

North Ossetia

Tower of guarding the child



Rev Jim Smith

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Jim Smith has been an Anglican minister for over 55 years. For 30 of those years he has worked with his wife in Ghana on their mission base. They are married and have 6 children. Jim is licensed to the Diocese of Chichester. When they are in the U.K. Mary and Jim attend their local Anglican church. For further information, visit servingafrica-mission.org or unshakeable-towers.org. The complete material on the Towers can be found in the LIBRARY page of unshakeable-towers.org

Introduction

When I began to see this tower I did not understand it, although it immediately touched my heart. Anything child related touches my heart very deeply. It was when I read this story that began my journey into this tower.

“The Beslan school siege was an Islamic terrorist attack that started on 1 September 2004. It lasted three days and involved the imprisonment of more than 1,100 people as hostages, (including 777 children) ending with the deaths of 334 people, 186 of them children as well as 31 of the attackers.”

As a grieving parent myself I was deeply troubled and moved by this terrible event. As I listened to the parents, who are still grieving. I felt my intercessory spirit being moved. I wondered if there could be a tower for intercessors to pray against the sufferings of innocent children, although at the beginning of my journey I was not sure.

I prayed and interceded one day around this vision-

I saw a broken man. Rough hands dragged him to the cross and broke him. At the foot of the cross, I saw children laying, broken and bleeding. “We are broken too,” they said.

Broken children - is that what this tower is about? I asked the Lord what I should do as I did not know what to write. He said, “The intercessors I touch will understand it.”

So I began to try and understand this tower and what intercession was needed here. I have had to use a lot of creative material to try and explain what I was seeing and feeling about this tower. There seemed no other way.

A personal note from the author

For intercessors who read this I want to explain that many times I have abandoned this material, as I found it impossible to describe what I was seeing and feeling. In the end I have just written it as I feel and see it. I am believing that for those who need to be touched by this tower, they will understand.

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. Intercession and the children - the Lord's heart

**“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt
I called my son.”**

I tried to understand the love for children which is so deep in the Lord's heart. Thinking one day about that love, I got a glimpse of it -

***Love is
someone's hand in mine,
a glance which says
“I am glad you are here.”
The security of being,
belonging,
becoming precious to you
and you to me***

***Love is not caring
where we are
or what anyone thinks.
Love is reaching up
to your face
and in love's embrace
surrendering.***

This is the love the Lord has for children. It is deep, passionate and secure. I got another glimpse of it - the pure joy of it - in this way.

One day on my base in Ghana, I was standing by our shop, when a beautiful young African girl ran up to buy sweets. I saw her joy and the Lord said to me, "That's what I love so much about children." I wrote this -

***She dances
in many colours
Her face
sun blessed
gazes deep
into her homeland
her heartland
her own land
which,
though scarred
holds her timeless
in its eternal
God-breathed
Security***

The Lord also feels the hurt, the pain and the loneliness of children. One day in our Missionary school, lunch was nearly finished, when a small and very sad child came up and asked, "Is there anymore?" In this sad request I felt so strongly the Lord's compassion.

***He called out
"What's for tea?"
"Nothing," the empty
plate replied
"Why?" he asked
tears showed compassion
but do not feed***

***Despair
the companion
of the poor
knocks at his door
and drives him on
“Miss, are there
any leftovers?”***

***This child’s agony
breaks the heart
of the world***

Perhaps in that there is hope.

The Lord wants to heal the pains of the children. I see it in this verse - **It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms but they did not realise it was I who healed them.** This is an easy thing to write, but very painful to feel. It is the responsibility of the intercessors to feel it and plead for its releasing.

While I was reflecting on this, suddenly I was high up in the fire, and I looked across the Baltic, and across Russia. Everywhere I looked, I saw children – young children – crying. They were lost, and crying for help, for hope, for love. I heard their voices, crying, “Where are you? Help us.” I was deeply distressed, and asked the Lord what this was about. He replied,

“The waves of pain have come and gone. This is what they have left. Someone must search for these children and bring them home.”

Who is going to fulfil this commission - **I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.**

Chapter 3. Intercession and the children - the intercessory heart

How do intercessors enter into the Lord's heart for children? Here is the experience which brought me to this place of intercession. I can only invite those intercessors who are moved for children to read and enter into it. I have thought many times about explaining it, but I felt in the end that I had to let it speak for itself. It was an incredibly painful vision, and even though it is decades old, it still lives in me as clearly today as it did when I saw it.

The road

I was walking on a road filled with thorns. Every step I took was painful, because the thorns pierced my feet. I wanted to stand still, but ahead of me I saw the Lord, and he was calling me to himself. But to get to him, I had to walk on the thorns, and I did not want to do that.

"You cannot choose when you follow me or where you follow me," he said. "You cannot choose to follow for one day, or one week, and then stop. You cannot choose a nice path, but ignore a hard one. You must walk the Way always, whatever is in your path. You must love me so much that whatever the cost, you will come. You must desire to share my sufferings every day and every hour. Your constant journey must be towards Calvary, and as you journey this path, every step will be Calvary for you. You must become Calvary among my creation, so that you will know their sufferings and mine."

The child

I saw a child, laying in the road, deep in the thorns, bleeding and crying. I was shocked. "How did you come to be here?" I asked. "Help me," it sobbed. "No one comes to help me." My heart was filled with compassion, but as I moved to help, my feet were crucified by the thorns. I cried out in pain – "Lord, I want to show compassion, but it is hurting me so much."

