

THE STORY OF THE MOTHER WHO PHONED THE BISHOP

Part 1: Deliverance

I have been asked if I could say what difference receiving deliverance from a Catholic Priest (Father Nicholas) has made to my life and the lives of my daughters.

I suffered from years of mental, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse (domestic violence). My ex-husband was too clever to risk getting involved with the police by committing acts of physical abuse.

Before receiving deliverance, the symptoms I was suffering were: Mental chatter 24 hours a day and night, Insomnia, panic attacks all day and every day, weight gain due to being tired all the time and just sitting around with exhaustion, unable to work because I couldn't think. I would be in a constant state of freeze (beyond fight or flight) I would just freeze up and stare into space with PTSD. I would shake inside to the point that I would shake outside. The fear was off the scale, that I was too afraid to even cry, but if anyone asked me what was wrong (like a doctor) I couldn't tell them for crying. I thought I had lost my mind, and that the damage to me mentally was irreversible. My hair was falling out and I couldn't take care of myself properly. The doctors I attended gave me anti-depressants and counselling. I even went to a Catholic Priest who put me in touch with the Catholic Children's society, where I saw a fully trained councillor who asked me what I wanted, and my reply was "I have lost my identity, I don't know who I am any more".. I want some support so I can find myself or more to the point I felt as if I had lost my soul in the situation. The only thing I had not lost was my Faith in God, and that God was with me and would never leave me. I did not think this, I knew this to be true, that no matter what was happening to my mind and body that God was with me. I felt like a Zombie that was trapped in a horror movie, I wanted to be free of that nightmare.

At the same time that all this was happening to me, similar things were happening to my daughters. Both my daughters suffered from PTSD with different symptoms; my youngest daughter gained lots of weight going up to a size 20 (from a size 12) about 6 or 7 stone. Both daughters became aggressive and bad tempered. It was as if the negative spirits attached to us fed off the fights and arguments in the house. I started to realise that being called to court by my ex-husband every couple of months was to continue the abuse. He would use the situation to lie about me and attack me verbally. The barristers never understood what was happening and said it was good for the Judge to see what he was like, they never realised what he was doing to set my recovery back. After one visit to the high court in London I was so stressed out that I reversed my car out of my drive into a parked vehicle, the reason was I was too spaced out to even see the other vehicle.

I have always been very sensitive to energies, what people call psychic, I would prefer to call it Mystic. The church doesn't talk about such things, even though the early church believed in Saints that received messages, healing the sick, casting out demons. So before I could go for help from the church I had to go to several doctors, counsellors, I had acupuncture, and all these things were costly but did not clear or even help the problem.

Years ago I had asked for help from the clergy after our home had become disturbed with poltergeist and rats, mice, and flies in the loft. The house was less than 20 years old and the council (who dealt with the rat and mice said you never get both in the same place). I asked the Parish priest to say a Mass in the house and it cleared the energy; we had peace for just over a year, before it started again. The next time I contacted a Bishop's secretary and I was given permission to contact a priest to come and bless the house clearing the spirits. My ex-husband would not allow another Mass in the house (he had been away at the time of the first Mass). In the end I knew I needed to leave my husband to get away from these happenings and to find peace. I took many years to get the courage to leave my husband and apply for a divorce and an annulment. I suffered many years of strange happenings in my home, which I now know was connected to the lifestyle of my ex-husband (other women, lying, cheating, fraud, swearing, and sexual abuse). in fact the day I made the decision to divorce my husband it was because I received a message (the words just came

into my head – "if a hand causes you to sin cut it off") I knew it was talking about my husband. I had done my best trying to keep the family together, now I felt I had permission from above to seek a divorce.

I had to be very careful who I told about the problems in the house, because it was the excuse my husband was looking for so the doctors could say I had mental problems and take the children into care. My ex-husband is very destructive to everyone he meets and even his own children. He stood trial in 2006 for sexual abuse of our youngest daughter, the trial was stopped on the third day and he was allowed to go free due to the fact that our youngest daughter was too traumatised to give her evidence. She couldn't speak after being cross examined by the defence. She has now been healed with a Prayer of Deliverance. From 1968 to the present (all the time I have had dealings with my ex-husband) I have suffered from negative spirit activity. In the early years I was too afraid of being called crazy to ask for help, and the church was even less sympathetic than it is now. I was told to go to Mass more or pray more. I went to Mass daily, and all my life I have prayed daily.

One day out of desperation and many hours of prayer, I picked up the phone and called Bishop Crispin Hollis, I was lucky because he picked up the phone. I said I need your help, I don't know what to do or who to go to. I explained everything that had happened to me and my daughters and that I had seen all the doctors etc. I asked for the name of a priest who could help me (I also added please don't send me to a well meaning prayer group of do-gooders, **I need an ordained man**,). The Bishop gave me three names but said "Ring Douai Abbey and ask for Father Nicholas Broadbridge first, and tell him you were given his name by the Bishop". So this is what I did, I was lucky again because someone at the Abbey answered the phone and passed my message to Father Nicholas.

