

Survivor Matters

A Newsletter for the Christian DID Community

Welcome to a New Venture!

As the new president of Restoration in Christ Ministries, I am excited to launch this first edition of *Survivor Matters*. It is an important part of the vision that God has given me for carrying this vital ministry forward following my dear Tom's glorious reception into heaven on December 31, 2010. As I have completed my own healing journey this year at virtually the same time that this new mantle of leadership has fallen upon me, my heart is to reach out much more directly to survivors to educate, inspire, and empower them to know how to achieve their healing.

God's call for me to minister to survivors came very clearly one day in February 2000. I was doing the 120th repeat of my decades-long lament to Him: "How long will You keep me on the shelf?" My heart yearned to be released from the seemingly endless journey of healing from DID and ritual abuse so that I could move into a "real" ministry to "normal" people. To my great surprise God suddenly interrupted my familiar lament that day and showed me a vision of all the abuse survivors in America and then of those in the entire world. This was followed by His very clear words: "This is your mission field. Just as I needed Jesus to become a man to reach fallen man, I need someone who has been there to reach these people." While I was very taken aback by this sudden, divine intervention, I quickly responded, "What do you want me to tell them?" He replied, "I want them to know the resources they have in Me."

Eleven years later, not long after losing my husband, God took me back to that same vision. While I had definitely turned my heart more fully towards helping Tom facilitate the goals of RCM since that time, I had still not been truly free to pursue what God had directly commissioned me to do. On this return to the vision, I felt like God said very clearly to me, "Now is the time!"

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I was instantly buoyed up by God's "recommissioning" of me with His divine purpose, especially at this time of great loss, and I began to ponder how I could reach the abuse survivors of the world. Gradually the idea of a newsletter was birthed—and then the idea of having live broadcasts over the internet! While the latter will take a little time to develop, the newsletter could be implemented much more quickly, even as I work on finishing the legacy projects to which Tom and I had both committed ourselves.

So here we are with our introductory issue! While I want to use this medium to share and teach the things I believe God is laying on my heart, I also want to give you an opportunity for input. You can see that our format requires conciseness, so we will do the best we can to work within it—or we will change the format to suit what we want to do better.

What Do I Need to Become Whole?

Having been diagnosed with DID in 1987, and finally reaching wholeness early this year, I have had an extremely long journey of healing. I cannot tell you how many times I wondered if wholeness really was possible. I can only imagine that many of you are wondering the same thing.

My desire in this newsletter is to provide information that will be beneficial in educating, inspiring, and empowering those of you who really want to achieve your healing. Having finally won the battle myself, I believe it is possible for you too.

As I look back on my entire journey, I see three things that proved to be most important in bringing me to healing. The first was my relationship to God. The second was that I educated myself to understand DID, what causes it, what dynamics need to be overcome in order to gain healing from it, and what procedures would enable me to do that. In other words, I did not rely wholly on a therapist knowing what to do to "fix me." I took responsibility to learn that for myself so that all I needed was someone to help facilitate the process with me.

The third factor that brought me to healing was perseverance. I did not give up. I kept in weekly therapy as much as I possibly could. I did not work at it haphazardly or in a now and then manner. I maintained it as a consistent goal—and it eventually paid off! Elaborating more fully on these three important aspects of the healing journey will provide the basic format for future editions of this newsletter.

"How Long, O Lord?"

*There's a painful longing in my heart
yeah, every day that just won't stop
Wanting so bad out of this prison cell,
O yeah, so I can hold your hand and we can fly.*

*How long, O Lord; How long, O Lord
It seems like the pain will never end
How long, O Lord; How long, O Lord
until the day you set me free.*

*Want to go back in time
and change the things that can't be changed
Just want my life to be brand new
and start with you all over again.*

*Day after day goes by
and I see no end in sight
But I can see your love is real for me
so I keep on holding on until the very end.*

*How long, my Lord; How long, my Lord
the time is coming to an end
How long, my Lord; How long, my Lord
until the day you set me free.*

Yeah, set me free.

*I want to know, Ooh, Ooh.
I want to know, Um, Um...*

—Bob

It took many years before I began to trust God as more than a "Savior." Then God helped us deal with the cosmic beings that kept me in torment/bondage. Now I love and trust Jesus as my Shepherd and loving God. I know I will be well some day, and I trust Jesus Christ to accomplish that in me in His perfect timing—Leslie.

