

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF July 18th - 24th, 2021** - Vol 64

### THEME VERSE:

*For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel,  
"Seek Me that you may live."*

**Amos 5:4-6**

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### The 1988 Cuban Revival

In the 1950's Fidel Castro rose to power in Cuba. He had promised the churches and their pastors that communism would be a good thing for the people. Yet, the communist revolution of 1959 brought severe restrictions upon the church. Although churches were still legal, the practice of Christianity was heavily discriminated against. In addition, pastors were imprisoned, tortured, and even killed during this time. Many Christian leaders fled the country if they had the opportunity. The ones who stayed behind faced great oppression from the atheistic government. But they and their churches continued to persevere and to pray relentlessly. When they had nothing else to lean upon, they cried out all the more to God. Over the next few decades, they paid the price to follow hard after Jesus. They would suffer for the sake of the Gospel. But God would purify and prepare His bride for a coming awakening.

In 1988, a traveling evangelist arrived in Madruga, Cuba, a town in the northwestern part of the island. Over the next 4 days, many miracles took place as the presence of the Lord was heavy in that place. Many people began weeping profusely simply upon entering the church. After the evangelist left, the local pastor continued to exhort the people to pursue God. At one service, the pastor spoke to a man who had been paralyzed his whole life to get up and walk, and this man experienced a powerful healing and started running throughout the building. This sparked the revival fire in Madruga! Hundreds of people started coming to church to seek healing and to find God. Church services soon were held 24 hours a day, 40 minutes at a time, with up to 400 people in attendance. Young leaders were recruited and trained to preach and teach and pray for the sick. This went on for several months as people sensed God's presence and miraculous power.

And this revival did not stay confined to that one church in Madruga. As revival fire started to burn all the more brightly, people's longing for God also intensified throughout the region. More than 60 other churches experienced the Spirit's outpouring and kept the spiritual fires burning for many more years. The initial evangelist who had visited Madruga made his way down to the southeast part of Cuba, to a city called Santiago. Before long, God's Spirit was poured out there too, and great miracles and healings took place. Thousands started coming to worship Jesus Christ and to experience His healing touch. This flood of the Spirit even came to central Cuba, where small church buildings were soon overwhelmed by thousands of visitors seeking the Lord's presence with many Cubans putting their faith in Christ their Savior.

The communist government was not at all pleased by the surge in those going to church. It would try to shut down the revival service: destroying pews and property, assaulting worshippers, and even putting pastors into prison. It tried all it could to suppress what God was doing. Yet the spiritual fires spread. And some government officials would approach pastors through the backdoor and admit that God was at work here and ask how they could find this God. The believers across the nation unified behind the common cry "Cuba para Cristo!", which means "Cuba for Christ!" By 1992, the government relented on its hard position of oppression and began to allow the churches a measure of protection and freedom to worship. Revival would burn brightly for years to come,

with waves of resurgence arising time and again throughout the country. It would be God's answer to the long-suffering cries of the faithful Cuban church.

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

- Praise God for how He is answering our recent prayers for transparency and exposing of the sexual crimes going on at the Myers Park High School. This past week, members of the city's Board of Education responded to the reports of these crimes at the school. This is the first time they've given any answer since a news channel investigated these problems in our schools. May we stay vigilant and prayerful!

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

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **AGAINST CRIME IN THE CITY.** Mixed news from the police indicate that violent crime is up 5% in our city, but overall crime is down 6% this year (2021). Pray that God's peace will prevail and that all forms of crime will continue to drop in the remaining 6 months of this year.
- **TO STOP COVID-19.** The numbers of infections continue to rise in the Carolinas, but overall hospitalizations and deaths have thankfully not increased that much. Pray that the infection rate will decrease in the coming weeks and that the number of serious complications will remain low. Pray for more options for safe vaccines and treatments. Pray for God's supernatural healing and protection through all this.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **AFRICA.** Pray for the Central African Republic and for South Africa as they currently undergo much violence and civil disruption. Pray for the safety of Bible translators and for the continuation of their work despite the social instability.
- **CUBA.** Pray for the protests going on in Cuba. Pray that God will watch over the people who have had enough of all the violent oppression and brutal tactics used by their government. Pray that the Gospel will be proclaimed and that the Church there will take a stand for the freedom and blessing of their country. Pray for a fresh outpouring of revival fire in Cuba!
- **JAARS.** Pray for the missionary training course that has just started at the missions agency JAARS in Waxhaw, North Carolina. Ask God for creativity, strength and wisdom for Mike Hause and the other leaders of the training course, and lift up the new missionaries who are raising support and soon heading out to serve all over the world.

FOR REVIVAL:

- **REVIVAL.** Pray that God would release a fresh and powerful outpouring of His Spirit today in our nation as He has done many times in the past, here and around the world. In the midst of so much fear and instability today, may God show His presence in such a way to inspire true peace and love for the truth. May many evangelists and prophets and leaders arise in God's anointing to carry His message of hope and redemption to the darkest corners of our communities.

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