



# BURNING ISSUES

JUL '26

## Covenants

+ OUR FIRST MISSION TRIP WITH FLAME

• FIELD REPORT: NIGERIA





Our vision is to see people set free from the pain and trauma of war, terror or oppression – releasing God's healing, forgiveness and reconciliation.

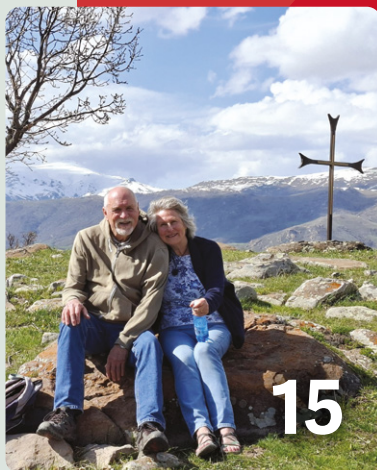
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## In this issue

- 4 Covenants
- 10 Fear of the Lord
- 15 Our First Mission Trip with Flame
- 18 Jezebel Spirit
- 24 Field Report: Nigeria
- 30 Giving as a response to God's grace
- 34 The Forge: Testimonies
- 36 Book Review
- 38 News
- 40 What's On

## Hello,

I want to give thanks to the Lord for three great missions this year - from Nigeria in February, featured in our Field Report; then to Arua, Uganda, in April led by Sharon Borland who had a great time with YWAM, Arua, and a very fruitful mission into a refugee camp where over 70 people turned up and, finally, we returned from Armenia early May, where we ran a Forge Armenia course. David and Annette Herron who came, have written up their first time experience on mission! We will report on the Ukraine and Burundi missions in May and June in the next edition.

We have two meaty articles from Tristan on *Covenants* and the *Fear of the Lord*, both with a focus on their relevance to Healing the Land. Ian Fall has written on *Jezebel*, as many of us have come under the influence of what can be a spirit, but we do not know how to handle it. Our guest writer this month, Simba Mupfumira, has written an excellent article on *Giving*, it really is worth reading.

We are advertising our **Supporters Weekend 12-14 March 2027** at King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton. We will be focussing on *Understanding the Persecuted Church*, and the Right Reverend Mark Mukan will be coming to speak on Persecution in Nigeria. He is the most joyous man with a dynamic speaking gift. We also welcome Julyan and Lenna Lidstone who bring a wealth of experience from the Silk Roads and today I have just had confirmation that Pete and Pip Gardener will come and talk about *How to Pray for a World in Crisis*. We are excited and praying for the presence of the Lord to be with us. **Book now! You can pay in instalments.**

Finally, we have a great Book Review by Sarah Stevenson, *Women Who Risk: Secret agents for Jesus in the Muslim world* by Tom and Joann Doyle. Sarah says, "the authors take us through seven captivating stories of women who find themselves at the feet of Jesus in the most astounding ways and concludes with practical takeaways and offer steps to get involved with their ministries." I feel compelled to read it.



Blessings Galore!

*Jan*

**Jan Ransom**  
Founder & Director



# COVENANTS

By Tristan Stevenson

**T**hough covenants are rarely used or understood in our modern western culture, there is enormous benefit to seeking understanding and insight into God's creation of 'covenants'. It is encouraging to consider that God created the idea and use of covenants and when we seek the Scriptures it is very clear that He considers them to be very important. If God, the Creator of all things, considers something to be important – then indeed, whether we understand it or not, it is important!

We have already highlighted that in modern western culture it is a phrase we would rarely use and so one of the first things we can do is look at covenants not through a Greek/gentile mindset, but through a Hebrew mindset. It will be helpful to look at God's relationship with Israel and Israel's relationship with God to understand covenant more, as I believe the people group who understand covenants best is the Jews. They are the only ethnic group on the planet whose identity is based on a covenant with God. No other ethnic people group on earth can say that they are who they are because God has chosen them to be a covenant people with Him. The Jews are a covenant people, they are literally called, in Hebrew, *b'nai b'rith* which means 'the sons of the covenant.' *Romans 9:4-5* speaks of the people of Israel, "Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine

glory, *the covenants*, the receiving the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen."

Their call and purpose were to learn to walk in covenant with their God so that the Messiah could be born on the earth to a people group who were the Lord's covenant people. The Messiah had to be born amongst a people group who were in covenant relationship with the Lord. The Old Testament then is filled with stories of how this covenant relationship was working out; God showing His faithfulness, but Israel often not meeting the requirements of the covenant.

**'In covenant, you are permanently identifying yourself with another person.'**

So, as we seek Hebraic understanding of covenant, we are sure to gain a better understanding of our New Covenant relationship with God, through Christ Jesus. Dr Robert Heidler defines covenant as "a solemn and binding commitment between two or more parties". He goes on to write, "It is a pledge of total *loyalty*. In covenant, you are permanently identifying yourself with another person."<sup>1</sup> ►

**God's covenant with Israel is confirmed through the fact that God has forever identified Himself with the Jewish people:**

- ✦ God has named Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob forever, *Exodus 3:15*
- ✦ He is the God of Jacob, who became Israel, *Genesis 32:28 & 35:10*
- ✦ Jesus Himself, born of the Jewish tribe of Judah will forever be known as, "The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David." *Revelation 5:5*
- ✦ God has even identified Himself with this people group so much that the eternal home of His people and dwelling place of Himself, the New Jerusalem, will have a great high wall with twelve gates. On the gates through which we enter the New Jerusalem are written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, *Revelation 21:12*

**These are signs of God's covenant faithfulness!**

God is a covenant-making God and He wants to be in covenant relationship with His chosen people. God has made covenant with Israel, but more importantly, God has made covenant with the Church of Jesus Christ – those who are redeemed

and purchased by His Son. We are a covenant people, of the New Covenant – of which Christ is the mediator. God is now entirely faithful to us and identifies with us as His children and Him as our Father! We can learn from Old Testament scripture some helpful insights into the New Covenant with Christ.

Let's look at a covenant in *1 Samuel 18:1-4*. "After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. From that day Saul kept David with him and did not let him return home to his family. And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt."

What is going on here? They were performing a covenant-making ceremony which involved exchanges.



**ROBE**

Exchanging robes is symbolising an exchange of identity. Jonathan would have worn his prince's robe, a royal robe, and David may have been wearing his shepherd's robe. As Jonathan and David entered covenant, they exchanged their identities – literally saying, 'I identify myself with you, I will share in who you are, and you will share in who I am.'

**That's what Jesus has done with us!** Jesus put on Himself our robes of filth and sin, and in exchange has given us His robe of righteousness. He identified Himself with us by "being made in human likeness and being found in appearance as a man", *Philippians 2:7-8*, whilst we become heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, sharing in His glory!

**WEAPONS**

Jonathan gave David his sword and bow, whilst David may have given Jonathan his shepherd's sling. This is *significant!* The exchange of weapons symbolises the exchange of enemies. Literally saying, 'Your enemies are now my enemies. I will fight those who fight against you. When you are attacked, I will show my covenant loyalty to you and come to your aid. I will fight against your enemies.' *This is at the heart of covenant.*

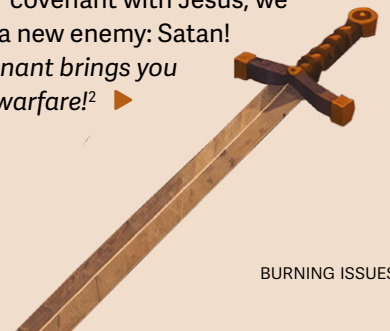
**BELT**

The belt is a symbol of strength, and so they exchanged strength for strength. David may have had a shepherd's belt, whereas Jonathan would have had a prince's warrior's belt. Their exchange of belts would have meant, 'My strength is now your strength'.

**Again, that's what Jesus has done for us!** Jesus has given us His strength, His power – that the *same power* that raised Christ from the dead lives in us, whilst He took the form of man and humbled Himself and took on our weaknesses, *Isaiah 53:4*.



