

TWC - Q & A with Graham
Longmont, July 2012

How would you describe TWC journey so far and what comes next?

It's been an amazing learning curve for all of us. I think that we have been in the business of unlearning old methodologies and learning new lifestyles. That's been a big feature of the journey so far.

I think we're constantly experimenting in terms of who we are, what we're seeing. We're learning a very different type of intercession. Without any disrespect to the Prayer Partner Network that we had before, The Warrior Class is extremely different in all the best ways. When you do something for the first time, you learn how not to do it. That's why first born children are twice blessed, because we're practicing on them! Every new parent is panic stricken when they bring the first baby home. By the time the second one comes along, you're much more relaxed. And by the third child, you're totally blasé.

I liked the Prayer Partners and some of the things that we did, but we learned what we shouldn't be. It became very apparent that we were operating out of a mindset that couldn't really take us anywhere. When Allison came on the scene and Rita and Kathy began to rise up we dissolved the network because we had the potential with The Warrior Class to attempt something that's never been done before. In terms of training, development and intercession, we're building a relational company, not just a group of people who function in prayer together. We're building a team who are joyful, powerful intercessors.

Most of the intercessors I grew up with were second cousins to Eeyore. They processed life through what they were experiencing instead of processing life through the nature of God that was available in what they were going through. That's the big difference for us. We're attempting something new in that we are focused on God and His majesty, not the enemy. We're learning to overcome because of His nature rather than just beating the enemy up. I expect to beat the enemy up. I just expect to do it differently than in times past.

We're moving into a place where overcoming is the norm and into a place of being more than conquerors - which is where the enemy fails to show. We want to get the enemy on the back foot. The best way to do that is to focus on who God is and who He wants to be for us. Those are the weapons that we fight with, not the enemy that the enemy wants us to fight with. I'm not fighting negativity. I'm just learning how to live prophetically. The Warrior Class processes with a different mindset that we're constantly learning and encountering more of.

I think we're learning about atmospheres and environments. We're learning how to shift an atmosphere and how to create an environment. That's going to be an on-going lesson for us for the next couple of years: practice, practice, practice. One of the chief

things I like about what we're doing is that we are fully aligned with what I call "primary purpose", which is Genesis 1:26-27, "Let's make man in *Our* image..." Jesus wanted to bring sons into an experience of the glory of God. Primary purpose is becoming like God. There is nothing more important than each one of us becoming more like Jesus, more Christ-like, so that our emotions and responses become like His. We have His mind so that His way of seeing becomes ours and His way of thinking becomes ours. Out of that, our ability to partner with God in places comes out of our identity as us growing up into all things in Christ.

I love the idea that we're becoming present/future. I love that when God prophesies or speaks to us, He declares our outcome. Which means we're going to survive the process! That's cool when you're going into something because it means that it's *not* about survival. It's about prospering! We're learning how to break out of a present/ past mindset. That's huge! In my experience, all the intercessors I knew were always battling something. I want to change our focus so that we're always worshipping Someone.

I think the intel we're receiving reflects the issues of who we are, who we are becoming and how we're walking through life in terms of the presence of God in our own lives. That allows us to have strategic perceptions that wouldn't be possible if we were living present/past. It's like the old mystics. I like to read their books, but you can get a book that's an inch thick with about and eighth of an inch of content. Those guys were depressing. They were just as stupid as we are. They processed everything through suffering because that's how they saw the cross. I see the cross as joy. I want us to be processing life through joy, not through suffering. We are going to be persecuted... hopefully. We are going to be misunderstood. It goes with the territory. But in all of those things, we're going to discover God in amazing ways. And the enemy never seems to work out that every time he comes against us, God puts a short cut right there into becoming more Christ-like!

