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Setting the Schizophrenic Free

By Pat Legako

In 2002, several members of my deliverance team and I were doing altar ministry at an out-of-state conference when Doris Wagner sent a woman to me. The woman's son, whom I'll call Grady, had been newly diagnosed with schizophrenia. He began exhibiting symptoms when he was thirteen years old. He was now fifteen and appeared to be heavily medicated. The teenager's behavior was reminiscent of my case study patient, also a schizophrenic, during my psychiatric rotation in nursing. Grady refused to meet my gaze.

"I'm sorry. I can't look at you," he said, staring at the floor. "The computer chip in my head that I got from the TV will hurt you if I look at you." His speech was slurred.

"She's dead. She's dead," he murmured.

"Who's dead?" one of my team asked.

"She was with me, but now she's dead," he answered.

John Eckhardt had just led the entire conference in mass deliverance. Clearly, he had been delivered from a demonic entity that had held him in bondage. The only way he could express it was, "She's dead".

This woman desperately wanted help for her son, but as I looked around the room I realized that we had to vacate the building in fifteen minutes so they could set up for a wedding. There wasn't time.

"I can't help you," I told the mother, hating to dash the hope I saw in her eyes. She reminded me of the woman recorded in Matthew 15 : 22-28, who begged Jesus to deliver her demon-possessed daughter. I paused. "But if you can come to Oklahoma for a few days we'll be happy to pray for your son."

She agreed to make the trip.

Case History

Grady is the second child in a family of four boys. None of the other children have exhibited symptoms of schizophrenia, however the oldest brother had exhibited symptoms of rage, anger, ADD and 'supposed' Bipolar Disorder ... much of which abated with changes in nutrition. Grady began talking normal baby talk around eleven or twelve months of age, but he stopped at fourteen months. He didn't talk again until he was three years old, but his speech was so garbled that only his mother could understand him. From age three through the sixth grade, he received speech therapy twice a week. He progressed so slowly in first grade that his parents decided to hold him back. By fourth grade he couldn't keep up with the other students, and his teacher suggested he be tested.

Grady was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder and central auditory processing deficit. With his teachers working to accommodate these learning disabilities, he improved and finished fourth, fifth and sixth grades. The grade school he attended was a small one where all the teachers knew all the students.

Grady's mother suspected that the transition from a small grade school to a bustling middle school eight times larger would be a difficult adjustment for him. But the adjustment never occurred. With each passing week of his seventh grade year, Grady became more confused, disoriented and fearful, finally withdrawing into a world of his own.

His teachers suggested that Grady be treated by a local psychiatrist who wanted to admit him for observation. When his mother refused to allow inpatient care, he was enrolled in outpatient group and individual counseling sessions every day after school. Four months later his condition had deteriorated. He finished seventh grade having been diagnosed with depression, bipolar disorder, attention deficit disorder, and social anxiety disorder. Doctors prescribed an antidepressant.

Within four days of beginning the antidepressant, Grady was almost catatonic making it next to impossible to interact with him. On two separate occasions, he wandered away from the family and got lost. His mother discontinued the medication.

The rest of the summer became a vigil to keep him safe. On one occasion he asked for a match. When questioned why he needed it Grady showed his mother the torch he was making. It consisted of rolled newspaper inserted in a glass bottle filled with gasoline.

During eighth grade Grady's schoolwork was nonexistent. As his paranoia escalated, he hid in the school's bathrooms or janitor's closet to avoid the "stares of

all those people talking about me.” Eventually the school provided a para-professional to meet Grady at the door and sit beside him in class. By November of that year, the school insisted he receive help. Under pressure, Grady’s mother allowed him to be admitted to the hospital for psychiatric testing and observation. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia and put on anti-psychotic medications. His mother learned that statistically the rate of recovery from childhood schizophrenia was only five percent, and usually involved 20 years of medication and institutionalization.

Grady went back to school but not for full days. His hygiene suffered and the medication caused him to gain weight so rapidly that his skin tore. His family begged the doctor to change the medication. With the medication change, his condition deteriorated so rapidly that Grady asked to be hospitalized. The hospitalization lasted five weeks. While in the hospital, demonic spirits began interacting with Grady. One spirit introduced itself as a “Cop.” One of the spirits sometimes spoke to him as a male, Michael. At other times it spoke as a female, Michelle.

Home from the hospital, school consisted of three hours in a small room working one-on-one with a para-professional. In May of that year Grady’s mother took him to the deliverance conference where we met.

