

# FIRESTARTERS 5

## PRAYER TOOL

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

**FOR THE WEEK OF April 18th - 24th, 2021** - Vol 51

### THEME VERSE:

*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

**James 4:8**

### THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

#### **The 1908 Manchurian Revival: Astounding Fruit**

The Manchurian Revival of 1908 broke out in February of that year under the humble leadership of Jonathan Goforth. Anchored in prayer and inspired by the global revivals breaking out around him, this faithful missionary to China fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit and let Him take the lead. The revival that ensued shattered the frozen hearts in the leadership of the established Mukden church and brought fresh forgiveness and grace. Then it began to spread...

As God poured out His Spirit in one city and then the next, what kind of fruit did it bring? People witnessed an intensity of prayer that, prior to the revival, was hardly ever seen. Sometimes a handful of people would begin crying out to God, and before too long, the entire crowd of 800 attendees would begin praying in unison, without any sense of competition or rivalry. In every meeting, the time together might last several hours, but the first hour was always dedicated to prayer. A message from God's Word would be preached, and it would be followed by the Holy Spirit sweeping through the sea of listeners and stirring up deep conviction of sin. Then, the room would be opened to anyone to step up and lead in prayer, but only with prayer that was honest and spontaneous and compelled by the Lord. In spite of the innate resistance of the Chinese to share anything that might bring shame to themselves or their families, the meetings frequently and surprisingly resulted in extended times of personal confessions of all kinds of sin. Some might fall to their knees; most would groan with profuse weeping; and more than a few would rush to the stage to make their confession under the strong leading of the Spirit. Soon, a great harvest was witnessed at every location as many formerly lukewarm believers and spiritually lost townspeople would respond sincerely to the Gospel and put their trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

At one church in the city of Shinminfu, a powerful display of grace was recorded. During the Boxer Rebellion of 1899, the church had watched 50 of their members get martyred for their faith. The survivors carefully documented 250 names of those who had persecuted them and participated in the murders. This closely guarded list fueled their anger and memories of this violent time. They longed to get revenge one day. Yet, when the revival and the presence of God flowed through this city, the Christians there fell under the conviction of their sin. They tore up that list and let go of their hatred and the need for vengeance. They chose to forgive their enemies and to move forward in grace.

The revival continued to peak over a period of 2 years through 1910, with Goforth traveling and preaching in dozens of campaigns in 6 different Chinese provinces. But the Spirit of God effected profound changes in the church that lasted long after the campaigns ended. Worship of God was revitalized as Christians sang old and newly-written songs with great fervency and with renewed passion for the cross. The strong conviction of sin in the meetings led to many offenses being forgiven and relationships restored in these communities. Prayer became highly valued and embedded markedly into the spiritual life of everyday believers. In addition, God would use this awakening to raise up many unwavering Chinese leaders to carry on the revival fire in their nation for years to come.

## THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise and thanks to God! He brought physical healing to many people throughout our city who have been sick or in pain. Thank God also for a woman this week who chose life for her baby, instead of an abortion, after she came aboard the Help Pregnancy RV for counseling and a sonogram.

## PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

### FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **LAYOFFS IN MOORE, SC.** Pray for the 100 workers who will be facing layoffs by the end of this month. The Kobelco manufacturing plant in South Carolina will be suspending production in its factories, and it will have an immediate impact on many workers and their families. Pray for God's provision and leading for all those affected.
- **OVERCOMING COVID-19.** Pray for God to continue to improve the pandemic situation. Pray for supernatural healings as well as God using natural means like supplementation and vaccines and medicine.

### FOR JOBS AND BUSINESSES:

- **IMPROVING JOB SITUATION.** Praise God: national jobless claims fell last week to their lowest level of the pandemic, with the latest data on retail sales far beyond expectations, renewing confidence in a quick economic recovery. Pray that this will translate to new job opportunities for individuals impacted financially this year. Pray that they will recognize God's provision in this.
- **PRAYERS IN BUSINESSES.** Pray that business leaders and staffs will join in seeking the Lord for direction and will set up opportunities for community prayer initiatives – that Charlotte would host a vibrant praying business community.

### FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE MINISTRY.** Pray for the pro-life ministry Love Life: For their Bootcamp Missionary Training next Wednesday through Saturday to equip and raise up missionaries in many cities to stand for Christ. Please pray for the current personnel in 15 different cities to have God's protection and endurance in the mission. Pray also for upcoming mentor & sidewalk outreach training May 1st.
- **REVIVAL.** Anne Graham Lotz, once said, "The world is not falling apart, the world is failing in place." The Scriptures tell us that there will be an increase in sin and evil in the last days and it escalates more and more as the months and years go by. May a lightning rod of the Holy Spirit convict Charlotte, its pastors, its Christian leaders and all Christians to sense the urgency, that time is running out. We might be the last generation of Christians on earth in God's timetable, so Lord, give us a burning burden for those who are dying and headed to Hell. Choose Charlotte as a city where Your presence will come in great power and glory and show the way for revival in our nation. May Your fire fall from Heaven. Convict us that Jesus is the answer to every problem and concern. We know that You are coming: come quickly and turn Charlotte upside down for Jesus. In Your mighty name we pray. Amen!

**FOR MORE, VISIT [WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM](http://WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM)**

**For Discussion Questions, go to: [www.thinkrevival.com/Stories/HistoricBlog/](http://WWW.THINKREVIVAL.COM/Stories/HistoricBlog/)**