

**A Classic Case of Exorcism
(As told by Walt Zorn & Bob Baird)**

Narrated by Dr. Walter D. Zorn

First encounter and counseling session:

I had been doing an interim ministry for First Christian Church in Mt. Zion (south of Decatur) since January 2009. On May 3 a couple whom I had never met before visited the worship service. Afterward they asked to speak with me. So during the Bible School hour I met with June and Larry (names changed to protect their identity).

The couple shared with me that they had been baptized together at a “charismatic” church in Decatur, including June’s son, Don, a son from a previous marriage. A young daughter, Sarah, had not been baptized. The baptisms had been the result of an exorcism attempted by six people from that church. This all came about through Larry’s friend and his wife. They had been at the church building in a reception room where there was a fireplace. An elder of the church brought the demon to the surface. June, the one supposedly possessed, was not aware of this but she remembered the fireplace. Larry spoke to the demon. But the exorcism did not work. One of the people involved in this was having similar problems as June. June thought that this lady had problems, too. June did not like the preacher, thought he was a “hypocrite.” That was her opinion. Both Larry and June thought the demon was playing tricks with their relationships. I thought to myself: “Satan cannot cast out Satan.” (This scenario was bazaar and unclear, but the above is as I remembered the conversation.)

They shared with me a number of paranormal activities that were going on in and around the trailer where they lived. After about an hour of this kind of talk, I decided to ask them to come back and visit in our worship services for a while until they were comfortable with us and knew a little more about who we were. I felt they may have been seeking attention and were not really serious about this situation at all. After all, an attempted exorcism had not worked in a church that readily practiced exorcisms. When I tried to pray for her and her husband, she ran out of the room very quickly and headed for their truck. Larry said she always did this when anyone tried to pray for her.

Getting acquainted:

Larry and June visited the church for about a month as I had asked, missing only Mothers Day and the Sunday before Memorial Day, days they were out of town. On May 31 they came to me after the service and said: “We must see you and talk about this today!” I could tell they were desperate. By this time they had been received warmly by the church people and had been attending the large adult Bible School class meeting in the fellowship hall. She always wore tight jeans and knee high boots with a shirt, sometimes of different style. The husband was always in jeans and a shirt, mostly with unkempt hair.

Second counseling session:

For the second time we entered the empty preacher's office and in the bare surroundings, they began to unfold a much more detailed story. What had alarmed them was revealed to me. Wide, long, and deep scratch marks were shown to me by June on her front shoulder, left side. She could not have made the marks. Larry had been out of town driving a truck. She had been attacked she thought by the demon. That past week she had terrible headaches. The demon talked to her and showed her where certain people were. She could see persons behind her in outline. She had burning sensations.

Both testified that about two months before (which they did not tell me about six weeks before) June was sitting in the living room, drinking tea and smoking. The side of her face was hit. She was then pushed from behind. No one there! Toys of the children that run on batteries had no batteries, yet were running. One of the children had a birthday and had a Sponge Bob balloon with helium in it. It moved throughout the trailer with no apparent wind or fan to move it. June could see Larry's tractor-trailer truck and its surroundings no matter where he was. She could give the color of cars that passed the truck. Her son, Don, sees "a child" under the bed. Noises were under the bed. The child, according to the mother, was unaware of her problem. (This may or may not be true!).

So I asked June how she got involved with demons. June said as a teen-ager she played with the Ouija board. Then, in her early 20's, because of a hard life growing up, she got involved with witchcraft. She studied it in depth. She used candles, chanted, and in general was intrigued by the occult. What led her to go deeper into the occult was the fact that she had been raped by five men. She saw people dying in a bad way. It was all part of her life attending bars and doing the drug scenes. She wanted strength, power, and protection to get revenge. She demanded that Satan, the Devil, give it to her. She did all of this mostly by herself. She did not know what she was doing. A friend told her that she had gone too far in the supernatural. June took a baseball bat and almost killed three of the rapists. The other two left town. This was in her late twenties. She had an accident on a motorbike. The driver was killed. She, of course, lived.

