

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Feb 28th-March 6th, 2021 - Vol 44

THEME VERSE:

*And whatever we ask we receive from him,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.*

1 John 3:22

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1906 Mizo Outpouring

In the early 1900's, the area called Mizoram in the northeast region of India was still dominated by many Mizo tribes. The people there in the Lushai hills historically were steeped in animism and occultism, and many had engaged in offering human sacrifices and had survived as headhunters. A Gospel mission in this area was established in 1890, portions of the New Testament were translated into the local tongue, and by 1899, two of the local people were baptized.

In 1903, Welsh missionaries had begun praying for revival to break out in their region of India, in the state of Meghalaya. God began stirring revival in numerous parts of the country in the following years. News of the Welsh Revival in 1904 also prompted more and more Christians in India to commit to prayer. As the longing for God's presence intensified, in July of 1905, believers in the Mizoram towns pressed in to seek the Lord for revival. Then news came of how revival had ignited in the nearby Khasi Hills area. A 10 person team of local Baptist and Presbyterian believers made a two week trek through the jungle to visit the Khasi Hills revival. There, they experienced a strong sense of the Holy Spirit's presence during their times of worship and prayer. At one point, 8000 of the Khasi Hills Christians prayed powerfully for the Mizo Christians, and every single person was deeply affected, often with tears and trembling. On their way back to Mizoram, the team faced spiritual attacks and discouragement. But back in their home region, one night the Spirit of God swept over the congregation as they were worshiping. There was conviction of sin, confession of wrongdoings, and the distinct sense of God's presence. In addition, they experienced visions, dreams, prophecies, the sight of fire descending upon individuals, and even glimpses of white light surrounding the church. The spiritual awakening spread quickly.

During the fall of 1906, persecution broke out against the church. Many chieftains took the lead to drive the Christians from their homes and into the jungles. The animist practitioners staged a counterfeit revival in 1907 that exalted their pagan gods and strove to return people to their ancient ways. It caused great discouragement among the church over several years. But in 1911, the Lushai Hills was devastated by a terrible famine that was instigated by a surge of rats that consumed everything in their path. Many people died of starvation. In the aftermath, the church took up offerings to help buy food. Many local Christians gave generously and sacrificially of their own supplies of food to assist the villages, even the ones who had persecuted them the most. In the end, this astounding display of God's love was the most lasting impact of the revival.

In the following years, more significant awakenings would break out in the nearby regions. True repentance marked these movements. The animistic practices would cease once and for all. The Mizo people would eventually send out hundreds of their leaders as missionaries to those who were lost in other parts of India and in Asia. Today Mizoram stands as the most Christian area in all of India, with over 98% of its people confessing Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- **ONGOING MINISTRIES.** Praise God for all the ways the local churches and ministries continue to press forward to care for and love their members and people in their communities, usually without any fanfare or recognition. Thank God for all the Christians who work with the elderly or those who are hurting financially or those who need counseling and spiritual support. Praise God for all the prayer meetings and Bible studies still taking place around our city in safe and creative ways.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **OPEN BUSINESSES.** North Carolina's modified stay-at-home order ended on Friday, and many businesses will now be able to serve more customers, The Governor will be issuing a new executive order that goes into effect on Friday, Feb. 26. Pray that this easing of restrictions will help many small businesses to thrive, open the door to more jobs, and provide vital services to the neighborhoods. Pray for safety and good health measures as they re-open.
- **COVID-19.** Pray that God would continue to watch over our city and nation during the pandemic. Pray for the medical community to develop and distribute smoothly better treatments and vaccines. Pray for supernatural protection from illness and healing. Pray that COVID-19 numbers would keep dropping and that the pandemic would end soon.

FOR THE WORLD AND MISSIONS:

- **CHRISTIANS IN MUSLIM NATIONS.** Pray for Christians who come from a Muslim background and strive to lead underground house churches and share their resources to help others in critical need. Pray for great favor and provision from the Lord as they compassionately serve others.
- **CHRIST FOR ALL NATIONS LEADERS.** Pray that all those leading Gospel Campaigns with the ministry Christ for All Nations will get the needed visas in the countries they visit. Ask the Lord that they would stay strong and be protected from sickness and the attacks of Satan. Believe and pray for millions to be healed and saved!

FOR MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **DIVINE GUIDANCE FOR PASTORS.** Pray that God would give our pastors increased awareness of the hurts, frustrations, and challenges in their congregations. Pray for guidance to know how to preach with greater love and compassion during these adverse times. Family members are still grieving over losses. Children are anxious about school. Parents are worried over the economy. May God grant our leaders more wisdom to guide and encourage those in need and to lead their churches.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray for a fresh vision and hunger among the entire church for historic revival. May believers yearn for the palpable presence and power of God once again to touch our city's neighborhoods and people. May God bless us with supernaturally charged miracles and profound love for the lost as we step out in faith according to His Word.

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