In the quiet corners of Bellingham, Washington, a couple hours north of Seattle resides the memory of a man whose influence continues to echo through the lives he touched. Dick Simmons, a mentor, and personal friend left an indelible mark on those who had the privilege of knowing him. His teachings on prayer not only transformed individuals but also laid the foundation for a city-wide prayer movement that endures to this day in our area! [Whatcom County Story of Prayer and Transformation](https://youtu.be/vUiW1dulRkg?feature=shared)

Growing up in Bellingham, I had the privilege of crossing paths with Dick Simmons, who was also born in Bellingham. Dick’s character and dedication to prayer shaped the course of my life. He was not just a mentor but a spiritual father, leading by example and igniting a passion for prayer in my life. At that time, I was a prayerless pastor and we were a prayerless church, but the Lord used Dick to help awaken me to the power of God released through prayer, which I am still learning to this day.

I vividly remember him describing a powerful visitation he had with the Lord where he was lifted up into God’s Holy presence. He quickly knew he wasn’t ready to go their; his flesh quaked and trembled. He shared, “It was so wonderful, I wanted to die in the glory but so awful I couldn’t stand another moment.” After a couple hours passed, the Lord took him to Matthew 5:5, “blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” Dick understood the reality, that without holiness no one will see the Lord. In this visitation the Lord also took hi to Psalm 24, where David describes how we can only ascend the hill of the Lord’s presence with clean hands and pure hearts. Dick shared, “the only way to see true revival and awakening in our cities and nation is for us to go up to the hill of the Lord where he will give us the faith and prayers to turn whole cities back to him!” I remember together in our small prayer room on our knees again crying out in repentance, give us clean hands and pure hearts – release your all-consuming fire that we might ‘See your Glory’

Dick used to spend hours praying in the Spirit up in the hills of Chuckanut mountain in South Bellingham during the late 60’s and early 70’s. I believe God responded to his prayers releasing a revival in those days in our small city. It is interesting that several men of prayer, leading national and international prayer to this day were either born in Bellingham or born again in Bellingham, Tom White, Tom Victor, and Dennis Fuqua. I wonder if this was part of Dick’s legacy of answered prayer as he contended for revival and awakening in our city and in the nations of the earth?

One of the most significant contributions Dick made was in the establishment of early morning prayer sessions at our church. In 2007, we hosted a men’s bootcamp weekend with 200 plus men. In response with Dick’s guidance, 25 men embarked on a rigorous 21-day men’s prayer journey, meeting daily from 5 to 7 am. This intense period of prayer and spiritual discipline laid the groundwork for what would later become Light of the World prayer center, a hub for city-wide intercession. Even Mary, Dick’s daughter, a beautiful woman of God continues to serve in prayer at the prayer center today.

Dick challenged us as men to follow in the footsteps of Jesus,

“And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed” – Mark 1:35

Dick not only walked in a lifestyle of early morning prayer, but called and challenged men to do the same! He emphasized the example set by King David in the Psalms, “I rise before dawn and cry for help; I hope in your words” (Psalm 119:147). Dick would often say, “armies do not meet the enemy for lunch but strike before the break of dawn in the cover of night.”

Central to Dick's message was the call for men to take up the mantle of leadership in prayer. Citing 1 Timothy 2:8, which urges men to lift up holy hands in the place of prayer. He emphasized the critical role that men play in interceding at the beginning of each day for their families, churches, cities, and nations. He would passionately challenge men that if they don’t wake up and pray at the beginning of each day then they will loose that day for eternity. In fact he would often challenge men, sharing while ‘men slept’ the devil sowed tares of unrighteousness in our nation and he was calling men to literally Wake Up and stand in the gap in the place of prayer for our nation.

Dick was passionate about revival. He was convinced that it will take extraordinary prayer to save America. God had sent a revival and healed America four times when his people cried out fervently for his mercy, with the First and Second Great Awakenings (1734, and 1794), the Laymen’s noonday prayer meeting in 1859, and the Welsh worldwide revival in 1904. Dick would often remind us that revival comes only through concerted united and sustainable prayer with repentance. God will not tolerate the slaughter of millions of innocent unborn babies to the gods of lust and greed. Our land is defiled by their blood, crying out for God’s judgments and only the fervent prayers of righteous men and women can stop abortion and stay God’s hand of judgment releasing his forgiveness and mercy on our land.

Throughout our journey, Dick exemplified humility, always deflecting attention away from himself and redirecting it towards the Lord Jesus. His unwavering commitment to keep Christ at the center of all things served as a constant reminder of where true leadership originates.

“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent” (Colossians 1:18).

The impact of Dick's teachings continues to reverberate through the fabric of our community. Every Friday morning, men continue to gather at Light of the World prayer center, continuing the tradition that Dick helped establish decades ago. His legacy lives on in the hearts of those who were privileged to learn from him, a testament to the enduring power of a life surrendered to will and ways of God.

I am so grateful for the impact of Dick Simmons on my life. Today I help to facilitate International Prayer Connect, a global prayer network of networks (www.ipcprayer.org). I wouldn’t be here today without the influence of Dick Simmons on my personal prayer and ministry life. His commitment to prayer continues to shape my life and vibrant call to holiness in the grace of the gospel! As we reflect on his legacy, may we be inspired to follow in his footsteps, leading in fervent prayer with humility and always keeping Jesus at the forefront of all we do.

Dr. Jason Hubbard