

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Mar 13th - Mar 19th, 2022 - **Volume 96**

THEME VERSE:

*I remember the days of old. I meditate on all Your works.
I consider the works of Your hands.
I stretch forth my hands unto You.
My soul thirsts after You as a thirsty land.*

Psalms 143:5-6

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Revivals of the Carolinas: 1857 Anson Street Revival

The 2nd Great Awakening powerfully set afire many churches and cities of the Carolinas in the early 1800's. But even as late as the 1850's, God was still moving in mighty ways to revive the hearts of His people. In this period before the Civil War, God stirred up fires of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of one multi-racial church in the city of Charleston, South Carolina.

The church that God would choose for this revival was a small church of 48 blacks and 12 whites that made up the Anson Street Presbyterian Church, at the intersection of Anson Street and Calhoun. It was common before the Civil War for Christians in Charleston to worship together, whether they were white or black. In the summer of 1857, the church's pastor John Girardeau pressed his congregation to begin to seek intently for another great spiritual awakening, awaiting a fresh outpouring of the Spirit again.

The church fervently started to pray. They even set aside the normal preaching services in order to focus on crying out to Heaven. The congregants labored in prayer for months on end. Then, one evening, it happened. Pastor Girardeau was in the middle of a prayer meeting when he felt a surge of electricity pierce his head and go through his whole body. On his knees, he looked up to see the whole congregation shaking and tears flowing down their faces. The Holy Spirit amplified the groaning in their hearts so that the praying became more and more intense. Then, they as one body lifted up their voices in loud praises and weeping and singing, and they agonized in prayer for the lost souls in their neighborhoods. The Spirit of God had exploded upon the scene.

This set off a chain reaction within the city. Every night, for the next 8 weeks, Girardeau declared the Gospel to crowds of up to 2000 people daily who gathered for a touch of the Holy Spirit. Folks, both black and white, came from around the city to hear and see this fresh move of God. Many unbelievers, skeptics and seekers alike, came and were saved. The revival fire then spread to other churches in Charleston, bringing about tremendous growth in the Body of Christ.

As revival moved out to other cities, many people were stirred to re-consecrate themselves to the Lord. In one city, Beaufort, South Carolina, a small church reported seeing 400 new members join their assembly in just a few days. The Holy Spirit would use the huge ripples of this awakening to even inspire and touch off other revivals like the Fulton Street revival in New York City later that year. This, in turn, caused outpourings of the Spirit all through the East Coast in the winter of 1857-1858. The nation became caught up in the news and conversation of God's mighty work of revival in America. Nearly every college and institution of higher learning across the USA was impacted by the Holy Spirit's work of conviction and life transformation. Finney, a well-known revivalist, commented that it was the time of a great revival prevailing in the land, with well over 50,000 souls saved every week, crossing lines across denominations and races and social status. All

in all, from 1857-1859, more than one million Americans responded anew to the Gospel and the Holy Spirit's beckoning.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for His continued provision of finances and invaluable volunteers at the Help Pregnancy Center in Charlotte. They do a wonderful work with unwed pregnant moms and couples struggling with the decision to keep an unexpected baby. We thank God especially for raising up new ministers who will be teaching at the Center's Wingate University to equip participants to grow in God's Word and Spirit.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **PANDEMIC LEARNING.** A comprehensive study of North Carolina test scores during the pandemic shows that the more emphasis was shifted to virtual learning for the public school students, the more they tended to fall behind academically, sometimes significantly. This was especially true for those groups who were already struggling and at a disadvantage before the lockdowns. Pray that our schools will be able to serve, care for, and bring these students back up to speed. Pray for wisdom for our teachers and supernatural progress for the kids.
- **RISING PRICES.** Pray for our city and our neighbors even as inflation increases greatly. Pray for God's provision and comfort as the prices of food and gasoline skyrocket. Pray that our government leaders will exercise godly wisdom and compassion as they make decisions that markedly impact our families and individuals nationwide.

FOR THE WORLD AND FOR MISSIONS:

- **GOD'S PRESENCE IN UKRAINE.** Continue to pray for peace and courage among the Ukrainian Christians and others as they evacuate their country during this brutal Russian invasion. Pray for divine protection and numerous opportunities for them to share their faith even in the midst of persecution and hardship.
- **SAMARITAN'S PURSE.** Pray for Samaritan's Purse workers and medical personnel as they set up a field hospital in Lviv, a city in the western part of Ukraine. Also for relief work being done for refugees flooding into Poland, Moldova and Romania.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOCAL CHURCHES.** When petty agendas or grudges divide God's people, we are rightly ridiculed by the world for our foolish attitude of religious superiority. Lord, make us one so that the world will know the glorious love of the Father. (John 17:22-23) Pray for divided congregations to become reconciled, reflecting Christ's beauty.
- **FOR REVIVAL.** As Your people, Lord, we stand before You, praying with many others. Revive us in ways that change us deeply. Infuse the resurgent life of Your Spirit within us, so that we rejoice in rising, always-escalating love for Your Son (Psalm 85:2, 4, 6). Bring us to the place of complete dependence upon You and calling out to You faithfully in these dark days. Quench our thirst for You with Your very presence as revival breaks out soon.

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