

While America Panicked...



BUSINESS WAS BOOMING! In New York City (*above*), Wall Street was at an all-time high. Unprecedented economic growth and unparalleled prosperity had catapulted America's poor into a strong labor market and the middle class into affluent suburbia. Across the country the pervasive culture of materialism had created a self-satisfied facade of safety, security and sufficiency, but...

Jeremiah Lanphier knew better. The successful, forty-eight-year-old businessman, whose spiritual insight enhanced his business acuity, knew that life was more than dollar signs. As paychecks rose, church attendance fell. He understood that the current generation—reared in a spiritual vacuum—was an empty, decadent, imploding mass of lost humanity.

Politically, the country—sharply divided for

decades—was a ticking time bomb. Slavery was the representative poster child for a satanic, clandestine power struggle bent on national destruction. Seemingly, the divided country was irreconcilable; civil war threatened.

Jeremiah lost no time. Dedicating himself to the Lord, he left his business and devoted himself entirely to inner city evangelism by visiting homes, distributing Bibles and witnessing on New York City streets. Despite a discouraging response, Jeremiah persevered, immersing himself in personal prayer, begging for a special work of the Holy Spirit to effect salvations and spiritual renewal.

Then it happened! August 14, 1857, a financial earthquake shook the nation when a large NYC bank failed. **The nation was stunned!** Sensing God's timing, Jeremiah announced a weekly



J. Lanphier

prayer service where downtown New York City business owners and workers could call on God and pray for spiritual awakening. He personally passed out 20,000 invitations to the event.

On Wednesday, September 23, 1857, at 12 noon, Jeremiah entered the North Dutch Reformed Church on the corner of Fulton and William Streets in New York City to hold the first prayer meeting. **The room was empty!** Undaunted, Jeremiah fell to his knees and began to pray. At 12:30, he heard the shuffling of shoes on the stairs. One man appeared—then another—and another—and another—until there were six, representing five different denominations—all lifting their voices to the throne of grace. The following weeks were tumultuous:

On September 30...14 men prayed.

On October 7...40 men prayed.

Encouraged, the men decided to meet **every day** just to pray. God responded!

On October 14, 1857, **EIGHTEEN New York City banks CLOSED!**

- **30,000 NYC jobs disintegrated.**
- **5,000 businesses bankrupted.**
- **19 railroads ceased operating.**
- **Dozens of U.S. industrial cities imploded.**
- **Hundreds of thousands were financially ruined.**
- **The first GLOBAL economic crisis ensued.**

While America panicked...Jeremiah PRAYED!

Almost overnight, unaccountable to any natural cause, the prayer meetings exploded. Tens, hundreds, then thousands packed churches, theaters, and lecture halls across New York City. Newspaper editor Horace Greeley counted 6,000 men in 12 simultaneous meetings;

MIDDLE EAST: *Gospel Explosion*

Coronavirus is on the rise in the Middle East. Please pray for Pastor Maher and his wife who have contracted the virus and are sick at home. Churches in Egypt have declared a 21-day fast and daily prayer time in order to beseech God to stop the spread.

Because the lockdown in Iraq has forced everyone to stay home, listenership to Baghdad Christian Radio has skyrocketed. One million people per day listen to the radio, and 15,500 listen daily via Facebook. Deluged with questions from radio listeners, the staff has felt compelled to build a television production stu-

dio in order to have a broader social media impact and to expand into satellite T.V. When Iraq reopens, CRI is ready to build three more Christian radio stations in Iraq which will reach seven million more Kurds and Iraqis with the best news they have ever heard—*Jesus Loves You!* ❀



the *New York Times* reported 5,000 daily prayer attendees in the Wall Street district alone, with more than 10,000 in dozens of similar venues. All these tradesmen were confessing their sins, accepting Christ as Savior and praying for revival.

During the next six months, prayer meetings spread to Philadelphia, Cleveland, and St. Louis where downtown churches were packed three times per day. In Pittsburgh, 6,000 people gathered; in Washington, D.C., five different meeting times could not accommodate the crowds. New England prayed at 8:00 a.m., noon, and 6:00 p.m. In Louisville, the Masonic Temple was packed daily. The Metropolitan Theater in Chicago overflowed with 2,000. One Ohio church had so many converts, they cut a hole in the river ice, and baptized in the freezing water.

Despite sharp political dissension, riots with police, and poverty, hundreds of thousands of men were praying for the salvation of family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends. America's pastors were baptizing an astounding 20,000 people per week. In all more than **one million** people out of a total population of 31 million were saved because...

ONE MAN PRAYED

America is in desperate straits today! No amount of government legislation will quell the sin, violence, and rebellion of OUR TIME. We have only one hope. Will you pray? Will you start a daily prayer group in your home, business, church, or school? Will you intercede for our perverse nation and cry out for mercy?

In 1857, **ONE MAN PRAYED!**

In 2020, **WILL YOU BE THAT ONE?**

CRI needs \$4500 in monthly support to underwrite the expense of the three new stations which will reach parts of Kurdistan and Iraq around Karbala and Al Najaf (ancient Babylon). Would you help us? ❀



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