

# FIRESTARTERS 5

# PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF Nov 16th-21st, 2020** - Vol 29

## THEME VERSE:

*Lord, hear my prayer,  
listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness  
come to my relief.*

Psalms 143:1

## THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

### The 1860 South Africa Revival (Part 1)

The Republic of South Africa, found at the southernmost tip of Africa, was ruled as a colony by the Dutch and the English for hundreds of years starting in the 1600's. Racism was widespread, and the government even passed laws to severely restrict black Africans from hearing the Gospel. The spiritual health of the country was in dire straits.

In 1847, God put it on the hearts of a remnant of believers in South Africa to begin to pray. They called for Christians to assemble together to seek the Lord, yet for many years the prayer meetings would be poorly attended. Too many in the local church were tragically comfortable with the world and could not get over their racial prejudices. But in 1857, the Spirit of God began a powerful movement of prayer and revival in America. That revival spread across the globe, and news of this stirred the hearts of the South Africans. Several pastors issued a new call to prayer in 1859. This call was published in a local newspaper, and churches even worked together to preach sermons on God's character and moves of the Holy Spirit. Books were distributed that detailed the stories of revival in America and stressed the urgent need for prayer before and during a spiritual awakening. In April of 1860, a conference was held in Worcester, South Africa, with hundreds of pastors and other spiritual leaders in attendance. These leaders returned to their congregations with hearts fired up to pray for a fresh outpouring of revival.

The awakening began inconspicuously on a small farm owned by Mr. Naude situated in the region of the Worcester parish. Several men and women had committed to pray for revival diligently every week over the course of several months, even though very few Christians joined them initially. Then, one day, in the midst of prayer the Spirit of God powerfully showed up at that place. Those in attendance were driven to call upon the Lord and to repent of their sins as they sensed God's presence. Many even fell to the ground, and almost everyone at the farm put their faith in Jesus. As news of this spread, people of all races and ages streamed to this farm, as people were moved by the Spirit to pray, to sing, and to cry out to God for salvation. The fires of revival had come to this place!

## THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **COMPASSIONATE GENEROSITY.** Praise God for believers and churches like Freedom House church in the Charlotte area that, during this pandemic, have given over two million dollars to those in their community with huge medical bills. The recipients find their bills with the notice "PAID IN FULL" on them, restoring hope and bringing light to these families. Thank God for how the Spirit moves on His sons and daughters to bless those in greatest need.
- **VACCINES.** Praise God for new effective COVID-19 vaccines that are almost ready for release.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:**

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **PEACE FOR OUR NATION.** Pray for God's peace over our city and nation as the recent election results continue to be tabulated and confirmed. Pray for justice and honesty to win the day as any irregularities are examined, and for God to raise up the leaders He wants for our nation.
- **VACCINE DISTRIBUTION.** Atrium Health and Novant Health are preparing to be distribution sites for the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine. With early data showing the vaccine at 90 percent effectiveness in preventing the coronavirus, pray for safe and efficient distribution of this vaccine to the most vulnerable and needy over the next few months.
- **VIRUS CONTAINMENT.** The COVID-19 virus was detected in wastewater at a UNC Charlotte residence hall last week. Pray that no residents will be affected by this and that the problem will be contained and resolved quickly.
- **OVERALL HEALTH.** Even as we enter into flu season, pray for God's protection from COVID-19 and all other illnesses. Pray that the numbers of daily hospitalizations and deaths will drop significantly. Pray for the release of more effective treatments and vaccines, and for God's healing touch upon every person affected.

### FOR NEEDS OF THE ECONOMY AND LOCAL BUSINESSES:

- **SMALL BUSINESSES.** Pray for clarity relative to PPP loan forgiveness, that small business owners will not have unexpected financial impacts as loans are reconciled.
- **ECONOMY.** Pray for provision for businesses and employees impacted by extension of Phase 3 restrictions. Pray that people will be able to keep their jobs and provide for their families. Pray that God will restore Charlotte to a healthy and thriving economy in the coming months.

### FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **VALUING LIFE.** Pray for the Love Life ministry and their leadership team as they prepare for their Week 40 Prayer Walk on Saturday, November 21st. Pray for many people to be praying and safely joining in this Walk. Pray for the evil of abortion to be exposed and for God to graciously draw those considering abortion to Himself.
- **CHURCHES.** Pray for unity among churches to bring Charlotte closer together in light of the current division. Every time we drive by a church, pray for its pastor, its staff and for those who worship at that sacred place. Pray that we may come to appreciate every church that lifts up the name of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Pray that God would release greater love and appreciation for one another as Christians and church families.
- **REVIVAL.** Since revivals are God-sent and the work of God, we must ask: Why is it delayed? Revival comes when God's people prevail in prayer. Thank God for hundreds of people in Charlotte who have prayed for revival for years, who have never lost hope, but know deep down that one day revival will indeed sweep across our city like nothing it has ever seen before.

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