

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Dec 13th-19th, 2020 - Vol 33

THEME VERSE:

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you,
in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1904 Welsh Revival: God's Unlikely Servant (Pt 2)

In early 1904, revival fire had begun to burn again in the country of Wales, especially in the town of New Quay. People once again sensed God's power and presence, were convicted of their own sins, and were energized to share their faith. But, there was more that God had in mind for this nation. Seth Joshua was a Presbyterian evangelist who preached at New Quay in September of that year. In those days, people were becoming so hungry for God's Word and His Spirit that Mr. Joshua had to preach until midnight or 1AM each day, despite his attempts to wrap up earlier. For many years prior, this ardent intercessor had been praying that God would raise up someone that no one would expect, that the Lord would call forth an ordinary coal miner to bring revival to all the churches. He would soon see how God would answer.

Evan Roberts had been born in 1878 into a very devout Welsh family, the son of a coal miner. Evan would join his father to labor in the mines at the age of 11 years old, and he later became an apprentice to a blacksmith. But from a young age, he had been drawn to study God's Word. And even after he started working in the mines, he felt God's call to one day serve in the ministry. At the age of 13, he heard the old stories about revival, and for the next 13 years he prayed persistently every day for revival to revisit his homeland.

By the time Evan was 26 years old, in 1904, he had little material wealth, no training in public speech, and nothing in his personality that exuded drama or flair. But that spring, while in prayer before going to bed, Evan had a vision of God drawing near to meet with him. This took place at 1AM that night and lasted for several hours. For the next 3 months, Evan experienced this intimate fellowship with God every night around the same time. By this time, he had been recommended to attend seminary to prepare for ministry. In September of 1904, while at school, he asked permission for a week to attend the revival meetings nearby being conducted by the evangelist Seth Joshua. It was at one of these meetings where the preacher was closing up the service, fervently imploring his listeners to surrender to the Spirit's will, and Seth Joshua cried out in great anguish, "Bend us, bend us, bend us, O Lord!" This prayer loosed the heavy rainwaters of revival upon Wales. Those in attendance were in anguish over sin, and some were overwhelmed to the point of collapsing upon the ground. Evan Roberts himself lay on the ground for hours, with the words, "Bend me, O God!" caught up in his heart.

When Evan finally got up from the ground, he was no longer the same man. His thoughts were singularly focused upon the coming outpouring of revival. In October, he pulled a close friend aside and asked him, "Do you think it is too much to ask God to save one hundred thousand souls in Wales?" Evan found himself unable to return to his studies, so with the blessing of the principal, he headed back that month to his hometown to begin his ministry. On October 31st, at his home church at Moriah Chapel, he preached to an audience of mostly young people. He simply called on his listeners to recognize sin in their lives, to surrender to the Holy Spirit, to obey what God was telling them. And the Holy Spirit fell upon the crowd. He started to teach every day, each meeting last up to 5 hours, and the chapel regularly filled to full capacity. God would soon take Evan Roberts from village to village, from one valley to another, all through Wales. The presence of God would transform the moral character of the townspeople and bring deep conviction as well as unbounded joy. Within the first 6 months, at least one hundred thousand folks would bend their

hearts towards God, trust in the Lord, and surrender to the Spirit's leading. The outpouring of the Welsh Revival was fully underway!

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **RELIEF IN COMMUNITIES.** Praise God for programs in the Carolinas to assist fathers and their families as they responsibly work and serve in their communities. Praise God for financial partners and for churches and businesses involved in meeting the needs of these families.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **TENT CITY COMMUNITY.** The tent city community in uptown remains a very vulnerable community. Pray the Lord uses His people to meet their needs not only physically, but spiritually.
- **PEACE.** In light of the pandemic, new mandates and decisions from CMS will be affecting the broader Charlotte community in the coming days and weeks. Pray for the Lord's hand of stability and peace to continue to rest over our city!
- **COVID-19.** As mentioned earlier, please keep praying for God's protection over our communities. Pray for more advances to effectively treat the disease. Pray for God's divine healing touch over everyone affected. Pray for this pandemic to end soon.
- **ELECTION CONCERNS.** As more concerns escalate the situation to the Supreme Court, pray that full transparency and honesty will reveal once and for all what is the truth. May all lies and corruption be exposed in the days ahead.

FOR OUR JOBS AND BUSINESSES:

- **HEALTHCARE WORKERS.** Continue to pray for the health and safety of healthcare workers in the face of increasing COVID trends.
- **BUSINESSES.** Many businesses in our city are being forced to scale back operations. Many have exhausted savings, PPP loans, and other subsidies and are facing closure. Pray for provision for these businesses and for their employees. Pray they would sense God's presence.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **VALUING LIFE.** Pray for missionaries at the Wendover Clinic (in Charlotte), Fayetteville, NC & in Roanoke, VA. They are in need of favor and for God to send them partners to help sustain and expand the ministry in their areas, especially to build partnerships and reach out to churches.
- **CHURCHES.** Pray for the church as it continues to deal with the impact of COVID on many levels including gatherings, strained pastoral care, health of the elderly, and church finances. Some congregations are experiencing severe financial hardship as they seek to meet the needs of their flocks. Many are seeking secondary employment. Pray for the faithful church leaders and prayer intercessors to not grow weary nor to give up.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray that the church would awaken as spiritual darkness and blindness increase throughout the culture. Pray against anger, hatred, and division within the church, let alone within the country. Pray that we will respond with faithful obedience as God begins to bring discipline in the house of the Lord. Pray for burning hearts that align fully with God's heart.

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