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Weekly Encourager – 29 November 2009

"Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice... Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall ... But as for me, I trust in you." Psalm 55 verses 17, 22 and part 23

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours," said Jesus. Mark 11 verse 24

It is not uncommon for us to regularly receive cries of desperation from friends suffering with schizophrenia who have reached the agony of "wit's end corner". How important it is to quickly respond by sending out a lifeline of promised hope commending our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in each and every hour of need.

Again, we stress the need of every born-again Christian schizophrenic to be able to cry out to God for help. While you also desperately require the compassionate support, prayers and care of Christians to get you through to freedom, many are the times when because of the nature of the demonic bondage you will not think to contact others to bring you through your pressurised situation.

It is at those times that you need to cry out with all the earnestness and fight within you to God himself. Because you know Jesus, His protection is over you and near at hand. Plead the precious blood of Jesus shed for you which makes you now His property and not Satan's. When demonic forces press in, declare that they have no legal right over your life and they have to leave!! Jesus will move swiftly to answer your pleas to enforce the power of His blood over you, no matter how hot the contest you face.

(Praise God for those Christians who have stood alongside members of their own family for years, loving and caring for a son or daughter in what is the most difficult mental illness/bondage to be understood. Those whose hearts have cried over loved ones being robbed of life itself are now waking up to the reality that the long-desired answer of freedom is to be found not in a medical solution but in a spiritual one - the delivering and healing power of Jesus Christ).

As a born-again Christian, I know, you often struggle on your own to cope with the bondage. The withdrawn and insular disposition the illness imposes on you does not lend itself to sharing with others what is being experienced. Often you can't articulate what is going on in your mind. You could be living on your own away from parents who no longer can cope with the strange, vacillating mood-swings you show to them. Don't think they have stopped loving you because you have had to move to a home of your own!! It's just that coping with your unpredictable, behavioural lifestyle takes its toll. How important it is for you to know Jesus in such a desperate loneliness and to cry out to Him for help... but what an additional blessing to have on hand compassionate friends committed to carrying your burden, too.

Don't be surprised if some born-again Christians do not allow you to share your heartaches, struggles and problems with them as they would allow other Christians without your diagnosis. But how encouraging for you when you hear or read of another who has suffered just like you are now suffering AND IS NOW FREE. When you hear that Jesus led them out of the same mental prison house that you long to escape from .. it infuses a thunderbolt of hope in the delivering and healing ability of the Lord Jesus. Faith in such a God of real hope can be so powerful that you can hang on to Him until the day you experience His power shattering once and for all the bars of iron and gates of brass shackling your mind.

I believe it is my calling to declare into every country or part of the world where this demonic bondage has a hold on the lives of at least one in every 100 that it is high time we gave the Great Physician a chance to do his delivering and healing work in countless numbers of imprisoned lives.

There's no need to debate or argue the never-ending "merry-go-round" question of how does schizophrenia start and jostle with what others say is the answer, when the proven way out to

permanent freedom is through the Saviour of the world. His power to set free is released both to the schizophrenic and to the deliverance minister helping the one in bondage.

My testimony declares that but for Jesus blasting wide open the mental prison house in my life over 19 years ago, I would still be in the unpleasant, hellish bondage I had suffered for 26 years. I would still be on medication .. meaning that the ever-growing toxic dump building up in my life would have squeezed out of me the little bit of sanity there was. The disintegration of my personality would have been more marked as I now move towards my 68th year. The purpose and enjoyment of life would be missing!! I doubt if anyone would ever have married me in this condition. I would never have been able to able to enjoy retirement and my family. Never been able to take up the purpose of God for my life and encourage YOU to freedom as you take the time to read this Weekly Encourager.

Jesus said: "The Spirit gives life, the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life". John 6:63

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you". John 15:7

We publish an excerpt below from IN SEARCH OF SANITY by Peter D Laue of <http://www.stretcherbearers.com>(found in full on Partners and Links on the web site). Peter defeated schizophrenia and his testimony (see homepage) brings hope to other sufferers and magnifies the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I am very disappointed, saddened, and at times angry because of the position some mental health professionals have taken regarding visions and voices. Far too many treat these experiences as auditory or visual hallucinations. Consequently, they make a blanket indictment as to their validity and discredit all spiritual or supernatural experiences and attempt to drown out these experiences with medication. As a direct result of such a hostile perception of spiritual realities, I - like many others - did not divulge my inner world to anyone. This is unfortunate because we are thereby denied many opportunities to help one another sort through our spiritual nightmares or to rejoice with others in their heavenly visitations. But I finally decided to go public with my inner conflicts and search for sanity. It may be the best and only way I can help others.

I recommend the Bible to mental health professionals as a current and most useful mental health textbook. Do not take it away from your patients or belittle its value. Make it easily available to those who are searching for answers and reality. Every hero of the faith saw visions and heard voices. They saw and heard things that were often so overwhelming that they fainted away as if dead, only to hear the words, "Fear not." (Revelation 1:17)

Fighting for my sanity was a life-and-death struggle. I saw things and thought things that caused my mind to resemble a courtroom in continuous session. Sometimes I was the accused, sometimes the accuser. At other times I was the judge or jury. My thought process was compelling, relentless, emotionally charged, exhausting, and totally unproductive. For a brief period I was on medication. It did not solve my problems, but may have kept me from doing something stupid. For this I am grateful. Much like an aspirin, it provided temporary relief for a bad headache.

BUT IT WAS THE WORD OF GOD AND THE GRACE OF GOD THAT EVENTUALLY CREATED ORDER OUT OF CHAOS. ONLY AS I BELIEVED THE WORD AND OBEYED IT, WAS PEACE AND ORDER RESTORED TO MY MIND".

Prayer for Deliverance and Healing: "Dear Heavenly Father, I come to you in and through the precious name of Your Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ and claim my deliverance and healing from the evil bondage of schizophrenia. Triumph in my life through faith in His finished work on the Cross for me. Through your power I bind the strong man that holds me in bondage and with your help drive him and any other spirits out for good. Thank you for the wonder-working power of your blood that sets me free". Amen

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