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Weekly Encourager – 8 November 2009

"Answer me when I call to you, O righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer... I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4 verses 1 & 8

Every born-again Christian schizophrenic needs encouragement to call out to God ON THEIR OWN for deliverance and healing in order to enjoy one of the greatest blessings from Jesus which at present evades them.... that of deep, satisfying peaceful sleep.

Look no further for the evidence of a demonic presence of schizophrenia and you have it in a disturbed, restless mind unable every night to secure adequate and necessary sleep. Drugs which dull the mind are no substitute for a heart and mind nestling on the bosom of Jesus at the close of every day.

The promise of abundant life from Jesus includes the provision of "giving His beloved sleep". How I longed to know meaningful rest and sleep during 26 long years of schizophrenic bondage. But the night Jesus set me free - brought deliverance and healing in a matter of minutes - He imparted good quality sleep to my life!! I then still carried in my body the remains of a toxic dump of medication and electric shock effects but I could cope with that. Long sought-after freedom from my Lord and Saviour had touched every part of my life. I began to catch up on the lack of peaceful sleep and would even "drop off" on the bus going to work - to be wakened with a jolt on reaching the terminus.

The regaining of good quality sleep, for me, has been one of the major benefits of defeating schizophrenia. The demonic force behind the condition robbed me of years and years of this wonderful blessing from God. I've told Satan over the 19 years since he lost the fight with Jesus for my life that I want back SEVEN TIMES all that he stole from my life - including the precious gift of sleep. What a contrast to settle down to sleep at night without a demonic restlessness jostling about in the head and disturbing heart peace. Thank you Jesus for your victory!!

The nearest a Christian schizophrenic gets to touching the "rest of Jesus", I believe, is often during times of real worship. The restfulness imparted here is the forerunner to going on and discovering anew the rest provided in sleep. Develop times of worship in the presence of God and you are heading towards being set free by Jesus. Speak out the promises of God in worship and that brings delivering Holy Spirit power over and into your life!!

"Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralysed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven... I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Mark 2 verses 4-5, part 11

One of the main strategies we advocate in seeing a Christian schizophrenic come into permanent freedom in Jesus is to get a number of compassionate loved ones or friends to pray until that freedom comes. That's how it was in my life. Tina rang a group of Christian friends in various parts of the UK and asked them if they would join her in praying for me. The volume of prayer, she thought, needed for a breakthrough was more than she could give; the prayer of agreement which followed from others sharing the load began to pierce the spiritual darkness in my life as shafts of Divine light shone into my quickened spirit.

Many schizophrenics need a prayer force behind them or the realisation of becoming permanently free will always seem to be out of reach. The paralytic in the gospel story needed his four friends. Notice what Jesus said to him after seeing "their faith". The man needed a team of four to be

lowered into the presence of Jesus. In just the same way, your schizophrenic loved one will need others around him/her to reach that joyous day when you will see them changed forever by the delivering, healing power of Jesus. Get busy and start the prayer moving. Don't be embarrassed to ask for prayer help. Ask God to lead you to the right people. Begin to watch for changes in your loved one. They WILL come. Signs of God's light penetrating the condition will be discerned. Adopt the fighting spirit of a warrior who visits the presence of God often to offer life-changing petitions to the throne on high.

The light of God's word needs to rise inside the hearts of many Christian schizophrenics. Too often minds have been dulled by medication and a passivity of life has given way so that the word of God no longer "lives as a force" inside the heart of the believer. Intercessory prayer changes all that as the one in bondage begins to testify personally as to what the Word of God says the blood of Jesus does for them ..."and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ), and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death" (see Revelation 12:11), "that through the blood, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil (Eph 1:7), through the blood of Jesus all my sins are forgiven (Psalm 107:2), the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, continually cleanses me from all sin (1 John:7), through the blood of Jesus, I am justified, made righteous, just-as-if-I'd never sinned (Romans 5:9), through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God (Hebrews 13:12), my temple is a temple of the Holy Spirit, redeemed, cleansed, by the blood of Jesus (1 Cor 6 19-20).

Prayer for Protection on the road to being set free from Schizophrenia:

"Dear Heavenly Father, in the Name of your Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ by faith I appropriate and claim the protection you have made available for me. I now claim protection for my body against accident, weakness and disease. I claim protection for my mind against carelessness, forgetfulness, and all Satan's lies and deceptions. Satan has no place in me, no power over me, through the blood of Jesus. I claim protection for my spirit against passivity, indifference, battle weariness, and temptation. I claim protection for your work against the onslaughts of Satan and his demons through hostile people or circumstances. I claim protection through God's Word, through the blood of the cross, through the name of Jesus. I claim God's wisdom, guidance, and power. And I claim the assistance in the invisible of the angel forces of God. Amen."

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