**This is true of our relationship with Jesus.** As we are covenant partners with Him, our enemies are His enemies, and God has promised to be our defender. But also, God's enemies are now our enemies. When we enter covenant with Jesus, we gain a new enemy: Satan! *Covenant brings you into warfare!* ▶



Covenant then, is an incredibly important aspect of spiritual warfare. The spirit realm respects the authority and binding agreement of covenant, and we are encouraged that when we warfare for the Kingdom of God, we acknowledge and honour the covenant that we have with God through Christ Jesus.

However, being in covenant requires faithfulness and loyalty – we are to honour our covenant agreement. Our faithful covenant-making God hates broken covenants, and the Lord even warns us that there can be severe consequences to this. *Isaiah 24:5-6* says, “The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse consumes the earth.” Unfaithfulness in marriage and divorce are very common these days, but these are indeed broken covenants and as well as bringing much harm to the family, it can bring curse upon the land.

Godly covenants aren't of course the only covenants that can be made and unfortunately the results of ungodly covenants can be disastrous. Sometimes when Flame has taught on the subject of ungodly covenants bringing curse upon the land and its people, the local church has identified ungodly covenants made on

the land. Where ungodly covenants (often sealed with blood) have been made on the land, the only power that overthrows the terms of that covenant is the power of the blood covenant of Jesus Christ. The local church then, through confession, repentance and forgiveness, can pray for the land to be cleansed and ungodly covenants to be broken in the Name of Jesus, overcoming the evil powers from the ungodly covenant with the power of God.

One time a Flame team were in the Nuba Mountain Bible College, Sudan, where there were sicknesses and death on the land as the forefathers had covenanted the land to the powers of darkness. After a time of confession, repentance and forgiveness, Communion was taken on the land and the curses broken by the Bishop, Church leaders, and members. The Flame team learnt some months later from one of the Pastors at the Bible College when the cleansing was done, that there had been no more sickness and death!

Another time in Kenema, Sierra Leone, the Flame team met with the local Pentecostal Pastor who was a nephew of the Tribal Chief who was Muslim, and we had been asked to take extra, extra large t-shirts as gifts! We did that and gave them to the Chiefs who were very pleased with us

**‘The spirit realm respects the authority and binding agreement of covenant,’**



because it was in their tribal colour of bottle green. They said they gave us authority to do all the Lord had sent us to do.

So, under that authority we were informed that their ancestors had covenanted the land to the powers of darkness. Terrible bloodshed was enacted on this land with soldiers gambling about the gender of children in women's wombs and then found out who won in very violent ways!

The churches came together in unity and broke bread together, stood in the gap and repented of the sins of their ancestors. They forgave them, then took the wine representing the blood of Jesus and poured it on the ungodly covenanted land and broke the curses.

The next day one Pentecostal Pastor came and told us that he had a dream that a prophecy of 15 years ago had been fulfilled. He said, “I never believed it would be through a bunch of old white women!” We laughed, but we knew the Lord had completed a miracle!

May we be encouraged then, to consider and honour the covenant relationship we have with the Most High, through Jesus Christ.

Lord, give us greater insight and understanding of the New Covenant and give us grace to be utterly faithful to it. Let us also consider if we have previously made ungodly covenants and renounce them in the Name of Jesus, and re-affirm the covenant of Christ, breaking the curses and commanding any ungodly spirits to go.

We are hopeful that in these days there will be an awakening to the power and blessing of healing the land. As some of you may go forward in this initiative, gathering others of like mind, seek the Lord as to if there are any ungodly covenants that have been made over the area of land. If you are operating in a Church Body, under godly authority, we can stand in the gap on behalf of ungodly covenants made, and through confession, repentance and forgiveness we can renounce and break ungodly covenants in the Name of Jesus. As we then re-affirm our covenant with Jesus Christ, we can pray for curses to be broken and for the Lord's blessings to come. As we come before the Lord with holy fear, wanting to honour Him and His covenant, remember *Psalms 85:9*, “Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, so our land will be filled with his glory.”

# Fear of the Lord

By Tristan Stevenson

**T**he fear of the Lord is perhaps the greatest treasure the Church needs in these days. That is a big statement, but I wouldn't say it if I didn't believe it was true! Many of us may be aware of the subtle withdrawing from the ways of the fear of God over the past several decades, but it is also at this present time that the message of the fear of the Lord is re-appearing; in books, sermons, prayers, dreams and in lives lived out.

God absolutely desires His people to have a holy fear of Him, *Psalm 147:11*. It is a gift from Him, not to be ignored. In past decades there has been a wonderful outpouring of the Holy Spirit on much of the worldwide Church, and we know it very well in the West. For the post-World War Church, this outpouring has been a healing revelation of the Father heart of God and a deeper understanding of the enormous grace of God, even given to us through the increase of

spiritual gifts. This is wonderful. But over time I believe the pendulum has swung so far towards the side of love, grace and the use of the gifts that we have largely forgotten the fear of God, the pursuit of holiness, the eternal and fiery judgement of God, the discipline of the Lord to His people and consequences for sin, and the absolute 'non-negotiables' of God's nature and laws that are subtly being dismissed in much of the Ecclesia today, resulting in many believers in Christ to not just tolerate but rejoice in and support the growth of sins that God considers an abomination.

As we draw nearer to the return of Christ, it is prophesied in the book of Malachi that there will be a great distinction between the people of God and the people of this world, and the mark of this will be the fear of the Lord in His people, *Malachi 3:16-18*. The Holy Spirit is trumpeting a message in these days to be made

ready and blameless for the Lord's coming, and an undeniable aspect of perfecting holiness for the Church is to return to the fear of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord comes with a greater revelation of the nature of God and I believe the highest revelation of the nature of God is that He is holy. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come", *Revelation 4:8*, is the revelation spoken out from the mighty Seraphim who are continually in His presence. This means that in Him is light, there is no darkness or sin; He is utterly perfect. As this is His nature, He calls His people to live in His same nature; "Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy", *Leviticus 19:2*, and "without holiness, no one will see the Lord", *Hebrews 12:14*.

Every believer and follower of Christ is called to holiness, but we must consider our pursuit of holy living. *2 Corinthians 7:1* says, "let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." The perfecting of holiness for the bride of Christ is done in the fear of God. This is both hopeful and insightful.

God's holiness combines with His hatred towards sin and evil, "Six things the LORD hates, seven which are an abomination to Him...", *Proverbs 6:16-19*. God's hatred of sin and evil does not contradict His love as it is entirely connected. Consider it simply; If God loves justice, He must



**"Be holy, for I, the LORD  
your God, am holy"**  
Leviticus 19:2

therefore *hate* injustice. Likewise, if God loves covenant faithfulness, He must therefore *hate* covenant unfaithfulness. "I hate divorce", the Lord says in *Malachi 2:16*. *Proverbs 8:13* says, "The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil". This is a foundational understanding of the fear of the Lord and comes from identifying oneself with the Lord who is holy and who hates evil. When we can begin to comprehend that we might be doing something that God absolutely hates, we begin to be aware of the fear of the Lord.

Holiness and hatred of sin and evil are foundational aspects of fearing the Lord, but I would say a self-awareness of fearing Him comes when we fear His discipline and the possible consequences for sin. The entirety of Scripture from beginning in Genesis to ending in Revelation is full of the warnings of God and when He gives His people a ►

warning that they do not heed, there can be costly consequences. This is not just an Old Testament theme, but very much so a continuation for the Church today. We know such consequences of sin for the Israelites who tested the Lord in the wilderness included tens of thousands dying before the Lord, but as the early Church was founded after Pentecost two followers of Christ, Ananias and Sapphira, conspired to test the Spirit of the Lord which resulted in their immediate death, **Acts 5:4-9**. Of course, this holy fear of Christ's judgement and discipline caused the fear of the Lord to come upon the whole Church community and even on unbelievers – resulting in many more people coming to salvation, **Acts 5:11-14** and the Church being strengthened, **Acts 9:31**.

A sign of the lack of the fear of God, therefore, is hearing a warning from God and thinking, "Oh, He wouldn't actually do that to me – it'll be fine".