She could not wear a cross. Any cross would burn her hand or body. She could not hold a cross that Larry had given her, dropping it to the floor. She loved European architecture, castles, etc.

After giving herself to the devil, she found she had great strength. A large man, 6'6" *hit* on her at a bar, wasn't drunk, but in her mad, she took him down with great strength. She found that with rage she had more strength than ever before.

Then, little things began to happen. Windows rattled and shook.

Larry was in his truck in Farmer City and the cab began to shake when parked (during the night). Once when getting breakfast they opened the kitchen cabinet to get cereal boxes, they flew off the shelf and scattered all over the kitchen floor. Larry said that there were times when he could not pick June up out of bed, she was too heavy!

Larry and June have only been married a year and a half. Since that time she could "see" him on the road. She had been involved with drugs, smoked pot, coke, and takes Xanax (for panic attacks). Larry has left six different times but always came back. June's ex-husband and father of her children is an abuser. June loves her children and does not want them hurt in any way.

The demon seems to thrive on anger--either June's or Larry's. Larry's anger can affect June. Usually she has terrible headaches. Sometimes the doors are unlocked but she can't get out of the house. She demands to see the demon. She sees shadows in the window, a picture window at the end of the trailer. A certain road close by is connected to this vision.

Larry said: "The demon would take over her body, having a cigar smell. He's been with her a long time. 'Buddy' looks out for the children." "Buddy" is the name that Larry gave to the demon.

All of the above was very confusing, but I said to them that I would do the best I could but could not guarantee anything, for I had never attempted an exorcism before. I set an appointment for the next Sunday to help June and Larry.

The help needed:

In the meantime I asked Bob Baird, a missionary to Africa and who attended Jefferson St. Christian Church, to help me. He came over to my house for a talk. I thought he had had experience in this area of ministry but he had none. He knew about "demon possession" (in the Greek NT it is usually a verb--"demonized") and certainly had seen people in Africa he thought were possessed but he had never performed anything like an exorcism. He did understand the animistic culture of Africa and believed that demons were real. So we were both in the same boat. But we decided that we would try to help this lady and her husband. The next Sunday Bob would go with me to the church and we would do what we could with help from some of the church people. I contacted an elder and his wife and asked them to select another couple to go with us to be "prayer warriors" during the exorcism. They chose a deacon and his wife. (They have requested that their names not be mentioned.)

The day of the exorcism:

On Sunday, June 7, 2009, Bob and I arrived at the church for the morning service. I preached a book sermon on Ephesians entitled "Sit, Walk, Stand," a sermon that dealt with spiritual warfare. Larry and June were there. So were the elder and deacon and their wives. We told Larry and June we would be at their trailer by 2:00 P.M. and for them to have someone take care of the children, Don and Sarah.

The six of us went out to eat at the airport restaurant and planned our strategy and how we would approach June. Bob suggested we appeal to her through her children. This whole situation was dangerous to her children and she needed to rid herself of all occult activity as well as get rid of any demons in her life because of the children she loved above all else. That would be common ground upon which we would approach her.

We arrived at their trailer about 10 minutes early. June had just finished taking the children to her ex-husband's house (which I could not understand why he still had that privilege). We approached June but she would not let any of us touch her. No warmth or welcome came from her. Larry was anxious about the situation as we all were.

We entered the trailer one by one until all were standing in the living room. We had June sit in the big easy chair. She was very jerky and nervous, every now and then she would twitch her whole body. Our elder and deacon and wives sat on the couch that

curved around the living room. The trailer was long. On the north end was a sliding-door to a large deck. The small kitchen and dining room were together. A small island separated the kitchen/dining area from the living room where we were seated. Bob put a folding chair to the right of June and I sat on her left. Larry stood behind me. Just down the hallway south from the living room was a bathroom on the right, a bedroom on the left, and two more bedrooms down the hallway across from each other.

