



Hebrides tower - Guard the fire

Jim Smith

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Contents

Guarding the fire.

Introduction

Chapter 1: How towers started.

Chapter 2: Spiritual background - hard rain.

Chapter 3: Servant intercession.

Chapter 4: Rooms in the tower.

What now?

Jim Smith has been an Anglican minister for 55 years. With his wife Mary they have established the Serving Africa mission in Ghana. Jim has been involved in intercession for over 40 years and is currently developing the towers project - a call to intercession for those who are serious at this dangerous time. He lives in Sussex in the UK, and as well as running the Serving Africa mission, he is honorary minister to Saint Philip's church Burwash.

Guarding the fire

I was standing on parched earth. Destruction had come and destroyed everything. “Lord,” I said, “What has happened?” “My people failed me,” he said, “and this is what has happened.”

“Is there no hope?” I asked. “Dig,” he replied.

I had no tools and so I dug with my hands. My nails broke and my fingers were cut by the stones but still I dug and dug and dug. I grew weary of digging. The sun was burning my back and I had no water. Evening came and I knew that dark powers were waiting to bring more destruction.

Then when I was almost exhausted, I found a small jar of oil. It was beautiful and golden and lovely.

“Some have guarded the fire,” said the Lord. “When the destruction came they hid it carefully in their hearts awaiting the day when once again my anointing could fall.” “Who are these people?” I asked. “Where are they?”

The Lord reached down and turned the jar towards me. There scratched into the glass was the word “Hebrides.”

Introduction

As I was studying revivals throughout the world I came across this quote which I think is from Duncan Campbell.

"I want to say this, and I say it on the authority of this Book, yes, God will [bring revival] again when He finds a church He can trust; when He finds a man whom he can trust with revival. God found men in Lewis—I have no hesitation in saying that—men whom He could trust."

The Lord is always ready to revive. All he needs to find are hearts that are open to the situation and to his power. But what happens during those long gaps between revivals? I have visited a number of sites where revival happened. I have been surprised at the spiritual emptiness of them in the decades that have passed since the fire fell. What happens during these long gaps? Does everything stand still until the Lord finds the right heart? At one level it does, but if all that can be done is to wait, does that mean that the legacy is lost and everyone has to start again?

Hebrides

I have reflected about this as I have studied the Hebridean revival. Peggy and Christine Smith, their pastor, the prayer cell and Duncan Campbell - everything seemed so powerful and right. Has it all gone now?

The vision I began this material with has made me begin to believe that the miracle of revival is carefully hidden somewhere in the Kingdom until the Lord needs to call on it again. What he has invested he never wastes, although it might be hidden for a while. This is my growing feeling about the Hebridean intercessory tower. It has guarded the fire and continues to guard the fire and holds the legacy closely and carefully until the Lord is ready for it to come again.

The Hebridean revival was amazing, touching many lives at the time and subsequently - including mine. Has an intercessory tower been placed to guard the fire that fell and to protect that fire from being extinguished until it comes again? If so it is an awesome and powerful tower, making great demands on the intercessors who enter it. Guarding the fire is one of the highest intercessory callings, and one of the hardest and most costly.

Chapter 1: How the towers ministry started

Still Waters to la Verna and beyond

The towers ministry really began 20 years ago. My house is on the top of a hill looking over the South Downs (in the U.K) towards the sea. Early one morning I saw a light high up on the Downs and although I tried to convince myself it was reflection from a windscreen of a car. I knew it was not. One of my closest friends, who was very experienced in intercession said that she thought I had seen the light of the Holy Spirit and that we should pray. Out of that prayer time came the vision of Still Waters - a small intercessory group which would meet to pray.

We managed to find four others to join us and one morning we sat in a room with 6 chairs with no idea what to do. Week by week we met and slowly we began to understand how to intercede. Over 2 years we learned a great deal - almost all by experience.