Praying for Direction

It was seven months from the first time I met Grady and his mother until they arrived in Oklahoma. During that time my team and I fasted and prayed, asking for God’s direction. As I prayed, the Lord told me *not* to look up any case studies on schizophrenia. Clearly, He didn’t want my faith to do a nosedive from reading them. What He told me to do surprised me.

“Study the genetics of schizophrenia,” He said.

From my college education, I had only the most basic understanding of genetics, pretty much limited to recessive and dominant genes for eye color. But in recent years the U.S. Human Genome Project had identified approximately 80,000 genes in human DNA, determined the sequence of the three billion base pairs that make up human DNA, and stored the information in databases.

Clearly there is a genetic element to schizophrenia, as the tendency for the disease can be passed from parent to child, although it is generally triggered by stress. As I printed off page after page of genetic research on schizophrenia, I realized God had directed me to a goldmine of information.

The research was so technical that I had trouble deciphering it, so I sat down to review it with my husband, Dee, a medical doctor. “Imagine the human genome as

a library,” he said, explaining it in the simplest of terms. “The chromosome is a book in the library. The band on each chromosome is a chapter in the book. Each gene is a sentence, and each base pair is a letter.” I was getting the picture.

As Dee read through the research, he got excited.

“The chromosome affected in schizophrenia is 22Q11,” he said. “The problem occurs where the protein is attached to the chromosome. In this case it’s a gene called PRODH2. This is how the generational curse is passed down. The iniquity damages the chromosome, which is passed down in damaged form to the next generation through the blood!”

We stared at one another in stunned silence. No wonder God told me to study the genetics of the disease. Now we could make a plan.

As I met with Dee and our team members, we realized that for Grady to get well, we had to treat him in three distinct ways. The first way was through deliverance. The second thing he needed was healing of his gene PRODH2 and the chromosome 22Q11. In addition, Grady needed behavior modification to teach him new ways to cope. Grady’s mother and her friend who came with them for prayer support would both need deliverance as well as a written plan for after care.

We got to work developing our strategy. I assigned three teams of two people each—one to work with the mother, one to work with the friend, and another to work with Grady. I assigned myself to the mother. I assigned a team of sisters to Grady. One of them, Dee Dee Roberts, flows very powerfully in the prophetic and in spiritual warfare and leads the adolescent deliverance ministry in our church. The other, Dawnetta Russell, heads up our children’s deliverance ministry. She has a master’s degree in psychology and worked in the mental health field for eight years doing psychotherapy as well as teaching abnormal and developmental psychology at the college level. Today she is a high school counselor for high risk teens. While Dee Dee primarily handles the spiritual warfare, Dawnetta specializes in behavior modification.

The medical pair of the team, my husband and I, worked together to write specific prayers for healing each abnormality known to be associated with schizophrenia. Since some theories suggest that schizophrenia may be caused by a retrovirus, we tried to cover all the bases in the prayer which is included at the end of this chapter.

As time for Grady’s deliverance drew near I presented our plans and the prayers we’d written to my pastor, Dr. John Benefiel, for his input and prayer. I also told Grady’s mother that I could not do the deliverance unless Grady’s pastor gave his permission for us to proceed. We had a long phone conversation, and he approved our plan and prayed for us as well.

A Step of Faith

In July of 2002, Grady, his mother, and her friend arrived in Oklahoma for three days. Although each of them was ministered to in the same location, neither Grady, his mother, nor her friend were ever together during ministry. Dee Dee and Dawnetta's first priority was to ascertain that Grady was born again, which he was. They assessed him to be very spiritually weak as a Christian, and discovered that he had never been baptized in the Holy Spirit. They taught him about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and then prayed for him. He received that infilling and began praying in his prayer language. Above all, he convinced them of his deep desire to be well.

They had to give him frequent breaks because Grady's attention span was about fifteen to twenty minutes—maximum. In addition, he was heavily medicated and slept a great deal. He also interacted with the voices in his head almost constantly. He believed that a cop had implanted a microchip in his brain.

Unlike the way most schizophrenics are treated, we never tried to convince Grady that the voices in his head didn't exist. In fact, we believed that they did exist. Our team's biggest challenge was convincing Grady that these entities were not his friends, and that God's power was greater than theirs.

We used our authority to bind, muzzle and gag the spirits, and although they never manifested themselves to us, they spoke to Grady continually trying to sabotage the process. It was important for us to know what they were telling him. When a stronghold was about to be broken, Grady would get very agitated and demanding. "I have to go to the bathroom! I have to go to the bathroom! I have to go to the bathroom right now!"

We could hear his side of the conversation from the bathroom. "I know! I know!" he said. "I'll just pretend. It's all right! We'll make sure they think that."

