

ANOTHER TIMMY STORY

The story about TIMMY, a Downes Syndrome boy, and his effect on individuals received a very warm response. The following is about his effect on large numbers of people.

Before we begin, I have to say that God has ultimate knowledge and wisdom, whereas ours are limited. Thus, we can never be certain about his intentions. We can only guess and rely on his love for us.

Timmy was abandoned at birth and was the responsibility of a Midland Borough Council. The Council asked a new charity called MacIntyre, based in Bedfordshire, to take him and a female Downes child into their care. It specialised in the lifetime care and education of children with learning difficulties, all before 'Care in the Community' was introduced.

The head of that charity adopted the girl. His secretary, Timmy's future mum, asked her husband if they could adopt him. They fostered, not adopted Timmy, and the family called him TIM.

In the previous article, we saw how Tim was responsible for helping individuals with problems. Today, we want to show how his birth **resulted in the happiness of many.**

The family, a mum and dad, two boys and a girl, all had a great affection for Tim. He had three passions: laughing, dressing up in anything and eating. He was always bringing joy to everyone in any community he was in.

In the early 1970s, the family moved to the North West. His mum wanted Tim to have the training and benefits provided by MacIntyre, but it had no presence in the North West. When asked how this could be overcome, she was told that it usually took five years to accomplish. It took Tim's mum and her Friend's Group just two years for MacIntyre to become established in Warrington, in the North West.

While all this was happening, Tim enjoyed MacIntyre's resources in Buckinghamshire, where he stayed and was educated. He would come home to the family for eight weeks during the summer, six weeks at Christmas, and three weeks at Easter.

Today, in the North West, many employees work for MacIntyre, caring for and educating people with Learning Disabilities.

One example of how this charity can bring tears to one's eyes is the story of a young girl with learning difficulties, not a Downes syndrome person. Her main problem was communication. She never spoke to anyone, which her family found extremely distressing.

The training staff at MacIntyre would sit with her, gently talking to her, trying to get her to respond, different ones every hour or two. After a few months, one staff member got a small response. This caused great joy in

the MacIntyre Training Centre as it was a real breakthrough, and gradually, the girl started to speak, but very slowly.

Later that year, MacIntyre put on its annual stage show given by their Learners, which included singing, dancing, acting and anything that was considered entertaining. It was, and still is, a great fun event. Towards the end of the show, the young girl who had come to them unable to speak surprised everyone by coming on stage, where she slowly sang a song. The response was tremendous, with everyone, including the families and employees of MacIntyre, crying with happiness at what they believed to be a miracle.

All this is why I BELIEVE God sometimes does things that make us wonder what he's doing, especially when to us it looks daunting, but can be **for the benefit of a lot of people.**

We can see from the above bits of information about his life that there would have been none of the above without his birth. It was ultimately responsible for the real happiness enjoyed by lots of people in the North West:

Many with Learning Difficulties.

Many members of their Families.

Lots of MacIntyre Employees.

Timmy died just after his 18TH birthday. It was a great tragedy for all who knew him. His dad said it could be that God now thought Tim had completed the task he'd set him and wanted him to gain the joys of heaven with him and not have him wait any longer.

Whenever you see what looks like a terrible act of God, remember that we have no idea what his plans are; we can only guess. All we can do is trust in his love for us.