That group eventually closed and I began to read and study the great intercessors of the last thousand years. I thought I had completed what I had to do, then one day the Lord said to me - "I want you to go to Geneva." So, I went but I couldn't understand why. Standing one day outside the headquarters of the International Red Cross buildings, which are based in Geneva, the Lord said to me, "They started small and your intercession experience is small. But like them you will grow. Follow the thread I will show you throughout Europe."

Over the next years I visited many holy places in Europe and at each place my intercessory experience did grow. Finally, after many years I came to La Verna. This is the mountain about two hours from Florence where Saint Francis received the stigmata. There was a monastery there and in it was the “Chapel of the stigmata”. I knelt there for an hour in prayer. “Now,” said the Lord, “I have told you what you need to know about intercession. Wait for my command.”

The years passed and I had almost forgotten this experience when in response to the situation in Gaza I started a four-night prayer series on the internet and from that the towers ministry began to grow.

Prayer cell

When the war between Israel and Gaza broke out in 2023/4, I was working on my mission base in Ghana. I held a four-session prayer time over a month for this war. About 10 people joined me online and 35 on catchup. As the prayer times began, I became aware that something unusual was happening during them and especially at the last one. During that prayer time the Lord told us that he was going to stand in the middle of the conflict area and asked which of us would stand with him. “We need a tower of intercession,” I said. “Who will occupy it with the Lord?” As so often in intercession I did not know what I was really asking for. Some of the group said they would stand in the tower. I thought that was the end of it. I was soon to discover it was far from the end of it.

During the subsequent weeks the Lord began to show me that a tower of intercession was a very strong spiritual presence, and that the tower in the Middle East would last until he returned. I asked him if there were any other such towers, and quickly he showed me many. Each one had a specific name reflecting its function. I know where some of them are but not all. I know that at this time I haven't identified all of them.

Early one morning

I woke up in the early hours of one morning and the atmosphere in my room was one I had never experienced before. There was utter stillness – a stillness which I could almost feel. I sat there wondering what was happening. Then the Lord spoke to me and said, “I’m going to show you a worldwide network of intercession. You must act!” While I was thinking about this during the next few days, the towers of intercession began to show themselves - Singapore and Hawaii being some of the first ones. This was a new experience for me. I could not understand how someone with no influence, no power and little financial resource could in any way influence a worldwide ministry. I didn't choose this path. The Lord opened it for me.

Chapter 2: Spiritual background to the Hebridean tower

“A hard rain came.”

As I prayed and reflected on this tower, I asked the Lord about its spiritual background. The Lord replied - “A hard rain came. A hard rain will always come to those who are not alert to the enemy. He seeks to destroy all my great works.”

Perhaps the Hebridean tower stands in a place where watchfulness was lost. There was a great revival - one of the greatest ever seen, but were the intercessors so dazzled by the moves of the spirit that they failed to make provision for the inevitable reaction - the hard rain? Can the “hard rain” be seen in the Bible?

Egypt - a good beginning

Joseph went and told Pharaoh, “My father and brothers, with their flocks and herds and everything they own, have come from the land of Canaan and are now in Goshen.” He chose five of his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh. Pharaoh asked the brothers, “What is your occupation?” “Your servants are shepherds,” they replied to Pharaoh, “just as our fathers were.” They also said to him, “We have come to live here for a while, because the famine is severe in Canaan and your servants’ flocks have no pasture. So now, please let your servants settle in Goshen.”

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you, and the land of Egypt is before you; settle your father and your brothers in the best part of the land. Let them live in Goshen. And if you know of any among them with special ability, put them in charge of my own livestock.”

So Joseph settled his father and his brothers in Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the district of Rameses, as Pharaoh directed. Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father’s household with food, according to the number of their children. (Genesis 47:1-12)

This was the start of the Israelite time in Egypt. Why should they have anything to fear? Joseph was second in command, and so they would be safe. Pharaoh held Joseph in high esteem, so when Joseph asked for land, they were given the best. They were shepherds - men used to roaming freely, but the attraction of Egypt, settled space and comfort appealed to them.

Did they turn their eyes away from the Lord? Was this his will for them? In their blessing, did they fail to prepare for a harder future? Sadly, in that future a hard rain was coming which would lead them into the desert of suffering and despair. A hard rain which would bring them to the point of destruction.