I'm looking for a different company of warriors. One of my favorite scenes in the third Lord of the Rings film is when they're all outside the gates of Mordor. They're surrounded, outnumbered and they don't know if Frodo or they are going to make it. The odds against them seem huge. Aragorn gives his speech and then turns round. He has his sword up and he just grins... turns round and runs at the gates. He doesn't even yell "charge" because he doesn't care if anyone goes with him. He just runs. And the first ones after him are the Hobbits! Which is like the two extremes: the Sons of Maturity and the Children of God. You can beat the enemy by being a much-loved child, but we're growing up to become heroes of the faith. This is a warrior that is there to fight and enjoy it. If I die, I die. I came to fight.

We used to have a saying when I played rugby (one of the most violent team sports ever... which is why I liked it!), "You can't win if you're afraid to lose." A lot of the things we're learning right now is really going to be pushed through our individual identities. **As you get a better perspective on our lives with God, our intel will improve.** I like where we are right now, but we're experimenting. We're learning how not to do it, what

works, what's better. It's not just about unlearning, but getting the *love* of learning from every situation. You will go through every situation much better if you love the learning that's involved. And if you loving the learning a priority, you'll see things quicker and faster.

In five years times, I'd like us to have perfected all those things. To be a jumping off place where the enemy is afraid to tackle us. The enemy has a finite amount of resources and we need to become too expensive to go after... and he knows he'll still get his butt kicked.

We're developing a new mindset and a new methodology of prophetic intercession. I want us to be forerunners of a new way of doing that so that we've got something to teach the wider Body of Christ. I think there are a large number of intercessors who are worn down, tired and despondent. There are people whose marriages are broken, health is broken, finances are dodgy and their kids are all over the map spiritually... which may have been from the way they've waged war.

When you focus on the enemy, you give him more rights than he actually has. When we focus on Jesus, it's a whole different way of being in the fight. We are reinventing prophetic intercession, marrying prophetic methodology with intercessory power based on intimacy with God, rather than just functionality of what to pray next.

My passion is to develop TWC as a cutting edge, special forces company that gets things done.

Question: What kind of leadership culture do you see in TWC and how are we different than other leadership experiences we may have had?

One of the key differences I want to see in us is that we are relational leaders. Everything is about relationship with God. It's the #1 issue in every circumstance we find ourselves in. We have been so used to coming to God functionally with our problems... I don't have a problem with that, but there's more. When we get a situation that's difficult for us, the primary purpose of God is to be something for us relationally.

He doesn't actually want to talk about the problem first. He wants to talk about you and how He sees you and what He wants to be for you. When you understand all that, you pray in a completely different way. We have more thanksgiving, more rejoicing involved in our prayer. We pray real prayers that are birthed in a sense of what Jesus is praying in heaven, not desperate prayers. The way you get to hear what Jesus is praying is rejoicing and worship. It puts you in the same space as Him. It's not rocket science. Everything is relational.

Therefore, good leaders are relational first and foremost. The purpose of God was to bring many *sons* to glory, not many servants. We're sons first, servants second. We're learning how to be relational as leaders and inspirational to people. Just as our first question to the Lord is "Who do you want to be for me now?", our first question as

leaders is "Who do I get to be for this person?" and "How can we turn this problem into an asset and take advantage of it?". What if there's a divine advantage in everything, good bad or ugly?

Good leaders are on the same page as the Father. No matter what, this is great! This is a brilliant problem to have right now because this is what it's going to do for us relationally with the Lord and with each other. We get to process life very differently.

Good leaders are good mentors. In the kind of leadership we've had in the Body of Christ, we've told people what to think. We haven't trained them how to think. Good leaders ask good questions because we want to teach people to think for themselves. If you can think for yourself, you'll be several steps forward in becoming a giant, rather than a pygmy.

To a large degree, the present church is mostly a baby-sitting service and some are a full service cocoon. So on the same campus, you can get everything you need. They're so scared of the world they don't want you to go out into it. But it's the world that makes us strong. If we're hiding away in our own little enclaves, we'll always be midgets in spiritual terms. It's our interaction with the world that creates our strength and teaches us to overcome. I don't want to see you deprived of that.

Good leaders inspire, mentor and lead by example. Their happy, restful, loving, generous, they have this Caleb spirit and a Joshua, strategic anointing. What a great mix of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I want to produce a totally different kind of leader that sees the good in everything. That sees the divine advantage and is so used to looking at things through the eyes of God that it's hard for the enemy to put one over on us. We're producing people like that.

