

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

Igniting Prayer for Revival in our City • 5 Minutes to Read • 5 Minutes in Prayer
FOR THE WEEK OF Mar 20th - Mar 26th, 2022 - **Volume 97**

THEME VERSE:

*And the things you have heard me say
in the presence of many witnesses
entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others*

2 Timothy 2:2

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Revivals of the Carolinas: The 1885 Cotton Gin Revival

Many Christians are well-aware of the names of high-profile believers like Corrie ten Boom or D. L. Moody or John Wesley. What is not well-known, at least on this side of Heaven, are the names of the numerous men and women who faithfully poured the Gospel into these Christian leaders long before they were famous. J. T. Kendall was one such man. He would lead numerous revivals in the Carolinas in the late 1800's. Many were powerful, but almost all would be nearly forgotten. But one revival, the Cotton Gin Revival, would not only see many people on the frontiers set afire for Jesus Christ, but it would birth key leaders and forerunners for world-shaking outpourings of the Spirit.

Kendall was born in North Carolina in 1859, likely near the northeast coast of the Carolinas and the border with Virginia. While still a youngster, he put his trust in Jesus as his Savior and sensed the call of God to one day serve as a minister. The Methodist church in Winton, North Carolina, ordained him as a preacher at just 21 years of age. They assigned him to work various regional circuits as a preacher, until in 1885 they tasked him with serving the Clinton circuit, an area about 50 miles south of Raleigh.

It was the time of post-war Reconstruction in the South. Notions of white supremacy and racial segregation were gaining traction. Formal Christianity was on the decline. But there was percolating still a slow-burning common hunger for God, for some kind of spiritual renewal to bring the people together. Understanding this, Kendall's first goal was to launch revival meetings in the town of Persimmons College (now called Keener).

Keener was a natural pitstop for many travelers. Located halfway between the big cities of Raleigh and Wilmington, the town's abundant wells of water and commercial saw mill and cotton gin beckoned visitors to stop on by. In August of 1885, Kendall kicked off the revival in the nearby cotton gin. God lit up the countryside with Kendall's passionate and explosive preaching and with the Spirit's clear demonstration of life-transforming power. It led to the conversion to faith of hundreds of townspeople, perhaps even thousands over the next 3 years. Several churches were birthed in the aftermath. And God would bring a reformation of the character of the entire Keener community, no matter white or black, through this Cotton Gin revival.

But, one of the most striking and long-term impacts of this revival would be the spiritual birth of two of the South's mightiest revivalists: A. B. Crumpler and G. B. Cashwell. Crumpler was still a young man from the nearby town of Clinton when he heard the Good News from Rev. Kendall in Keener. Kendall personally disciplined Crumpler and even performed the marriage for Crumpler and his bride in 1886. And he would help Crumpler to join up as a preacher with the Methodists.

Cashwell had grown up in Keener and had been exposed to Christianity through his grandmother's labors to bring Missionary Baptist congregations to their town. Although he had

always been a bit of a wild prankster in his youth, he too was saved through the Cotton Gin Revival and likely became friends with Rev. Kendall and A. B. Crumpler. After serving with the Methodist church in Keener as a trustee for a short time, he returned to preach at his home Baptist church, bringing the Gospel to all races and all ages. Eventually the three men would cross paths and even work together for a time to ignite fresh fires of revival throughout eastern North Carolina. And God would use Crumpler and Cashwell in even bigger movements and revivals in the 1900's to further God's plans to set the world fully afire with the Holy Spirit.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for new worship ministries that are developing and expanding as the pandemic restrictions are lifted and the nation opens up again. Thank God for the fresh opportunities to freely connect with and serve strangers and neighbors around our city. Praise God specifically for the Charlotte pastor who gave out \$10,000 worth of gift cards last week to help drivers pay for gas.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE CITY:

- **NURSES POST-COVID.** The last two years have been a draining and traumatic time for the nurses in our hospitals as they've cared for many sick people. Pray that they get a much needed breather as numbers of death/serious complications from COVID have dropped significantly. Pray that they would continue to have God's strength and compassion to serve going forward.

FOR JOBS, BUSINESSES, AND THE ECONOMY:

- **INFLATION EFFECTS.** Pray for God's grace and provision for individuals/families on fixed incomes as prices for food, gas, electricity etc are heavily impacted by rising inflation. Pray for safety nets from churches and city to help those least able to afford runaway costs. Pray that businesses that operate on Biblical principles would lead the way in modeling Christlike compassion to the poor and needy in our community.
- **BUSINESS DECISIONS.** Pray for businesses facing uncertainty around supply chain, inflation and geopolitical turmoil. Pray that leaders would ask for God's wisdom to confidently deal with this uncertainty, and that Christ-followers in the marketplace would be stabilizing influences in their community and sources of light for the Gospel.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE.** Continue to pray for Jonathan Devore (Charlotte Director) and family as they are grieving the recent loss of his father-in-law. Pray also for the churches/Pastors across the 14 cities where Love Life is, that more pastors will be awakened to this issue and have a boldness to take a stand and get their church involved. Pray for their May missionary bootcamp - hosted in California for the first time - that it will equip and raise up new leaders to mobilize the Church to stand for life and see abortion end. Specifically pray for funds and a new West Coast director.
- **FOR REVIVAL.** Lord, help the Body of Christ to see the importance to make disciples with Your vision, Your determination, and Your heart. Ignite a spark to see revival take hold all throughout our city and our nation. Work incredible miracles as we step out in faith in Jesus' name, and raise up another generation of might revivalists who will shake up this world for Christ!

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