

Introductory Information

fire from the north

praying for revival in the
nordic, celtic and
north atlantic nations.

'Out of the north He comes in golden splendour;
God comes in awesome majesty.'



- Job 37:22

2-9 August 2005 Shetland

"Be silent before Me, you islands! Let the nations renew their strength!"
Isaiah 41:3



Shetland: a bridge and a stepping stone from the North Atlantic to the rest of Europe

Fire from the north

Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. (Mal. 3:16)

On the Finnish island of Åland, mid way between Finland and Sweden, and slightly to the north of Stockholm, a conference of Scandinavian pastors was held in 1996. This was when the Lord showed a Swedish prophet (Kjell Sjöberg, pronounced Shell Shoberg) and Liz Gibb (a Scottish intercessor, who was the only British person present) something we believe to be of great significance: that the Lord was calling for a strategic gathering for prayer, with Christians from the Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland) combining with representatives from the North Atlantic nations (Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, the Faroes and Iceland).

The Lord showed them that this gathering should take place on Shetland. Why Shetland? If you look at the upside-down map opposite, you will see Shetland right in the centre – a stepping stone and a bridge from the North Atlantic to the rest of Europe.

Just as Shetland is increasingly becoming a communication hub (largely thanks to the Norrona, the brand new Faroese liner that plies weekly between Denmark, Norway, Shetland, Faroes and Iceland) so the Lord has been emphasising that it is also a spiritual gateway to the North Atlantic and the rest of the European continent.

Some places are known for what God did at a certain moment in history. Everyone has heard of how the Spirit moved in the Hebrides in the mid twentieth century. But others (such as Lindisfarne and Iona) are valued as places of pilgrimage and encounter. Speaker after speaker who has ministered in Shetland recently has commented on the fact that God is going to do something special here, and that it is strategic in His sight.

Under the banner of the Shetland Intercessors Team, and backed by local churches, we are planning to draw Christians together for a prayer conference for those with a heart for worship and intercession for the northern nations. It will be held in the first week of August 2005. We will be sending out more details when the brochure is ready, but we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Conference, to provide some important background and to share some of

the prophecies that have recently been given.

When the Lord has plans in mind, He confirms His will through many people. Twelve years ago, a man felt the Lord showing him clearly that **revival was going to come from the north**. Thinking this meant the top of Scotland he duly made his way there to pray. When he got there, the Lord told him He had not gone far enough – He was speaking of Shetland! Many other people have had similar words and experiences.

Some years ago, the Lord showed Christine Tonge, (wife of Jamie, the pastor of the Emmanuel Church in Lerwick) that **He wanted the northern nations to come together on Shetland**. Jim Graham, of Goldhill Baptist, ended the 2003 Shetland Bible Week with the solemn declaration that He believes God to have **important and strategic purposes for Shetland at this time**.

Christine Larkin from Graham Cooke's ministry team independently felt the same thing when she was leading a prophetic conference on the island recently. As we have begun to share this with people from other nations (Germany, Finland, Sweden and Iceland) they too are catching the vision and realising that in God's purposes, Shetland is not 'north and remote' but somehow **central to His purposes**. Martha Lucia (of Watchmen International) believes that **Shetland is the 'northern gateway' for the 40/70 window through which God wants to bless northern Europe**.

Some of you may not have thought much about these nations before, but we are praying that the Spirit of the Lord will help a number of you who read this information booklet to take this vision and these countries into your hearts, so that together, we can pray this vision into being and see the Lord glorified in the northern nations.

Wider Context

Working in conjunction with local churches, the Lord is putting a team of people together on Shetland to work towards the fulfillment of this vision. This includes Robert and Rosalind Weston, who have led many nationwide prayer conferences and Andrew Harmsworth, who co-ordinates the Shetland Intercessors Team.