The after effects of Deliverance

My first visit with Father Nicholas, resulted in me seeing the unpleasant spirit that was attached to me, it was between 3ft-6 ins and 4ft tall like a sort of imp looking thing (very unpleasant) with a feeling full of mischief, like Gollum in The Lord of the Rings. My first night's sleep after the deliverance was a peaceful full night's sleep. At my first visit to Fr Nicholas we talked mainly about Love and Forgiveness, after which he said a Prayer for Inner Healing, a Prayer of Deliverance and he anointed me. The mental chatter stopped, and it was heaven to be able to be at peace and in a quiet space in my head and mind. Other things followed like being able to think again and do things like write letters and emails, also do more than one thing at a time. In short I have been able to move on in my life, getting another job at the school, attending workshops (including Father Nicholas's Healing Workshop 1, 2 & 3). Most people don't know what it feels like not to be in control of your own life and thinking.

The severe depression lifted, and the fear left. Life became full of hope and happiness; everyday is an adventure and freedom again.

Deliverance is the difference between being half dead and ill, and being alive and full of health and vitality. I have met people with similar problems who have turned to New Age, and pagan methods for help, therapists using crystals, pagan rituals etc. Just saying these things don't exist, doesn't make them go away. Saying a person has mental problems doesn't help anyone. Emotional problems are made worse by stress, and having these sorts of problems is very stressful. It all becomes a vicious circle, which the medical profession can't help with, and even psychotherapists can't help by just talking about past traumas. In fact psychotherapy just increases the guilt because no matter how much the person tries to get well, it can't be done without help on the spiritual level.

I do seriously suggest that all priests should be taught to pray Prayers of Healing and Prayers of Deliverance. As I have just said, all these things cannot be helped simply by the medical profession or psychotherapy. There is always need on the spiritual level.

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Part two

Since writing part one of these strange stories, life has got a lot better on a personal level, and I have now realised just how many people are in need of deliverance. I am able to see that many of the people who throw themselves under high speed trains are in need of deliverance, and not as it always says in the newspapers in need of a psychotherapist or psychiatrist. Many of the young people who commit suicide have university degrees and have lived normal lives in every other way, except they could not deal with the voices and chatter in their heads. I can remember one of the things that was said in the chatter in my head was "it would be easy to end it all", to which I remember saying "no it would not, because life does not end with death, it just changes, so that is not an option....I need a priest to help me out of this mental hell". Looking back now, I can see that I was even aware of talking to someone/thing outside myself.....sounds a good case for a psychiatrist!

Life doesn't become "happy ever after" overnight, another thing I have realised is that the patterns that allowed the dark spirits to get a hold in the first place, have to be addressed.

Things like Low Self Esteem, not loving the self and others enough, although I never suffered from addictions, these things I have realised have an effect in allowing dark spirits to get a hold of people (alcohol, drugs, debt, and many others, including the internet and games when allowed to take over one's life).

Forgiveness was probably the biggest issue, not only forgiving my ex-husband, but also forgiving myself for not loving myself enough and treating myself with the respect that I deserve.

In my defence I have to say that when I went to school in the 50's it was still ok to beat children and scare them half to death with teachers and priests saying "I was a bad person, and because of my sins, Jesus was crucified". I grew up with catholic guilt, well known by all Catholics.

Healing is an ongoing thing, and I feel that the Healing Ministry is not as strong in the Roman Catholic Church as it could be. It seems to be more active in many other Christian Churches.

When I once pointed this out to a priest many years ago, his answer was that every Mass is a healing Mass. That may be true, but even though I attended daily Mass and said the Rosary on a daily basis, I still picked up dark spirits like a victim spirit.

I have attended Healing workshops given by Father Nicholas Broadbridge OSB at Douai Abbey, and have seen him on a one to one many times for healing of myself and my daughters.

The mental and emotional damage done to my daughters whilst growing up with an abusive and addictive Father, who was too arrogant to get help for himself, and blamed me and the girls for all the problems, was far more than I could have ever imagined. As we all became emotionally and mentally healthier, I realised that my oldest daughter could not relate to men, even in her 30's she was highly suspicious of them all. The result was panic attacks that needed healing from the fear. A Prayer of Deliverance changed that, but there is still a need for Deliverance. My youngest daughter was left with a problem with reality, instead of seeing what was really going on in life she would see what she wanted to see, or even see the world through rose coloured glasses. Due to the fact that my youngest daughter is very sensitive, she put a lot of weight on due to being bullied and abused; her size was a UK size 20 instead of the UK size 10 that she is now since the deliverance. That is twice the size she is normally, an increase of 70 lbs due to emotional pain caused by the abuse.

Both daughters have highly successful careers one being a solicitor and the other being an Architect, and yet the need for healing carries on. Why does the world think that if you have a good education and career, you must be fine and without problems.

I am now 3 or 4 years down the road from the first deliverance after I phoned the Bishop, and I find re-reading the part one, I can hardly imagine that it was me, because with the healing comes a lightness and the fading of the memory. One doesn't forget how bad it was but it is as if it was in another life or another time.....now I am free from trauma and fear.