In the book of Genesis, we understand that the reason sin came into humanity at the very beginning was because of a lack of the fear of God. God had warned Adam and Eve, "If you eat of this fruit, you will surely die". That should have invoked a holy fear into their hearts! A fear of God's judgement, a fear of just consequences for their sin. If Adam and Eve had a holy fear of God, that would have kept them from sinning, as "through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided", **Proverbs 16:6**. In the book



of Revelation, the Lord Jesus also gives warnings to His Church that if they do not repent, very costly and eternal consequences shall be given, **Revelation 2 & 3**. But here we come to the point we all need to grasp, if we sincerely repent, His mercy is granted and we are restored to Him. Jesus says, "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent", **Revelation 3:19**. The fear of the Lord, therefore, leads us to hope-filled repentance.

I want now to consider a question that we will look through for the rest of this article. How can this holy fear be the key to release the blessings of heaven onto the earth, in our communities, cities and nations? Let us take encouragement that when God comes down into our midst in glory, the Spirit of the fear of the Lord utterly transforms lives. Duncan Campbell who experienced

the 1949-1953 revival in the Hebrides writes, "Revival is a going of God among his people, and an awareness of God laying hold of the community. Here we see the difference between a successful campaign and revival; in the former we may see many brought to a saving knowledge of the truth, and the church or mission experience a time of quickening, but so far as the town or district is concerned no real change is visible; the world goes on its way and the dance and picture – shows are still crowded: but in revival *the fear of God lays hold upon the community*, moving men and women, who until then had no concern for spiritual things, to seek after God."<sup>1</sup>

In the March 2026 *Burning Issues*, we wrote an article on 'Healing the Land' – one of Flame's most transformational teachings. We teach from Scripture how sin can bring defilement and curse upon the land. This sin and defilement can allow demonic strongholds over a given area, and this ungodly spiritual presence is like a shroud, blinding the eyes and hearts of the people in that area to the fullness and glory of Jesus Christ. God then gives this mandate to His people, the Church; "If my

people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land", **2 Chronicles 7:14**.

In order for us in Christ Jesus to stand in the gap on behalf of the sin on the land, we need to understand God's hatred of sin, His just consequences for sin, the importance of our personal holiness, and know the wisdom of God as He shares with us about the hidden darkness and sin that is polluting the land. **Psalm 25:14** tells us that, "The Lord confides in those who fear Him", and this is absolutely key in seeking the Lord for what sin has happened on the land. *He will share it with those whom He can trust, and they will have the same attitude towards sin that He does!* Rev. Dr. Alistair Petrie writes, "It is the Lord Himself who will instruct us as to why any particular area is closed or blinded to the knowledge of His call upon their lives....that is the moment when impediments and obstacles that have prevented earlier transforming revival from taking place can be addressed and removed."<sup>2</sup> But God's co-workers must be walking ►

"... in revival the fear of God lays hold upon the community, moving men and women, who until then had no concern for spiritual things, to seek after God."

in holiness themselves before interceding for the sins of others, for first we are to remove the plank from our own eye, before removing the speck out of theirs! Alistair continues to write, "When the fear of the Lord is prayed into and over a city, God reveals, informs, gives insight, and gives instruction on what needs to be done. *We start with ourselves* [emphasis mine]. We address any areas of sin that the Lord reveals, both past and present, and repent before Him for the sin, asking His forgiveness. Then we extend this into corporate prayer. Any footholds the enemy has accessed are then revealed and addressed since the sin that was the foundation for such footholds has now been identified, repented of, and removed. Then the actual healing of the land can be appropriated in a manner that releases the heart and purpose and destiny of the Lord in any given area."<sup>3</sup>

The fear of the Lord then, is a 'non-negotiable' for effective intercession to heal the land and bring about revival. "We can only really pray for authentic revival to take place to the degree that we have the fear of the Lord in our own lives before we pray for it to be released into our communities"<sup>4</sup> (Petrie).

Not only is the fear of the Lord a pre-requisite to these things, but it is also the ultimate result! What we truly hope for is for revival in our communities and in our nation, and the hallmark of a true revival is the



**"the hallmark of a true revival is the release of the fear of the Lord"**

release of the fear of the Lord. So then, for those who long to see revival shake their nation, for the healing of the land, we are to earnestly seek the fear of the Lord – for ourselves first, then others. Be encouraged with God's desire to transform lives through the holy fear of God. As Petrie puts it, "Praying for a release of the fear of the Lord is perhaps one of the most powerful weapons that we can appropriate from God's arsenal."

## Our First Mission Trip with Flame

By Annette and Dave Herron

**Having completed Forge 1 and 2 in Leeds last Autumn we began to pray about joining a Flame Mission team.** When the Armenia trip opened it seemed apparent that the Lord had opened a door for us. We had prayed for Armenia for many years, and Dave had visited Yerevan with an Aid organisation only three years before.

We had some experience of short-term mission, but it soon became clear that the level of preparation was going to be more thorough and rigorous with Flame. The Forge course has relevant teaching, but as well as weekly Team Prayer in the build-up we also had a special Zoom preparation as 'first timers.' This was all very reassuring, and we felt that we were 'in good hands', albeit with the comment from an old hand that 'Mission with Flame is not for the faint hearted!' Amongst other things we noted the strong emphasis on unity, trusting the Lord, keeping flexible and practicalities like keeping away from alcohol and politics!

So, we set off into the unknown and began our sharp learning curve... new culture, new team and new roles. Annette oversaw the props with Dave taking pictures and praying over the conference room alongside Steve. Everyone was to lead some of the morning and evening devotionals and many were participating in the teaching slots during the Conference. This seemed to us a time of 'opportunity', both to serve and to be stretched, coupled with 'responsibility.' And not for the 'faint hearted!'

Possibly unlike mission to other places, the Armenia Mission didn't present great practical challenges for us as first timers. The Hotel was quaint but comfortable, the food was plentiful and mostly familiar, and we were only a stone's throw from shops and cafés in the nearby village. The challenges came from different sources.

Dave found the initial couple of days quite challenging, Annette ►

less so. Despite all the theoretical preparation it's only in the real-life outworking that issues emerge. He describes the working out as to what's appropriate, what nurtures and what erodes spiritual unity as the real culture shock for him. On reflection, this underscores the wisdom of the initial couple of days where the team were busy from morning to night with devotions and breaking bread, rehearsing dramas, as well as reading words and scriptures sent by those interceding for us back home. All necessary activities... but also excellent for team bonding.



Particularly helpful, and unifying, was the teaching on prophetic intercession. This emphasised keeping our hearts right before God and each other. We declared three times over, 'Jesus is Lord! Jesus is My lord! Jesus is Our Lord!'. Corporate humility leads to corporate unity which leads to corporate authority

– this was our experience the entire time. Everything was bathed in prayer under the fear of the Lord. The use of declarations and the process of crafting a declaration for Armenia was also an eye opener. This is just one example of how, in going to serve, the Lord blessed with insights, teaching and equipping which came as an unexpected treasure to bring home.

We were also privileged to be involved with the trialling of a new prayer ministry model. We were to listen to the Lord in pairs for the delegates, both to encourage them in their callings and to identify any strongholds designed to oppose them. We received initial training on this from Graham and looked forward to applying this with the delegates.

On the first Sunday we divided into groups to visit three churches. Gail had spoken in our Devotions on Mary pouring costly perfume on the feet of Jesus so that they carried that perfume with them. We both felt that we carried this to the church at Charentsevan where Jan spoke about Generational Blessings and Curses. The drama was well received, and we prayed for 48 people before heading to the Pastor's house for a wonderful lunch. Meeting the people was a great experience and gave us further insight into the Armenian culture.

The Conference then began later that evening, and the team worked seamlessly together. We all knew our roles, encouraging and covering each other. For most of the talks two or

three people were interceding outside as the worship, teaching and dramas proceeded. Then, each evening after the meal, we returned to minister in pairs to individual delegates. Although relatively inexperienced in personal ministry we both were encouraged at how our revelation was in harmony with our partners, at the enthusiastic response of the delegates and how the Lord was working. By Thursday there was such a sense of freedom and relief as God had clearly spoken and touched many lives. Testimonies were given of healing from long standing pain and sleeplessness and delegates shared how they had received new freedom and new vision for their future ministry. It was wonderful to break bread together and to present certificates in an atmosphere of fun and real affection.

