

GOD'S STRANGE WAYS OF HELPING US.

I'm a great believer in God providing us with things that look anything but helpful but turn out to be just that.

A married couple I know had been blessed with three children, a girl and two boys. The wife, at that time, in the late 1960s, worked for an organisation that looked after Downes Syndrome children for life. This was heaven for parents whose child was accepted because in those days, such children were looked on as strange and to be hidden away.

At that time, very little was known about such children, and it was looked upon as a disaster for your family if you brought such a child into this world.

One day, the wife told her husband that the organisation she worked for had received two Downes Syndrome babies from a local authority; their parents had abandoned them. She said the organisation's founder had adopted the girl, so could they adopt the boy?

He asked her if she had lost her mind and what she was thinking of. He reminded her that they had three small children of their own. She said one more wouldn't make much difference.

She didn't give up. Three months later, they fostered, not adopted, the boy so that the local authority would be responsible for him in case anything happened to the couple. The baby was only nine months old and seemed to be double-jointed all over because he flopped around in people's arms when we held him. All he did was laugh and giggle. They called him TIMMY.

The three children took to Timmy immediately. As he grew, he had three passions. One was eating, another was dressing up in anything, and the third was enjoying himself in imaginary stories with imaginary people.

The family had a great time with Timmy and never hesitated to introduce him to all kinds of people. He died suddenly just after his 18th birthday. This is just an introduction to Timmy because what I learned throughout the years is the impression he made on several people, always for the better.

I now realise that God puts what appears at first glance to be problems in our way, but his great understanding of all things enables him to see the benefits these will have on people.

The benefits to the family were tremendous, but because of Timmy's love for all people, he was also great fun. This rubbed off on the children, who, even today, being married and with their own families, all have a great sense of humour and laugh a lot when they meet up.

I sincerely believe that because they were raised with Timmy, these three children are also very sensitive, compassionate, and caring. The parents still enjoy talking about Timmy and what he got up to. I've often told them they should write a book about his activities.

Here are two examples of how Timmy influenced people for the better. One was the family introducing Timmy to new friends who had been trying to have children but without success. When they met Timmy, they also took to him and later told his parents that they would adopt an ordinary child as they had fostered a Downes Syndrome boy. This they did, and soon after, they had a child of their own.

On another occasion, a neighbour's wife gave birth to twins, a boy and a girl. The boy was Downes. The father came to Timmy's house and told his parents that he wouldn't have known what to do if he had not known them and Timmy. He thanked them and said he knew what to do and how to cope.

There are many other tales about Timmy, but I'm convinced that God has plans for doing such things and put Timmy in this world to help others. There are times we take on things that look daunting, and we ask, 'Why us?'

I'm convinced that God, who knows all things, puts these things in people's way for some special reason or reasons. Whatever they are, they are for the benefit of any recipient. It is God's great knowledge and wisdom at work.

Having Downe's, Timmy was so innocent that when he died, I believe he must have gone straight to heaven, where he will add fun to God's great wonders that all in the heavenly kingdom enjoy.

Because of God's love for us, never doubt that when he provides what look like disasters, there will be some good reason for them.