A new Pharaoh

Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. (Exodus 1:8-14)

The hard rain began to fall. The new king was angry at the prosperity of these immigrants of which he knew nothing. The hard rain began to fall. Oppression, persecution, bitterness and despair began to afflict the people. They had made no provision for this. They grasped the freedom of deliverance from their famine, but failed to make provision for the inevitable hard rain of satanic destruction which would come against them.

Satan may be defeated at the cross, but he is still dangerous - still looking to come back from every defeat. If he cannot prevent the move of the spirit, he can corrode the results. He is always ready with the hard rain. No intercessory tower was guarding the fire of the escape from famine. The enemy had freedom to move, and he did.

Egypt - the hard rain

During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. (Exodus 2:2-3)

Here are the bitter fruits of the hard rain. Here is the result of failing to guard the fire, to guard the vision, to guard the heritage. My conviction is that the hard rain fell after the glorious Hebridean revival, but in our New Testament lives the Lord established a tower of intercessory protection, guarding the fire for the future. That tower might be ready now to activate the Lord's will and bring the fire again.

The whole of the United Kingdom is desperate for it.

If the Hebridean intercessors can guard and continue to guard the fire the possibility is there that the Lord will again bless. The key to this blessing is the intercessory move the spirit in the tower of "Guarding the fire". This places an enormous responsibility on the Hebridean intercessors.

Chapter 3: Servant intercession

All intercession is servant based. But for a tower dedicated to guarding the fire, servant style intercession is of the highest importance. What is it?

Servant intercession puts the Lord first.

“Give careful thought to your ways.” (Haggai 1:5)

When the people of Israel returned from the exile in Babylon they began to plant fields in order to begin the restoration of the economy - or did they? Haggai suggests that they did it for their own benefit - **“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”**

The harvest failed and the prophet Haggai made it very clear as to why the harvest had failed - “while this house remains a ruin?” They were putting their own needs before the needs of the Lord. Intercessors must not make this mistake. It must be God first in everything. The scripture command is clear - “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:2-3)

If intercession fails at this point then everything it hopes to achieve will be lost. It is a very high and a very hard standard. Intercession is a tough business.

Servant intercession - no discussion!

**"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered.
"May your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1:38)**

Moses and Mary had a very different approaches to the Lord's command. When the Lord called him, Moses had his five reasons ready as to why he should not serve. When the Lord called Mary she had no reasons why she should not serve. She obeyed his command. For intercessors there is no prohibition on discussion after accepting the Lord's will. Accepting it first before the questions is essential. This is the nature of servant intercession. It's Mary's way - "O.K. I will do it. Now I need to know 'how'."

Servant intercession - gives all

I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. (1 Samuel 1:15)

Hannah's heart was broken. No matter how hard she tried she could not conceive a child. She went down to the temple and she poured out her soul before him in deep anguish and grief. To read of her sorrow and outpouring is heartbreaking. Yet she points the way for servant intercession.

She gives her whole soul to her prayer, holding nothing back. This is the way of servant intercession. Servant intercessors give their all to their prayer even if it costs them everything. It is a very costly experience. It is the path of the servant.

Servant intercession - Jesus shall have the highest honour

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)

Pride threatens all of the Lord's work. So often I hear the Lord's servants talking about "My ministry." Apostle Paul makes it clear as to who the ministry belongs - "Christ in you."

Intercessors exercise intercession in intimate closeness to the Lord and are allowed to see things and feel things which many others do not see or feel. It is so easy to begin to talk about "my ministry." Servant intercessors must hold in their heart one key principle which should protect them against pride - "Jesus shall have the highest honour."

Servant intercessors must have the parable of the servant in their heart at all times -

"Suppose one of you has a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Won't he rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" (Luke 17:7-10)

Chapter 4:

Rooms in the “Guard the fire” tower

As I have studied the towers and have tried to understand their character I have used the picture of rooms. These rooms equip the intercessors for their work from the top of the tower. Teresa of Avila also did this in her book “The interior castle.”

