

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF May 23rd-29th, 2021** - Vol 56

### THEME VERSE:

*Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,  
that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,  
and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus.*

**Acts 3:19-20**

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### **The 1994 Toronto Blessing: Global Blessing**

In January 1994, the Toronto Airport Vineyard Church experienced the outpouring of God-sent revival, what is now known as the Toronto Blessing or the Father's Blessing. It began on the evening Randy Clark spoke as a guest of Pastor John Arnott. What was planned to last a few days ended up with God taking over and profoundly touching lives almost daily for far longer.

As it became clear that God was moving powerfully, Randy Clark ended up extending his preaching beyond the initial couple of days to staying over 6 weeks in Toronto. And when Randy finally left to go home, John and Carol continued to hold these meetings 6 days a week, every week, for more than a dozen years. These meetings always reserved times for worship, testimony, preaching, and Gospel invitations. It was also very important to pray for attenders to be touched by God. This resulted in countless physical healings and also restorations at a deep emotional level. And the very presence of God was amazing whenever they gathered. Abundant joy and times of refreshing seemed to be the hallmark gift given by God to the attenders. Pastor John Arnott and his wife themselves were rejuvenated more than ever, and the overall celebratory tone of the Spirit's moving impacted potently more than a few Christian leaders. Significant future leaders like Heidi Baker in Mozambique, Eleanor Mumford of London, and Steve Hill of Brownsville all were transformed by a fresh life-giving encounter with Father God's love.

However, the Toronto Blessing included more than its fair share of criticisms and naysayers. Amidst all the joyful laughter and fresh touch from God, there were things happening that did cause some Christians on the outside to be concerned. Although many past revivals also saw such phenomena like falling down, shaking as if zapped by electricity, or speaking in tongues, such behavior in modern-day America made some people very uncomfortable. The spontaneous and contagious laughter bothered many who were not used to such levity in church. Uncommon miracles, such as over 300 visitors apparently receiving gold or silver fillings instantaneously in their mouths, definitely stretched some believers as to the limits of what God would do. Yet, through all this, vastly more people hungered for more of God and made the trek to Toronto to see for themselves.

By the end of 1994, the small Toronto church had grown to over 1000 members. Over 900 guests also had made a decision to trust in Christ in that time. Demons were surfaced and

cast out of visitors, setting the humans free. People's faith was restored and invigorated, leading to increased boldness for Jesus. In the first year, over 4000 pastors and ministry leaders had journeyed to this awakening from countries around the world. But what made this revival especially astounding was how revival fire would jump back to the home churches of its visitors. More than 3000 churches had been impacted by October of 1994. By 1995, more than 11,000 churches had been ignited worldwide. Church unity was strengthened as people cared less and less about denominational differences and focused on their Savior. Moral behavior and relational peace improved greatly in the revival areas. Even the number of those joining in intercessory prayer globally quadrupled. And, finally, the intensity of people's love for God, as they experienced the Father's tender and joy-filled love, was unprecedented and long-lasting in many many lives.

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

- Praise God for God's help and faithfulness in the lives of many college students as they finished up their academic year or graduated this week! Pray for those still finishing up their semester.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

#### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **YOUNGER STUDENTS.** It's been a challenging year for our high school (and younger) students as they've had to adjust to online classes, part-time on-campus attendance, and wearing masks at school. Pray for a strong and successful end to their school year as they enter the final stretch.
- **COVID-19 IMPROVEMENT.** Let's keep praying for God to bless the ongoing effort to overcome the pandemic. Pray that we would be protected from any flare-ups or problems from variants. Pray that our families, communities, and economy would begin to recover and start running safely and normally once again.

#### FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **JAARS MINISTRY.** Praise God for how there are Scripture resources in over 1400 languages available now at [www.ScriptureEarth.org](http://www.ScriptureEarth.org). Pray for many on the JAARS Missions team who are looking for local rental housing for themselves and their families. Pray also for God's strength for Mr. Young as he carries a heavy load of missions support as an IT support consultant in Africa.
- **ASIAN SURGES.** Pray that God will bring relief and healing to those Asian countries experiencing a surge of COVID-19 in recent weeks. Pray for India, Nepal, Japan, and Taiwan as the number of infections are still high or increasing. Praise God that India's frightening infection rates have leveled off and dropped a bit in the last week or so.

#### FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **NEW OPPORTUNITIES.** Pray that God would open up new opportunities to serve once again around our city. Pray for life-giving outreaches to the nursing homes and the neighborhoods hit hardest by the past year's lockdown. Pray that the Church will use this time wisely.
- **REVIVAL.** Continue to pray that Christians would not grow weary in praying diligently nor serving those in need during this time. Pray for fresh energy and strength to love our enemies and also those who are far from God. Pray urgently for revival to break out in our city soon!

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