A leadership that's not distant, not hid behind a pulpit, a platform or a position. It's not "out from", it's actually "in amongst". The kind that understands your story. We're all going to be writing this book together and we're all in the same chapters - we're all on the same journey. So story and journey are great metaphors for leaders, learning how to walk together and to be together. There's something fascinating about stepping into someone's story and walking with them in a present-future manner. Seeing who they are and who they are becoming and joining them on that journey.

Question: Can you describe the elements of moving from loving the concept of a warrior to actually becoming one?

We're moving away from just loving the idea of God to actually loving and being loved by Him. We love the idea of who God is - which is often a mix of Gandolf, Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy. We love the idea of someone to go to when we have problems.

Every concept we have is meant to become a lifestyle. God loves that you have a concept of Him, but He looks forward to that becoming your life. It has to become a living thing on the inside of us.

In moving from a concept to a reality, especially in warfare - you must develop in your own life an expectancy that you will overcome in every situation. We're cultivating that expectancy. "I expect to win that fight." We're going in from that expectancy. We ditch any negativity, anxiety, fear or panic. We've killed that stuff stone dead and always expect to overcome in my current circumstances - and I'll enjoy it.

I think we also need to love and understand the power of favor that's on our lives. Most people go through life thinking of favor as a little parasol that covers their own head. But what if favor is at least a golfing umbrella that you can get six other people under as well. And what if your favor is the size of your neighborhood or community. Favor is as big as you want it to be. You know with God there are no limits. You know He is going to say "yes" and "amen". So if He's saying "yes", you need to ask great questions.

Moving into the reality in our inner space of being a warrior means that we understand we are not being challenged by the world, by difficult people or by our circumstances. We are only being challenged by heaven. We are citizens of heaven living on earth, therefore we can only be challenged by heaven. What does that look like? That takes us above the level of where the enemy is trying to harass us. He can't harass us if we are working from a perspective that is above the one that he fell from. When he fell from heaven, he fell from a mindset. He was in an all-conquering mindset but when he fell to earth, he became earth bound in his spirituality. He hates that Michael and Gabriel have grown way beyond anything he was because the universe has continued to expand. Therefore, the arch angels are more significant than he is, which is why he has become the father of lies because lies are all he has. He fell from the truth, so now he only has lies. And he mostly lies to himself.

Loving your favor and knowing that you are being challenged lovingly by the Lord - which means you never think of a situation as being difficult. You think of it as exciting. You get to process it anyway that seems good to the Holy Spirit. You don't have to process a negative as a negative, but by what it is producing in you. We're learning how to process things through our new nature, not our old one. Our new nature is subject to the fruits of the Spirit. Our old nature is subject to fear, anxiety, stress....

I will rejoice in the fruit that I get to practice. Yahoo! I'm learning joy, or peace or patience. Of course, you can't learn patience in a weekend. There's never been a conference on patience, nor will there be. Even if there was one, I wouldn't go, even if I was speaking at it!

We're learning how to move in the opposite spirit.

Finally, having a passion for the fight. You have a passion for the majesty and sovereignty of Jesus. One of my identities is Caleb. I've been Caleb for more years than I can remember. I've wanted to be a man of a different spirit, and I am. I love that I get to see things differently, be with God differently, process life differently, I get to come up against the enemy in a way that confounds him.

I think that all of those are the ingredients of moving from the concept of being a warrior to the reality of being one

Question: How does our intel help you? What impact do you think it has on the communities we pray for and for you? How has it grown and what's next?

We're still defining the intel. I like where we are right now and I think there's more for us to discover. When we used to get intel in the PPN, honestly, it used to drive me crazy. It was like pages and pages of poetic fantasy of what people *wanted* to happen rather than what God actually wanted to do. I would have to sit down with it, and like eating fish, pick the bones out of it. I used to go through it with a marker. If there were 8 pages of intel, I might end up with 4-5 sentences that were relevant. So as I thought about it, I said "Okay, let's not make it a problem, but a learning curve."