Others involved in this ministry include Roger Mitchell, the author of the book *Target Europe*. Roger has a special heart for Shetland and has paid numerous visits here over the past seventeen years. Another key contributor will be Mark Stibbe,

the successor to David Pytches at St Andrew's Chorleywood, and the author of *Prophetic Evangelism*. Mark led the *Europe Awake* conference in 1999. Mark has a strong calling to Scandinavia, with particularly close links to the church in Norway.

Others involved in this vision include Kenny Borthwick, the leader of CLAN: (New Wine, Scotland), Martin Scott, ('Sowing Seeds for Revival'), and Martha Lucia (Watchmen International).

Intercession reaches new depths when it is matched by anointed music – which in turn reaches the hearts of unbelievers and prepares them to receive the Word of God. It is our hope that the conference will provide a rich pageant of worship of many styles that will draw us into the Father's heart – and also be an excellent forum to support the development of song writing, and other forms of musical, literary and creative giftings.

Although this conference will be on behalf of the northern nations of Europe, it is very much our heart's desire to try to bridge the gap between church and community here in Shetland too. One of the ways in which we will be seeking to do this will be by encouraging the rich indigenous music of Shetland and the other participating nations.

The Viking word for Shetland, 'Hjaltland' is widely considered to mean 'the hilt of the sword', (from the shape of the islands). Apart from being outstandingly beautiful, Shetland is as a cross at the crossroads: a gateway and a meeting place, where God's people can be refreshed and re-envisioned. We believe this conference heralds the dawning of a greater integration for Shetland into the wider body of Christ.

In a recent edition of the 'Pray for Scotland' newsletter, it was written that **God also wants to use Shetland as a microcosm of what He can do throughout the British Isles**. Words such as the ones we are reproducing in this booklet are by no means automatically fulfilled: they are a call to the Body of Christ to pray and seek our hearts as well as the Lord.

For this vision to reach its full expression, we must be prepared to let people know about this vision, and allow Him to cleanse, heal and melt our hearts of all prejudices and indifference, so that the Holy Spirit can move in power, first in the body of Christ and then in the wider communities that we represent.

The Lord has been speaking consistently about the image of the golden oil of His presence being poured out over the body of Christ here in Shetland and across the northern nations (cf Zechariah 4:12). He has given pictures of a ***jar of golden oil being 'tipped over' from Shetland that will flow down over Scotland and beyond, where it will meet a similar anointing that the Lord was raising up there.***

Why Shetland? The map on the inside front cover hints at the answer, but since 'obedience precedes understanding' in the Kingdom of God, the most important thing is to go ahead and do what the Lord has asked us to do by making a framework that He can fill.

This word John Benyon of World Horizons was given in Iceland in 1997, and sent out under the title: 'Fire from the North' - the very title the Lord gave us independently some years later.

Storm from the North

In 593 BC, Ezekiel saw God as 'a storm coming from the North' – the geographical area at that time from which God was going to move in judgement.

In the closing centuries of the first millenia, much of Europe was hit by a 'storm coming from the North.' Fearless Nordic warriors would suddenly appear in their long boats, determined to win riches and territory for themselves. Their determination and skill as warriors enabled them to win control of territories in an area stretching from Canada to Finland and the Baltic States. In the centuries before, Celtic missionaries sailed in their leather coracles across the northern seas, taking the gospel to much of northern Europe.

Today, many people with prophetic insight are starting to speak about a 'gathering of armies' in the North. A 'coming together' of people from the Northern nations of the world to form 'movements of mission' into the unreached countries of the world to the South.

***We believe God is raising up an army who will come from the north and storm the lands held by the devil, not to win riches and territory for themselves, but so that 'This Gospel of the Kingdom should be preached in the whole world, as a testimony to all nations.'* (Matt, 24:14).**

Prophetic Background

We have referred already to Kjell Sjöberg's vision. In July 2002 Graham Cooke also had a remarkable word about a special time of the Lord's favour on Shet-

land. (We can send you a copy of this word on request.) Early in 2003, the Lord gave Martin Scott a significant prophecy for Scotland, which in many ways amplifies an important word for Shetland that Catherine Brown had a couple of years ago. We will begin with Catherine's word, in which the Lord spoke again about the strategic prayer conference that will be held in our islands.