I strongly feel that Pope John Paul II was correct when he said to Cardinal Ratzinger that every diocese should have an exorcist, and he should lead a team of priests trained in the healing ministry especially deliverance.

Another area of life I have noticed is the fastest growing industry in this recession is the Holistic Healing Industry, and the reason for this is that people are not stupid; they know what is needed and what the National Health Service can't supply. It is a multi-billion pound/dollar industry, including complimentary therapies such as working with Angels (a very catholic area) psychic protection especially using Archangel St. Michael. Spirit Release using several different methods.

Reflexology, Yoga, Tai Chi, Hypnotherapy, Naturopathy, Homeopathy, Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, several different forms of Meditation and visualisation, and Reiki Healing are all main stream now, and can be supplied on the NHS for stress relief. In fact I have been told today that a Church of England parish in Hampshire is now teaching healing with Angels, mainly because they feel the church needs to bring itself into the 21st century and give people what they are seeking in the wider world of healing. The church may be safe being PC, but people will find what they need one way or another, it is my belief that the world is changing and people want their spiritual bodies taken care of, if the church is not there with a main stream healing ministry, then people will find what they need elsewhere. The church has a duty to protect people from getting involved with the wrong forms of spiritual workshops and training, it can only do this by taking an active part in the fight against the dark forces that are at work in the world. Deliverance should be as common as going to the dentist. You don't wait until your teeth are falling out to visit the dentist. I had to search to find a priest who knew anything about deliverance, and I needed the Bishop's recommendation to be able to speak to that priest, without him thinking I was crazy and in need of medical attention for a mental breakdown.

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Part 3 – 16/05/15

Life has moved on since 2007 (today is 16. 5. 2015) when I first met Father Nicholas at Douai Abbey, but so has my knowledge and understanding about the power of forgiveness (workshop 1) and healing (including deliverance, workshop 2).

I now understand how healing works, by first removing the hurts and resentments. The forgiveness of Jesus heals past pains, allowing us to receive the gift of unconditional love from God, resulting in freedom to heal body, mind and spirit for others and ourselves.

Healing by proxy for people shows the power of prayer for others. (It helps in cases where people are so far removed from God that they can't ask for help). Great changes have happened in lives after this form of intercession. If there is a need for deliverance then that also can remove any negative spirits that are holding a person back from wholeness (holiness).

I now work with people, usually non believers or lapsed Christians as a Spiritual Advisor, specializing in Domestic Abuse Recovery (having trained with the Police and Women's Aid) also Trauma victims with PTSD. I also include the power of forgiveness for Healing. I send many people to Father Nicholas who have a story of things that don't make sense and includes more than emotional or mental hurts to deal with. Many who I send to Father Nicholas are unbelievers, but are desperate for help from their living hell. I tell them that Jesus heals and he does not care if you don't believe in him, because Jesus loves everyone, God's love is for everyone.

Over the past 8 years I have learnt a lot about clearing the way so the power of the Love of God can do the healing and change our lives. When St. Paul said the greatest of the gifts is love, he wasn't talking about the love humans have for each other, as that is a mere reflection of the Love God has for us (God's children). He was talking about The Love of God, a love that is more powerful than we can understand, known as Agape` love.

I now teach The Power of Love to everyone through word and deed, sometimes I hit a wall of resistance from a person, but I leave them to Jesus. I pray for them and move on. I don't take it personally, I just hand it over.

Only on looking back can people see how far they have moved forward, and the changes in their lives (me included). My daughters have both moved on also, both live in the States and my oldest daughter and her husband have a baby girl. Michelle and David have separated (due to his PTSD from the war). Thankfully they have stayed in touch and amicable to each other. David became a catholic and carries his rosary beads around with him everywhere. Michelle has just bought a house in the USA, and has her dogs. Life is a journey to be lived and thanking God for all we don't understand.

Love is the answer to every problem, regardless of what it is. We live in a world where Money is seen as the most important thing, but as St Paul says without love nothing is of value. Money without love is greed, Money with love is generosity.

I now attend every Healing Workshop at Douai Abbey with Father Nicholas. Many people have had miracles in their lives over the years. To quote a few: families have come back together, one lady found a family she didn't even know she had. Families that were heading for break-up are now happy and together as friends for the first time in years. Teenagers that were headed for failure in exams because of bad relationships with parents are now healed and at University, with a new value for themselves. (Workshop Healing Families)

Spreading the love of God with all the gifts that go with it, is every Christians duty. The gifts of The Holy Spirit are for everyone; they are life-changing gifts (workshop 3).

What I would like to see in the future is that more priests will be trained in the ministry of healing and deliverance, with an understanding of the power of forgiveness and love.

Too much is talked about exorcism, which is very rarely needed, and not enough about deliverance as most problems are created by human sin (spiritual mistakes) and lack of forgiveness and love. As I said earlier, love is the answer to every problem, no matter what it might be.