

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF July 11th - 17th, 2021 - Vol 63

THEME VERSE:

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1996 Smithton Outpouring (Part 2)

After years of preaching and praying for revival, and after a particularly dark season for the Smithton Community Church and its pastor, this church experienced a powerful jolt of God's power and presence in an unprecedented fashion on Sunday March 24th, 1996. This outpouring of God's Spirit surprised everyone and blessed everyone in attendance that night. Who would have ever imagined such a powerful movement of God to touch the tiny town of Smithton, Missouri? That night there was such a tangible encounter with God for each man, woman, and child. The building was filled with tears of conviction, and also praise and dancing. One person said, "It was like wind and fire, a hurricane and an explosion, and life just burst into our church." When the evening came to a close, Pastor Steve Gray invited folks to come back the next night. And they did, almost every night.

In the following days, members of the congregation found themselves irresistably drawn to pray and worship together at the church. There was such an unbridled joy in being in God's palpable presence. Within days, others in town and from other churches started paying a visit to see for themselves. As God touched and impacted those in attendance, people found new strength from the Lord and deep transformation of their hearts. After a few weeks, as the word spread, visitors started coming from around the country. More than 250,000 guests would eventually visit this church, from every state in the USA and from over 60 nations. People would see supernatural healings, all kinds of miracles, and folks being set free from demonic oppression. Over the next few years, the Holy Spirit inspired an abundance of new worship songs that overflowed from the vibrant worshiping community, and God led the church to start a training center for ministry and revival in the year 2000.

In addition, the church would send out teams of leaders to share and pray for revival in other places around the globe. God also instructed the church to move in 1999 to Kansas City, Missouri, to expand its reach for God's Kingdom. They would continue to host the fires of revival in this new location. The focus of this particular revival would not be to emphasize evangelism but instead to call the church worldwide back to a place of purer devotion to God and to a fresh hunger for God.

Once, when asked about revival, Pastor Steve Gray said that the main reason people pray for an outpouring of God in their church and don't receive it is that they aren't really as desperate as they think they are. They are not yet willing to make room in their lives for a mighty move of God. When God begins to bring a fresh spiritual awakening, He looks for an initial response from His people. The fires of revival will not come and will not stay if we have anything else better to do. Only when we have emptied our calendars, emptied our lives of lesser distractions, and become an empty vessel can we experience the amazing outpouring of the Spirit as God intended. May the church today be ready and willing for the next great revival!

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God for the many ways He answers prayers and does miracles! This week a friend told of how his newborn grandson Luke was supposed to have surgery next Monday for problems with his skull. As you might imagine, there has been lots and lots of prayer. Well, the doctor called on Friday and reported that the CT Scan is reading Luke's skull to be Normal. Her only explanation is that this truly is a miracle and no surgery is needed anymore. Praise God for His miracles!

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **AGAINST SCHOOL VIOLENCE.** Recent reports have indicated more young women in attendance at Myers Park are experiencing rape and assault. Pray that the assailants will be brought to justice and also that there would be accountability from the schools to the parents of the girls attacked. Pray for protection for all women there and freedom from fear of attacks.
- **TO STEM THE RISE IN COVID-19.** The numbers of infections have been rising this week, in terms of infections and hospitalizations. Keep praying that the disease and its variations will be kept under control, and for God's healing and comfort for all those affected.

FOR THE BUSINESSES AND THE MARKETPLACE:

- **BUSINESSES RETURNING.** Pray for businesses trying to restart and return to pre-pandemic levels as they struggle with staffing and with increasing prices for materials and supplies. Pray that they would put their trust in God alone and that they would not give up hope. Pray that they would persevere through this difficult time and for their faith to be strengthened.
- **FOR THE YOUNG GENERATION.** Pray for the large number of millennials and Gen Zs in the Charlotte marketplace. These generations are increasingly citing "None" as their faith affiliation. Pray that the Lord would spark in them a passion for the truth, and that a revival would begin with them in the marketplace. Pray that mature believers would gather around them to disciple and mentor them, preparing them for Kingdom leadership.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Pray for the Love Life ministry that is striving to build movements of prayer and presence to see an end to abortion in America. Pray for Daniel Parks, their missionary director, who is looking to move temporarily to Southern California to help develop Love Life there. He needs housing accommodations ASAP. Pray also for more volunteers in the Mentoring program to walk with mothers and disciple them through pregnancy and beyond. In addition, pray for all of the sidewalk outreach teams - that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit and able to call out with help and hope boldly to mothers and fathers. Pray that mothers & fathers' hearts would be convicted and softened, that they would choose life and hope in Christ. Finally, pray for encouragement and protection over the Love Life leadership team, that they would be unified and able to mobilize pastors & their churches to work together.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray that God would impress a fresh urgency upon the Church to seek after Him, to hunger for Him, to turn to Him instead of to what the world offers. Pray that God would break our pride, our stubborn hearts, and draw us near with unimaginable hope and joy. Pray for a history-making outpouring of His Spirit that will refresh and revive us and transform our cities powerfully.

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