up and share passionately about his faith, or a young child would boldly stand up and exhort the crowd from the Scriptures. It was a kind of religion that these rough frontier folks had never seen before.

Camp meetings held in Mecklenburg, North Carolina, in 1802, packed about 5000 people into one location to hear God's Word. Hundreds of people here too were recorded as spontaneously falling to the ground, crying out to God as they realized their own rebellious hearts, and graciously receiving forgiveness for their sins. One revival, held in Waxhaw, saw thousands of settlers, merchants, and their families come to hear the Gospel, and unprecedented unity was on display as 3 Methodists, 4 Baptists, and 11 Presbyterian ministers joined forces to host this meeting.

The famous Methodist circuit rider Francis Asbury, upon hearing what God was doing at the camp meetings of Kentucky, also rode through North and South Carolina, re-telling the stories of people's encounters with God. As folks heard these narratives in North Carolina, revival often broke out in response. This mighty move of the Holy Spirit left a lasting impression upon their hearts and in their lives. By January of 1803, Asbury had witnessed at least 3300 people who had been touched profoundly by the awakenings and had joined the church.

During the Great Revival of the 1800's, the frontiers of America saw God's presence sweep through these regions and take them by storm. It was the right time. It was not a time when everything was perfect and peaceful and easy. But it was the right time as God made their hearts ready and hungry for Him. God would build up His church and His Kingdom as people heard the truth of the Gospel presented clearly and encountered the presence of the powerful living God.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for ministries in our city, like the Monroe Pregnancy Help Center that continues to respond to the pressing needs of the community. Many young couples come to the center hungry to know more about God, and one couple this week received salvation as they put their trust in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **COVID-19 CONCERNS.** The latest COVID-19 variant, omicron, appeared for the first time in Mecklenburg county this week. The UNC Charlotte student who had it was isolated and has recovered. Pray that it does not spread and that any infections will have minimal symptoms and severity. Pray that the most vulnerable will be protected and for quick healing for all affected.
- **INFLATION CHALLENGES.** Please continue to pray for our communities as inflation keeps on affecting gasoline prices and the costs of food and basic supplies. Pray especially for those who already had difficulty making ends meet this year before inflation took hold. Pray for the Lord to be present and to provide for their needs.

FOR JOBS, BUSINESSES, AND THE ECONOMY:

- **JOBS.** Pray for good-paying jobs with solid benefits for those currently looking for work. Pray also for businesses with staffing issues as workers are resigning/opting out of returning to work for various reasons. Pray for businesses dealing with supply chain issues and inflationary pressures. Pray for Godly, biblical wisdom so that business leaders can honor God in all this.
- **MARKETPLACE AWAKENING.** Continue to pray for a spiritual awakening in the marketplace – that Christian business men and women across the region unite in prayer and worship with church and non-profit leaders, asking the Lord to bring revival to our city. Pray also for active discipleship and mentoring of younger men and women so that they will be bold in their Christian witness.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Pray for this Charlotte-based ministry that leads churches to worship God and pray against abortion in their cities. Pray that the recent complaints by 6 abortion workers against the local abortion clinic will cause it to close down. Pray for the expansion of this work on the West Coast: for their new missionary training and their conference in January 2022. Pray for the Love Life staff during the off-season: for those on sabbatical and others who are getting a time to refresh and be with their families before prayer walks begin again next February.
- **REVIVAL.** Lord Jesus, please help the Church in these uneasy and uncertain times to turn to You always for direction and peace. Increase the depth of our hunger and longing for You. Make our hearts ready for the days of revival, whatever form it may take and whatever vehicles You may use to carry it forward. May the Spirit pour out fresh fire upon us so that many souls will be won and that God will receive all the glory.

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