

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF May 10-16, 2020 - Vol 2

THEME VERSE:

*16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Hawaiian Revival of 1836:

Hawaii is known by most people as merely a tropical vacation destination. But in the early 1800's, the Hawaiian people were enveloped in immorality, abortion, and infanticide. Each year two-thirds of new babies were killed by their parents, and the overall population was decreasing annually. Christian missionaries worked to confront idolatry and pagan societal sins, but with limited success. By 1830, there were still only 577 church members throughout the entire island chain. One Hawaiian preacher named Puaaiki, known as the "Blind preacher of Maui", began to unite the existing believers to give their whole hearts in prayer for revival. And these Hawaiian Christians began persistently praying with a passion and humility that the missionaries had rarely ever seen. On the island of Molokai, believers would rise an hour before sunrise to cry out to God. Children would be found in sugarcane or banana groves, weeping and praying to the Lord. In 1835, an American missionary Titus Coan arrived in the islands. Titus had witnessed historic revival on the East Coast of the United States and had even served with the revivalist Rev. Finney for a time. With a keen sense of the spiritual warfare around him and a burning heart of love for lost souls, Titus travelled and preached extensively and cared for his listeners with the deep love of Christ. When revival broke out, it was marked by unrelenting prayer, deep repentance, sacrificial generosity, hunger for God's Word, and powerful moves of the Holy Spirit. The Hawaiians became noted for their unique way of prayer: praying passionately, unashamedly out-loud, and all at the same time. By 1841, Hawaii would be home to the largest Christian church in the world at that time. The Gospel would touch and transform kings and commoners alike as God heard His people crying out to Him and released a period of great awakening throughout the Hawaiian islands.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God for containing COVID-19's spread in our city, keeping our hospitals far from being overwhelmed. Thank God for many Christians safely and compassionately stepping out to care for others in need of food or assistance in our neighborhoods.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR CITY HEALTH:

- Phase 1 of re-opening our state began today (5/8). Pray that God would continue to keep the curve flattened through the 2-3 week measurement period that starts today.

FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY:

- Please pray for the healthcare leaders across the city for wisdom as they open up hospitals and medical offices again for surgeries and office visits.

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- Pray that God would grant wisdom to decision-makers regarding food distribution and childcare as we head into the summer.
- In response to the recent video released showing the brutal murder of a 25 year old African-American, pray that this will be a time that the Church in our city unites in mourning and grief. May we choose to mourn with those who mourn and grieve with those who grieve instead of finding reasons to divide even further.

FOR THE CITY ECONOMY AND BUSINESSES:

- Pray for wisdom for leaders and business owners as they reopen all sectors of the economy which will allow workers to safely return to employment. Pray that God would help small business owners to recover from the hardships of the shutdown.
- Pray that every believer would see their work as an expression of worship and that all would be recognized as having value and will do their work with excellence, as unto the Lord (Col 3:23-24).

FOR PROTECTING LIFE:

- Pray that the Lord would raise up at least one full-time Christian witness/missionary at every one of the 14 abortion centers in the state of North Carolina. Pray that they would be fully funded and supported financially for this ministry.

FOR REVIVAL:

- Pray for God to speak in fresh ways to the Christians in our city. Pray that we might listen carefully as He gives us powerful and insightful words to convict our hearts. Pray that we would let go of our own plans today and relinquish it all to the Lord. Revive us, Lord!

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