On Friday we had a day off – and what a day! Beautiful weather, a visit to two monasteries – one on the border with Turkey in full view of mighty Ararat with eagles flying overhead. We finished with a tour of the beautiful countryside and a then meal gifted to the team in a lovely, secluded garden.

On Saturday we had the privilege of praying with Pastor Vardan and his wife Anush. Pastor Vardan is a significant figure in the unfolding story of the Lord's work in Armenia and surrounding nations. He has worked to foster unity amongst diverse church leaders and has facilitated the Flame missions in

recent years. He has suffered health problems recently and we were able to pray for this wonderful couple, for their health and their envisioning for Armenia's strategic positioning on the Silk Road and the Isaiah 19 Highway. Afterwards, as a team, we prayed for Flame's emerging role in Armenia. Our prayers for Vardan and for the future work continue here in the UK.

On Sunday we were again out to the churches. With Jan and Tom, our interpreter and driver, we went to Chambarak in the eastern mountains and just 1km from Azerbaijan. Only three years ago the two nations were at war! Again, we received wonderful hospitality, shared on Generational Influences and the Father's Love and we either hugged or prayed with most of the congregation. As we drove back along the shore of beautiful Lake Sevan surrounded by snowcapped mountains, we felt deep gratitude both to the Lord and the Flame Leadership.

Monday was a day of individual debriefing then packing, rest and the long journey home. With Jan we were able to reflect on our experience and contribution. As we expected there was nothing of sentimentality in that final process, just realistic appraisal, lessons to be learned and lots of encouragement. Mission with Flame may not be for the 'faint hearted' but, for us, it far exceeded expectations and whatever price we paid in terms of cash, time and sleepless nights, we can only recommend the experience.

# Jezebel Spirit

By Rev Ian Fall



We may, or may not, be aware of the Jezebel spirit but I suspect that at some point we will all have been exposed to it. In this article we'll explore what it is, what it does, the effect it has and finally what we can do about it, there is good news! One thing that makes this difficult is that we are more adept at seeing this in others than we are in ourselves, so there will be the need for us to look honestly as we consider this.

How do we feel about authority? It seems that the prevailing mood in our day is to treat all authority with suspicion and something to actively resist. I believe this is a mistake as it also encompasses Godly authority. Yes, of course, we need to call out the abuse of power, but at the same time we need to recognise that we ourselves are under authority, most obviously under the authority of Jesus. Our starting point is the Lordship of Jesus and our surrender and submission to Him. He has authority over us. He equips His disciples to exercise godly authority. When we are fully *under* godly authority, we will exercise godly authority.

Jezebel is one of the major ways Satan uses to war against and subvert godly authority, to try and replace it with ungodly control. Ungodly control is fed by the lie that unless we control things they will go wrong or not work out as we want. Satan wants us to exercise ungodly control. When we do that, we exert pressure on someone to over-ride their free will choice to get our own way.

Godly authority always values free will and the ability to make a choice without pressure or coercion. God always makes sure, that in our relationship with Him, we understand

what the choices are and what the consequences of those choices are. "I am now giving you the choice between life and death, between God's blessing and God's curse, and I call heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Choose life." *Deuteronomy 30:19.*

Jesus is invitational, He invites us to follow Him. This choice is sacrificial, costly, where we lay aside our own agenda with its self-serving, self-seeking desires to live His way. We are to pick up our cross, daily, and follow him, *Luke 9:23*. However, we live in a fallen world. We are in a spiritual battle between the desires

of the flesh (body and soul) and the spirit, *Romans 7*.

As a result of our fallenness, at some point in our lives, we will have either been

controlled or controlling. For some of us this is a current, rather than a past, experience.

We'll look briefly at domination, manipulation and intimidation, which are closely associated with Jezebel and then go on to look at the spirit of Jezebel. Domination is the use of force to get someone to submit or do what the other wants. Manipulation is coercive control, sometimes subtle in its approach, which can also be use of emotions to bend another to their will, or giving the silent treatment. ►

**'When we are fully under godly authority, we will exercise godly authority.'**

**"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but ... against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."**

Intimidation can be through the threat of violence, but also through mood swings. You don't know how someone will react. They fly off the handle.

The problem is that these behaviours are effective. They get others to do what the controlling person wants. So, for that person, there is little incentive to change, regardless of the damage it causes to themselves and to the people they control. It masks brokenness.

So, what about Jezebel? We encounter the person Jezebel in *1 and 2 Kings*. Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal, *1 Kings 18*. Ahab tells Jezebel, *1 Kings 19:1*. She sends a message, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." *1 Kings 19:2*. Elijah runs for his life, *1 Kings 19:3*.

Have you ever wondered why Elijah fled so easily from one woman having just defeated the 450 prophets of Baal? The reason is this is spiritual,

demonic ungodly control, the heart of the Jezebel spirit! Elijah was reacting because a spirit of fear had landed on him. It was not the threat from Jezebel, in and of itself, but rather the demonic spirit operating in her that impacted him and caused Elijah to flee.

What does scripture reveal to us about the Jezebellic spirit? In *Revelation 2* we find the spirit of Jezebel at work. "I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet." *Revelation 2:20*. *Ephesians 6:12* reminds us, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but ... against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." What are we to do when we are confronted by the Jezebel spirit? We are to contend with the spirit behind the person that's in front of us. This enables us to "love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you", *Matthew 5:44*. We extend grace to the person but do not tolerate the spirit in operation.

It needs to be noted that the Jezebel spirit is not gender specific, men can equally exhibit this as well as women.

For Jezebel to operate it needs an Ahab, someone who is not willing to challenge, who is passive, anything for a quiet life, best not rock to boat, it's not worth the hassle. They don't want to confront because of what is likely to come back.

How does Jezebel become established and what causes people to behave this way? It could be abuse, trauma, generational influences, unforgiveness, bitterness, broken and wounded spirits. Rejection is a huge doorway for Jezebel. As a result of this they project their wounding away from themselves and go on the offensive to mask their own brokenness. They use guilt as a weapon. Have you ever challenged someone about something, and you are the one that ends up apologising? That's likely to be a Jezebel spirit at work. They play the victim; they might use emotional blackmail, 'You are rejecting me like everyone else.' Remember, we are gracious to the person, but not to the spirit behind it.

The Jezebel spirit craves influence and will do anything to get it. They are good at blame shifting. You will rarely hear someone with the Jezebel spirit apologise. They often twist the truth, telling half-truths that have the sound of authenticity but leave out vital details that give the whole picture and completely change the narrative. Has someone ever said something, and

it has got you to question something that you knew to be true? You start to doubt yourself? That's likely to be a Jezebel spirit.

Jezebel tries to make themselves indispensable. They are self-appointed "calls herself a prophet", *Revelation 2:20*. They use spiritual language to manipulate situations, 'God has told me'. However, they quench the Spirit, engineering things in their favour. Now, we absolutely believe that God speaks today, but this is not what is going on here. Has anyone ever said to you, 'Everyone is saying', 'I'm sure you'll agree....' It may be an attempt to manipulate; it is a Jezebel spirit.

Let's consider what happened to Elijah and see some of the effects of the Jezebel spirit. Elijah flees from Jezebel due to the demonic spirit at work in her, he has allowed a spirit of fear to land on him; notice he did not pray on receiving the message from Jezebel. Do we get fearful when we consider addressing a particular person? Does the prospect of confronting that person fill you with dread? It is not the person but rather the spirit behind that causes the fear. "Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you." *James 4:7*. If we are afraid, it can be a spirit. It has power because we submit to it, tolerate it. This is a constant battle. Jezebel must control circumstances and situations and those around them. Sometimes it is subtle. It wants to get close to those with authority. Wants to ▶

influence. Wants the power but not the responsibility. 'I've got your back', 'I'm called to serve you'. On other occasions it is anything but subtle and makes people back off due to the aggression.

