

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF July 5th - 11th, 2020 - Vol 10

THEME VERSE:

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1860 Jamaican Revival

Located in the Caribbean, the island of Jamaica has a checkered history of sugar cane plantations, piracy, and slavery. Although slavery was formally ended there in 1838, the spiritual condition of the people continued to decline over the next two decades, with attendance in many churches dropping significantly. But in 1860, prayers were intensifying all around the island among the faithful believers. Many Christians had heard stories of the 1857 Fulton Street Revival in New York City, and the Jamaican Christians had begun to long deeply for revival to break out among them. Crowds of believers would participate in "Peep of Day" prayer gatherings at the crack of dawn before work would begin. By 1860, many of these passionate intercessors were confident that revival would soon come to their island.

One September day in 1860, Rev. Sonderman (a Moravian missionary) was visiting a Moravian chapel in the St. Elizabeth parish in the town of Clifton. There he witnessed a large number of believers weeping in the chapel, some crying because of an inexpressible joy in their hearts. Others were sobbing because of an overpowering awareness and conviction of their own sin. And some attendees were just very surprised at what was happening around them. Rev. Sonderman initially tried to regain some order, but he found himself overwhelmed by emotion, and he felt led to let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

On Friday September 28th, another service was held in the chapel. There was a song, followed by an opening prayer, and then a flood of amazing prayers began. One after another, people began to pray: crying out for mercy, groaning in their spirit, some physically trembling, pouring out their hearts to God. Even children prayed prayers that were unusually articulate and bold and impassioned. The power of the Holy Spirit was evident in that place. As one girl prayed, someone described sensing the spirit of God coming "like a mighty rushing wind."

That service lasted from morning until midnight, and then the Spirit began to spread all around the island in the coming weeks. Over 12 different towns and cities along the coast witnessed the fires of revival fall upon their prayer meetings. There was an awareness of God's very presence, prolonged confession of sins, commitments to renounce personal immorality, and a continuous flow of people seeking salvation through Jesus Christ.

Over the next few months, thousands would gather for worship services and prayers each day, and thousands of seekers would put their faith in Christ and be baptized. Almost the entire island would hear a clear presentation of the Gospel as the Spirit stirred their spiritual hunger and drew them to the churches. The crime rate and drunkenness dropped to almost nothing. Even though there was fierce opposition from some non-believers, this revival would lead to the dramatic moral transformation of this nation. The fires of revival were still burning hot well into 1863, and many evangelists and missionaries would be raised up and sent out to neighboring islands and nations. What God had ignited on this little island would result in lasting spiritual change and impact far beyond its shores.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **RELIEF DURING PANDEMIC IN NEW YORK.** Thanks be to God for continued mercy during the pandemic, especially for the hardest hit areas like New York. With New York's numbers (infections and death rates) generally on the decline, Long Island NY will be moving into Phase 4 of reopening. Suffolk County had no reported Covid-19 related deaths in two consecutive days, which has not happened since the beginning of March.
- **GOD AT WORK IN CHARLOTTE.** Praise God that in Charlotte for the last 14 days the numbers reflect a stable encouraging trend. We thank God for the Christian outdoor gatherings of 25 or less people that have been meeting, and those that will be meeting for worship again soon. Praise God for how He is powerfully using the Billy Graham library with its new safety guidelines: this week alone, 130 visitors received Christ as their Savior!

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- Pray for COVID-19 infection rates and death rates to drop significantly this summer, and for a safe effective solution and end to this pandemic.
- Remember the elderly and nursing homes throughout our city, with currently 24 outbreaks at congregate living facilities (defined as 2 or more people at a facility testing positive).
- Pray for the elderly for wisdom and protection against new health scams surfacing these days.

FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR BUSINESSES:

- As Christians, we are the Lord's ambassadors. An ambassador doesn't pursue his or her own agenda, but the goals and purposes of those being represented. In a similar way, in the marketplace we serve and represent our Lord through our words and actions. Countless people all around us, in offices and stores and manufacturing plants, need to hear the reconciling message of Jesus Christ. Pray that all Christians involved in businesses in Charlotte will represent Jesus Christ clearly each day.
- Pray for businesses that have received government relief funds (PPP) as they work their way through the requirements of the banks and the government.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE.** Pray that the Lord would give the pro-life ministry *Love Life Charlotte* wisdom regarding their annual Youth for Life event in the midst of CoVID-19 restrictions.
- **PASTORS.** Pray for strength for pastors, who have been working harder than usual through the pandemic, for God to grant them rest and time away with Him to refresh and renew this summer. Many pastors are struggling now, so pray they will find a Sabbath rest each week, times of silence and solitude, and financial provision for all their personal and family needs.
- **REVIVAL.** Our culture is in serious trouble, and revival in the church is one of the ways God could change the course of these days for our communities, cities, and nation. Pray for a Spirit-led, prayer-driven, Scripture-fed revival in the churches of our city, state, and nation. If we will humble ourselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways, He will hear and answer.

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