

## FROM PASTOR KEN'S DESK

**Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**



6100 O'Malley Road Anchorage, AK 99507

Website: [www.alaskaconference.org](http://www.alaskaconference.org)

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### *The four Winds Within America*

This is a continuation of a series called *The Four Winds*, originally presented in 2008. It is based on the four winds of strife in Revelation 7:1. For reprints of the first series, please email me at: [joann.stevens@ac.npuc.org](mailto:joann.stevens@ac.npuc.org)

#### **Part 1: The First Wind- *Spiritual Revival***

At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century there were only five million people in all America, with a mere 10% living as city dwellers. It was in the rural middle colonies that the initial revival started. This spiritual revival was called "*The Second Great Awakening*," for it came exactly one hundred years after "*The First Great Awakening*" in America.

In July of 1800 in Logan County, Kentucky, a camp meeting was organized to hear two brothers who were both preachers, present a message. One was a Methodist and one a Presbyterian, yet they preached with one voice about the soon return of the Saviour. People came from 40, 50, even 100 miles away to hear them speak and camped in tents and wagons in the woods around their meeting place. The Holy Spirit was poured out in a remarkable way and a revival broke out that spread to surrounding villages. The Presbyterians soon lost interest in work associated with revival; however, the Methodist Church took up the burden of revival and it continued to spread with the work of travelling pastors. Remember, this was a group of mostly rural people who rarely saw a preacher, yet under the work of the Methodist church, no less than one million people were converted over the next three decades. By 1812, some 400 camp meetings were being held annually throughout America and it was a season of spiritual refreshing. The main theme was threefold:

- 1) Justification by Faith,
- 2) The Grace of God in this life, and
- 3) The Soon Return of Jesus.

What started as a tiny rivulet of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit turned into a mighty river that flowed through America and Canada.

Jonathan Edwards was a small, sickly man with a weak voice who always read his sermons in monotone, and yet as he read his "Sinner's in the hand of an angry God," deep conviction fastened on the hearts of hearers. Groanings and weeping were mixed with shouts of joy. As a result of these years, mighty spiritual giants were raised up and trained for the work: Charles Finney, David Brainerd, Charles Spurgeon, Dwight L Moody and many others.

During the Second Great Awakening, America was swept by four distinct revivals from 1812-

1837.

During the time between 1804-1816, the British and Foreign Bible Society together with the American Bible Society ran printing presses to capacity producing millions of copies of Bibles. America turned out an unprecedented amount of missionaries to foreign lands and the two schools of theology, Harvard and Yale, flourished.

Revival brought swift reaction with two great sources of contention:

***Emotionalism:***

Camp meeting attendance swelled to 5-10 thousand voices, all full of emotion. Thousands fell under the power of the Holy Spirit and deep conviction was evident, accompanied by weeping and shouts of hallelujah as people accepted the Grace of Christ in their life. These emotional outbursts were appalling to staid formal people of traditional churches.

“Religion is based on reason”, they cried.

“Conversion is a rational decision.”

And the cry of fanaticism was heard everywhere.

***Music:***

Music was largely canton, metrical psalms, sung methodically. With this new experience, people wanted ways to express themselves to God, so a flood of popular new emotionally charged hymns and songs set people to swaying.

Most of these were new songs written by Charles Wesley and Isaac Watts that had been put to popular music.

Barroom ditties- they were called.

No depth- just shallow, repetitious and emotional.

And still, popular songs like” *What Never Part Again*” were admired and adopted as were Negro Spirituals. These songs swept through churches causing splits and divisions.

Next week: **Next week: Part 2: The Second Wind- Prophecy**

*Blessings, Ken Crawford*