Have you ever wanted to get away from everything and everybody? "Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness." There is a huge difference between solitude and isolation. In a church setting this person brings division. They aim to divide and conquer setting one person against another. They use gossip dressed up as spiritual concern. 'Would you pray for ...'. This spirit can cause leaders to back off, to withdraw and not to confront. It feels as if it's just not worth the aggravation. This toleration is the Ahab spirit at work.

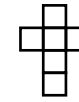
Elijah was exhausted. We can be too when we try to appease the person in front of us rather than contending with the spirit behind the behaviour. It impacts our thoughts, decisions and feelings. There is a lack of peace, and we may have difficulty sleeping. We may think we'll get a quiet life by giving in to the person but then there's always the next thing. It's never enough because there is a spirit at the root. This spirit wants to dominate and keep others in bondage. As long as it is tolerated it will impact us.

Elijah felt he wanted to die. People impacted by Jezebel may even have thoughts of suicide, or at least they may have thoughts of quitting, getting



away, doing something different. All of this is down to the demonic spirit of Jezebel. At one point while in church leadership I thought, 'If I was just incapacitated for a while, nothing serious, just sufficient to keep me in bed for a while, I would get some peace.' It was a Jezebel spirit at work.

What can we do? We should not start by saying, 'You've got a Jezebel spirit!' That would not be helpful. We are dealing with a spirit, and it needs a spiritual solution. Let the Lord deal with you before you try to deal with Jezebel in someone else. Is there an area of our lives that is not fully surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus? God desires you to be transformed and clean before Him. To dispel darkness, we must turn on the light. As a friend of mine said, "God will deliver you from your enemies, not



your friends!" We must be prepared to surrender control to Jesus, repent of, and be delivered of, any Jezebel in us. Ask the question, have I controlled people? Is there a root of rejection, abuse, trauma or a generational influence in me? If so, confess, repent, forgive, cut ungodly influences, cast out the spirit of Jezebel, cover with the blood of Jesus and fill with the Spirit. Have I, or am I being, controlled? Have I been an Ahab? In which case confess, repent, forgive.

This may be an active situation. In which case when we meet with the person, we can bind the spirit of Jezebel in them, **Matthew 18:18**, forbid it to operate and pray the blood of Jesus over ourselves. This will not release the person from the Jezebel spirit, but it is effective in curtailing its influence. We must not respond according to the flesh as this is not the answer. Do not retaliate in kind; that only manipulates the evil you are trying to overcome. The truth is for someone to be set free from a Jezebel spirit they need to recognise that it is in operation in themselves, it's difficult but not impossible! The thing that we cannot do is think that it will just go away. *We must not tolerate the spirit of Jezebel, Revelation 2:20*, but by the blood of Jesus it can be overcome. "He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world!", **1 John 4:4**.



# THE FORGE

## FORGE 1: DEVON

Rora House, Halford,  
Liverton, Newton Abbott.  
TQ12 6HZ

**5-6**  
SEP

**3-4**  
OCT

**7-8**  
NOV

## FORGE 1 (S): Camberley

St Paul's Church, Crawley  
Ridge, Camberley. GU15 2AD

**26**  
SEP

**24**  
OCT

**28**  
NOV

**9**  
JAN

**30**  
JAN

**27**  
FEB

**20**  
MAR

Full details are at  
**flameinternational.org/  
theforge**

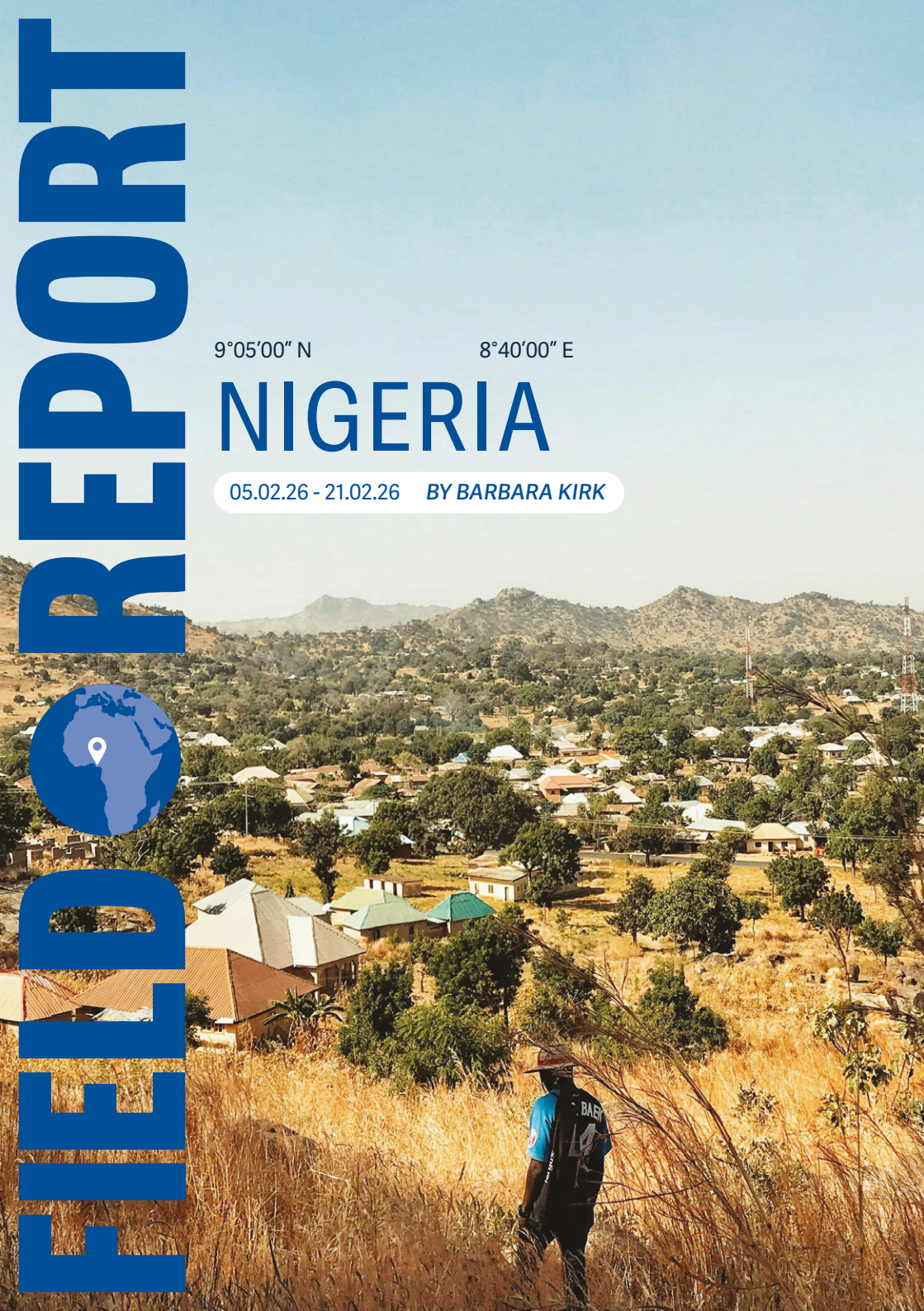
# FIELD REPORT

9°05'00" N

8°40'00" E

## NIGERIA

05.02.26 - 21.02.26 BY BARBARA KIRK



When I came across Flame International, nearly three years ago and discovered what they did, I had such an excitement within me. I knew it was the Lord and felt deep down - 'I want to do that!'

To be honest, I didn't imagine that it would actually happen. I had never been to a third world country, never been to Africa, never been on mission, but in February this year I found myself sitting in Heathrow airport with a group of eight of us all wearing Flame t-shirts on our way to Nigeria!

It is hard to describe the impact of arriving in a country where everything is completely unknown, where the sounds, the people and even the smells are foreign! When we arrived, it was hot and muggy, I was exhausted from the travel and really overwhelmed. I knew I needed to be patient with myself. At 64 I wondered if it was too late, but the way that God led me in the months leading up to the mission, I knew this was what God was wanting me to do. Not only did I see all the money come in for the trip through donations, but also, He was so gracious to me in preparing me emotionally and mentally so I could stand in Him and not be intimidated by fear.

