



## *Destiny: An Intimate Journey*

### **Bradley Stuarts Testimony**

My life testimony is a supernatural one from birth. God sustained and saved me during and after my birth to prepare me for my destined kingdom work. I was born and raised in South Africa. Many things went wrong at the time of my birth. It was a premature birth and a breach birth and finally they had to use instrumentation and then I was not breathing as my lungs had not formed. They put me one side as dead, but in answer to prayer the Lord sent a trainee doctor in who got me breathing. In the incubator I got jaundice, pneumonia and when injected with a dirty needle was given 2 hours to live as I started haemorrhaging. As my parents and my grandparents responded in prayer saying: "Lord if you save his life use him to do your work one day the haemorrhaging stopped as the Lord miraculously saved my life.

At four I could not walk, talk or move properly and after various medical tests discovered the part of my brain controlling my muscles and co-ordination had been damaged at birth causing Cerebral Palsy. Saying I'd have to go to Cerebral Palsy school for the handicapped and maybe one day with a lot of effort I'd be able to walk and talk. Again my parents and grandparents began to pray to the great Physician believing and trusting in Him. When I began I couldn't walk well, my speech was slow, I couldn't crayon and I remember having to use a typewriter to get movement in my hands but within 6 years I was able to leave and go to a regular academic school. Academically I did well but emotionally I went through a difficult time. I don't remember a day when I was not mocked, teased, ridiculed and called all kinds of names like: Children would say: 'Hi Spaz, what's wrong spastic, come here retard, why do you walk funny, why to do you talk funny?.' Kids would trip me; kick the sandwiches out my hand. They'd grab my suitcase and make me run doing anything they could do to show I was different.

Some say looking at me today: 'Bradley you are not too bad why would they do that, well the amazing thing is with Cerebral Palsy you would usually get worse as you grow older, but with me the older I'm getting the better I'm becoming as the Lord is restoring and healing me. A few years ago I couldn't hold a cup in a saucer or walk with a mug of coffee but today I can. I battled with the whole aspect of healing and the Lord showed me there's a difference between an instantaneous miracle and a progressive healing. With my Cerebral Palsy He's not done an instantaneous miracle but He is doing a progressive miracle. As I was being mocked all the pain and brokenness caused me to put up walls I

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thought was self protection but I've recognised later they were not self protection but were walls keeping me in bondage, kept God and people out. When I came to salvation as a teenager I never grew in my commitment to God for a number of years even though I was in church, Sunday school and youth group. I didn't want to clap or worship thinking who is going to look at me, mock me, ridicule me and come against me. Thus I closed off to people and God.

God answers prayer and in 1982 God began to answer the prayers of my parents as I felt God challenge me saying: 'Bradley I don't want a part of your life, I want everything or nothing.' I responded: 'I'm a fearful shy lonely young man and surrender all'. From that day on God has given me His all and a whole new episode began in my life with new joy and intimacy with God. Shortly afterwards I was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and for the first time the Bible came alive to me as I came to know the author. I couldn't pray or read the bible enough causing me to develop an intimate relationship with the Lord. God graciously used the difficulty situations of my life to into this intimacy with Him. My relationship has grown from then on. As I have grown deeper in my relationship with the Lord awesome things have happened in my life some scary but His love's has carried me through.

When the Lord told my father to take me to a healing service He healed my leg miraculously as my 1 leg was shorter than the other. I remember one of the roughest guys at our school came asking "Bradley why aren't you wearing your boots anymore?" I quietly shyly said: "God has healed me" as I was still afraid of people's reactions. Today I think wow what an awesome testimony I had to share. In that condition God showed me He wanted to use me to do His work. I resisted His call thinking God can't use me being afraid of people. When the Lord said: "I'm not looking for your ability, I'm looking for your availability" I knew I couldn't resist anymore. As I surrendered the Lord encouraged me He confirming the call.