When Allison came on board, one of our first conversations was about me being on the frontline, facing the enemy and if it was WW2, I'd be in a foxhole, with bombs going off all around me and bullets whizzing by. I don't have time to read 8 pages of intel! I need a telegram - 4 sentences that's going to focus my mind and focus my actions. In a battle, there's all kinds of things going on and lots of things demanding your focus... both legitimate and illegitimate.

Intel helps me to have legitimate focus and go after the things I *should* be going after, rather than the things the enemy wants me to go after. In warfare, the enemy wants you to fight on his terms. So he will make noise, create diversions and try to get you off of the one thing that matters. Intel is designed to help me focus on the one thing that matters.

So that's what we're learning to develop: What's the real fight here and what's the fight the enemy wants us to have that we're going to ignore.

We're moving into this more succinct, foxhole type input that enables me to be focused and go after one thing. And if I go after one thing, I'm likely to hit a few more important things as well.

We're all learning focus and how to ask questions of the Lord. It used to be that people would hear something and then write it down as "intel". The first thing you hear is not for me, it's for you. The first thing you get should cause you to ask a question. "What does this mean?", "What's God opening up?", "How does He want to do this?".

It's the same with the prophetic. The first thing we get should always prompt more questions. It goes back to the story about the man who bounded up and said, "I've got a word from the Lord for you". He was very intense, laid hands on me, prayed in tongues for five minutes and then finally said, "You are a ship leaving harbor." That was it.

I was so annoyed I could have spit feathers!

I immediately had a hundred questions! What kind of ship is it? Is it a row boat? A skiff? The royal yacht? An aircraft carrier? Does it have weapons? food? How many people are on it? Where are they going? The word didn't help me at all.

When they first heard I was like a ship leaving harbor, *they* should have been the one to start asking questions. So the first thing you get is where YOU enter into a dialogue with the Lord. If you give me the first picture or scripture you get as intel, then we're going to have to sort through it and figure out what God is really saying.

So right now, we're learning that focus and how to work with what God gives us, which is brilliant. It's why it's in your lifestyles now too. You're learning to ask God really good questions about your life and circumstances. So when you come to get intel for an event, you've been practicing. You're used to saying to Lord, "What does this mean?", "What are you saying here about this?"

We're learning to ask Him, "What are the questions that I need to ask You that opens up a dialogue for me with You so we can explore this? And how do I distill that into 2-3 sentences. It's interesting when you look at any army, their communications and military intelligence. That is exactly what they do. They take loads of intel and start asking questions. They refine it and refine it, so that when they came to stand before Churchill, they haven't got a book as big as "War and Peace", but a couple of paragraphs with 2-3 key sentences. That's what they'll make their decisions from for D-Day.

That's the skills we're learning and I'm really excited about that. I think we're in a good place, but we're headed towards something spectacular.

Our key objective right now is the listening and the refining process. We're learning how to be in relationship with God, hear more clearly, refine what we get and mine it out for ourselves. Then, when we compile the intel for a region, that's another refining process we do corporately. We look at similarities and discuss what questions we been getting. Then together, we ask more questions about what the collection of intel together means for me and for the communities we are going to.

And then when it comes to Allison, the Council and me, then it goes through a further refining. I'm excited about what we're learning together and what we're discovering. And we're all learning together about the principles of refining and dialoguing with the Lord. I sit down with the Lord all the time and use those kinds of questions. I know He'll give me a great thought and then say, "Let's chat about that." I love that.

When I write a talk, I do this type of refining. I sit down and think what is the outcome that I want to achieve from this talk? What is the proclamation or impartation that God wants to release? What's the anointing and the breakthrough that God wants to give? That's where I start. Then I work back to the opening sentence. My opening sentence

is usually about the outcome. Once I know the outcome, my next dialogue with the Lord is about the obstacles that will prevent people from having that outcome. He tells me the problems people will have, so my talk becomes about how to overcome them.