Bob began the session as we had planned. He took the lead and I interjected myself only when I felt it necessary. (We knew there was much prayer going on at the time by good people in Lincoln as well as Mt. Zion.) Bob knew that God and Jesus were not common ground with this person. He asked if she truly loved her children and if so she should follow-through with this. He suggested that if there were a fire in the trailer she would do everything possible to get them out. She had made bad choices for herself and for her children. June responded "Yes" to her children. "Do you want the demon or demons out?" She responded "Yes." Bob reiterated how powerful Jesus was to anything else in the world, especially demons. At this point she sat up very straight in the chair as if she had changed personality. She looked at Larry, perhaps for help or encouragement. Bob asked: "What do you know about the Bible?" She responded: "Adam and Eve, and that's about all." Not much. So Bob began to share with her what the gospel was all about. "God sent his only Son into the world, Jesus of Nazareth, who died, was buried, raised from the dead, exalted to God's right hand, and now reigns as Lord and King." June could not let us touch her at all. She was twitching and moving about in the chair throughout the time that Bob was speaking to her. The four godly people on the couch, the elder and deacon and their wives, began to pray very hard. Bob began to ask June for the name of the demon after he had thoroughly presented the gospel and who Jesus was, establishing his Lordship over all. At some point during this time June curled down into her large easy chair and looked back to me. Her lips were pursed and she began to mumble. Bob again asked for the name of the demon. In a low voice and monotone she said "Abraham." The elder, sitting on the edge of the couch next to the hallway and bathroom, closest to June heard her say "Abraham" as well. However, Bob did not hear it, for her face was turned away from him. He thought she said: "I want a cigarette!"(?) When she heard him say that, she repeated his words as if to throw him off from what she had said to me. Bob now was speaking to the entity within her. She was very agitated. Larry behind me said: "You can't have a cigarette now!" She became almost uncontrollable and swept her arm across the chair knocking off a glass kerosene lamp. We thought it would break but it didn't as it bounced on the carpeted floor of the trailer.

She immediately jumped up and began to move quickly. I blocked the front door behind me. Larry, her husband, ran to the sliding door at the end of the kitchen to block any attempt to escape that way. June moved around the dining room table almost cat-like or "like a lion pacing back and forth." She demonstrated pain in her face and her chest was heaving. At one point she vomited in the kitchen sink. She would do this twice. Bob followed her talking all the way proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus and asking her again for the name of the demon (which he had not heard and we had not repeated to him!). Bob got on the west side of the dining room, I continued to block the front door on the south side and Larry stayed at the sliding glass door on the north side of the room.

June became very angry at this point and rushed right up to Bob's face and cried out "You bastard!" Interestingly enough Bob did not hear the bad word. I expected worse

from her lips but nothing came. Bob responded by saying: "You may scare me but not Jesus. He has power over you. What is your name?" Very agitated and with exaggerated movements, waving her hand and pointing with her fingers she wanted something to write on. Larry took off the refrigerator one of the children's papers and on the back side it was blank. June took a pencil in her left hand and with closed eyes began to write in capital letters and in perfect handwriting wrote: "DR. HORN." (The demon controlling her was probably mispronouncing my name!) And then she doodled down to the bottom of the page. Bob repeated it: "Dr. Horn. Is that the name of the demon?" Again, she was agitated and began to point to me in a jerking fashion. Then she began to write on the bottom of the page, again with eyes completely closed, in perfect handwriting, this time in small letters: "Preacher knows." It dawned upon me that the demon's name was "Abraham," the name she had whispered to me earlier. So I said rather loudly "Abraham! That is the name of the demon!" So Bob asked her: "Is that the name of the demon, Abraham?" She shook her head but then she projected four of her fingers to Bob and he said "There are four more demons!" She shook her head "Yes" to both questions. *There were five demons in her!* Rather than work to find out the names of the other four Bob simply bound all the demons with "Abraham" and cast them all out. He said: "By the power of the Holy Spirit I bind all four of you with 'Abraham' and cast you into the place of judgment!" It is at this point that the elder heard horrible growling, groaning, and such noises coming from the area of the bathroom. (He was sitting on the corner of the couch near the hallway and the only one who heard those noises at that moment in time.) June became violently sick and threw up in the sink again. I kept an eye on the set of kitchen knives in a wood block next to the sink, but she never ventured to pull one out for which I was thankful. She gagged quite a bit and finally sat back down in the easy chair.