When we arrived at Jos and one of the baggage handlers said, 'Oh, Flame, you're back - please pray for me!', I realised that this was a very different country from good old UK!

It was strange because, although it was entirely different and unknown,

it felt in some ways comfortable and safe. This was very much at odds with the actual situation as we had landed in an area of Nigeria where there are regular and shocking incidents of murder and destruction. I can only put it down to the Lord preparing me and shielding the team through the faithful prayers of our supporters. They were all such an integral part of this mission. We could not have done this without them, and we were so keenly aware of their prayers holding and protecting us from harm.

When I arrived all, I could think was 'why me?' What on earth had qualified me to do this? The Lord spoke to me and said, 'just give me the little you have, your loaf and your fish - that is enough!'

So, I went with a very humble heart knowing that it was nothing to do with what I could bring of myself - I really had so very little, but all I needed to do was to give it to God, be obedient to Him and He would do the rest!

Another key element into making this a completely unforgettable experience was the team's unity, care, and support. I was so grateful for this team! We came together on the first day in Nigeria to pray and intercede for the mission. We composed a declaration of intention and unity that we recited most days. We prayed and worshipped every morning and evening and I found the commitment to ensure everyone was ok within the team such a blessing and so important. ►

We had to be escorted everywhere - it was just not safe to 'wander' - so in reality all we saw was our hotel and the conference centres. As soon as we passed through the gates of the conference centres or the hotel, the steel doors would be shut and bolted. The hotel had a 24-hour guard stationed at the entrance to the hotel grounds. I thought that would be difficult and feel oppressive, but it just felt safe.

I found the Nigerian people to be so gracious and welcoming. We were in the Jos Plateau and the people we encountered were humble, gracious and full of the joy of the Lord, but they are suffering so much. As I write this, we have just heard of another 50 Christians who were killed by the Boko Haram in Jos city - exactly where we were in February.

The statistics from the mission were quite extraordinary - see the full report - but that doesn't really explain what really impacted me. I realised the statistics were not important to the Lord. The individual lives were what mattered to him and even if we only ministered to a very few, He would have had us go there. His abundance and extravagant grace saw each individual as precious in His sight.

We saw Jesus transforming lives from the inside out. There was one young man in particular who had seen things no human should see (60 people from his village were murdered and his home and village burnt to the ground). He couldn't look at us when

we arrived. His eyes were empty and glazed. During the four days we were with him and his fellow participants in a drug rehab programme, he was able to forgive the Fulani Herdsmen, and he gave his life to the Lord! The day after he looked so much lighter - like a heavy weight had been lifted off his shoulders; he could look at you and his eyes were clear. By the end of the conference his countenance had completely changed. Only Jesus can do that!

It was worth going just for that one young man, but God was so gracious and allowed us to do so much more.

One of the hardest things I found was to see the level of suffering these beautiful people have endured and here we were asking them to forgive those who had murdered, pillaged, and destroyed their families, homes and livelihoods!

I felt 'what right do we have to come and say they have to forgive?' 'How dare we be so presumptuous?' But the Lord reminded me that it was Jesus who commands this and not us. We were going in His name, with His message. He was asking them to forgive, not us. We had nothing in ourselves to offer, only Jesus. And when they forgave, and they did in their hundreds, I saw afresh the miraculous power of Jesus - it is only Him that can change lives and we were able to witness this in seeing people transformed before our very eyes. We ministered to 1008 people over two weeks and saw many of them receive

inner healing and some physical healing. This side of heaven we will not see the benefit of the ministry.

We had four different conferences and events: **an afternoon with Widows, a 3-day trauma training with Pastors and Leaders, a 2-day conference with War Survivors and 4 days training in a Drug Rehabilitation Centre.**

### 3-day trauma training with Pastors and Leaders

We ministered to 90 pastors from Central and North Nigeria for 3 days. Their lives are very hard and yet they come and worship the Lord and we saw their joy!

### Testimonies from this conference:

**Simon:** I am one of the victims from an attack where 36 people were killed, and all our houses were burnt down including my house. Since that time whenever I remember all the losses, I feel like falling. But coming here yesterday and hearing your programme I give God the glory - all the feelings and anger I had before having been erased from my mind now. I have forgiven them forever.

**Fidelis:** His church is full of hurts, wounds and bitterness. He came on the course last year. He took the teaching back and ran a course like this in his church, including nailing forgiveness on the cross. The bitterness and divisions in the church were healed, and it is still in unity.



### An afternoon with Widows

We ministered to 329 widows. We hugged, prayed and laid hands on all of them. Such beautiful women - they danced and worshipped and we saw in many a lightness in their countenances after prayer.

^ Me in the middle of a sea of beautiful ladies!

**Emmanuel:** He had much pain in his body. Yesterday during the prayer led from the front, he was told to touch the area where the pain was. The pain went.

**Harris:** Had recently been transferred to a new placement which really challenged his faith. He saw people massacred like animals and his student's made orphans, they were deeply traumatised because they had seen their parents butchered. He felt angry with God. Right from the first session, God started to deal with him, he had to forgive himself and realise God is still God. He spoke to the bishop and said one of the best things that was ever done for him was to allow him to come here. "It's as if the conference was made for me". ▶



### 2-day War Survivors Conference

On the first day we started to minister to 100 people, but this rose to 549 on the second day. They Lord just brought them and touched most of them with His healing. We taught on Anger as well as many other subjects. Below are some of the statements they made of things that made them angry. They give you a taste of what they are suffering:

- The Fulani burnt my house, took all my food and they killed my brother
- The Fulani killed my father and took all I have; I am angry with Fulani - they burnt 8 of our villages and we cannot return
- The Fulani killed my son, my husband and my younger sister. I don't have anywhere to sleep I want the Fulani to disappear
- Fulani killed my husband - they burnt the house and took all I have. I have nothing

### Testimonies from this conference:

**Lilret:** After the teachings yesterday, I went back home and slept. I have not slept well for a long time. I read my Bible and then slept. I woke up at 5am and prayed.

**Pastor:** I went home and laid down and slept - thank you for this teaching.

**Raudta:** Her father was killed and since then she couldn't sleep. Last night she was able to sleep.

**Pastor Joshua:** I felt as though I was going to die but with these prayers I feel I have peace of mind.

**Peter:** He said he was happier than everyone because, 'this teaching has impacted me and touched my heart. When the Fulani people chased us out - I vowed I must kill them. But when I heard the teaching and I have left everything in the hands of God.'



< Jan and I prayed with this precious group of boys, 37 gave their lives to Jesus.

< Rev Mark. He is the man who organised most of our trip. He needs our prayers - he puts himself in danger most days to reach Pastors and those in need.

### 4-day conference at the Drug Rehab centre

We had the privilege of being with these precious young people and praying for them individually. On the second day 37 of them gave their lives to Jesus.

### Testimonies from this conference:

**Daniel:** I want to appreciate God and all he had done for me. I was carrying things inside me and when I received prayer they all left me. I have been carrying this weight since 2014. I have been struggling to know how to get rid of this pain until yesterday. Being here has given us hope and freedom thanks be to God.

**Mary:** I thank you because I couldn't forgive or forget - I was always angry, but I have forgiven my mother, and God has changed my life.

**Chake:** I want to thank God - to share from the blessing I have received. Before I got here, I was really grieving- the Fulani took all our food and destroyed our community. I hated the Fulani. But I have begun to see the light of God and have been liberated from the darkness. I have been able

to forgive the Fulani. I also feel that I have received forgiveness as well. Please Pray for us - please do not forget to pray us.

**Patience:** I don't know where to start - I used to be a very angry person - I used to snap. I have been carrying so many people in my heart - so heavy. I just felt a weight drop from me. I felt to call people and tell them how I feel. To bless them and to love them. We don't want the Flame team to go. I have taken a lot of alcohol, but after the prayers I have stopped now.

