

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF May 31-June 6th, 2020 - Vol 5

THEME VERSE:

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. **23** "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. **24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:22-24

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The Hebrides Revival of 1949-1952: Prayers that Birth Revival (Part 1):

Could God do something mighty in a small obscure village in the Scottish island chain known as the Hebrides? About 70 years ago, on an island named Lewis in a village called Barvas, God showed up, and His powerful presence rippled through the region to re-awaken a slumbering church.

It was the 1940's, and the influence of Christianity upon the people in Scotland had waned as their hearts turned cold to their Savior. The townsfolk described the period as a time of spiritual winter where genuine faith was dead. Legalism created practices that seemed good and Biblical, but it was all head knowledge and no real submission to God's will. The majority of young people, seeing the hypocrisy, stayed far away from church.

In November of 1949, two sisters, Peggy and Christine Smith, sensed that in the midst of this dark hour that God was calling them to pray for revival. Peggy was 84 years old and totally blind, while her younger sister Christine was 82 and hobbled by severe arthritis. They held onto the promise of God's Word in Isaiah 44: "I will pour water on him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground." They embarked by faith on regular late-night prayer watches several times a week, usually praying from 10PM until 3 or 4AM in the morning, just two elderly women in their small sparse cottage crying out to God.

A few weeks later, God showed them a detailed vision of their church surprisingly packed with young people and an unfamiliar minister speaking from the pulpit. Peggie and Christine asked for their pastor Rev. MacKay to visit them. They shared their vision and invited MacKay to gather leaders to pray together every Tuesday and Friday night for revival. They published a public appeal throughout the region for believers to ask for a spirit of repentance and for revival. The sisters prayed faithfully in their home, while Rev. MacKay and his group interceded in a local barn that winter.

In January of 1950, it was in that barn late at night that the Christians were on their knees and asking the Lord to pour out His Spirit to all who were thirsty. One young man, a deacon, read from Psalm 24: "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god." He closed his Bible, and spoke up in his Gaelic dialect, "It seems to me that this is all a waste of time to pray as we are praying, and to wait as we are waiting, if we are not in right relationship to God." Then he broke down and prayed, "God, are my hands clean? Is my heart pure?" Immediately, around 3AM, a powerful sense of God's presence filled the building and even the

whole village. Everyone there in the barn was keenly aware of it. When they later departed from the meeting, they were surprised to see folks along the road in the early morning hour, some kneeling and weeping, many asking the Lord for His mercy. They also remembered seeing the unusual sight of candlelight in the windows of the village, for many families had awakened to pray. All the next day, the whole town seemed gripped in the presence of God with their thoughts fixed on the subject of eternity. Revival fire had ignited in the Hebrides.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Thank God for His care and guidance as many students graduate soon from high school or college. Praise God also for Christians stepping out in faith to bless others in this time.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR CITY:

- In light of the police violence that's been witnessed this week, pray that the Church would be awakened and not stay silent or complacent. Pray for an end to abuse of power and any racism.
- With protests in our city being planned over the weekend, ask for God's protection over our neighborhoods, residents, and businesses and that His peace would reign!
- Phase 2 of the re-opening of our city is underway, and although infections have increased slightly, keep praying that these will be non-lethal cases and for quick recoveries.
- Pray for the health safety of citizens as many more people venture out in public, for God to guard them from illness and to give us wisdom in every interaction.

FOR OUR BUSINESSES AND ECONOMY:

- With over 20 million people currently unemployed in the US and local job losses projected to reach 300,000 by the end of December, pray that families will intensely seek the Lord to avert a national disaster. Ask for His provision for those most impacted by the economic shutdown.
- Pray for the industries heavily affected by the closure of the economy, most specifically the travel & leisure industry, which includes airlines and hospitality providers like hotels and restaurants. Within these pray for small, local businesses as well as the corporations that will need to step up as the economy restarts.
- Pray for Godly wisdom for leaders as they balance customer and employee safety with business viability.

FOR THE CHURCH AND REVIVAL:

- Pray for the Lord's guidance concerning all the factors involved in congregations re-opening for worship. Some congregations are wrestling with the finances of re-opening, and some pastors are taking second and third jobs to meet the financial challenges.
- Pray for an awakening of a remnant within the church that will lead to a movement of revival. Pray that our hearts will soften to the Holy Spirit and not be immersed in consumerism or individualism that attempts to solve our social problems with mere human skill and wisdom.
- Pray for the church to greatly thirst for His presence and that they will commit to diligently seek after Him like never before. O God, revive Your people!

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