

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF June 14-20, 2020 - Vol 7

THEME VERSE:

16 As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me.

*17 Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress,
and he hears my voice.*

Psalms 55:16-17

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1903 Wonsan Korean Revival

Korean Christians have long been admired for their prayer life and the intensity of their devotion. What's not as well-known is that Korea was one of the last nations of the Far East to embrace the Gospel. While there were reports of some evangelistic attempts in the 1700's and 1800's, these efforts failed to take hold. One of the first Protestant missionaries, Robert Thomas, was brutally martyred in 1866 while trying to gain entry to this secluded nation. By 1887, there were still only 7 professing Christians among the Koreans, and even these mostly lived lives devoid of repentance and spiritual power.

In August 1903, two missionary women in Korea, Mary Culler White and Louise McCully, met together to begin to pray for a fresh move of God. Others soon joined them. Later that month, a local medical missionary, Dr. Robert Hardie, was invited to speak at a week-long conference in the northern city of Wonsan. During the meetings, Dr. Hardie painfully began to confess how, after a decade of arduous missions work, he had no spiritual fruit to show for it. And then he admitted that he was filled with racial prejudice and that he hated the Koreans among whom he worked. Humbled by the Holy Spirit, even while fighting back his tears, he asked for their forgiveness. The Korean leaders then admitted their mutual resentment and hatred for the doctor, and they too genuinely asked for forgiveness. The Spirit broke through hardened hearts in that meeting and quickly moved to bring waves of confession, forgiveness, and healing among those present.

For the next 3 years, God used Dr. Hardie to speak at many other conferences and churches in Korea. And each time, God used Dr. Hardie's honesty, vulnerability, and willingness to seek forgiveness to share the Gospel and ignite revival. Many attendees experienced deep conviction of sin and acted by faith to restore broken relationships and make up for their sins. The Korean church was stirred up with fresh fire from the Spirit and boldly shared the Gospel with their neighbors. In 1904, it was reported that over 10,000 Koreans had given their hearts to Christ that year, and by 1906 another 30,000 had trusted in Christ and been baptized. From out of one heart humbled by the Spirit, this outpouring of revival would wash over Wonsan and touch this nation for years afterwards.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

Praise God that, despite the riots in Charlotte fluctuating between violent and peaceful, this week they've been mostly peaceful. Let's thank God That churches, pastors, and community leaders are participating with strong messages condemning racism.

Praise God that leaders and community are working together in a unifying way to stamp out injustice and come up with ways to seek reform for better policing.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR CITY:

- Pray for the physical and spiritual healing for those injured in recent city protests.
 - Pray for Police Chief Kerr Putney: for wisdom as he deals with policing and race relations.
 - Pray against a spirit of unchecked anger and murder flowing through our city.
 - Pray for strategies to demonstrate justice and compassion and the hope of the Gospel among all the neighborhoods of our city
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- With young people now out of school for the summer and no longer receiving free & reduced lunch, pray for provision of enough food and constructive activities each day.
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- Pray that God will soon end this pandemic and, out of these challenging times, raise up a generation that trusts in God more than anything else society has to offer.

FOR OUR BUSINESSES AND ECONOMY:

- As negative economic news continues to impact our region, such as businesses vandalized during the civil unrest and the loss of the GOP Convention, pray that leaders and workers will continue to turn to Jesus as their source of hope and provision.
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- Pray for calm, honest dialogue around issues of racism, equality and opportunity within the business community and for Godly wisdom as followers of Jesus lead the way in bringing about reconciliation.
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- Pray that the economy would continue to rebuild and regain its strength in every part of our city, and that COVID-19's negative effects would be contained and quickly fade away.

FOR THE LOCAL CHURCHES AND REVIVAL:

- Pray for the church as it tries to address the racial and political distress and unrest. Pray for wisdom as we show the love of Christ at a time when words are easily misunderstood. Pray particularly for church leaders as they are often called on to address these issues publicly. These same leaders have been laboring for weeks helping people through COVID-19.
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- Pray for racial reconciliation to be visible within the church. Pray especially for African American congregations and their leaders as they can find themselves walking a difficult path of speaking into the pain of racism and the responses of protest while showing and proclaiming the love and forgiveness of Jesus. It's a difficult place to be that non-African American pastors do not fully understand.
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- Pray that the Holy Spirit would stir up in the church a spirit of greater dependence and trust in our God during these hard times. Pray that God revive hearts and empower Christians to walk with honesty, vulnerability, and supernatural forgiveness in every situation.

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