**Eric:** I came here a very grieving and heavy person - a very heavy load for me. I have had the most amazing 4 days of my life. For so many years I have carried such a load and now I have managed to get rid of this load.

# Giving as a response to God's grace

By Simba Mupfumira,  
CFO for World Vision, UK

When people discuss giving, money tends to come up first. Other forms exist too, and giving is often framed as time, talent, and treasure.

This article focuses on giving to missions, mostly from the treasure angle. To do so, I draw on what the Bible says about money and on well-known examples of believers supporting mission, to consider what healthy giving looks like when done in partnership with God and for the furtherance of His Kingdom.



## Challenge

Giving to churches in general, and to missions in particular, faces a rapidly changing world, a global decline in giving, and congregations becoming more inward focused. These signs point to a difficult environment for missions giving.

- With challenge comes opportunity. The foundation of mission rests on the presence of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit, with money as a means and not an end.
- The sensitivity and misperception around giving money sit within a theme seen throughout the Bible. In **Matthew 6:24**, Jesus warns of the danger of divided loyalty in trying to serve both God and money.
- The tension is clear. We need money for daily life, yet we are called to steward it in ways honouring to God.
- Giving is best done from a willing heart of surrender, a spirit of thankfulness, and an overflow of joy at the realisation of God's mercy and grace upon our lives.

## The Acts and Macedonian models as frameworks for giving to missions.

We can explore the right way of giving from two models seen in the early church - Acts model in **Acts 4** and the Macedonian model in **2 Corinthians 8**. In both frameworks we observe common characteristics: *surrendered hearts, thankfulness, willingness and joyful giving*. Crucially, I believe it must start with surrendered hearts.

### Acts Model

In the Acts model, **Acts 4:32-36**, you see a group of people who were *surrendered* to God and to each other – in verse 34 it says,

<sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet.

'Laying it at the apostles' feet' speaks of a posture of surrender. We also see that they did this *willingly*, and not under compulsion as verse 32 describes how they were of one heart and soul, with no one claiming that what belonged to them was theirs. They saw possessions as under common ownership.

Reading through the text one can sense that they were *joyful* in their giving. In responding to the grace

that was undeniable, it was evident that it was a form of *thankfulness* that led to the response and giving to that depth.

<sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and *great grace* was upon them all.

### Macedonian Model

Compare this with the Macedonian model, and that theme is also prevalent, **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**. Working back from verse five, there was again a response from a position of surrender.

<sup>5</sup> And they exceeded our expectations: *They gave themselves first of all* to the Lord, and then by the will of God *also to us*.

Similarly, a sense of *joy* and *willingness* in giving is on display in verses two and three:

<sup>2</sup> In the midst of a very severe trial, their *overflowing joy* and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,

There is no question of their willing giving, it goes as far as saying they urgently pleaded for the privilege of sharing. ▶

In similar ways to the church in Acts there is evidence that they did so with thankful hearts and as a response to God's grace:

<sup>1</sup>And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the *grace that God has given the Macedonian churches*

Overall, the heart posture from these two groups is the same but there were some contrasts:

- The Acts church seemed well-to-do with people able to sell land and property to pool resources and the Macedonian churches pooled resources from a place of deep poverty.
- The Acts church was catering for local mission whereas the Macedonian church seemed geared for an international/regional outreach.

Overall, this demonstrates that all believers – rich and poor - can give to mission work and do so generously, if they do it in the right manner.

In summarising, a helpful resource is an extract of R. Kent Hughes book, *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. He notes (summarised): Paul holds the Macedonians up to shame the Corinthians, who excelled in faith, speech, knowledge and love but lagged in giving. Hughes states the principle bluntly. God can have your money without having your heart,

but he is not able to have your heart without having all your money. Jesus said where your treasure is, your heart will follow. Hughes notes Jesus spoke about money often and consistently warned about trusting in wealth over God. Grace giving, Hughes writes, goes beyond a tithe and reaches the point of personal cost. He quotes C S Lewis, who argued you are giving too little if your spending on comforts and luxuries matches others on your income. Real charity should pinch and force you to forego things you would like to have.

We would do well to have an ordered way of giving based on offering ourselves to God first, to each other, and then give our treasure. In this way we will give in a surrendered, willing, thankful and joyful way. A way that is honouring to God. As a litmus test, I ask – do you consider giving a *privilege* as the Macedonian church did or do you do it out of *duty*? If the former, you can truly know what Jesus meant when He said it is more blessed to give than to receive.



## The Flame 1000 Club

**The Flame 1000 Club is seeking 1000 people who will commit to giving £10 or more a month to support the ongoing work of the charity.**

The Club raises money that is primarily used to fund new initiatives such as the early 'recces' into countries we haven't visited before. It also provides essential funding for the less glamorous side of the work and enables us to get the very best office support team in place.



We'll send you a stylish Flame fleece when you sign up and keep you up to date with how your giving is making a difference throughout the year.

**Would you consider joining our 1000 Club? More details can be found on our website, [flameinternational.org/1000](https://flameinternational.org/1000) or scan QR code.**



## FLAME SUPPORTER CONFERENCE 2027

**Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.**

Hebrews 13:3

**Right Rev Mark Makan**  
Will be speaking on Christian persecution in Nigeria where he lives and works with his life under threat on a daily basis.



**Rev Julian & Lenna Lidstone**  
Julyan is a minister at Queen's Park Baptist Church in Glasgow and is on the leadership of Operation Mobilisation for the Silk Routes. He and Lenna were missionaries in Turkey for 15 years.



**Pete & Pip Gardner**, whose bio you can read on page 39.



**To book your place visit:**  
[flameinternational.org/sc27](https://flameinternational.org/sc27)

# THE FORGE

## TESTIMONIES

### Denise Forge 1 Crewe



As I listened to the teaching on Fear and the Lordship of Jesus, so much resonated with me. Fear had so often gripped me on any occasion that involved standing up to speak in front of people. Nausea and irrational thoughts would consume my mind; I would try to avoid it at all costs.

A few weeks before, I said yes to leading a service so that our youth could be part of it. I felt I needed to be obedient to God in this, as it was about the young people, even though I instantly felt fear, doubt and lies creep in. These thoughts seem to attack and infiltrate me, leaving me feeling weak and unworthy. I now recognise this wasn't what God wanted for me and I received prayer in my group on the Forge to bind down this fear and the Lord to equip me with His strength and peace.

Traveling home that evening, the thought of leading the service entered my head. I waited for the familiar feelings to grip me and they just didn't come – hallelujah! The fear didn't return in the weeks leading up

to the service and I felt not only God's strength within me as I stood up in front of the congregation but also His Joy, praise the Lord! I am so thankful to God that He gave me freedom from fear and that He uses our obedience to bless others, as seeing the youth perform their drama for the congregation was a blessing to all.

### Veronica Forge 1 (N)



I have noticed a big difference in my mother's attitude towards me since a brief time of prayer ministry at the Forge in Crewe, where the teaching covered generational influences from our family.

After a brief explanation of what I felt God was pointing out to me, I received prayer to sever all curses to the third and fourth generation on my mother's line. The reference to this is Exodus 34:6-7. This included witchcraft and domination and control, which I know have affected me.

The next week when I saw my mother (as I'm a part-time carer for

her), she had changed! She was no longer critical or saying negative comments, and she is now giving me compliments!!

This is very different from before the prayers, and it is so lovely not to be criticised so much, which has sadly been part of her nature all my life.

So, I praise God that these harmful curses have been broken in the name of Jesus, because of His precious blood!

I would like to add that I've also inherited many gifts from my mother, such as a good singing voice, dance and a love for music, plus a chattiness with people.

And she was always someone that 'looked on the bright side', bless her - so helped me be positive, I believe, including seeing the best in people.

