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Weekly Encourager – 30 January 2011

(from James Stacey: scriptural advice and insight on how to be set free from schizophrenia)

DEFEAT SCHIZOPHRENIA BY DEFEATING THE VOICES

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 10: Key verses 7-13 : Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep."

If evidence were needed of the demonic nature of schizophrenia, then look no further than the proof of the presence of evil voices. Rid a person of these intrusive, hellish voices by driving them out in the authority of the Name of Jesus Christ and spiritual freedom has been secured. Such deliverances would be common place if only Christians woke up and began setting the captives free.

Why is it that the Christian church has "walked on the other side of the road" whenever a disturbing mental bondage has reared its head? Lack of dynamic faith and compassion has kept us from being involved. But all that is changing as new faith arises to triumph and take mental bondage from the arena normally left exclusively to the psychiatrist to be now dominated by followers of the Great Healer and Physician, Jesus Christ.

During a recent mission to Colombia, my wife Tina and I were given opportunity to proclaim in four cities the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to defeat mental bondages among teenagers, young adults and older victims unable to overcome evil voices. Regrettably, suicide had become an option for a few in January. Three days after our arrival in Armenia, we were able to follow hard on the heels of a non-Christian city-wide symposium called to bring a solution to this big mental problem.

It was thrilling that the same organisers of the symposium saw that we had a contribution to make and on the following day granted us the free use of the University lecture hall for the launch of Schizophrenia Defeated into Spanish and three hours in which to give testimony to how Jesus sets free. The authorities had also contributed the majority of the cost to large posters announcing our meeting and displayed throughout the city. The timing of our visit could not have been better!!

We received a lasting impression of how eager people were to hear a relevant testimony of the intervention of God in setting free from 26 years of schizophrenia. The desire to become lastingly free of entrenched mental bondage often impacted us. I both thought and prayed: "The people I am addressing know as I do that these evil voices are very real and are not figments of imagination. 'Lord, declare through me that the only voice we are meant to hear is the comfort of your voice through the person of the Holy Spirit, and reveal just how needful it is to have your powerful presence in us to drive out the evil personality behind all other destructive voices.'"

What was plainly obvious throughout the places we visited in Colombia was the openness of those desperate to hear that God had an answer to the seriousness of mental problems which were causing so much havoc over varying age ranges. Such interest is not seen in places like the United Kingdom where in general mental illnesses and bondages are viewed in a kind of hush-hush secrecy. Even in many churches, mention the demonic behind mental bondages and you are out of favour.

There's nothing like spreading hope around to those in desperate need of it!! And that was just what we felt we were doing. The final meeting in Cali, the heavily-populated city renowned in past years for mass prayer gatherings at the large football stadiums, will live with me for some time to come. After sharing the delivering power of Jesus and lifting up the Name that is above every name, the number of

people drawn from city-wide churches who flocked to the front for prayer was quite overwhelming. It was impossible to spend time praying for a crowd which numbered around 100 so a general prayer was made seeking breakthrough for everyone. But on the faces there was such desperate need and longing for God.

When one has imparted hope to another of being delivered and healed of such a bondage of schizophrenia, the next place to reach is that of possessing the dynamic of faith. It is not hope that sets the captives free, but triumphant faith. "This is the victory," John assures us, to overcome the world – our faith (1 John 5:4). A well-known intercessor said: "Prayer is a work of faith... In prevailing prayer you are asking God to do things you can accomplish in no other way. To prevail you need to desire and hunger deeply, to pray with fervour and passion... Millions of prayers are prayed with almost no faith. James tells us that God is a generous giver, but we "must believe and not doubt" when we pray. (James 1:6)".

There are thousands upon thousands of schizophrenics the world over somehow longing for a breakthrough into freedom through the literal power of God invading their lives. But far less is the number who are exercising the raw kind of believing faith in Jesus that takes hold of the power of God themselves – and who move forward in desperation to claim their own freedom no matter how long it takes in coming.

