

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Jan 16 - Jan 22, 2022 - **Volume 88**

THEME VERSE:

*But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you,
may those who long for your saving help always say,
"The Lord is great!"*

Psalm 70:4

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Revivals of the Carolinas: 2nd Great Awakening (Pt 4): Fires from Yale

The 2nd Great Awakening in the 1800's blazed brightly at the frontiers of America in the south and in the west, in places like Kentucky and North Carolina. But God also made sure to ignite fresh revival fires in the northeast regions of the States. Around the same time that the fervent camp meetings were taking place in Kentucky, there was a powerful move of God on the cultivated grounds of the Yale University campus in New Haven, Connecticut.

God had planted the seeds for revival at Yale University in 1795, when He had raised up a new president at the school. This new leader was Timothy Dwight, the grandson of the noted theologian and revivalist Jonathan Edwards. Dwight immediately began to preach and teach against the unhealthy rationalistic philosophies that dominated the thinking of the student body. For years, the students generally manifested a rebellious and apathetic attitude towards Dwight's efforts. Yet Dwight persisted in his prayers and forceful teaching, hoping to break through their indifference to spirituality.

In the spring of 1802, God's Spirit stirred the hearts of two students on campus. They began to grieve over their sins under the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Soon, they wholeheartedly gave their lives to Jesus. This, in turn, triggered an avalanche of others wrestling with their conscience and ultimately surrendering to God. In all, one-third of the entire student body that year turned away from their immorality and humanism and began following the Lord. Even though these students did respond sincerely to God's presence, it is noteworthy that this revival had a much lower incidence of falling down and emotional outbursts than witnessed at North Carolina camp meetings. Yet, the Spirit of God was clearly at work...

This move of God at Yale fueled the flames for the 2nd Great Awakening on the East Coast of America. Several other waves of revival would sweep over Yale in 1808, in 1813, and again in 1815. Each time, the revival fires would surge outwards to other colleges and churches and towns, reaching many with the Gospel and touching many lives. In the period from 1810 -1820, revivalists from Congregationalist churches journeyed out and impacted towns in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. Meanwhile, Methodist revivalists carried the flames of God's transforming power to new areas in Maryland and Delaware. And, of course, students from Yale and other colleges entered the ministry as a result of the awakening, and they would soon carry the Gospel and fires of revival further throughout this young nation.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for what He is doing on college campuses today to stir up a new heart for revival among the students as they step up to serve the Lord and reach the lost. Thank God for the Christian fellowships that are meeting - virtually or in person - and serving their communities.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **INCOMING WINTER STORM.** Let's be praying for Charlotte and North Carolina and the surrounding states as a huge winter storm surges through these regions. A fierce mix of snow and ice and rain are forecast to hit as early as Sunday, with up to 4 inches of snow in Charlotte and up to 1 foot in northwestern parts of the state. Pray for safety and protection for everyone hit by the storm. Pray that the most vulnerable and without shelter, that they would find a hospitable place to hunker down.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **TENSIONS IN UKRAINE.** Pray for a cessation of the mounting tensions taking place in Ukraine, as Russia continues to take belligerent action. Pray that evil leadership within Ukraine would be replaced with competent and God-honoring leaders. Pray for a good resolution that will bring peace and justice.
- **OPEN DOORS MINISTRIES IN ASIA.** Pray for the Open Doors ministry as they supply food and Bibles to over 90,000 believers in a certain restricted country in Asia. They do their work through safe houses and, in addition, beam numerous Bible radio broadcasts into that country.
- **VOICE OF THE MARTYRS WORKERS IN NIGERIA.** Please pray for Voice of the Martyr workers as they work to meet the needs of persecuted believers in Nigeria through food distribution and Bible distribution. Pray for those who are reaching Muslims for Christ, that they would have all the ministry tools they need and be anointed with the Holy Spirit to share wisely and boldly.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOCAL CHURCHES.** With the new year comes opportunities for every Christ-centered church to trust the Lord and obey Him boldly, doing the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. Pray that the churches in our city will step into God's possibilities for them (Ephesians 1:15-23).
- **REVIVAL.** The new year is a time to focus afresh on praying for revival – personally, in our families, at church, and on college campuses... Lord, revive us! Remind us of our first love so that we can remember, repent, and re-do that love (Revelation 2:1-7). Let us join together with other churches who are praying for revival every Saturday evening – asking in faith for an astounding work of God in their midst and in this season...

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