Grady came out of the bathroom and said, "Okay...they're gone. We're done. They're dead."

Each time, we would redirect him back to the reality that they *weren't* gone and help him choose again to be free. "Grady, can you see that Michelle is not your friend? She is making your life miserable."

Grady's maturation level was very young so we spoke simply and used hand gestures when we spoke. When he was carrying on a conversation with the demons we said slowly, "Stop! We're not listening to that! We're going to trust God!" We acted out each sentence.

Eventually when the voices spoke to him, Grady would say with hand gestures,

“Stop! We’re not listening to that! We’re going to trust God!”

After fifteen or twenty minutes Grady would be ready for a break. As soon as we stopped working, he would fall asleep. While he slept, we prayed the healing prayers for schizophrenia over him. We did this repeatedly so that the prayers would be imprinted on his spirit.

As a starting place for the deliverance, we used the list of spiritual strongholds for schizophrenia listed in the book *Pigs in a Parlor* by Frank and Ida Mae Hammond. In this book, Hammond portrays schizophrenia as two hands, one with the stronghold of rejection and the other with a stronghold of rebellion. Each hand lists the demonic branches that stem from those two roots, with paranoia as a type of handcuff that ties to two hands together.

We began by dealing with rejection. When we’d finished with that, we were left with one angry, rebellious teen. In working with children and teens, we always try to keep the experience pleasant so that they never want to run from God or His people. However, as anger erupted in Grady, we had to put up the same firm boundaries that we do with our own teens.

“I’m done!” he’d say. “I don’t want to do this!”

“Sit down,” we’d say. “Now...this is what we need to do. We need you to tell us if you really want to get free and be well. It’s your choice.”

He really did want to be free so he’d settle down and get back to work until the demons got him agitated again.

“Excuse me! Stop listening to that demon. That behavior is not acceptable.” We also made a point to pour in God’s virtue in every place where something was removed from him.

In addition to the spirits listed in *Pigs in a Parlor*, we listened to Grady to find out what other specific things needed to be dealt with. For instance, a few of the demonic entities we dealt with were the microchip, the cop, Michael and Michelle.

At first we did all the warfare on his behalf, but as Grady got stronger, we put a demand on him. “No, *you* make him stop talking.”

Eventually we could hear him in the bathroom saying, “Shut up in Jesus’ name! I don’t want you!” As he took more control over the demons, his attention span improved. We prayed prayers to heal the trauma in his life, and we also prayed that God would bring him quickly up to his chronological and maturational age.

By the end of our sessions on the second day, we knew we’d done all we could for

Grady at that time. There was no way his life would ever be the same, but we weren't jumping up and down with joy because we knew Michelle wasn't gone. This demon had convinced Grady that she was his friend, and Grady was lonely enough that he wasn't ready to give her up. "You're ultimately going to have to say goodbye to Michelle," we told him. But in the meantime, we just had to trust God.

After Care

On the third day the team taught Grady, his mother and her friend what it would take to keep his deliverance. The key points that we taught his mother were as follows :

- You cannot ask for change and accept old behavior
- You have to make a shift in your mind and treat him differently
- Don't accept his talking to demons
- If it happens a hundred times a day, deal with it a hundred times a day
- Expect him to act like a healed person acts
- Treat him as though he were a normal young man even if he isn't acting like one yet
- Pray over him and over his room daily
- Plead the blood of Jesus over his mind even while he sleeps
- Pray the 91st Psalm over him daily

Grady's mother was extremely motivated to see him set free and healed. We told her that the healing process would take time. Until now it had been okay for him to interact out loud with the demons and ignore everyone in the room, but it was no longer okay, so the whole family would have to relate to him in a different manner.

The main things we taught Grady were as follows :

- You have to trust God to help you find your identity in Christ Jesus
- Read the Bible like you've never read it before
- Pray in your prayer language daily
- Play praise and worship music
- Never speak to demons unless it is to make them leave
- They will come back and lie to you. Don't believe them!
- Don't watch television, movies, or listen to music that doesn't glorify God
- Spend time each day listening to the Holy Spirit
- Put on the full armor of God daily
- Focus on Jesus

The last day we spent together was fun, and they attended church with us that night. Grady sat through the entire service without a problem. Afterwards, he went to dinner with a large group, including other teens, none of whom ever suspected that he had a problem.

The First Year

Grady's family saw an immediate improvement. They watched as God brought Grady through developmental stages that he'd missed as a child. "One day he'd be picking his nose like a three year old," his mother wrote. "Another day he'd be wrestling with his brothers like a ten year old. The next thing I knew he was asking for his driver's permit!"

