

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Aug 16-22, 2020 - Vol 16

THEME VERSE:

*In my distress I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears.*

Psalm 18:6

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Start of the New England Revivals in 1798

In 1794, a Baptist preacher and man of prayer named Isaac Backus took notice of how God had used the idea of a "Concert of Prayer" in England to unify the British churches and bring about revival. Isaac sensed God urging him to do the same in America. He had witnessed during his ministry how dry and dead many churches had become on the east coast of the United States. Many congregations had grown stagnant and spiritually lifeless for well over a decade. In faith, Isaac reached out and coordinated with more than 20 other New England ministers and sent out a circular letter making an urgent plea to all pastors in the area to start praying for revival. Amazingly, many ministers and believers enthusiastically agreed to meet for a concert of prayer on the 1st Tuesday of each quarter of the year. They committed to keep asking the Lord for an outpouring year after year until He would answer.

Beginning in 1798, revival fire erupted in New England. Fervent prayers led to diligent study of the Word of God and deep conviction of personal sin. It became a regular daily occurrence in many churches to see lost men and women finally find salvation. As revival would take hold in one town, revivalists would travel to other towns to pass along the fire of God's manifest presence. They would preach from the Word and challenge listeners to put aside their fascination with worldly distractions. They would tell stories of historic revivals and stories of present revival breaking out in nearby towns. Sometimes, a surge of God's awakening power would come upon a church as they read out loud a story of revival. At other times, a group of believers would visit an ongoing site of revival, experience what God was doing, and then bring it back to their home church. Over the next 17 years, no less than 150 towns and churches across Massachusetts and Connecticut experienced a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit that energized and revitalized their townsfolk and saw a fresh surge of new believers putting their faith in Christ.

God multiplied revival rapidly and powerfully in the early 1800's. Though many towns in New England during this period were small by today's standards, God was pleased to pour out His Spirit through them in mighty ways during this early phase of the 2nd Great Awakening. It was also noted by many pastors that the majority of revivals began with the young people in their congregation and had their greatest impact upon that generation. May God do it again today in churches of all sizes and among every generation!

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **CHURCHES SERVING THE COMMUNITY.** Praise God that many churches during this pandemic are showing the compassion of Christ by gathering and distributing food to those in need. Praise the Lord that churches like Zamar Church in Lancaster, South Carolina, distribute hundreds of boxes of food regularly to cars that drive through their church property seeking prayer and sustenance.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- For an End to the Pandemic. Pray for God once again to bring an end to this disease that has terribly impacted our city, our nation, and the world. Pray for new insights and powerful miracles to be released. May God soon heal our land!
- For Vulnerable Students - As the Charlotte Mecklenburg School system has made its decision to go fully virtual this school year, next week begins that new reality for parents, single parents and foster children all over our city. Pray God's provision and that the body of Christ would enter into these difficult spaces to provide solutions and care.
- For Unity without Conformity - The climate of division has reached a fever pitch and the Church needs to find a "better way". Pray that God would help us to disagree with one another while maintaining unity through the bond of peace. That He would tear down walls of hostility and allow us to seek God-honoring ways to uphold human dignity even with those that are seeking to do harm.
- Jobs and Businesses - As the Charlotte Region reports the loss of 156,000 jobs between April & June, and unemployment filings across the state of roughly 60,000 people per week (compared with a pre-pandemic average of about 3,000) pray that business owners and leaders will find opportunities to assist those impacted by the worst quarter in at least a decade. Pray also for the safe reopening and expansion of small businesses, especially in the hospitality industry, which represents about 40% of the losses.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- Please continue to pray for safety for workers in the Middle East who help women coming out of human trafficking. Recently one worker's apartment windows were blown out. Pray they will be able to get safety cameras for their building and that God's angels will surround and protect this ministry.
- Pray for God's care over those who share the Gospel in hostile countries. Two other workers in the Middle East had their home broken into by the parents of a woman who was staying with them for safety reasons. Please pray for these workers and the young lady they were able to share the Gospel with, that she will give her heart to the Lord.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND FOR REVIVAL:

- Love Life Charlotte - Pray for Ms. Ash. As the main pro-abortion advocate in this area, she is constantly out there and stirring up all kinds of strife for those who take a stand for life. Pray for Ms. Ash to have an encounter with Jesus that will bless her and radically transform her.
- Pray for a renewed longing among our churches' leaders for God's manifest presence to be poured out again in powerful ways. Pray for God to stir up genuine repentance and commitment to follow His Word. Pray for the Holy Spirit to have His way in our hearts so that we surrender all to Him and are ready for the coming days of revival.

FOR MORE, VISIT WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM

For Discussion Questions, go to: www.thinkrevival.com/Stories/HistoricBlog/