A prayer: "Dear Heavenly Father, will you please cultivate in me the ability to hear your voice and grant a faith-inspired life in You. I see my need of possessing your power within my life in order to overcome the evil of schizophrenia. It's a hard discipline, but I am trusting you to help me overcome as I believe in You and Your Word. I offer my prayer in the Name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

IF YOU WISH TO INVITE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

"Lord God Almighty, I approach you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done. There are so many sinful things I have done. I am truly sorry for the sinfulness in my life, but most of all I acknowledge the sin that separates me from you. I accept the death of Jesus on the Cross to redeem me and extend the gift of eternal life. Gratefully, I give my life back to you as I now ask you to come into my life. Come in as my Saviour and Lord and cleanse me. Come in as my Lord to control me. Come with the strength of your grace and the power of your Spirit to defeat the evil spirit of schizophrenia that troubles me. Now you have set my spirit free, pour your delivering and healing power into my life as I take authority in the name of Jesus through the power of his blood over the intruding force. I assert your ownership of my life and resist any legal right that the devil seeks to hold over my life and bind up and expel any evil presence. I believe that my mind, too, can also be completely set free and my whole life enjoy the total freedom of Jesus. Amen.

PROCLAMATION FOR GOD'S PROTECTION

NO WEAPON that is formed against me shall prosper and every tongue which rises against me in judgement I do condemn. This is my heritage as a servant of the Lord and my righteousness is from You, O Lord of Hosts. If there are those who have been speaking or praying against me, or seeking harm or evil to me, or who have rejected me, I forgive them. Having forgiven them, I bless them in the name of the Lord." *

NOW I DECLARE, O Lord, that You and You alone are my God, and besides You there is no other – a just God and a Saviour, the Father, the Son and the Spirit – and I worship You!

I SUBMIT myself afresh to You in unreserved obedience. Having submitted to You, Lord, I do as Your Word directs. I resist the devil: all his pressures, his attacks, his deceptions, every instrument or agent he would seek to use against me. I do not submit! I resist him, drive him from me and exclude him from me in the Name of Jesus. Specifically I reject and repel: infirmity, pain, infection, inflammation, malignancies, allergies, viruses, and every form of witchcraft.

FINALLY, LORD, I thank You that through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham whom You blessed in all things:** exaltation, health, reproductiveness, prosperity, victory and God's favour. AMEN

*see Matthew 5: 43-45; Romans 12:14

**see Galatians 3:13-14; Genesis 24:1

We are continuing to insert in the Weekly Encourager some powerful Scriptures to learn and commit to memory for USE in your prayer battle to drive out the demon of schizophrenia. By so doing your confidence in the Lord will grow because the words will impart "spirit and life" into your spirit, and so equip you in your fight for freedom to know the deliverance and healing of Jesus.

(Jesus said): "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Luke 22: 31-32

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10: 19-22

(Jesus said): "So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no-one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16: 22-24

The Weekly Encourager

6 February: Let The Power Of The Cross Where Jesus Died Grip You As You Read The Bible

13 February: Praising God and Declaring His Victory Will Cause the Demon of Schizophrenia to Leave Your Life

You may be reading the Weekly Encourager for the first time and have stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia. Or every week you visit W.E. for encouragement and help to overcome this "monster" of mental illnesses and have been given REAL HOPE that the Lord Jesus is the only One to open the prison door to freedom in your life once and for all time. We encourage you to keep logging into the site as often as you can for scriptural advice as we continue to point to Jesus who is well-trying and tested in the area of setting captives free from a bondage that no-one else can conquer. Our website www.schizophreniadefeated.com seeks to magnify the dear Son of God who left the courts of heaven to come to our world and die for you and me on the Cross at a place called Calvary just outside Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago. In that sacrifice, he paid the punishment and penalty of your sin and mine and on the third day rose again as "The Resurrection and the Life". He releases TODAY into your life and to anyone accepting his sacrifice, the same victorious life that brought him back from the dead, in the person of the Holy Spirit. Why not invite him into your life right now? It's a life-transforming experience that you CAN REALLY KNOW – which is well able to defeat and conquer the hell of schizophrenia you struggle with, for good!!



"I will proclaim your mighty acts, O sovereign Lord" Psalm 71: 16

James Stacey, Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals