

# FIRESTARTERS 5

# PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF June 28 - July 4, 2020 - Vol 9**

## **THEME VERSE:**

*And this is the confidence we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to the His will, He hears us.*

1 John 5:14

## **THE GOD OF REVIVAL:**

### **The 1970 Asbury College Revival**

In October 1969, an Asbury college student named Jeannine Bradon asked for permission to hold an all-night prayer meeting on campus. Asbury was just a small college of a few thousand students in Wilmore, Kentucky. It was at a time of great unrest in the nation: dissent over the Vietnam War, riots on college campuses, and the shadow of persistent racism. Jeannine had felt God calling her to pray as a student, leading regular 30 minute prayer meetings before the chapel services at Asbury. Now even more prayer was needed. At the all-night prayer gathering that October, over 150 students prayed into the night, with many sensing the power of God's presence.

In days that followed, Jeannine and a handful of the students committed themselves to a Great Experiment for 30 days. Each day, they would spend half an hour in prayer and Bible study, writing down what they had learned, and then they would share it with someone. The experiment went so well that they embraced it a second time, this time with 36 students, starting January 2, 1970. God used this time to transform many hearts, and there were many stories of what God was doing. By February 1st, another 200 resolved to enter into another 30 days of this great experiment to meet with God. On Monday evening, February 2nd, a group of these Christians, deeply hungry for God, prayed late into the night for the next day's chapel service. At 2:30AM they paused and decided to stop because they knew that "God was going to come tomorrow."

On February 3rd, 1970, at 10AM the student body gathered for what seemed like a routine service. The academic dean felt led to not give a message as normal but to share a brief testimony. Then he invited the students to do the same. Students came forward to admit their personal sins and to declare the excitement of experiencing the reality of Christ in their lives. When the dean asked if anyone would want to come to the front for prayer, hundreds of young people streamed to the altar, worshiping, confessing sins, kneeling on the floor, calling on God. Hundreds gave their hearts to Jesus that morning.

The chapel service, which usually lasted one hour, did not end that day. Students and faculty flowed in and out of the chapel, experiencing God's presence 24 hours a day for more than a week. Classes were cancelled, and as outsiders started to hear what was happening, more people would crowd into the sanctuary. But even before many would set foot in the chapel, they would describe a powerful sense of divine presence that filled them with conviction and drew them to apologize to those they had wronged and to seek restoration. Soon newspaper and TV reporters came to investigate this uncanny situation. And many colleges would ask for Asbury students to come and share with them their experience.

Over the next few months, Asbury would send out over 2000 witnessing teams across the country. By summertime, over 130 schools had been impacted as the revival spread from city to city. God would pour out a fresh flood of His Spirit resulting in spontaneous worship, prayer, and healing. Thousands would put their trust in Jesus Christ, and many more found themselves unexpectedly awakened to the mighty presence and reality of their God.

## **THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:**

- Praise God that, even though hospitalizations are up due to Covid 19, deaths are down.
- Thank the Lord that local restaurants and retail businesses are seeing more business.
- Let's thank God for the freedoms we so often take for granted, like a leisurely stroll to a nearby park or store or a quiet meal at a favorite eatery.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

### FOR THE HEALTH OF THE CITY:

- Please pray that, with the recent resurgence in COVID-19 infections, people would consider others before themselves in regards to masking and social distancing when in public areas.
- Pray that those who are currently sick or hospitalized would experience God's healing touch and loving presence.
- Pray that God would quickly end this pandemic here and worldwide and bring relief from this illness and the suffocating effects of fear.

### FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR CITY'S BUSINESSES:

- Pray that, as new mandatory masking requirements go into effect, God would grant us increased patience, wisdom, and respect on both the customer and the retailer side.
- Continue to pray that this would be opportunity to model the Lord's patience during this time.
- Pray that Christian business owners would look to be ambassadors for the Gospel and to be above board, kind, and generous in their business practices.

### FOR MISSIONS AND NEEDS GLOBALLY:

- Pray for the Gbadi language group in Cote d'Ivoire: For their translation of the Bible to be completed. People working on the translation who are native speakers have already experienced supernatural transformation of their own lives through the Word!
- Pray for the deaf community in Columbia, South America. They are now receiving the Gospel gladly through sign language videos! Pray for the spread of the Gospel through social media!

### FOR THE LOCAL CHURCHES AND REVIVAL:

- The church needs spiritual sight and wisdom to pray against the spiritual forces of evil that are behind the chaos, fear, and anger coursing through our nation.
- In our cry for "justice" the church needs to awaken to the truth that there is no true "justice" without Jesus, and that the path to racial reconciliation comes only through the Cross.
- Continue to pray for wisdom and favor as congregations try to open post quarantine.
- Pray that God will make us deeply hungry for more of His presence everyday and to long for revival to be ignited throughout our city.

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