

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Oct 11th-17th, 2020 - Vol 24

THEME VERSE:

*Until now you have asked nothing in My name.
Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

John 16:24

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1965 Timor Revival

The island of Timor, located a little north of Australia, had initially been colonized by the Dutch in the 1600's. Christianity was introduced to the indigenous people early on, but unfortunately local occult practices persisted into the 20th century. Many churchgoers there tenaciously held on to their amulets and charms to ward off evil or to bring good luck. Even in the 1960's, over 90 percent of self-proclaimed Christians in Timor regularly visited shamans, and belief in the use of magic and sorcery was widespread. Simultaneously, the church in Timor was rife with alcoholism and sexual promiscuity. And there was a profound shortage of trained Christian ministers, with one pastor often having to care for dozens of churches. It was a place that was in desperate need of revival fire.

Starting in the summer of 1964, God stirred up the church with supernatural signs of His presence. He sent an Indonesian evangelist to the island to preach and to bring healing to the deaf, the blind, and the lame. God also began giving local believers visions of Jesus and possible judgment. As a result of these things, a small group of Christians set their minds to begin laboring in prayer for revival.

As people's hunger for God and revival prayer intensified, in 1965, God sent more and more evangelists and raised up new leaders. One such leader was Hennie Tunli'u, a local woman in her mid-20's, who sensed God calling her into ministry through clear visions of Jesus Christ. As the crowds listened to God's servants, hundreds of young people would choose to follow Christ, and many would gather up their occult talismans and burn them at the altar.

It was on a Sunday, September 26th 1965, that 200 believers gathered at Maranatha Church in the city of Soe to seek the Lord. As they lifted up their voices in prayer, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit tangibly flooded that congregation. There were the sounds of rushing winds, like a hurricane surging through the room. Police nearby sounded the fire alarm as they perceived what seemed like flames raging around the church. Yet, this was not a physical fire. Many inside the building were so overwhelmed by God's presence that they fell to the ground and wept inconsolably. Close to 1000 people trusted in Christ that day, and in the next month at least another 9000 would gladly hear and receive the Gospel.

Many of the youth received training in the Scriptures and prayer and worship. They confessed their sins to one another and challenged others to reject their occult practices. Then they formed small teams to go out to share about Jesus and to powerfully heal the sick. Often they would give prophetic words and see visions from God, and mighty signs and miracles took place around them. As more than 200 of these teams made their way across the island, Timor would see more than 30,000 healed of their illnesses, miraculous multiplication of food, supernatural light during nighttime jungle travel, and several reports of people being raised from the dead! Over the next 5 years, crime dwindled and churches grew in number. Believers became increasingly devoted to the Word and passionate about following Jesus. Over 200,000 people turned from sin and put

their faith in Christ, and many missionaries would be sent out to nations as far away as Japan, Pakistan, and Germany.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **PUBLIC PRAYER.** Praise God for a wonderful prayer event last Saturday: the LIFT UP CHARLOTTE! time of focused prayer at Marshall park! Praise God for all the leaders and intercessors who joined in prayer together.
- Praise God that the percent positive rate for COVID-19 infections in Mecklenburg County has dropped again and is hovering at about 5%, with total deaths here staying below 400 over the past 7 months. May God continue to show mercy and protection over us and the whole nation!
- **HUNGER FOR THE WORD.** Praise God too that, despite the negative effects of the pandemic, evidence points to a dramatic increase in worldwide use of Scripture websites and apps, creating new opportunities to encourage and bless communities with the living Word of God. Keep praying that hearts will grow in their hunger for God's Word leading to a great harvest of souls.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **HEALTH.** Pray that COVID-19 infections will continue to slow down and that there will no more deaths from this. Pray that we will see significant treatments and cures in the days ahead.
- **SCHOOLS.** Pray for students of all ages to be able to learn effectively via online classes. Pray for teachers to stay hopeful and to have great endurance in these stressful times. Pray that schools will be able to open safely again with on-site classes as soon as possible.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD:

- **MISSIONARIES.** The harvest field across the world is plentiful. Pray God will open doors for mission personnel seeking to return to overseas assignments and for those new missionaries who are ready to go. Many have already experienced canceled flights and altered plans. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will raise up many new workers and pave the way for the lost to be saved.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **STUDENT MINISTRIES.** Pray for student ministers and workers in the churches. With the pandemic's stifling effects on the schools, student leaders are having to be very creative in how they minister to and work with students and their families. Pray for the fruit of the Spirit and for supernatural opportunities for connecting and disciple-making.
- **PASTORS.** Continue to pray for pastors during Pastor Appreciation Month, that they might have grace and strength to serve in these challenging times, and for churches to express love and thanks during this month (and every month).
- **REVIVAL.** Pray for a revival among students in the churches: for the fresh wind of the Spirit to move mightily in young lives for God's glory and for the powerful awakening of the church in these times. May God stir up many young people to boldly go out to proclaim the Gospel!

FOR MORE, VISIT WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM

For Discussion Questions, go to: www.thinkrevival.com/Stories/HistoricBlog/