When Grady returned home to finish summer school with his tutor, the Special Education Supervisor for the high school he would be attending, she noticed Grady's improvement immediately. Grady had improved so much that instead of putting him back in a private room for three hours of one-on-one education as they'd planned, she recommended that he have five hours a day of remedial classes with a para-professional at his side.

Two days after school started, she called to brag about how well Grady was doing. Two days later Grady's mother got a second call. "We'll have to make some changes," she was told. Her heart sank.

"Grady is bored in remedial physical education and wants to be in regular physical education." These weren't the kind of reports that she was used to hearing!

Ninth grade went smoothly, and Grady handled his classes so well that two more classes were added to his schedule.

Follow-Up Ministry

In July of 2003, Grady's mother brought him back to Oklahoma for a follow-up deliverance. The first thing the team noticed about Grady was the change in his attention span. Instead of working for fifteen minutes at a stretch, he could stay engaged for four hours. The previous lying and manipulative behavior was absent, and he seemed much more at peace.

Over the past year Grady had a taste of freedom. He'd been able to see and experience a level of freedom he hadn't known was possible. He'd made some poor choices that led him into pornography. He'd also made a poor choice to listen to music by the Insane Clown Posse, which had reinforced a spirit of insanity. Now in addition to Michelle, he had been joined by Rebecca, a gang spirit that kept him mentally "protected." They'd also been joined by Jessica, a third demonic entity.

"Michelle doesn't like you because you take her power away," Grady explained.

He was learning that she wasn't all powerful!

Now that he'd had a taste of freedom, Grady was ready to get rid of everything that

stood in his way. But Michelle played on his emotions.

Dawnetta had a particular understanding of the power a “friend” can have over a lonely person. Due to a trauma that happened in her life at age two, rejection became her “friend.” It lied to her making her believe it was protecting her. It wasn’t until she was an adult that she was faced with the realization that she had to choose between God and this childhood chum. It was the hardest decision she’d ever made, and she grieved over the loss of a friend, even a bad one. She relayed the story to Grady.

“Michelle says that she loves me and will take care of me.”

“You know that’s a lie. She has never taken care of you.”

“I can hear her crying!” Grady said.

“I’m sorry, but that is a demon who is manipulating your emotions. Emotions lie and you can’t be led by them.”

“But...”

“You’ve got a choice to make, Grady. What are you going to do?”

“Goodbye, Michelle,” he said, “you have to go.”

This time when Grady flew home, he did not take any excess baggage.

Progress Report

In August of 2003, Grady started tenth grade with a para-professional in each class. Within two weeks she was dismissed from his physical education and art classes. Later she removed herself from his history class. Because he still struggled with math and science, she continued to help him with those subjects. As Grady improved over the past two years, his doctor gradually weaned him off the medication until he was taking only a fraction of what he’d previously taken.

By the summer of 2004, he had attended Bible Camp and held down two jobs. Grady is currently a junior in high school where he attends some remedial classes and some mainstream classes. Already this year, teachers have commented on the improved alertness and greater, though not complete, independence that Grady is showing.

Jesus is still in the business of setting the captives free.

He who the Son set’s free—is free indeed.

Healing Prayer for Schizophrenia

- Pray that God will heal any structural brain abnormalities that may have been passed down through the generations or caused by a virus.
- Pray that God will heal any change or disturbance where the gene and chromosome are linked together, or the wrong placement of the gene, which may have been caused by a retrovirus.
- Pray that God will restore any gene that has mutated back to the structure that He planned for it to be from the foundation of the earth. Pray that any mutated gene be healed and restored whether it was passed down in a mutated state or has suffered mutation from a virus or any other reason.
- Pray for the cleansing of the blood. Pray for the person's blood to line up with the blood of Jesus that heals and restores the DNA. Pray for the cleansing of the blood cells within the individual.
- Come against any generational curse or sin that caused the mutation of the gene or genes that have been passed down.
- Pray that God will properly align any genes that are not lined up as they should be on the chromosomes.
- Pray specifically for Chromosome 22Q11 that any genes that are attached to that chromosome will be healed and properly aligned.
- Pray for the specific genes PRODH2 and COMT. Ask that any changes or deletions in the makeup of their protein that causes an inborn error of metabolism that would cause schizophrenia be healed and restored to what God intended for it to be.
- Ask God to heal any changes in these genes or how they attach to the chromosome.
- Ask God to cause any enzyme that is associated with, produced by, or controlled by PRODH2 or COMT to be balanced and brought into alignment with His original plan.
- Ask God to cause any deletions of abnormalities or lack of COMT that may be caused by a gene mutation to be healed. If needed, Lord create, adjust, and/or restore this gene. We pray that whether it is passed down in a mutated state or if it suffered mutation from any chemical, that you would heal or recreate it. We ask if there are viral alterations or inherited generational disturbances in its makeup that you please heal them within this person.
- Pray for the healing of chromosomes 2, 10 and 22. Pray that the Lord would heal any translocations especially involving chromosomes 10T11-15 to 22Q12 in the DNA structure of the individual.
- Ask God to heal and restore each base pair to its intended function.
- Pray healing to the neurotransmitters, receptors and synapse.
- Pray that God would balance the amount of dopamine and serotonin to create levels that would bring normal healthy and healed function.
- Pray that the brain chemicals would allow the Godly communication between each brain cells to receive and retrieve information normally. Pray that the

