

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Feb 21st-27th, 2021 - Vol 43

THEME VERSE:

For nothing will be impossible with God.

Luke 1:37

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1907 Pyongyang Revival

At the beginning of the 20th century, Korea was still virtually untouched by the power of the Gospel. This began to change in 1903 as believers began praying earnestly for the Spirit to move. The initial fires of revival broke out in Wonson, a city on the northeast coast of Korea. As a spirit of repentance and restoration swept across the missionaries and Korean Christian leaders, it ignited a wave of spiritual fervor that stirred the church to significant growth over the next several years. Yet the Lord had even greater things in store for this nation.

In August of 1906, Dr. Hardie, who was a key revivalist from the earlier 1903 Wonson revival, visited Korea's capitol city of Pyongyang to lead a group of missionaries in Bible study and prayer. A month later, news of the tremendous awakenings taking place in India and in Wales began to surface. This stoked the heart-yearning of those missionaries to see revival even more! As the news of these distant revivals spread throughout Korea, churches and leaders all across this Asian nation started to rally simply around the need to pray. Many Christian leaders committed themselves to pray persistently with extraordinary fervor. They knew there was still much unforgiveness and dissension in the local Korean church, and God alone could break through and turn the tide.

In January of 1907, the city of Pyongyang was host to an annual conference for the pastors and Christian leaders from all around Korea. More than 1500 gathered to attend, and over the next 2 weeks, God began to use the speakers to heighten an awareness of personal sin among the leaders. By Monday January 14th, the group met together with increasing anticipation of God's fresh touch, and that evening brought with it an incredible sense of God's very presence within the conference room. An invitation was given for the people to pray, and suddenly every person in the room came alive to join in a harmony of prayers, like the roar of many waters, moved together by a nigh-irresistible impulse to cry unto God.

Then, one Presbyterian Korean pastor Gil Seon-Ju stepped up to the platform, and he began to confess how he had sinned. He admitted he had stolen \$100 for his own use and that he believed this sin was blocking God's blessing from being poured out on their nation. One after another, countless leaders stood up to confess their own sins, weeping and calling out to the Lord. This continued on until Tuesday, and on that evening, some key leaders admitted their sins of deep unforgiveness and even hatred in their hearts for one another. And they asked each other for forgiveness and began to pray. No more than a few words were uttered before "it seemed like the roof was lifted from the building and the Spirit of God came down from Heaven in a mighty avalanche of power..." The rest of the night was immersed in tears and confessions and humble reconciliation.

When these conference attendees returned home to their churches, they carried far more than a memory of God's presence that night. They carried back a revival fire that resounded with unrelenting prayer and courageous reconciliation. These spiritual fires birthed an abundance of

new churches and set ablaze entire colleges. The Korean church developed its own mix of unique spiritual disciplines, such as regular early morning prayers with thousands of intercessors gathered. And God answered their prayers. Several thousand Koreans found their Savior Jesus by March 1907. By mid-year, over 30,000 had confessed Christ. By 1911, the nation could lay claim to over 200,000 Christians. By the end of 1912, over 300,000 Koreans had put their faith in our Lord. Over the next 100 years, the revived Korean church would continue to grow, and they would send out over 10,000 of their own missionaries to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **COVID-19 HANDLING.** Praise God that the last few weeks have seen a drop in new infections in all zip codes and neighborhoods in the Charlotte city area! We still need to be careful and praying for an end to this pandemic, but thank God that the numbers are moving in the right direction.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **HOMELESS.** Pray for the homeless in the city, who are especially vulnerable at this time. Pray for God's supernatural care and provision. Pray also for the church to be able to step up and wisely care for these who are very likely to be overlooked and forgotten.

FOR OUR JOBS AND BUSINESSES:

- **GOSPEL ON THE JOB.** Pray that Christian employees, managers, and business owners would be alert to opportunities to share the gospel in the marketplace and on the job, leading others to Christ and to Christ-likeness.
- **BIBLE AND PRAYER.** Pray for marketplace Bible studies and prayer groups, that they flourish even in this time of social distancing, utilizing technology as needed to maintain relationships and expand reach.

FOR MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **PRESSING IN WITH PRAYER.** Lord, may the churches of Charlotte "be filled with the Holy Spirit and speak the word of God with boldness" as in Acts 4:31. May Christians in our city realize that the Holy Spirit is just as powerful today as it was on the day of Pentecost. May our churches be anchored in the belief that God is willing to pour out His Spirit upon every church. And give Christians in Charlotte and beyond the passion to pray and not let go until the blessing is received. Lord, bring revival!

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