Bob kept up the barrage against the demons telling them how helpless they were and that in the name of Jesus they were bound and cast into the abyss never to come back again. At that moment Larry reminded us all that the demons came from the bathroom and that the house seemed to be filled with them. Bob decided that we had better pray over the entire house. Bob began to pray over every inch of the house going down the hallway. June followed him on her hands and knees, moaning, groaning, and crying all the way. I was concerned about Bob's welfare so I followed after them. She continued to crawl on the floor pointing out where demons either were or had been. Bob continued to pray that the power of Jesus' name would send out any demon in the house and banish them forever. Bob and June went into every room of the trailer. Larry said the stool in the bathroom was the source of the demons coming into the house (an apt place I thought!). Bob prayed especially hard in the bathroom, over all the bathroom fixtures. June was agonizing. She vomited heavily in the bathroom, in dry heaves, before she returned to the easy chair.

The four on the couch continued to pray very intensely, holding hands, throughout these activities. Then, Larry reminded Bob and me that the garage was haunted as well by an "old lady." So Bob decided that he would go outside and pray over the entire place, including the garage. Bob testified that he prayed over every place and area outside the trailer. Under the deck, a children's play-house full of junk, around the tractor-truck, an old caboose, and the garage--all these things inside and out Bob prayed that any demonic being or spirit would leave in the name of Jesus. They had a pit-bull dog chained next to the truck, apparently to guard the truck for any possible burglary. The dog came at Bob

with teeth bared and growling pulling the length of the chain. Bob said: “You have no power here. In Jesus name shut up!” He said the dog ran the opposite way and pulled the chain the other way whimpering. There were two other dogs in the garage but they were old and only wanted to be petted. It seemed that Bob was gone forever.

In the ten minutes that Bob was gone, I stayed with June and kept up the barrage of repeating Jesus’ name against the demons and all powers. June could see the demons in the floor of the trailer. Actually, the demons were under the floor and trying to get back into the house. She could see their “claws” coming up through the floor at the edge of the room (or baseboard) and it was as if they were struggling to “claw” their way back. She was mimicking the clawing motion and trying to explain what she felt was going on, moving her fingers in a strange way (either beckoning the demons, or wanting them to go away, I did not know which).

When Bob returned I told him that the demons were in the floor of the trailer and that June could see them--we could not! So for the last time Bob prayed that these five demons be gone in the name and power of Jesus’ name. She then ran to the bathroom and threw up for the last time. She returned to the easy chair and collapsed. Larry was afraid for her when she went into the bathroom. We asked if there were any occult objects or books in the trailer that we could destroy. They said there was none. I took a quick look through the trailer and found nothing. By this time June was completely limp, but she got up and went to the dining room table and leaned over the table as if exhausted, which she was. Bob went over to her and placed his hand on her back and shoulder and she did not flinch as she had done in the beginning. We knew then that the demons were gone.