total healing of the synapse, axon and synaptic fluid would be balanced to act and react according to God's original plan for them to function.

- Pray that the Lord would heal the cortical structure in the midsection of the brain's lobes.
- Pray that the Lord would heal the pre-frontal cortex and lobular areas.
- Pray that the Lord would synchronize the neurotransmitters that are producing norepinephrine, dopamine and serotonin, regulating them to interact in a way that will cause healing and health.
- Pray that the Lord would remove any pathway and brain wiring that is looped and destructive.
- Pray that the Lord would release His power to heal and create as well as redesign any and all pathways in the brain that need His healing touch.

Prayer for Bipolar Disorder

- Pray that God will heal any structural brain abnormalities that have been passed down through the generations.
- Pray that God will heal any changes of some of the linkages or disturbances in make-up or placement of genes.
- Pray that God will restore any gene that has mutated to the structure as He planned for it to be from the foundation of the earth. Pray that any mutated gene be healed and restored whether it was passed down in a mutated state or has suffered mutation from any other reason, whether it be from the effects of drugs or manic or depressive episodes.
- Come against any generational curse or sin that caused the mutation of a gene or genes that have been passed down.
- Pray that God will properly align any genes that are not lined up as they should be on the chromosomes.
- Ask God to heal any changes in these genes or how they attach to the chromosomes and heal the expression of the way the proteins are expressed within the genes.
- Ask God to heal and restore each base pair to its intended function.
- Pray that God will heal the electrical firing system of the components of the brain whether to slow down the excessive firing or fill in the skips and restore it to the way He intended before the foundation of the earth.

Prayer for ADD and ADHD

- Lord I pray that You would heal this one of any structural brain abnormalities that have been passed down through the generations or that have been caused by stress in the womb.
- Lord I pray that You would heal the transmitters, axon and synapse within this one's brain function to normalize the firing and receptors to be normal. I pray that the amino acids and chemical releases would normalize and

- neutrons would perform and function normally.
- Ask God to heal and restore each base pair to its intended function.
 - Lord I pray that You would adjust and heal those parts of the brain that need healing especially in these parts according to this individuals needs :
 - In the cerebral cortex, prefrontal and frontal lobe.
 - In the parietal lobe and the occipital lobes
 - In the temporal lobes and the brain stem.
 - In the cerebellum.
 - In the thalamus and the hypothalamus areas.
 - In the Broca's Aphasia and the Wernecke's area.
 - Lord I pray for the neurological interruptions and over firing to normalize. I ask You to balance and renew the neurological pathways and brain wiring to be routed in a way that would bring health and healing to this person.
 - I bind and cast out the familiar spirits of ADD and ADHD.
 - I bind and cast out the spirits of rejection, self-hatred, rebellion, jealousy and envy.
 - I bind and cast out the Deaf and Dumb spirits and any Beelzebub babbling spirit.
 - I bind and cast out any homosexual spirits and double-minded spirits in the name of Jesus.
 - I pray for a release of your healing power in the name of Jesus.

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Pat Legako leads the deliverance team for Church on the Rock, Oklahoma City. A registered nurse whose husband, Dee Legako, is a medical doctor, Pat spent years stuffing her medical knowledge into the back of her mind so she could pray in faith. It wasn't until the first time Doris Wagner asked her to minister to a schizophrenic that she began to realize that God had uniquely qualified her to do so. With an understanding of genetic diseases, mental health and spiritual warfare, Pat brings a unique viewpoint to bear on the healing and deliverance of people suffering from schizophrenia and other genetically based diseases. She has a Master's degree in Practical Ministry from Wagner Leadership Institute and is working on her Doctorate degree. A member of the International Society of Deliverance Ministers, Pat speaks and ministers at regional and national conferences and is completing her first book project, *The Children's Bread : A Model for Church-based Deliverance*.