

# FIRESTARTERS 5

# PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF Oct 4th - 10th, 2020 - Vol 23**

## **THEME VERSE:**

*They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.*

Acts 1:14

## **THE GOD OF REVIVAL:**

### **The 1902 Great Melbourne Revival**

In 1898, a small group of believers in Chicago began meeting for prayer at the Moody Bible Institute every Saturday evening 9PM - 10PM. Their purpose? To pray for a great spiritual awakening to sweep across the globe. The longing was so intense that, in a short time, the prayer group grew to over 300 in attendance. Even after a meeting's conclusion, often some intercessors would persist to cry out for revival into the early hours of Sunday morning.

Halfway around the world in Melbourne, Australia, many of the churches had united in purpose to prepare for a great evangelistic revival gathering for their city. About 80% of all the churches, about 200 of them, covenanted to pray together for this campaign. For years, these intercessors labored and agonized in prayer. By 1902, over 16000 of these prayer gatherings had taken place, and many Christians had poured out their souls to the Lord for this. Also, by faith, the church worked in unity to knock on the doors of every home in Melbourne, twice, to personally invite people to come to the event.

Back in Chicago, one Saturday evening an evangelist named R. A. Torrey attended the late night prayer meeting at the Moody Bible Institute to pray for worldwide revival. His heart cry was, "Revive your work O God, revive Your work!" It was an intense time of intercession, and Torrey implored God to send him out to preach the Gospel around the world. Within one week, God sent two apparent strangers to Torrey to invite him to speak in Melbourne. The two strangers had left their homeland in Australia months earlier to search for the right person that God would use to usher in revival for their nation. Torrey accepted the call.

By the time R. A. Torrey arrived in Australia in April of 1902, over 40,000 Australians were waiting upon God to bring revival soon. On that first night of the revival, over 15,000 residents of Melbourne showed up at the Town Hall, it later had to be moved to the much larger Exhibition Building. As it grew, up to 50 simultaneous meetings would take place with designated evangelists at the pulpit. At its peak, over 250,000 people would attend in one night to hear the Gospel, out of a total population of 1 million in that region. Thousands upon thousands of individuals and families put their trust in Jesus Christ and were filled with the Holy Spirit. Believers would greet one another excitedly, saying, "The big revival has begun. Praise be to God!!!"

Following this campaign, crime in the city became almost non-existent. Pubs and theaters became vacant as people's attention centered upon God and His Kingdom. The revival continued to travel up the coast and into the island chains nearby. Many Christians there today can trace their family faith back to the move of God in the 1902 revival. What had begun so small with prayer in Chicago and Melbourne, would ignite by faith into full-blown revival and deeply impact Australia with the Gospel.

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

- Praise God that the percent positive rate for COVID-19 infections is holding just below 6% as NC enters Phase 3. This points to the disease staying relatively safe and under control.
- Last week we asked people to pray for justice and peace following the release of videos regarding Harold Easter, who died while in police custody earlier this year. The videos were made public, showing police staff working intensely to try to save his life after he ingested cocaine. Praise God that truth is being revealed and that the response has been peaceful here.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **HEALTH.** Please pray as North Carolina moves into phase 3 of lifting COVID restrictions. Even as masks and other prevention methods remain in effect, pray for God's grace to cover over our city to minimize infections and fatalities, especially among those most vulnerable like residents of nursing homes.
- **SCHOOLS.** There are nearly 5,000 fewer students in CMS this year than last year. This translates to funding for roughly 250 teaching positions. Pray that God would provide a way for teachers to keep teaching and for students all around our city to continue to grow in their education despite the pandemic.
- **BUSINESSES.** Praise God that unemployment numbers in Mecklenburg County and North Carolina have decreased to its lowest levels since March. Pray for more and more people to find good jobs again, and pray for the safe re-opening of even more businesses under Phase 3 so that our economy may thrive once again.

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD:

- **UNITED STATES.** Keep praying for all those who have tested positive for COVID-19, especially those in national leadership roles like President Trump and his staff. Also continue to pray for God to lead the way in a fair processing of the Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett.
- **CHINA.** Pray for this nation as it has faced a number of disasters this year including terrible flooding (which has displaced hundreds of thousands of farmers), diseases among animals used for food, and locusts swarms in southern China. Pray also that the Gospel may be able to spread freely and that any persecution of Christians and their churches would come to an end.

### FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **PRO-LIFE.** Praise God that less people are choosing abortions in our city. Last Wednesday at the Latrobe abortion center, instead of the normal 15-20 visitors, only 5 paid a visit, and 3 of those 5 decided to choose life for their baby. Praise God also for the churches who join with Love Life Charlotte to pray and fast for God to move to end abortion. Please pray that God would raise up and provide for 300 missionaries to be sent out across our nation to help those in our cities to choose life for the unborn.
- **LOCAL CHURCHES.** Praise God that one of our city's pastors, Plin Kpa, is better and back at home, after being hospitalized with COVID-19 recently. Pray for grace and wisdom for all our pastors and their families as they wrestle to navigate their churches through the issues of the pandemic and also through the divisive and often toxic political climate.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit among our churches, that God will call us afresh to repentance from our sins. Pray that God's people will focus in new ways to spend time in God's Word, which fuels the fire of devotion and submission to the Lord. Pray for a heart of prayer to sweep through the church, to call upon the Lord to bring revival once again.

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