For the Shetland Islands Catherine Brown

"Beloved, this is the Year of Jubilee and I shall shake the shackles of slavery from you. For men in the past have made claim to your lands, and men have made claim to your customs, and men have laid claim to your peoples, and men have made claim to your language, but Shetland belongs to no man, for Shetland belongs to the Faither, and is Sovereignly appointed in the eyes of the Faither to bring forth the fruit of Abiding. I will break man's false burdens from around your neck. You will walk in Liberty, and your identity will be known in the nations as those who are in Christ.

Wake up, O sleeper, for weariness has caused you to slumber. Now is the day of your deliverance, and the thorns of the past must be removed, for they have splintered your broken heart. Come again into your Faither's embrace and know His completion and tender healing from wounds too long unhealed.

I say to you Shetland, you are a bridge for the nations, a landing strip and a lightning rod. For you are a port and a gateway both in the natural and in the heavenly realms. You will see the comings and the goings, you will feel the tension in the heavenly realms but I am your Peace. You are called to bridge into Scotland and into Ireland and into Europe, to Norway and beyond.

You, O Shetland, are a land of quiet meditation and a land where the Lion of Judah has been heard to roar, and will roar again in the outpouring of My Spirit that will come upon My people. For you are a people who have a heritage of walking in reverence and awe of your Heavenly Faither. Holiness is whispered in your bones, and Holiness will again revive the dead bones in My Bride.

I will use you to impart life, but first let Me breathe upon you and bring Refreshing. Let me quicken you to the Cross and to trust again. Let me break the isolation upon your back, for you are not called to isolation, but to restoration. Between your walls and between your peoples there must be repentance. Neighbour to neighbour lay down your grudges and trust the

Faither for Grace . . .

Shetland, I have called you since before time to be a vessel of reconciliation, and in Redemption you will serve the nations in a mediatory role. A mountain of Mercy will move in faith from your shores. I have deposited the gift of divine Wisdom and the Spirit of Counsel within your lands and in your hearts. And you shall rise up into the Government of Christ, as the apostolic comes forth in My Bride.

But you shall first be reconciled to your kinsfolk, for it is the Faither's will that you dwell in unity. You will seek out your brethren to the north and to the south, and in the east and in the west, and even beyond your shores, Shetland and Orkney will be reconciled in Love and Humility.

*Where once war chiefs met and planned for battle, once more, My holy warriors will gather on your shores, and there will be strategic gatherings and planning for the battle for souls in the nations. There will be a strategic prayer gathering for Europe. For Shetland, I say again, **you are a spiritual gateway.** You will serve as a gatekeeper for your Faither.*

For Scotland, March 2003

Martin Scott

God is now blending together the Celtic lands. Each one is distinct but they will all begin to flow as nations and begin to flow together. In Scotland God is releasing the warrior anointing. The warrior land is rising, warriors will come from the heart of Scotland.

There will be battle cries from every corner of Scotland. Conferences will come to the nation and from the nation and they will all be calling for war. In their very title they will carry words such as 'war' or 'warrior'. Scotland is being restored as a pioneer nation, a nation with the warrior anointing.

God is now calling for a time of war and the warrior nations are to find their place. He says that He breaks the spirit of death that has been placed on the nation. Many young men are rising whose cry is not muffled due to the generational spirit of death.

. . . The Lord is causing there to be shock waves down through the old national alliances. There will be a loosing even in France as the warriors arise in Scotland.

Ireland is not yet ready; what has begun there is far from finished, but the mission anointing is now being restored. These nations will partner together to carry the wild-fire that is now being unlocked in Wales. Wales is now coming to her destiny, but the work in Scotland that has been so slow is now entering an accelerated period - and indeed this warrior spirit will catch up quickly to the wild fire of Wales. What has taken years in Wales will occur quickly in Scotland. Wales has stood in the gap and the intercessors there have carried the other Celtic peoples in their intercession.