The Lord did not speak. The child cried, and deep in my heart, the spirit of compassion stirred. The cross called me. I stepped out to rescue the child. The thorns bit into me, but compassion grew stronger than the thorns. I was crying in pain when I arrived at the child. I lifted the child, and in great agony of spirit, I turned and walked towards the Lord. The journey was endless. The pain hurt, but the sorrow of the child hurt more and began to overcome my own sufferings.

Carry the child

I finally arrived at the cross, covered in blood and pain. "Take the child," I cried. "Now you can heal." "No," said the Lord. "It is not so easy as that. You must continue to bear the child, day after day. You must bear the burden day after day. You must release the compassion day after day. Do you think you can put down your suffering? I suffer day after day for the heartbreak of my children. If you truly want to share my sufferings, you must do the same."

A great challenge

This was the challenge for me. Was my sharing of the Lord's love and burden for children going to be a one-off experience? Was I only prepared to carry the burden for a while, and then put it down and rush on to the next thing? That is what I see so often in God's people. Or was I going to accept the burden day after day, year after year until he allowed me to put it down - which in line with this vision was never going to happen?

Once the burden for children is accepted it cannot be put down. It cannot become a part-time experience. I have found it very hard to fulfil this vision - yet strangely rewarding. Can what I am doing as an intercessor with children make any difference? Experienced intercessors learnt long ago that this question is irrelevant. We are there to share the Lord's burden. What he does with our sharing is his privilege.

Chapter 4. Rooms in the 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." I have not found the rooms in this tower easy to describe. I have tried to be as clear as possible.

Door

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

(Matthew 19:14)

This is the obvious verse to find as intercessors enter their intercession for children. The Lord holds the children close. Intercessors must share his passion and burden for them.

Room - The Lord's compassion

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

(Matthew 9:36)

The Greek word for compassion means "To have the bowels moved." It is a deep and heart-moving feeling on seeing the pain and struggle in others.

With this in mind, intercessors can look at this -

I finally arrived at the cross, covered in blood and pain. "Take the child," I cried. "Now you can heal." "No," said the Lord. "It is not so easy as that. You must continue to bear the child, day after day."

I had seen the pain and somehow I had picked up the child and managed to carry it to the cross. As an intercessor this has been my burden for 40 years - forty years of compassion and sorrow. In the end I came to the conclusion that the only thing I could do was to carry the child myself to the cross. If no one else would do it, then I would do it. Intercessors who plead for children are going to have to do the same.

Room - Am I willing to feel?

Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children."

(Luke 23:28)

This room is a challenge - to feel and respond to the Lord's compassion in some way. That's what the mothers of Plaza de Mayo did. This true story comes from Argentina. The Government of Argentina had, in the 1970's, a policy of abducting people, who then disappeared without trace. Those taken were known as the "Disappeared" and it was impossible to find out what had happened to them. But the mothers decided to take action.

On the afternoon of 30 April 1977, 14 courageous women set aside all their fears and worries and left their homes to confront the Dictatorship which had stolen their children. That day marked the first weekly march by the mothers of Argentina's "disappeared" against the military commanders who had planned the systematic murder of thousands. They marched and marched and marched. Mothers are not easily beaten and they were not beaten.

Four decades and 2,037 marches later, the mothers are still marching, though some of them must now use wheelchairs. The mothers' white headscarves became a symbol of courage and their hard struggle for justice. They have largely succeeded in their original aims. By 2016, more than 1,000 of the dictatorship's torturers and killers had been tried and 700 sentenced.

The Mothers of Argentina allowed their feelings to lead them to action. For intercessors, feelings must lead to deeper and deeper compassion. They have to "march" before the Lord over and over again, bearing the children of the world.

Room - tears

Bearing the burden of the children has a strong element of tears. What tears are to be found in this room?

Broken heart tears

**In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord,
weeping bitterly. (1 Samuel 1:10-16)**

Hannah's tears poured out from her broken heart. Those who want to cry tears for the children often do so from a personal tragedy. Why is it this way? I don't really know, but a broken heart seems to give entry into a spring, a river, an ocean of tears – tears which can be used to cry for the children.

Tears of love

A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

(Luke 7:36-38)

This woman cried out of love. Her tears were tears of love, offered to the Lord because he loved and valued her.

These same "love" tears need to be offered by the intercessory stream for the beauty of the children the Lord has made. Mixing the broken heart tears and the tears of love makes them a powerful offering to the Lord - one he will not ignore.

Room - Share the Lord's heart

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

(1 John 4:10)

These rooms challenge intercessors. The challenge is to feel the compassion, to feel the love and to come before the Lord in intercession with these emotions in the heart. When intercessors do this, they will meet a heart of overwhelming love and compassion - just waiting to be released into the children of the world. This is how I felt, and this is where intercession for the children starts and finishes - at the cross. This is where intercession can bring the children. This is where they can be healed and set free. This is their hope - their only hope.

**You bear the burden
of your world
and I see how much it hurts you.
I want to help, by bearing it
that your hurt might cease,
but I cannot.
Why will you not let me end your pain?
“Crucifixion never ends
for those who truly love.”**

What now?

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 I serve also as a missionary in Ghana. I have been an intercessor for many of those years.



Recently I have been learning about towers of intercession - special places in the world where intense intercession is needed. This material looks at North Ossetia and how it is a tower that focusses on children.

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.

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

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

England. Jim explores how the spiritual gates to the nation can be restored.

Visit our website for this and much more material
and video teaching

www.unshakeable-towers.org