

# FIRESTARTERS 5

# PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF Oct 3rd - 9th, 2021** - Vol 75

## THEME VERSE:

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.  
See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.  
Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

**Isaiah 60:1-3**

## THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

### Revivals of the Carolinas: North Carolina Overview

Historic revivals are not just the stuff of exciting stories and larger-than-life saints. They burst to extraordinary life in the nitty-gritty nooks and crannies of a specific time and particular place in history. It is grounded in real communities where ordinary folks once lived out their lives. Also, revival is not merely about big tents or large crowds or strong emotions. It is not about the smartest, strongest, or most zealous Christians finally getting their act together and doing church right. True revival is, first of all, a move of God Himself. It is His initiative that powerfully releases a fresh outpouring of His very presence upon a particular people, time, and place. Human choices do matter, before revival breaks out and even afterwards, but make no mistake: true revival hinges on the supernatural work of God bursting upon the scene.

God has seen fit to ignite great awakenings in locations around the world and all throughout the ages. One area that has seen its fair share of revivals is North Carolina, located midway along the eastern seaboard of the United States. One might think our powerful God would only choose the vast mega-cities like New York or LA to make His appearance, but He alone chooses the who, the where, and the when, according to His wisdom and good pleasure. By His mercy and grace, the Carolinas are no stranger to those rarified days when God's very presence and power are unmistakable.

Here is a quick snapshot of its rich spiritual history. The earliest European settlers tried to get established in the Carolinas in the 1500's with not much success. Exploration and new settlements continued through the 1600's and early 1700's. In 1712, because of political and religious tensions, the Carolinas was divided into North Carolina and South Carolina. When the First Great Awakening - led by leaders like John Wesley and George Whitefield - swept throughout the colonies in the mid 1700's, it also spread the fires of revival into North Carolina. God fanned the flames using the vibrant and bold Gospel preaching of itinerant preachers and pastors from the Separate Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians. By the 1800's the Second Great Awakening was catching fire in Kentucky and helped to trigger the Great Revival in the South, which profoundly touched many churches and denominations to spur them on to renewed spiritual life and effective evangelism. In the 1940's, God would raise up Billy Graham, a native son of Charlotte, North Carolina, to be a mighty preacher of the Gospel in the United States and around the world. In the ensuing years, powerful prayers would be lifted up, and city-shaking local revivals would catch flame in this region.

The Carolinas, like several other colonies in early American history, was named in honor of a king. In this case, it was named after King Charles of England, whose son played a significant hand in establishing the charter for its status as a royal colony in 1729. It is somewhat fitting that God would open up deep wells of revival in this state over the centuries so that Christians here would blaze brightly, immersed in the Holy Spirit, and ultimately giving the greatest honor to the King of Kings. We pray a fresh wave of history-making revival will burn intensely once again in this place.

## THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God for how the Church has responded to welcome the 200 Afghan refugee families assigned to settle in our city of Charlotte. Thank God for this opportunity to show the love of Christ to these new guests in our city!

## PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **BREAKTHROUGHS OVER COVID-19.** Continue to pray for God to provide divine healing to those who are sick and also bring breakthrough solutions in this pandemic. May God surface new treatments like the Merck pill and validate anecdotal ones like Ivermectin. Pray that God would heal the division and antagonism that is present in the Church and in society-at-large.
- **AFGHAN LIVING QUARTERS.** Pray for the incoming Afghan refugee families as they seek places to rent as their homes. There is a tight supply and it looks like it will be hard to find apartments. Pray for opportunities to open up soon.

### FOR JOBS, BUSINESSES, AND THE ECONOMY:

- **NOVANT HEALTH WORKERS.** Pray for the 175 Novant Health workers who were terminated for not having been vaccinated and who will be without unemployment insurance or health insurance. Pray for others facing similar circumstances as businesses respond to the vaccine mandate. Pray that Christian business leaders who are required to enforce these mandates will seek wisdom from God as to how to respond.
- **QUEEN CITY LEADERS SUMMIT.** Pray for the upcoming Queen City Leaders Summit on Thursday, Oct 21st, and for speakers Casey Crawford and Stick Williams as they share the Gospel. Pray for God's favor for good weather, as the event has been moved outside (Truist Stadium) due to the mask mandate. Pray that marketplace Christians will invite associates who don't know Christ and that the Holy Spirit will move many to receive the gift of salvation through Jesus.

### FOR OTHER MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Pray that God would strengthen and bless the Love Life ministry, which is seeking to end abortion and help families choose life. Pray for their new partnership with Kirk Cameron that begins October 10th, that they will help many see God's heart for the unborn. Pray for their upcoming Margaret Sanger movie to expose the ways abortion hurts the most vulnerable in our society. Pray for their Love Life Conference in California to encourage leaders.
- **CITYWIDE PRAYER MOBILIZATION.** Pray as ministries, such as For Charlotte, strive to bring prayer leaders and ministries together to work and pray in unity. May our city begin to cry out with one voice for the things on Father God's heart. May we cry out for revival!
- **REVIVAL IN THE CITY, MEETING IN MONROE.** Pray that the multi-church revival meeting this weekend (Oct 1-2) in Monroe will share the Gospel powerfully and spur the Christians in attendance to walk more intimately and boldly with the Holy Spirit. May it bless our city greatly.
- **FUTURE REVIVAL.** O Lord, thank you that in the past you have opened many wellsprings of revival in our country, and especially North Carolina. May You grant us favor once more to see the wells of Holy Spirit revival re-opened in our city and communities. Lord, help us to surrender to Your leading as You empower us to preach the Gospel and love those who are far from You.

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