

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF May 2nd - May 8th, 2021 - Vol 53**

### THEME VERSE:

*And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."*

**Matthew 21:21-22**

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### **The 1909 Hingwa Pentecost: Born on Good Friday**

The first decade of the 20th century in China was a turbulent time, filled with violent uprisings and fierce persecution of foreigners and Christ followers. Globally, it was also a time of unprecedented outbreaks of revival all over the world: in India, America, Korea, and even in China. The northern part of China in the Manchurian region had seen powerful moves of the Spirit take place in 1908 under the preaching of the missionary revivalist Jonathan Goforth. But now God was about to release another wave in 1909: this time in the southern province of Fujian, just across the channel from the island of Taiwan.

Pastor Sung Xue Lian was the minister of a local Methodist church in the city of Hingwa, part of the Fujian province. God blessed the work of Pastor Sung, and the church grew quickly from 200 attendees to more than 1000 in just 3 years. During these years, news of spiritual awakenings from around the world stirred the hearts of the missionaries in Hingwa. One missionary woman there was so emboldened by the revival testimonies that she wrote a letter back to her circle of supporters in the United States and implored them to ask God to release a revival upon her Chinese city. Two elderly women heeded the challenge and deeply committed themselves to prayer. They prayed until they received reassurance from the Holy Spirit that revival was indeed on the way to Hingwa. A written letter was dispatched to China two weeks before Easter in 1909 relaying the confident news that the outpouring would commence on Good Friday. Due to the slowness of overseas mail, the letter would not arrive until two weeks after Easter. But this did not delay God's timetable at all.

An annual convention was underway in Hingwa to celebrate the Easter weekend. Pastor Sung had invited a guest speaker Pastor Lim to deliver a message on Good Friday to the entire assembly. Pastor Lim had been an interesting speaker at the local Sunday School, but on this occasion, the Holy Spirit's presence surged into the meeting room and released surprising power as Lim spoke on Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Before too long, almost all the people sensed their hearts breaking afresh at their own sinfulness and the astounding sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. The crowd was moved to profuse tears and conviction of sin. Pastor Lim himself was overwhelmed by the Easter story and broke down in sobs and groans as he preached. One by one, people started standing and confessing their sins to one another and crying out to God for mercy. Long-time animosity gave way to heartfelt embraces. Stolen items were returned. And in the coming weeks, thousands of the city's residents put their trust in Christ to follow after Him.

As news of the Hingwa Pentecost spread, delegations from all around China and even as far as the United States arrived to see what God was doing. The already fast-growing church had expanded to 3 services on Sundays to handle all the seekers and visitors. And a multitude of new

churches sprang up in the city all throughout the district. Bible schools and orphanages were established. And one particular child, John Sung, the 9 year old son of Pastor Sung was notably set afire for God. He had wept so much on Good Friday that his shirt collar had been drenched with tears. His revival experience would shape him and prepare him to become one of the greatest evangelists and revival leaders in China in the 20th century. The fires of the Hinghwa revival continued to blaze brightly in 1909 and for several more years, but it would spark even greater awakenings in the coming decades.

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

- Praise God that the Charlotte city council this week passed an affordable housing plan to help those in distress for rent or mortgages. Thank God also that the Love Life pro-life ministry reported that another 23 families and their unborn child had been rescued recently from abortion clinics.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **JUSTICE AND MERCY.** Pray that God would guide our city and our nation through difficult and painful incidents like the shooting of a female teenager in Columbus, Ohio and the recent trial of the police officer in the George Floyd case. Pray that petty hatred would be set aside, that truth would be sought, and that justice and mercy would be applied in every case.
- **OVERCOMING COVID-19.** Thank God for numbers of overall fatalities to continue to drop. Pray that any new variants of COVID-19 would be stopped abruptly in its tracks. Pray for more and more good information on prevention, treatment, and vaccines to become available. Pray that the Lord would bring healing to the sick and quickly end this pandemic.

### FOR JOBS AND OUR ECONOMY:

- **MORE JOBS.** Pray for more good-paying and safe jobs to become available in our city.
- **MILLENNIALS.** Pray for the ongoing spiritual discipleship of millennials. Pray for initiatives like the Christian Business Men Connections Young Professionals launch aimed at developing godly leaders from this generation. The 2020 Pew Research notes an alarming faith trend among millennials. In 2017, 29% of people in this age group claimed "None" as their faith affiliation; in 2020 the "None" category was up to 40%. Charlotte is the number 1 marketplace in the country for attracting transplants from this age group, which is the biggest segment of our workplace. Pray for opportunities to mentor and disciple them, helping them anchor their faith in Christ.

### FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Pray for new missionaries who have been trained up, that they will boldly launch new chapters in their cities. Pray for future direction and growth. Pray for new partnering churches nationwide to lead their communities to take a stand against abortion.
- **DAY OF PRAYER.** As the National Day of Prayer approaches on May 6th, pray that churches throughout our city and nation will mobilize to unite in prayer, praying for revival and awakening in our nation, starting in our own neighborhoods and towns.
- **REVIVAL.** Thank You, Lord, for the reviving work at Long Hollow Church in Tennessee, where over 1,000 have been baptized as new believers since December – send revival to the churches, Lord, so that we might come running back to You, returning to our first love.

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