

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF July 12-18, 2020 - Vol 11

THEME VERSE:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1905 Mukti Revival

This revival started in central India, near the town of Kedagaon, at a missions institution called Mukti, which means "salvation". The Mukti mission was initiated by Pandita Ramabai, a Hindu woman who was highly educated and had followed the Hindu gods for many years. She had been given opportunity in 1883 to teach in England, and during this time she put her trust in Christ. She eventually returned to India to work with orphans, widows, and victims of famine and converted a family farm into a refuge for women that she named Mukti.

By 1901 Ramabai was caring for over 2000 women and children at Mukti. As she sought the Lord in fasting and prayer and shared the Good News, many gave their lives to follow Jesus. In 1903 she started to take notice of a prayer movement that was touching many countries. Upon hearing about revival in Australia that year, she sent her daughter and an American missionary to investigate. They returned from their journey with the clear conviction that persistent and extraordinary prayer paves the way for revival.

In January 1905, after hearing about the recent Welsh revival, Ramabai very purposefully began a new prayer group at Mukti consisting of 70 intercessors who labored in prayer early each morning for the salvation of the lost in India and for a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit throughout the earth. Within a few months this group grew to over 550, and they would gather for prayer twice each day. Dozens of students would go into the villages daily to share the Gospel to everyone within hearing.

On June 29th of that year, at 3:30AM, the American missionary Miss Abrams was stirred from her sleep by the report that one of the girls at Mukti had awakened "with fire coming down upon her". Upon arriving at the girls' dorm, Miss Abrams found the youth on their knees, praying and weeping and repenting of their sins. The very next evening, as Ramabai was sharing from the Bible, the Holy Spirit was poured out with power upon the entire gathering. Young girls, elementary-aged children, and adolescent women were overwhelmed with God's presence and praying with tears and acute awareness of their brokenness. People would pray for hours on end. In the many meetings that followed, prayer was described as "like the rolling thunder" with hundreds praying audibly together. Sometimes after 10 or 20 minutes it would die away and only a few voices would be heard, then it would rise again and increase in intensity. On other occasions it would go on for hours. Some saw visions. Others grieved loudly from the conviction of their sins. And others radiated joy in the assurance of God's forgiveness and love for them.

Fourteen days after the initial wave of revival, Mukti began sending out teams of Christians to various schools and assemblies to help ignite revival there. The Mukti mission became a center for revival in their country, with visitors from nearby towns and also from around the world. For years

afterwards, the revival would spread throughout India and beyond its borders, drawing people to experience God's presence and deep lasting heart change.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **DISEASE UNDER CONTROL.** Praise God that in Charlotte this week, even with slightly elevated new infections for COVID-19 each day, the rate of new deaths daily is fairly low and stable. Thank God for His mercy upon our families and communities during this pandemic.
- **RESTORATION OF HISTORIC SITE.** Recently, new purchasers of the historic Excelsior Club in Charlotte saved the historic African-American landmark from demolition and put out a call for black architects to take part in redevelopment and restoration of this historic property. Praise God for protecting this vital piece of city history!

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- Continue praying for COVID-19 infection rates and death rates to drop significantly, for God's hand of healing on those affected, and for a quick end to this pandemic.
- In light of COVID-19 and the lockdown, it is estimated that one of every 3 persons is now suffering from clinical depression or anxiety. Please pray mental health healing!

FOR OUR CITY'S BUSINESSES:

- Pray that believers in the marketplace will use their positions as ministry platforms to share the love of Christ with those in their spheres of influence.
- Pray for the growth of Bible studies/clusters in businesses around the region – pray for freedom in secular businesses to allow these gatherings.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **CHURCHES.** Pray that local churches and their leadership continue to navigate wisely how to open up for worship together again. Pray that ministries would be effective to care for the members of each congregation and for those who are most vulnerable and forgotten in our city.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray that the church would once again sense a desperate need for God's presence and power to be poured out upon our city. Pray that a longing for and commitment to extraordinary prayer would emerge in the coming weeks to lay the foundation for an astounding spiritual awakening throughout our city and nation.

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