Presenting the Gospel:

At this point we began to talk to June and Larry, her husband, about the gospel, what it was, and what it meant in the life of anyone who would accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. We repeated the need to repent and to not clean our “house” without filling our “house” with the Holy Spirit, all which was good, holy, and righteous, lest something worse should overtake us. The only way to do this was to accept Jesus as Lord and Master of our lives, repenting of our sins, and being baptized into Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and to receive the Holy Spirit as a gift. To these things both Larry and June agreed. When they confessed Jesus as Lord, our elder and wife, decided to go to the church building and get the baptistry ready since it would take about 45 minutes to put warm water in it. So they left. We then spent about 30 minutes talking about the ramifications of all that had happened and what had been said about the gospel. I am not certain that Larry and June understood everything we were saying but they were very eager to be baptized as a result of the demons leaving. They did not want anything worse to happen to them. Bob and I left and followed the deacon and his wife back to the church building, for we did not know where we were in the country. We thought we had made a mistake leaving Larry and June by themselves to come later, but they finally came to the church building in their pickup truck. She had to clean up a little before she came.

The baptism and Lord's Supper:

When June came into the building she asked if she could touch the cross up front. Of course she could and she did. It was the first time in her life she was able to do so. We could find no baptismal robes, so we used some old "shepherds" costume robes that had been used for plays, but they worked just fine. June was afraid of water (understandable since the demons had entered by way of the stool in her bathroom!). I baptized Larry first which was easy. Then June entered the water. She stiffened at first, but I waited for her to relax and I gently laid her under the water slowly and then brought her up saying everything I could possibly say about baptism ("You are being immersed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the forgiveness of sin, in order that you may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."). Then I kissed her on her forehead and let them both change clothes.

After they were dressed, all eight of us stood around the communion table, having been prepared by the elder and his wife, and shared in communion. The elder prayed for the bread and grape juice and then we all took communion together. At the end Bob was asked to pray. He rehearsed the morning's sermon--"Sit, Walk, Stand,"--and prayed that this couple would continue to have power over the demonic and all things evil.

We encouraged Larry and June to go home and rest. We assured them that each day someone would call and make certain their needs were met and to see how they were doing. They kept thanking us over and over again. All I could think about was the text: "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). I told them I wanted to come back in five years and see two mature Christians. "For now you will have to take baby steps, but it can be done!"

Bob and I left as well, totally exhausted but exhilarated. The whole exorcism took only two hours. We arrived at the trailer at c. 1:50 P.M. and we left the church building c. 3:50 P.M.

AFTERMATH:

June and Larry continue to struggle because of the lifestyle they had lived before the exorcism. However, the good people at Mt. Zion Christian continue to encourage them to remain faithful and to learn as much as they can as time continues.

It should be noted that before this time June could not sleep unless the lights were on in the bedroom. Now she is able to sleep with the lights off for the first time in years. She had been taking depression medicine and now she has been encouraged to ease off such medicine because she no longer needs it. Smoking is a huge addiction and she still struggles with that. But it seems the children have a brighter future, perhaps. Larry still struggles to find a good paying job and his church attendance is sporadic compared to June's. We all continue to pray for this couple.

WHAT WE LEARNED:

1. Evil is real and has a "personal" face to it. People can be "demonized" as I like to say it from a biblical perspective.

2. Usually people who are demonized have allowed it to happen through involvement with the occult, witchcraft, or desire to utilize evil power for selfish purposes.
3. Exorcisms are real. They do not always work for some reason. But when they do, it is because of the power of God and the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, not the people involved in the exorcism.
4. Exorcism should never be done alone. At least have two people deeply involved and several others who will be “prayer warriors” during the ordeal. Have as many people as possible praying for the situation as well as those who are present. Without those praying at the time I am not certain it would have happened as easily as it did.
5. Enter into an exorcism carefully, first examining your own life and soul, making certain you have pure motives and that your life is in tune with God spiritually.
6. Depend fully upon the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, to get you through the exorcism. The one who is in you is greater than the one in the “demonized.” Demons cannot stand up to the power of Jesus Christ. He has overcome all evil in this world.
7. Finally, do not become obsessed with the “act of exorcism.” It is not healthy to dwell on the subject of evil or upon the person of evil. Practice the power and protection of the Christian “armor” as the Apostle Paul presents it in Ephesians 6:10-20.