Usually the rooms speak for themselves, but in this tower I have reflected a lot on the first four rooms. They are all “deep” rooms. This tower has very deep antecedents and has seen the fire. To guard the fire requires very deep intercession and intercessors.

Room 1: Deep: fullness

“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
(Ephesians 3:17-19)

Intercessors in this tower have to be committed to go into the deepest possible places of the spiritual world - deep into the heart of the Lord. That is where the revival fire is to be found and that is where the intercessors must guard it. This is a tough challenge and only the most mature intercessors will be able to face the the joy and the strain of bearing such love.

This is a hard room to enter. Trying to describe it I wrote these words which perhaps will give a glimpse into what happens here.

*I saw the pure love of the Lord
and I wanted all of it.
I began to search.
I danced in the wildness of the sunset sky.
I ran into the storm.
I embraced the sea, became the waves
and ached for the love I could not find.*

*I came at last to The Love –
a steep high mountain from which
I jumped and fell and fell.
Deeper and deeper.
I drank and drank until
I could drink no more.*

*In the stillness that followed,
the Lord spoke.
“There is more” he said.
I fell and worshipped the Love
beyond my heart to understand,
and was satisfied.*

Room 2: Deep determination and unyielding

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-9)

From the room of experiencing the fullness of God's love, intercessors move into the room of “determination and unyielding.” Guarding the fire requires the deepest of determination and the refusal to yield to the enemy’s whispers that “Everything is lost it from the previous time and it never will come back”. This deep determination has to last for decades.

Here is how one older intercessor found his determination -
“I believe that when God finds the clean hands and the pure heart we shall see springs in the desert and rivers in the dry places. My dear people, let us get on our faces before God and pray that He may yet visit us in mercy and that we, His people, may once again ascend the hill of God and stand in His holy place. May God grant it.”

Room 3. Deep understanding of the strategy of the enemy

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

(John 8:44)

In the deepest places of intercession the intercessors need a deep understanding of who they are up against. Those that guard revival fire can expect nothing less than the harshest of treatment from the enemy who despises it with all his heart. Here is a vision I had during my intercession which indicates not only the danger but also the strength of intercession. For “prophet” read “intercessor.”

I saw a great stadium, full of people. Everything was gold, but there was a throne in the middle which was of the purest gold I had ever seen. It was surrounded by figures dressed in white and gold. Satan came into the Stadium and took his seat on the throne. One of the figures was holding a crown of pure gold. He went forward and placed it on the head of Satan. Everyone stood up and cheered - except me. A figure came to me and said - “You must stand and cheer.”

I replied “I am a prophet of the Most High. I have a heart of flint towards your Master and all his works. I am here to testify before my master of what I have seen. I will never stand.”

The dark figure writhed in evil and anger. “Trouble will come to you,” it said. “No trouble will ever come to me from you or your kind. My Master rules the heaven and the earth. I am leaving now and if any of your kind come even near me I will kill them.” The dark figure was afraid and backed away.

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(1 Corinthians 15:57)

Room 4. Resisting almost beyond endurance

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

(Hebrews 11:32-8)

Intercessors in this tower have to resist with all their heart, even to death. They are guarding something so precious that there can be no question of giving up or turning back. Like the other three rooms this is a deep challenge from the deepest places of intercession. Here is another vision I had on this issue. It challenged me to endure, to resist at whatever cost - which I do not find easy.

In the spirit, I found myself standing in hell, among the spirits of rebellion, who had cursed and denied, blasphemed and destroyed, condemned and murdered. Even here, their rebellion continued. They threatened me. They were ugly and filthy. They were aggressive, assertive and grasping power. They towered over me, cursing God and his people. "If only we could get out of here," they threatened, "we would put an end to him."

I was afraid, but then I heard the music of heaven, coming from within this terrible place. It was beautiful and clear. The rebellious spirits backed away from me. "Oh no," they cried, "not that again!" They began to shrink in front of my eyes. Smaller and smaller they got, until they were nothing more than small powerless shadows. "Don't send us away," they sobbed. "Let us remain. Have you come to destroy us?" I did not understand what had happened. "Hell could not withstand me," said the Lord. "The sacrifice triumphed here. But the price was high."

