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THE POWER OF UNITED PRAYER WILL SEE THE POWER OF GOD BREAK THROUGH THE BARS OF IRON AND GATES OF BRASS SHACKLING A BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN'S SCHIZOPHRENIC MIND

Jesus said: "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14 verse 13-14

Tina describes how, moved with Christ's compassion, she got a small army of friends to pray James into his long-awaited freedom

James: So we were married in 1967; Pam passed away in 1981, and then I became very, very lonely bringing up my two children. It was a time that I joined a Christian dating agency called Christian Friendship Fellowship. I met certain ladies, and there came a time though after months went by that I thought...*Lord, this is not going anywhere*; so I dropped off. Again, I lost all interest in sports and in life generally. My only pleasure really was to look through this A4 size list of ladies who gave full details of who they were and what they wanted. There was something in my heart to really meet someone. One day I came across Tina's entry, which simply said what she was interested in things such as poetry, traveling, and cooking. But then when I had read something which she had put in there to ward off the undesirables, it really hit me between the eyes; I had never read before this kind of insertion. She simply said she wanted to meet someone with a regular prayer life, and I thought...*Wow, I must get to know this lady*. So I phoned Tina up and we met. Three months into the relationship, Tina found out that I was schizophrenic, because as a Practice Nurse, she used to give the same injections as I was receiving – modecate and depixol.

Charlotte: Tina, when you met James, were you aware in the first meeting with him that there was something slightly awry - or what were you thinking?

Tina: I wouldn't say it was the first meeting, because we had a lot to talk about. We went to a lovely scenic spot – the grounds of Chatsworth House. So we were enjoying our surroundings, but we were sharing a little bit. He was telling me about his children and his losing Pam, but as time progressed, I could sense that there was something but I just couldn't put my finger on it. I knew in his spirit, that part that worships God, the God conscious part, was beautiful. But I was beginning to wonder about his emotions and his expression of how he felt about things seemed to be very muted. I still didn't know anything until one day I rang up and his daughter answered the phone and said he'd been to the doctor to get his injection for his nerves. So I thought...*ok, what is this?* When I asked him what it was, he told me it was depixol which is one of the antipsychotic drugs, and so everything fell into place. I thought...*ohhh, this is what he suffers from*. Even though he's a wonderful man, and I knew he had a lovely temperament as well, but he seemed to be so in bondage in his emotions; lack of expression and talking about religious or Christian things all the time - more regularly instead of entering into the natural side of life, so I knew things were a little bit lopsided.

Charlotte: How did that impact you as a couple starting out and building up a relationship?

James: Could I just mention, Charlotte, that I actually prayed and said to the Lord, "I'll give this dating agency another go." I said, "Lord, I am going no further than Birmingham." It was three months after going out with Tina that I had laryngitis and bronchitis. My doctor had given me an extra injection for my nerves, and I had fallen in love with Tina. So emotionally, I was somewhat up there. In my bedroom at night, I had a real vision of Tina in a bridal gown with her father by her side, and the Lord said to me, "Enough is enough." That night I came off my injections; it was a word from the Lord. I had not in previous years come off my injections just like that; I thought I

would do it when God tells me to. I came off them in January, 1988, and I haven't had to return to those injections since.

But when I got the vision of Tina in the bridal gown, though I felt not ready for marriage, I thought... *Well, if God is going to give me a vision of a wife, I'd better hold onto it, so I did.*

Charlotte: Tina, did God give you the same vision?

*Tina: No, not at all. My initial reaction, I must admit, was Oh, it's another delusion. So I didn't talk about it very much, and when he brought it up, I'd just say "We'll leave that aside for the moment." I tried to distract him, really, but as time progressed, I began to ask questions... *Lord, is there a way out of this?* Here is a lovely man who has a beautiful spirit. I could see his sense of humor too coming through from time to time. His sort of like suppressed joy of life which was just in bondage really. So I thought... *how can this man stay the same? There must be an answer Lord; there must be an answer.**

It was at that point that I began to just tell trusted friends all around the country, people I knew who would pray for us, and I got them just praying. They were not just people who said, "Yes, I'll pray," on a Friday morning two minutes in my prayer time praying for us. They were committed so that I could ring them up anytime day or night. There was one Vicar friend who I rang up at 02:00 in the morning at one point when I was struggling with James over something. They said, "Yes, we'll pray right now." And another cousin, Phil Townend, he and his wife really went to prayer, and of course my father was the main stay who was a very, very godly man. He was a pastor, a Vicar, and he and his wife (my stepmother) would pray regularly every day, and my auntie too. So there was a small army who stood with us, and it was actually persevering, committed prayer. Not just prayer, but actually people just opening their arms to James and welcoming him as an individual, not saying... *oh, he's a bit queer*, but just recognizing him as a man of God.

Charlotte: How important would you say that intercessory prayer is, praying on behalf of others. Would you say that is a concept that you have really found key in James's deliverance and healing?

Tina: Definitely. Absolutely. Sometimes when we just felt as though we were hitting a blank wall, then I just phoned various people and said this is what we are facing at the moment. Please get them to pray now. Worship the Lord and pray. Worship and intercessory prayer go together, because worship of course arms you. In order to lift up, I see prayer for something like this is like a battering ram that they used to use in the armies attacking castles to actually push down the wall, or the portcullis, which is one of these gates you used to have on castles. You'd see the army going and coming back, over and over again. It is prayers like that, it will not give up. So persevering prayer is something that is a key in intercessory prayer.

James Stacey

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