

SOUL FOOD



October 2009

Why does the Lord let bad things happen?

(excerpt from Grant Schnarr)

In the good times we see that there is a God because we have felt Him. There have been times when we have been up in the mountains away from the city, in nature. We've felt His presence and had an understanding of Him deep in our hearts. Even in times of distress we've felt that God was closer to us...perhaps when we have been reading His Word He spoke to us; we know he exists.

Then how do we reconcile this loving God with the world that seems so cruel.?

In the first place no one can make the horror OK. It is horrible! The Lord does not make these disorders happen. The Lord does not punish people. We cannot say it is God's will when someone dies before their time. It's not.

God wishes us all to grow and lead a healthy and productive life.

God won't punish anyone for doing anything wrong. The nature of God is love itself, and we know that.

However he has to allow these things to happen.

*God is **Love** itself. In the beginning God created mankind so that He would have someone to love outside of Himself, to bless them, to make them happy form Himself, and to have the love returned to Him. Love is not one way!!*

We can only love God back if we are free to make his own choiceseither to love God back or to turn away.

That's when the trouble starts. But freedom is essential to Love.

He had to give us complete freedom in order for us to choose to love Him .

Why do bad things happen to good people?

If every time someone did something wrong they were punished, then everyone would walk around doing good in fear, afraid to do anything wrong. And that would take away our freedom completely.

The Lord has to give us freedom . That's why evil that results from other people's wrong doing can indiscriminately land on good people. The Lord works with that. He works within the bad thing. He is there. His presence is there, He cares.

Now even in tragedy, whatever the tragedy is, it's not as if the Lord just sets it up, lets it go, lets it happen, and gets away with it. Not at all! The Lord works in all tragedy to make the best possible good come out of it. And He wants us to recognise that. He doesn't cause the tragedy, saying "well this will make them learn their lesson" NO!

But He is there for us in a very real way, and operating through friends and people as well. He is there to bring good out of it. We have to try to recognise that good and open our hearts to Him in those time of tragedy. He's there. And good can come out of bad situations.

Sometimes it's hard to see. But if we see how people come together to help others it's amazing. That's good, real good coming out of the situation. It doesn't justify the thing that happened, but the Lord works with it, to make as much good come out of it as possible.

So in times of personal tragedy we need to remember

- (1) it is not God's fault*
- (2) God is not punishing us*
- (3) God did not do it to us*
- (4) He is working with us, with all His power to make the greatest good come out of it*
- (5) He helps us along and comes closer to us (if we let Him)*
- (6) If we open out hearts to Him, He will be with us*
- (7) When we come into the other world after this brief moment of life on earth we will be with Him for eternity.*

Building Healthy Relationships (BHR)

Small group study soon to meet at Bernice's on Sunday afternoons at 3pm for 7 weeks beginning on 25th October. Any more takers please contact Bernice.

News

Amy received 4 merit awards, 3 for top marks in the school for 3 subjects and one for getting A's in all her subjects. **Boris** also got top school marks for one of his subjects. **Keagan** played violin at the WA School's Music festival at Perth Modern as part of the Burrendah Primary's string ensemble.

Welcome to **Matthew** who is now in Perth with his family. A surprise visit from daughter **Tracy** was arranged by **Warren** for the week before **Debby**'s 50th Birthday. A celebration was held at her home on Saturday 26th at 3pm which was much enjoyed by all. Happy settling into Perth from us all.

Cynthia's daughter is much better and is soon to celebrate her 50th Birthday.

Anni graduated, **Shaun** flew out of the country and **Lisa** leaves on the 9th October for an extended holiday in Asia and Ireland until early next year.

Friends of **Verity** organized a baby shower for her and we all enjoyed a lovely morning tea with fun and games

Tony held an afternoon tea to communicate to friends and family his condition and explain how he felt. He has also started a blog <http://mymndjourney.blogspot.com/>

The start of the Journey

The past two weeks have been full on. In fact ever since I was told about my condition it has been pretty much a fast rollercoaster ride. However, this past two weeks were especially hard. One of the things about my condition is the constant change. One week, I'm typing away at my computer and another week my hands feel like a tons of bricks after one sentence. One week I'm writing papers and another week I can't even write my name. One week I'm walking to the park with my wife and daughter and another week I can't walk for more than 5 minutes before I need a rest. One week I'm walking and another week I'm falling down constantly having to be hospitalised.

For those that don't know, one of the muscles that start to die is the muscle that control your balance and fall reflex. When you trip, you actually use your muscles to prevent yourself from falling. If you still fall, your muscles move your arm out to cushion the fall. My muscles decided that they wanted to go on a permanent vacation together with Mr Fingers, Mr Arms and Mr Hands and Legs. So when I fall I fall like a dead weight. Boom. Fortunately my parents gave me big bones...and a big head. Although I did apologise to my wife for giving our soon-to-be son a big

head too!!!

But what the fall made me realise is that I have to stop kidding myself. I can pray all I want. I can hope all I want. I can pretend to laugh and I can pretend that it won't get any worse. But once I have done all of that I need to put things into motion to protect my health and make sure I survive to see my son. I'm sure those who have had similar terminal diseases would understand. On one hand you have to fight and hope but on the other hand you can not pretend that everything is okay.