As I attended a youth camp in 1983 the Lord did two life-changing things for me. First He showed me He'd called me to the nations. I thought Lord it's more comfortable at home. I stood up and surrendered to go to the nations. To date I have made many trips to 39 different nations even up to ten to fourteen nations a year. It's amazing to see what the Lord can do for someone the world regarded as a spastic retard. The second thing God was He set me free from self hatred because I had a wrong image of who God had made me to be. As I heard a message on love saying you will never love God properly or others properly until

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you love yourself properly. I went out and I wept asking God to forgive me a major change took place. One of the things I cried tears over at school was trying to write quickly. As I was in biology class a few weeks later one of the young men at the back of the class said: 'Come on spastic, get a move on, move the overhead up faster.' I ignored him pretending I hadn't heard him. A week later he came to me apologizing for what he'd said. I could turn to him saying: "I don't care what you call me, that is who God has made me and I've come to accept and know this. This helped bring more freedom.

Throughout that year the Lord worked in my life as He repeatedly confirmed His calling on my life as He began to use me in small ways as a servant, in the youth group, to pray in home fellowship groups beginning to build up my confidence in Him. In 1984 I began my full time studies for the ministry doing a two year theological diploma by correspondence as well as working in the local church. An area I battled with was young people as they laughed and mocked me so easily. So guess where God put me for the first 18 months of ministry? With junior youth and Sunday school showing me, I could have victory with young people not being intimidated by them. Within 18 months I had such a love for them and God has blessed me with a love for youth.

After 18 months I went on a one month missions training course and when I returned I heard Him speak to me through the word and prophetically showing me my time was over in my home city and I was to begin to move out. As I waited on Him to show me how it would happen He opened the door for me to work with a missionary in South Africa who asked me to come and work with him travelling around South Africa teaching the church on prayer, revival and world mission. He said; 'If you come I can't give you a salary, you are going to need to trust God to supply your needs.' As I prayed about it I felt God say: 'I don't want you to do fundraising, to ask for support, I want you to trust Me to supply for your needs. This is how I have lived ever since. When I began He provided for small needs, for larger ones and today I've seen Him provide for every single need as the ministry has grown and moved forward. Often I weep as I see His provision and am amazed at how He provides. I've learnt His provision isn't dependant on anything but His love and He shows us He is pro the vision when He brings the provision in. When there is no provision I know it's not "God's vision or destiny" as He is ever faithful.

It was amazing to see how He helped me to supernaturally buy a house before I was able to get a credit card. As Yada was incorporated I felt He wanted me to have an office in a home. I thought I've applied a number of times for a credit

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card and can't one and so how will I ever get a home loan. But as I prayed about it God gave me a scripture telling me to buy the field and sign the deed releasing my faith and within six weeks I was signing the deed of sale to buy a home. The way God worked the miracle was my father gave me the deposit and a family trust stood security for it. This is just one of the many testimonies of His provision I've seen over the years.

His provision is not dependent on what I do but it is dependent on His love and when He releases the word of faith I know will provide for what He's called me to. One of my missionary heroes is Hudson Taylor who said: 'God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.' I worked with the missionary for a number of months and then went up north of Johannesburg to an area called Lebowa after completing my Theological diploma. I thought was going for a week's missionary outreach with a group of just over one hundred. We got ready for the outreach and suddenly we were attacked by 16000 rebel youths who came to burn us alive. As we ran into our tents we learnt to pray very quickly and about 45 minutes later we heard silence and as we came out we said to our leader: 'What happened?' He said as he got pulled into the angry mob he asked God what to do God to him to raise your hands and as he did the army came in and the sixteen thousand fled. We thanked the Lord for sending the army in and delivering us. The army said it was too dangerous for us to stay there so we left and went back to base camp where a small group of us fasted and prayed for three weeks and prayed for another three weeks.

I was in a team of about twelve that return six weeks later to the very place where we'd been attacked. I did have some fear in my heart but when we got there some of the young people came saying: 'Where is your angel.' 'Don't hide your angel in the green tent.' We said: "What are you talking about." They said: 'When we attacked you when your leader raised his hands there was a huge angel behind him and it rebuked us in our mother tongue and told us to flee before the wrath of God came on us'. Causing us to realize it wasn't the army that had made them flee but it was actually the wrath of God as the fear of God came on them. After working in Lebowa for a number of months I went further north to Vendaland while working there we had a supernatural manifestation of the presence of the Lord in the meetings and one night as I shared my testimony someone actually say the angel of the Lord ministering together with me. I became ill and went to see the doctor who said I had Typhoid fever and would be in hospital for at least a week. Four days later he came, shook his head, didn't understand what had happened and said to call my friends to come pick you up

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as I'd been completely healed. When I returned I wept thinking; "What am I that You would touch me in such a personal way."