It's a simple principle that I used in marketing: The AIDA principle. Attention, Inspiration, Desire that leads to an Action. I use it in my talks all the time. The opening five minutes gets your attention. Then we go through all the obstacles, so you're inspired to think "This is great!" because I'm answering all the questions you would have asked. That makes it exciting for you. I'm stimulating your desire to make that journey, so that by the time we get to the end and it's time for you to respond and act on the proclamation, you're quite ready to "assume the position" and receive what God has.

In the intel, that's what we're thinking about. How to process everything to an outcome. What is the outcome God wants people to receive, what are the obstacles and *and how* will God overcome them?

I like where we are now, but I love what we're learning next with this.

I used to ask leaders what they wanted to achieve, but in the end, it just became more risky than anything else. Some leaders would be right on the money, knowing accurately where they were and what the Lord wanted to do. But some would just give you their wish list and want you to sort it out. Still others, would come in with something completely unrealistic, like "We want the glory of God and angelic visitations". Well, good luck with that. They want to have this breakthrough, but they don't have the leadership to sustain it. I've learned to step back from asking them what they want to achieve. I still do it sometimes, but I know the risk.

What we're doing is that we're the ones asking the questions of the Holy Spirit. That's our learning curve. We're developing a specific set of skills in TWC for listening, processing and shifting atmospheres with what we discover. Better yet, you're developing these same skills in your personal walk with God through your growing relationship with Him, so that when we come to corporate events, it's not a big deal to go to the next level.

Question: What does it mean to shift an atmosphere in intercession and what is our greatest contribution to that?

Jesus said, "The prince of this world has come, but he has nothing on me." Jesus came to change the atmosphere. The devil is the prince of the power of the air. He lives in the atmosphere. He wants to create the atmosphere we live in with lies. That's why a big part of our warfare is to ignore what he is doing, because he's a liar and the father of lies. He wants you in delusion, deception or despondency.

So the atmosphere in a place we are going can be negative or positive. If it's negative, it might be from a poverty mindset. I go places where they tell me it's the most economically deprived city in America - and so far, I've encountered about a 100 of

these. Or you can go into a church that's had a split five years ago and is still suffering. There's hurts and wounds, no trust or faith in the leadership. Everyone is a little bit wary and issues in relationships that have never been resolved... and the atmosphere is thick with all of them.

You can tell a lot about a church atmosphere and what is present from the quality of worship. Is there a sense of joy and majesty?

One of our biggest issues in the evangelical community (speaking as an evangelical), is that we are a problem seeking people. We see everything as a problem to be resolved. But there are no problems in heaven, only possibilities. So that's going to be a great mindset change for us. We're simply going to refuse to see problems and connect only with the possibilities.

When you see something as a possibility, you ask different questions. The questions you ask from seeing life in terms of problems don't really solve anything, they just make you more despondent. A problem seeking community has an atmosphere that is entirely negative. Everything is about their effort, all the things that have to be done (sigh). Everything seems too slow or too big. In that type of atmosphere, most people don't want the true prophetic, they want magic. And most people, *definitely* don't want process, they want an impartation that magically delivers them into a different place. God doesn't do magic.

Of course, it's the process that makes you rich, so shifting from a problem mindset to a possibility mindset is a huge and very necessary shift that will need to be made.

When we are coming into an event, TWC needs to ask "What's the prevailing atmosphere here?" because we need to move in the opposite spirit to that. Sometimes you can tell what God wants to do by what the enemy has presented. God is the opposite spirit, as we know in Isaiah 61. You've learned the power of the word "instead". We need to take authority over the negative, so that we can release the opposite instead.

This is where my partnership is. I don't feel it's my job to shift the negative. That's the job of The Warrior Class. My job is to create the environment for what is deposited and for what we leave behind after I'm gone. Whatever we discern about the works of the enemy, we must destroy, because Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Whatever negatives we discern, we get to destroy in the opposite spirit. I hope you have fun doing that! Whatever we discern about the works of God, we get to create.

So there's a destructive and a creative process in warfare. I get to create something on the back of what you've destroyed. That's pretty cool.