"What is impossible with men is possible with God."
(Luke 18:27; NIV)

While I have been on this journey of inner system healing, I have found that God is the only stable source in my life. When I couldn't sort out the inner chaos, God helped me (and others inside) make sense of it all. There was one inner Spiritual place that I and my parts would meet with God and this became a place of strength and the glue to staying grounded. Without that, we would have felt lost in the maze of it all. Only he can heal so perfectly and so completely—R.

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To be added to the mailing list or to submit
very brief testimonies, questions,
or creative writings, contact us at:

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Donations may also be
given through our website:
www.rcm-usa.org/Donation.htm

Why Do I Need God?

If DID is a psychological disorder, you may well wonder why you need God in order to become whole. Certainly there are elements of healing that you can experience without bringing God into the process. However, if your abuse included deliberate involvement with evil spiritual beings, God is the only one who can bring you freedom from them.

Even beyond this, God offers many other distinct advantages to help you overcome the hurdles of the journey much more efficiently. As a supernatural being, He can do supernatural things for you that would be impossible without Him.

In addition, His intimate knowledge of you far exceeds that of any human facilitator. He also knows exactly what must be done in order to bring you healing and set you free. If given a chance, He will lead you, uphold you, heal you, and transform your life in amazing ways.

God's Resources

When God commissioned me as a missionary to abuse survivors and I asked Him what He wanted me to tell them, I was frankly surprised at His answer. I thought He would tell me some great secret that would lead them quickly to freedom and healing. Instead, He told me that He wanted them to know the resources they have in Him.

The more I have thought about that, however, the more I think that He was telling me the biggest secret that will help survivors gain their healing. Sharing the resources that we have in Him and how they apply to a survivor's healing journey will therefore be another key part of each issue of this newsletter.

Order Diane's new CD

Becoming Whole: What Must I Do to Get There?

Suggested donation: \$5.00

Available at www.rcm-usa.org/CDs.htm

or call 540-249-1027

Remembering Tom...



- Dr. Tom Hawkins was a man of great intelligence and wisdom. But he was also a man who was deeply compassionate, caring, and very humble. He was invaluable to my healing journey—Rob.
- He was a gentle, caring person whose teachings and open-mindedness were a beacon of hope for a hurting and confused soul—Orna.
- Tom was always kind, sensitive, and compassionate when he ministered to me, demonstrating the pure love of Christ with a balance of truth and grace—Wanda Viola.
- A pioneer, offering hope and inspiration; a true brother of Jesus, identifying with outcasts and making them feel they have come home—Anon.
- Tom could hear my “heart” even when I struggled for words. He patiently helped me sift through all the clutter to find truth and with unwavering compassion led me out of the darkness—Sheila.
- Tom’s Appeal to the Heavenly Court began the real start of freedom and healing for me after long years of little progress—Leslie.
- Tom was kind to us and cared about us. He was really good with our parts. He showed my kid parts that they are important and special—Kim B.

Beloved Tom

*When I was desperate
God sent you.
When I sobbed in anguish
You gently brought His healing balm.
When I felt broken
Your compassionate heart reached mine.
When evil angels warred against me
You courageously fought for me.*

*Beloved Tom
You brought marvelous riches to this world—
Poured them out into our fractured souls
Sprinkled Jesus’ love upon our parched deserts
Embracing us with the Father’s heart
Desiring to see us, the captives in chains, set free.*

*Tender Tom
You served us all with kindness.
Never did I hear you speak a harsh word
Though you spoke the truth with clarity
Answering my questions patiently
I trusted you.*

*Servant Tom
You made time for us whenever possible and more...
You knelt by our sides in worship and served us with humility
You opened up your schedule to minister deeply.*

*Brilliant Tom
You didn’t dominate us with your degrees
But welcomed us to ponder and critique with you.
You saw value in our thoughts.
Your words brought forth latent gifts.*

*Friend Tom
Heaven is richer
But we will dearly miss a true friend.
We are richer because we knew your friendship and love
Privileged to have spent the hours of prayer together
Grieved with your sudden departure
Grateful you walked into our lives.*

*Now you walk with the Lord you served wholeheartedly
Worshipped with adoration and exuberance
Loved so dearly.
I envy you—waiting to dance through heaven’s gate.
When I do, we will all meet again,
All who love Jesus and each other,
And share in His radiant, glorious presence—forever.
So goodbye, Tom—only for a moment.*

*Wanda Viola
December 31, 2010*