These are days that are not designed to just bring about reformation, but there is a reforming of the cradle of the lands that held the gospel. There is a very reshaping of the church in those lands. The Celtic mission is rising again. Monastic movements will be spawned, old rhythms will be restored.

In distant lands the Celtic diaspora is beginning to rumble. I see those who will return whose parents and forefathers left these nations. There is a call for those to return. Those long exiled will return. There will be partnerships between those in the land and those exiled.

God has now opened the window over Scotland, it is time to work with God's agenda. So stir the warriors. They will rise in all their diversity: like the rising of the clans, but there will be a royal anointing over them . . .

Now is the time to set your eyes on the future not on the past. The good days are the ones ahead not the ones gone. For it is through Scotland that the Scandinavian nations will be drawn in. The old connection will bear fruit for the kingdom in this season. And there will be channels opened up to Norway, to Denmark and to Sweden. There will even be increased travel between these lands. Even the Faroes will know they are included, and all the way to Iceland. There are warriors to come from the north.

And the Lord says, "Even now I am raising up an apostolic movement in the land. A movement that is not hierarchical and a movement that is not centred in one place. A network that is not a network as has been known before". All of this will be like a baby being born. There will be great upheaval and shifts in power, but for those who have been watching and waiting there will be great rejoicing.

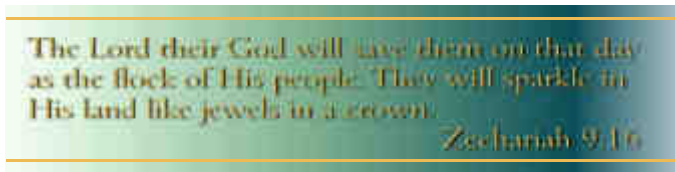
***It is His mouth that has given the order,
and His Spirit will gather them together . . .
Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms,
like nations massing together!
The Lord Almighty is mustering
an army for war. - Isaiah 34:16, 13:4***

Warfare of Intimacy

Rance Ramsey

Then I began to see intercessors and worshippers together around the throne of God. Intercessors were interceding and worshippers were worshipping in such tremendous unity that intercessors became worshippers and worshippers became intercessors. All that I beheld in this place of worship was characterised by an incredible intimacy with the Father.

The Lord then said that He is braiding together the intercessor, the worshipper and the prophetic - weaving them into one single fabric. They will be different yet the same. The worshipper will still have the characteristics of the worshipper, and the intercessor will still have the characteristics of an intercessor, yet as they come together under a greater prophetic anointing, they will compliment one another and flow together in a unique unity.



Register your Interest/Booking

We have booked the superb Clickimin leisure centre for the conference. You can express your provisional interest in attending the conference by e-mailing: firefromthenorth@yahoo.co.uk or printing out the booking form on www.ruachministries.org/fire/index.htm, or by writing to: Andrew Harmsworth, Revayah, Wester Quarff, ZE2 9EZ.

Shetland Tourist Board have kindly agreed to send an information pack about Shetland to everyone who writes to us. Please start praying for this conference and for the northern nations, and start saving up for the visit! We can book you into hostels if you book early enough, or send you details of B&Bs, hotels, self-catering accommodation and five star camping on the conference site. Please note. We regret that we are unable to make arrangements for children.

fire from the north

Shetland 2005:

the northern gateway to the 40/70 window

a bridgehead to Europe

a strategic gathering for worship
and intercession

a prophetic re-envisioning

Jim Graham, Shetland Bible Week, 2003

"These islands have a strategic part to play in the unfolding of the will and purpose of God. I do not say that lightly, because I am terrified of taking the name of the Lord in vain."

"Look, those going toward the north country have given My Spirit rest in the land of the north." - Zech. 6:8

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