### Rhoda Forge 1&2 (S)

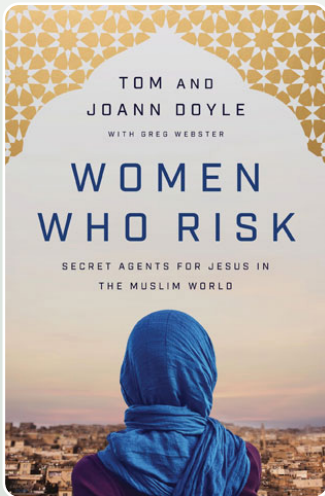


When I started Forge 1 last year, I realised that my journey would focus on forgiveness, I just didn't realise how this would change my life in the way it did. On Boxing Day 2013 my Dad passed away, he was my best friend and was everything to me, he was the best Dad I could have asked for. After he died, I broke as a person and because I did not deal with his

death it impacted my whole life, I was depressed around birthdays and Christmas time. I didn't realise how much this affected my husband and children until I came on The Forge.

I started with forgiving the obvious people in my life and there were some positive changes for which I am truly grateful. In one Forge group session I was asked if I had let my Dad go? I realised I had not, but I wasn't ready. I tried, but I felt it was too hard. Then on a separate ministry session with two very kind and wonderful people who are part of Flame, I was asked again about my Dad. I was finally ready to let him go and deal with the forgiveness. This was really freeing and I feel so much better. Of course, I still think about my Dad and miss him dearly, but the pain is not there, I have been able to let him go and I can now enjoy birthdays and Christmases with my family. They have also noticed a huge change in me and family life has been a lot easier since then.

I have really enjoyed both Forge courses and I have really grown as a person. I wouldn't say my life is easy, as the Flame staff know I have had so many personal struggles during this course, but knowing how to deal with these problems as they come up has changed my life. I am so grateful to everyone who is part of making The Forges happen. Thank you.



## Book review

### **Women Who Risk: Secret agents for Jesus in the Muslim world**

By Tom and Joann Doyle  
Review by Sarah Stevenson

**W**hat is Jesus doing in the Middle East and how can we relate? We've all heard stories about Muslims having visions of 'the man in white', but is there really an awakening and does it affect us?

Flame knows first-hand from their ministry to people from these nations that the answer is a resounding 'yes!', and this book packs a punch to take you into the heart of lives that have been utterly transformed by Jesus Christ.

*Women Who Risk* by Tom and Joann Doyle is the remarkable collection of personal accounts of former Muslim women in the Middle East who have abandoned Islam and turned to follow Jesus. The Doyles' dedication to bring the Gospel in hard-to-reach places has enabled them to write several books full of stories of new believers who were ready to die for their faith in Jesus. 'Women Who Risk' is a continuation of these gripping testimonies, but with the unveiling of Jesus' strategic pursuit of the unsuspecting homemakers in this region. They describe women as the 'spiritual gatekeepers of Islam'; when they turn to faith in Jesus, entire families follow more easily. These courageous women are an unstoppable force for the Kingdom of God because they demonstrate that

what is *changed cannot be contained*. Since they risked everything to follow Jesus, they live with boldness and joy.

The authors take us through seven captivating stories of women who find themselves at the feet of Jesus in the most astounding ways and conclude with practical takeaways and offer steps to get involved with their ministries. It is an exhilarating read, revealing the horrors and darkness of Islam and the breathtaking journey into living hope with Jesus.

This book will challenge your faith and what it means to 'take up your cross'. There is nothing lukewarm about the lives of these women and families. They know life and death. They know truth and lies. They know light and darkness because they have lived it. They know the power of Jesus and of the word of God because they have hungered so desperately as if their lives depended on it.

But these are more than stories from a distant land; this is a journey to go deeper into the heart of God. The chasm between me, a homeschooling mum of four, and these brave middle Eastern women, is too much for words, yet Jesus connects us in spirit. While I will never suffer the cruelty and misery these women have endured and most likely never encounter Jesus to

the extent of supernatural visitation that they have, what struck me was the closeness I felt with my sisters and the tangibility of Our Saviour. Throughout the book, Jesus' kindness penetrated my heart and stirred hope as barriers of Satan's kingdom broke down.

One woman ends her story with these words, "I had an empty heart and wish someone had told me about Jesus years ago. That's why I tell everyone about Him now. My life is in danger, but I don't care. I only want to follow my Saviour and be faithful. That is my goal in life... Be sure of this: Islam is imploding. Muslims have never been more open to Jesus." (p96)

Jesus is moving in the Muslim world in supernatural and miraculous ways as the hearts of these people are ripe to receive the Gospel of life. This book is not only for people who have (or want to have) their finger on the pulse about how Jesus is invading the Middle East, but for anybody who needs an injection of faith and a sobering wake-up to expand their experience of God and His growing Kingdom. The gripping stories will leave you on the edge of your seat and invigorate your faith as the women's lives convey the Gospel so clearly and pull us firmly into the unshakable arms of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

# Hot off the press



## The first Forge 1 (N) Crewe completed but it is not the end!

Starting a new Forge is exciting and a bit scary, particularly when it is in your home church! Twenty-five delegates came from far and wide all seeking a deeper relationship with God, and we quickly journeyed with collective expectation, praise and thanksgiving. A big thanks to six of the Forge Leeds team, to David and three from Cheshire for making Forge Crewe possible.

Forge1 (N) Crewe completed on 26 June with thanksgiving to God, but it is not the end. Forge 2 (N) Crewe is planned for September and will run through until March 2027.



## Ministry to Farsi speakers

At such a time as this with wars and rumours of wars in the Middle East, Flame are continually fervent in serving our Farsi-speaking brothers and sisters. Tristan and Rob had a successful recce mission to Turkey in March, building relationships with key gatekeepers and had the opportunity to minister to folk there. On a recent mission to Armenia, doors have been opened for further ministry to Farsi-speakers there. And the Intercession Hubs (amongst many other individuals are strategically interceding for the situation in Iran and the Middle East. This is an area of focus that we want to faithfully continue to serve.

## Pete and Pip Gardner

Their ministry background is international, missional and pioneering. For 12 years they pioneered, with others, the formation of a Welsh mission movement (where they met and married) with the focus on reaching the unreached and training people for mission.

They then pioneered an international ministry called Global Focus to impart understanding to Christian leaders of the impacts and realities of global decision-making forums on nations and how to engage through intercession and advocacy. After 10 years, God led them into an unexpected 20-year season of waiting upon Him for direction, during which time they continued to watch and pray over geo-political events. This waiting season formed the basis of their recently published book, *Praying for a World in Crisis – Awakening Faith and Hope* (2025). The book is a wake-up call for the church to the times we are living in and how we can be part of the emerging strategy the Lord has for his people in these end times. The Gardners live in south Wales and have two married sons and great daughters-in-law and two super-active grandsons to keep them on their toes!



## Suzanne Hodnett – New Flame OSM!

In May, Suzanne joined us as our new Operations Support Manager and brings with her 30 years of

experience across business and charity operations and development. This has included mission trips to Kenya as part of her work. She is married with 2 daughters and is a committed member of the Vineyard Church. She feels God has called her to Flame International and the work we do, and she is very excited to have joined us.

## Farewell to Helen

Helen has been our Operations Support Manager for five and half years and has done an outstanding job. She was at the centre of our administrative, legal, financial, marketing, fund raising, Human Resources, and overseer of all our administrative processes. She has streamlined our organisation, and we are grateful for all that she did for us. She has moved on to pastures new and we pray for her in her new job and thank her for the outstanding service she gave to Flame International.



# What's On



For more info visit  
[flameinternational.org](https://flameinternational.org/training)  
/training

## JUL

10	Trustees Meeting	
11	Trustees Day of Prayer	
13	Staff Away Day	
15	West Weald FS	Jan Ransom





## AUG

We wish everyone a beautiful Summer!

## SEP

5-6	 The Forge 1	Devon
12	Healing Day	Ashby-de-la-Zouche
19	AGLOW Glasgow	Val Batchelor
26	 The Forge 1: South	Camberley
26-27	 The Forge 2	Scotland

## OCT

3	 The Forge 2: North	Crewe
3	Doncaster Filling Station	Jan Ransom
3-4	 The Forge 1	Devon
8-17	Mission to Ukraine	
24	 The Forge 1: South	Camberley
24-25	 The Forge 2	Scotland