The following year I returned to my home city and helped start a missionary training school. Six months later I took my first trip of faith to America arriving in New York City with \$379 and a ten day bus ticket to travel America for three months. I knew I'd be going to a five-day world convention and that was all. In those three months in America took me from one side of America to the other side and after six weeks I had \$50 left for the next six weeks. I wanted to panic and write home saying: "Please send me some money," but the Lord said: 'Pray.' As I did that night after ministering to a small group they gave me a love offering of \$400, more than I'd arrived in America with. What a wonderful provision and then three days before coming home I arrived in New York City with nowhere to stay and as I sat on the airport praying five hours later the Lord provided accommodation. While in the US I was ordained and returned thinking: "Lord what is the next step going to be?" He moved me to Port Elizabeth, on the South East Coast.

As I asked Him: "What is ahead now I'm ordained?" He showed me it was a time of preparation. A couple months later I started working at a Christian retreat centre as cook in the kitchen. Six months later He said: "Your time of serving table is over. Now give yourself to my word and to prayer." As I did one day in intercession the Lord showed me the condition of His church was like the time of Hannah when Hannah was in deep travail, Eli thought she was drunk. As He showed me my broken heart I said: "Lord if You teach me what travail is about I will teach Your Body. Within six months I'd written a seven part study book on prayer and intercession which I began teaching at various different churches locally.

From 1990 to 1994 the Lord led me to work with an evangelist [Angus Buchan from Shalom Ministries] in South Africa. I worked with him doing seven city wide campaigns going up to sixteen weeks ahead of him preparing the way for his campaigns. I would get a strategy as I heard from God about how He wanted us to pray for the city. As I did this the teaching went from a seven-part to a twelve-part training and equipping series to helping the believers there to intercede.

In 1992 the Lord showed me He didn't want me only do seminars, but He wanted me to develop a school to equip believers to come into intimacy with the Lord. As He showed me this I thought I'll build a school building, bring students in to equip

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them but when the Lord never provided for the building I ended up doing the first school in Santa Rosa Northern California, America. It was held for three months, I had twenty five full time students who came five days a week. We would pray five to seven hours a day and have three to five hours of teaching each day. It was a sovereign life-changing event for every one of us. Following the school I took a group on a practical outreach to Moscow praying for seven days in the former KGB training centre hosting an international Christian Business conference. It was some of the heaviest warfare I've ever fought in my life. Then I took some students to South Africa to intercede for one of the Shalom's outreaches in Johannesburg. During the school the Lord taught me about divine order and submission showing me the School I was to be done in local churches under their authority. This is how Yada has developed primarily focusing on intercession but today Yada is a school of destiny for all believers to enjoy helping them come into their destiny through an intimate journey with the Lord.

In 1996 the Lord led me to officially set up Yada International. In 1998 I was visiting a church near Washington DC in America on my last night there after I'd ministered and prayed for people the Pastors wife asked if she could minister to me and began washing my feet welcoming me into the home, family and church. As she did her husband responded offering to be a father and pastor to me. His oldest son as well as one of the elders also welcomed me in. This happened on the Monday night and exactly four nights later my natural father was murdered in South Africa. The way God carried me through my father's death was one of the most supernatural and loving experiences of my life. I've learnt through my life it doesn't matter what we go through what matters is who is with us when we go through it. What is our relationship like with the One who can carry us through?

In 1996 my Pastor was visiting and shared that in a vision the Lord had showed him the Yada materials being used around the world in various Bible Schools. I realized a need further my studies and began studying by correspondence which was a challenge as I was travelling eighty percent of the year. In 2002 I graduated with a Doctorate in Theology. God did two special things for me through these studies. He healed me of hurt from not being able to finish exams at school and used my mother to bless me at my graduation. Be encouraged that I'm not more special than any one of you what God's done for me He can do for you. As God has had a unique destiny for my life so to He has a unique one for you.

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