

## Chapter 2

### Confessions of an Intercessor

*The following testimony, which gives a powerful introduction to the power of prayer in modern life situations, is used with the permission of its author, who, for a number of reasons wishes to remain anonymous. A number of people were witnesses to the veracity of what is recounted.*

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2003 I came back from church looking to end a 21 day fast that had begun on 24<sup>th</sup> November. Apart from a desire for personal sanctity, a wish to lay a foundation for future ministry, and wanting to support friends in Africa, I had begun the time with a strong burden to pray for the fulfilment of God's promises for the Jews. The first day was unexpectedly difficult and I felt thrust into a new dimension of spiritual warfare.

On the second day the Lord spoke clearly into my heart that I was to pray for the arrest of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and that Al Queda would know a setback. I was to be as much of a " spiritual soldier " as those on the ground in Iraq. I felt, like Daniel, that I was to give three weeks to this prayer. I remember clearly saying to my friends that they should be witnesses to these two objectives.

After much battling in prayer I came to a local prayer meeting which was to be given over to prayer for that evening's " Thanksgiving " outreach. At the beginning of the time I requested prayer for the above and shared the objective " giving thanks " for the capture of Saddam Hussein.

During that week I was encouraged by the news of arrests of Al Queda members in GB and Turkey. The prayer grew in intensity for the breaking of the spirit over Saddam.

Prayer meetings came and went and I had an open forum to share. Weak in body, yet strong in faith I shared from Genesis 22. Essentially it was about the prayer of sacrifice which releases God's provision. As Abraham walked with his precious sacrifice up one side of the mountain, God was already directing the steps of a ram, His provision, on the other, hidden side of the mountain. I asked folk what they were willing to sacrifice in prayer and then asked them what their " ram " was. For myself the " ram " was Saddam Hussein " caught by its horns " in the thicket. It's hard to explain but a powerful prayer of faith was released from this time and I was fully expecting to see news of his arrest on the television in the next days.

Hours of prayer turned into days as another intense week drew to an end. No news of Saddam had come from Iraq and although I was generally encouraged by a number of growth points from the prayer ( a door opening into Africa etc), I began to wonder if I had been presumptuous concerning Saddam. I almost gave up the last days of the fast. However the Lord strengthened me with a clear word from Psalm 141.

*" O Lord, I call to you ; come quickly to me.  
Hear my voice when I call to you.  
May my prayer be set before you like incense ;  
may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. "*

I found strength to speak out loud as I read from verses 5-6 :

*" Yet my prayer is ever against the deeds of evildoers ;  
their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs,  
and the wicked will learn that my  
words were well spoken. "*

I came back from church on that last Sunday to find my friends telling me that they thought they might have arrested Saddam Hussein. I quickly turned on the television which had not yet officially confirmed the fact. I felt strongly the need to be away in prayer so I went off for a time of quiet prayer. While praying I felt the favour of God and yet was fearfully overwhelmed by the power, privilege and responsibility of intercession. I found myself mumbling out my humble thanks to the Lord's greatness.

Thinking of the passages in Matthew 6 I felt the Lord gently say,

" This is just between you and me. "

" Just think. "

I answered inwardly,

" A reward of 25 million dollars on offer for his arrest and this is just between you and me ! "

And somewhere, from the unfathomable depths of God's grace as He took on real life and conversation, came the ultimate promise to those, who like me, are His secret army of warriors :

**"Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret , will reward you. "**