So this my journey. Will you come with me? I promise laughter and tears...hopefully more laughter but we all know there will be

[My MND Journey and other random stuff] Why?

As a researcher I ask this question very often. Why do specialised proteins act the way they do? Why do tissues regenerate or die in a particular way? Why do my nose hair grow faster than my normal head hair...or is that just me? As a researcher not only do I get to ask these questions but I get to TRY and answer them. Most of the time I do find ways of answering them through experiments etc.

Maybe that is why I keep asking when it comes to my condition? Why me? Why take a normal healthy 30 year old with a gorgeous loving wife, a cheeky 3 year old girl and kick-boxer newborn soon and give him a condition that will eventually turn him into a vegetable????

Obviously, I'm not the first or last person to ask this question. Why do paedophiles keep getting paroled from jail when the justice system know they will re-offend? Why do some babies and children die or get abducted? Why? Why? Why? It gets exhausting doesn't it...asking why all the time.

In the case of my condition there is nothing I can do to find out the answer. The sad fact with my condition is this: No one knows how it occurs, no one knows any suitable cures or treatments. Apparently a large portion of the condition is sporadic. Sporadic - what a funny word. In my case it means....it just happens for no rhyme or reason.

I have now come to the conclusion that I will never ever ever know WHY. No matter how much I think about it, search for it and imagine it...the answer will not come in this life time. It doesn't mean I'm gonna stop. No way. I'm a researcher. I have to ask why...but maybe I can put the question in the background and enjoy the time I have now.

Another why question is: Why this blog? Good question Tony! Here is grandma's biscuit and now sit on the couch and watch playschool...oops sorry thought I was talking to my daughter :)

To me there are two reason:

1. I spent several months ignoring this, hiding this, wishing it would go away...and in that time I was depressed. I now feel free. Free that my thoughts are no longer stuck in my mind being recycled over and over again.

2. I'm getting to a stage where physically I can't do much. Leaving the house is an immense journey, leaving me exhausted and drained both physically and mentally. My whole body is weak and tired. My legs, arms, hands. It has taken 2hrs to write this blog as I constantly stop as my right hand dies. When I sit or squat I can't stand up. I need someone to carry me up. My wife dries me after a shower and puts on my clothes. When I walk I need someone to hold. So that just leaves my mind, my thoughts. Physically I can not do ANYTHING to help people...but maybe...just maybe my thoughts...my journey...my emotions...can help those around me. Maybe its a bit pretentious to think that a young fella like me can even make a difference with his thoughts and ramblings....
But for this body of mine...this is all I have.....

"Humour is a funny thing. Its kinda like "the force" in the Star Wars series. You can use it to make people laugh and happy but you can also use it to hurt people. It has to be used "wisely". If a joke ends up offending people then was it really funny?

However in my condition I can choose to concentrate on the negative aspects or spend time enjoying life (to the best of my ability). One aspect of enjoying life is to be able to have a laugh at myself.

So hopefully this post will end up making you smile rather than cry.

Drum Roll

Tony's Top Five List: 5 advantages of having MND

NUMBER 5: I never ever have to mow the lawn! Ever! [Infact...are you looking for an unused mower in good condition? Call me now!]

NUMBER 4: I look like Dr House in the television series House with my walking stick.

NUMBER 3: My nutritionist at the MND Centre told me to increase my calories as much as I can. NANDOS 24/7 HERE I COME!

NUMBER 2: I'm getting a scooter on Tuesday. Pedestrians beware!

NUMBER 1: My wife washes me and dries me then gives me a kiss. Husbands are you jealous yet?

Special Prayer Dear Lord, we have Tony, Verity and Kayla in our hearts constantly; we give thanks for the new life soon to be with them. We ask that You bless their union with a yet deeper love for one another through

caring and sharing of the pain they are experiencing. Fill them with Your love, strength and courage for the road they travel; and help us all to be there for them in whatever way we can to support their needs. When they see just one line of footprints in the sand make them to know it is You Lord who is carrying them.

October CALENDAR

	MORNING	EVENING	VENUE
<i>Fri 2nd</i>	<i>Heaven & hell Study group 10:30am</i>		<i>TBC phone Bernice</i>
<i>Sun 4th</i>		Worship JF <i>5.30pm</i> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>	<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun 11th</i>	Worship 10:30am MS <i>Followed by shared meal</i>		<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Fri 16th</i>	<i>Heaven & hell Study group 10:30am</i>		<i>TBC phone Bernice</i>
<i>Sun 18th</i>		Worship JF <i>5.30pm</i> <i>Followed by shared meal</i>	<i>Broome St</i>
<i>Sun 25th</i>	Worship 10:30am MS <i>Followed by shared meal</i>	<i>3pm BHR</i>	<i>Broome St Bernice's</i>

*Worship Services are held weekly at
10 Broome Street, South Perth (off Douglas Street)*

*the first and third Sunday's services at 5.30pm
the second and fourth at 10.30am
5th Sunday TBA*

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