Room 5. Guarding the fire

"Watch and pray." (Matthew 26:41)

Guarding the fire needs powerful spiritual weapons in the heart of the intercessor. The spiritual armour of Ephesians 6 is precious but intercessors need something much deeper. Here are some of the weapons to be picked up in this room.

Weapon - The power of the sacrifice

"Look - the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world"
(John 1:29)

It is the sacrifice of Jesus which breaks the power of the enemy. Those who pray here must learn to draw on the strength of that sacrifice, know how to release the power of the blood of Jesus, and how to take stand on the lamb who was slain. (1 Peter 1:19: Revelation 5:6)

Weapon - Crucified to the world

“I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20)

The enemy will use everything worldly to trap and defeat those who pray here. What can he do against those who have crucified everything in the world, and live only for Christ? Those who pray here must crucify self, (Mark 8:34) love of money, (1 Timothy 6:10) desire for security in the flesh, (Matthew 6:19-21) longing for recognition, (Matthew 5:11-12) physical needs, (Matthew 6:28-33) and sexual needs. (Matthew 5:27-28)

Weapon - The power of the word

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16)

“At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

(Philippians 2: 10-11)

Those who pray here need to proclaim the word over and over again and release its strength.

Weapon - The victory of the cross

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37)

Intercessors have won! It's true! When the enemy comes against those who pray, he is already defeated. Revival might look a hard thing to achieve, but with Satan's defeat it can be done.

Top of the tower

The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea.” So Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.’” Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling. (2 Kings 18:44-5)

Elijah never gave up his belief that the rain would come. His intense sevenfold prayer based on his conviction that God would answer finally brought what he longed to see. Here is the vision I had from the top of this tower - may God fulfil it

The wind is coming. Look out to the horizon and see. Now it is small - smaller than a man's hand. It has been waiting for the moment. The wind is coming. Can you not feel it on your face? No more than the whisper of the voice. The wind is coming.

What now?

Many individual towers are available to read on our website. There is also a video teaching series and videos on individual towers

The 5 session video series

Each of the videos available on YouTube feature Rev Jim Smith speaking about different aspects of the towers ministry. They last approximately 30 minutes and they are a good introduction to this work. They are linked to the chapters in the material “The towers ministry” which is available from the website.

- Video 1.** INTRODUCTION AND LIFE IN THE TOWERS
- Video 2.** THE ETERNAL & PROPHETIC FRAMEWORK OF THE TOWERS
- Video 3.** HOW TO INTERCEDE IN THE TOWERS
- Video 4.** LOOKING INTO A TOWER - ENGLAND
- Video 5.** WHEN INTERCESSORS FAIL

This material is free to watch on the towers YouTube page - **unshakeable towers**

“The towers ministry” and other books and written materials are available for free downloading from the towers website - **www.unshakeable-towers.org**.

Jim Smith writes - “I have been an Anglican Pastor in the UK for over 55 years, and involved in intercession for over 40 of those. and I serve also as a missionary in Ghana. Recently I have been learning about towers of intercession - special places in the world where intense intercession is needed.”



Rev Jim is searching for individuals who are deep in the intercessory stream who be willing to hear what the Lord is saying to him about intercession.

In this this book Jim Smith lays out the main teaching on the background of “the Towers”.

Also in this series:

The Towers. Here Jim Smith explains how the towers material came into being and looks at much greater depth at what intercession is and how it might work within the towers.

The Singapore tower. In this material Jim Smith takes a look at what the tower in Singapore might look like.

The England Tower. In this material Jim Smith explores what the England tower might be like and how intercessors might enter, repair and use it.

Blazing Fire. In this this book Jim Smith explores what the Blazing tower might be like and what intercessors will find there.

Ascending the hill. Jim Smith explains how intercession develops in the heart of a Christian and what it would mean for their life.

Visit our website for this and much more material
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www.unshakeable-towers.org