

FIRESTARTERS 5

PRAYER TOOL

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

FOR THE WEEK OF Aug 8th - 14th, 2021 - Vol 67

THEME VERSE:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6:10-12

THE GOD OF REVIVAL:

The 1984 Argentine Revival (Part 2)

In 1984, the Lord used Carlos Annacondia to spark a massive wildfire of revival to sweep across the nation of Argentina. In many ways, Carlos followed successful patterns of other large-scale campaigns of the day: He would build partnerships with local churches in the city before he arrived. He would recruit and deploy large teams of intercessors to pray during the entire time of the meeting. He would give a clear presentation of the Gospel and offer a simple invitation to trust in Christ. And he was not afraid to allow the Holy Spirit to work in healings and miracles in the audience. But there were other aspects that seemed to especially saturate the meetings with God's very presence and power, that actually escalated the gatherings to full revival levels.

Carlos was only one of many leaders, pastors, and evangelists who would take up the charge to spread the fires of revival throughout the towns and cities and fields, but he had a singular role in setting the tone for this awakening. One key difference in how he led these campaigns was the energetic way he boldly conducted spiritual warfare during the meetings. It was entirely appropriate when one understands how deeply saturated Argentina was with the occult and with witchcraft. The demonic activity in the Argentine cities was off the charts! And Carlos, far from being unaware or naive about it, knew that demons would make every effort to disrupt and distract from the evangelistic meetings.

Prevailing prayer was always vital in these meetings. At some sites, over 1000 intercessors would be gathered to pray under the stage, in two shifts of 500 people each, during the length of the entire meeting. In addition to all the other tools he used to conduct the campaigns, Carlos also set up large 150 feet long spiritual Intensive Care Tents behind the main platform. At some point in his meetings, he would begin to pray with incredible anointing and authority: "Satan, listen to me...!" With these words, he would directly and aggressively confront the evil spirits at work in the crowd. When demons began to manifest, people would fall to the ground or be overwhelmed by demonic activity. Volunteers would help carry people to the Intensive Care Tents, where trained teams of believers would minister to them to help deliver them from the tormenting spirits. This attention to supernatural deliverance became a trademark of this revival.

During the 8 month campaign in La Plata, over 50,000 people were set free and led to Christ. As the revival moved with the campaigns from city to city, there would be hundreds if not thousands or tens of thousands who would turn to Jesus Christ as their Savior. Because the Holy Spirit would move so powerfully, the longer they stayed in a city, the greater the subsequent crowds would be. As word spread of God's power to heal and set people free, more and more Argentinians would amass to seek after God for themselves. The presence of God moved so mightily that even pedestrians walking outside the meeting places would sometimes be overcome by the Spirit and cry out for God's mercy.

The revival has now continued on for several decades, through different leaders, and touching most denominations. In 1990, only 200,000 evangelical Christians were in Argentina, less than 1% of the country. Three decades later, there are over 4 million Christians in the nation, more than 10% of the population. Many pastors who participated in the campaigns are now trained to pray for healings and miracles and to wage spiritual warfare. Thousands of Bible schools and training centers have been started and grown significantly. And God has taken the fire of His Spirit and let it jump and spread to local churches across the nation and into other nations around the world, sparking in some cases even greater outpourings of historic revival.

THE GOD WHO ANSWERS PRAYERS:

- Praise God for the ministries citywide that are continuing to function and thrive under the mounting pressures surrounding covid-19 surges. We are thankful also for ministries that continue to press in during this time seeking God to revive hearts and bless our communities.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE CITY:

- **PROTECTING FREE SPEECH AND ENDING CANCEL CULTURE.** Recently there have been some protests outside Cornelius regarding Confederate statues, and former protesters in Charlotte are leveling a lawsuit against the police. Pray that God would guide our leaders and our nation to walk the line in a respectful way: to encourage free speech and peaceful protests while also guarding against reckless violence and a threatening cancel culture. Pray that as a nation we can learn from one another and love even our "enemies".
- **COVID-19.** UNC System leaders in Raleigh, North Carolina, say unvaccinated university students will be subject to weekly testing for COVID-19 during the fall semester. Also, they are pressing forward to conduct similar testing in the K-12th grade student population. Pray that God will give our state and nation wisdom to best deal with COVID-19 in the coming months so that people are protected from illness and also respected for their individual beliefs. Pray also for any surge from the coronavirus to be contained and quelled soon.

FOR THE ECONOMY AND BUSINESSES:

- **Returning Workforce & Discipleship.** Pray for the physical, emotional and spiritual health of workers returning to office and public settings even as concerns about variants of the COVID-19 virus dominate the media. Charlotte continues to grow its millennial tech workforce, adding over 85,000 individuals in the 23 to 38 year old workforce since 2014, making it 8th overall among the 30 top tech talent markets. Praise the Lord for bringing these young people to this area and providing us with the opportunity to make disciples. Pray for mature believers to come alongside and share the Gospel, to mentor and disciple this generation, which often rejects Christianity.

FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES AND REVIVAL:

- **LOVE LIFE CHARLOTTE.** Pray for anointing upon their city missionaries as they recruit churches to adopt weeks during the year to join in praying on-site for an end to the abortion crisis and related adoption challenges. Pray for healthy teams and staff, for a hedge of protection around the work, and for unity in this mission. May God raise up many more believers to take a stand.
- **REVIVAL.** Pray for the tent meetings taking place in Locust, North Carolina, this August 12-14th. Led by Jessi and Parker Green, their ministry is crying out for the start of a mighty move of God to ignite a great awakening in our nation. Pray for a shattering of spiritual darkness, and ask for a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit as they seek a re-opening of the historic wells of revival!

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