

Running Head: PERSONAL AND FAMILY INVENTORY

Personal and Family Inventory

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SF 770 – Dr Robert Reimer

Due: February 10, 2023 (extension requested)

Tracing my family sin patterns is complicated adoption (my mother) and a family secret of a rape leading to conception (my father). I feel there has been a great deal of secrecy in both my mother's side and my father's side, though probably not intentional deception but simply because such things were not discussed. I will use the inventory questions I use in deliverance sessions to share my family's story.

1. Have you or your family been involved in other religious organizations? No. There has never been a time in my life when I did not believe in Jesus. My parents were both raised in Christian homes, as were what I know of the preceding generation.

My mother was adopted and never sought information of her biological parents. Her adoptive parents were in ministry for over 50 years; missionaries in Haiti, and then pastored several churches in Canada. Several of her father's siblings also served in full time ministry, as had previous generations as well.

The man my dad believed to be his father was taken to Siberia for preaching the gospel. My dad's maternal grandfather had also been a pastor in what is now Ukraine.

I have always been spiritually sensitive and fascinated by the spiritual realm. While drawn to investigate, I also felt a great deal of guilt over my interest. I knew things like Ouija boards were not a toy despite what any of my friends said, and I would have nothing to do with them, but there was definitely an interest as I could hear and see demons and angels frequently and wanted to know more. Church never discussed such things, so I felt there was something very wrong with me for seeing and hearing things in the spiritual realm. For years I tried to ignore or pray away what I now see as a precious spiritual gift.

2. Has there been physical, emotional, or sexual abuse in your family? I grew up in a very loving and secure family with no abuse in the home. However, throughout childhood I experienced severe nightmares, starting as early as age 3, about violence and rape. I also had

frequent visions of a man in my room who would order me to do things before he would let me go to sleep. Sometimes he would pin me to the bed and sometimes he raped me. When I would tell my parents about the man in my room, they would say it was a just a nightmare, but I knew I was awake. I stopped telling them about it around age 12, but the nightmares and visitations continued into adulthood, at times nightly occurrences, and invaded my daytime fears as well.

Although there was no abuse in my home, I experienced it elsewhere. I have vague memories of inappropriate touching by an adult babysitter's boyfriend between the ages of 9 and 11, and I was sexually abused by my pastor's son between the ages of 15 and 17. Due to feelings of unworthiness related to the sexual abuse, I made poor choices and ended up in a marriage that was very controlling, emotionally abusive, and mildly physically abusive; it ended in divorce after he left me and our 2 children.

My son and daughter were both sexually abused by their stepbrother in their father's home between the ages of 4-10, and my son did the same things done to him to his niece and another boy at school.

3. Is there a lot of sexual immorality in your past and family tree? I can only guess as to my mother's biological side, but I imagine as she was adopted that her mother was pregnant out of wedlock.

When I was 44 years old, I read my uncle's biography and discovered a discrepancy in the story we had always been told about my dad's father. Dad believed his father was taken to Siberia and the rest of the family fled to a refugee camp in Poland and then later Austria before coming to Canada. While that was true to some extent, the man taken to Siberia was not my dad's biological father. My dad was born in a refugee camp in Austria, 9 years after the family fled. My mother was reminded of a conversation with my dad's mother shortly after they had married about the prevalence of sexual violence in the camps. My father was 60 years old when

he learned all this, and he never spoke about it even though I asked. Uncovering this secret significantly reduced the frequency and severity of my lifetime nightmares though.

My dad's mom remarried several years after coming to Canada, but she lived with the man for considerable time first. I realize this was likely necessity borne out of poverty, she carried a great deal of guilt about it for the rest of her life.

My first husband and I had sex before marriage; once we were engaged, he was relentless that there was no reason to wait. After my divorce, I struggled with sexual purity for several years. I believed I was spoiled and it did not matter anymore. I equated sex with love and desperately wanted to be loved, so I was willing to give someone sex in exchange for love and security, which was really a lie since he was not committed to me enough to marry me.

My adult children both had sex before marriage with my grandson being conceived before my son and daughter-in-law married. My daughter has been living with her boyfriend for over two years.

There was never pornography in my home, but I was exposed to it around the age of 4 or 5 at a neighbour's house. It has not been something I struggled with, but sexual images came to my mind frequently and easily throughout life. However, my ex-husband really liked to watch pornographic movies. He had several affairs during our marriage, though I was not aware of them until after he left. My son shared that he was addicted to pornography for several years before he went through Soul Care and deliverance.

4. Is there homosexuality or same sex attractedness in your family? Not that I am aware of, but I struggled with such thoughts for a while after my divorce.

5. Is there anger, bitterness, rage in your family? Not to a great extent, less than I see in other families. I believe my mother holds (or held at some point) bitterness toward her biological

mother, but she vehemently denies it. I find that I struggle with a critical spirit, and I can see the same in my mother, sister, and children.

6. Are there patterns of depression, suicide, or mental illness in your family? My mother and my sister have struggled with depression and I have anxiety issues. My father also struggled with depression for a while, related to self-esteem, unfulfilled dreams, and his cancer diagnosis, treatments, and medications, and his half-brother had bipolar disorder.

Both my sister and I have had suicidal ideations to the point of having a plan. My mother does not know if there was a biological connection between her and her adopted brother, but she once told me her parents were contacted to see if they wanted to adopt another child. My uncle died in a car accident when he was 23 years old, and my mother was pregnant with me. My mother absolutely refuses to consider the possibility that his accident was a suicide, but I believe the Spirit revealed that to me several years ago as I was going after family sin patterns for my deliverance. Circumstances prior to the accident would indicate significant reason for serious depression and my mother had indicated he expressed a desire to die earlier in life. There have been many times in my life that while driving alone I had a strong urge to crash my car over a ravine or embankment.

My children have also struggled with suicidal ideation; my son was hospitalized once because of it, and my daughter has shared she has been close at times. My 12-year-old has said there are times he wishes he could be dead.

ADHD is prevalent in my family, including my 10-year-old son and my adult son, who was also diagnosed with oppositional defiance and conduct disorder as a teenager. My 12-year-old has sensory processing disorder (just shy of an autism diagnosis).

7. Are there patterns of fear, control, and manipulation in your family? Fear ran rampant most of my life, and I can see the same in my mother, and to a lesser extent in my

father. My daughter is definitely full of fears. Several members of my family are on medication for anxiety.

My family is really good at using guilt as a motivation. My mother is not even aware she does it. I am very swayed by guilt, especially when it comes from family or the church, and am very aware of my tendency to use guilt, particularly with family; it is something I try to be conscious of in my relationships with others. Unfortunately, my children have inherited this trait.

8. Is there addiction in your family? I am not aware of any common addictions in my parents or siblings; no one, drinks, smokes, or overeats. My father smoked when he was a teenager (his older brothers did and he thought they were cool), but he gave it up after a few years because he saw it as a waste of money. While he was a hard worker, he was also very devoted to his family, so I would not consider him a workaholic. He was always at every game, competition, or award ceremony and his favourite thing to do was take his family on vacations.

Escapism has been a big issue throughout my life, though. I am not sure if it qualifies as an addiction, but until about ten years ago, it was my only way of dealing with stress. When I longed to escape reality I would use books, movies, tv shows, video games, or just wandering with my imagination. I still find myself leaning toward escapism at times but have been learning to withdraw with the Lord instead.

Both of my adult children use marijuana, and my adult son was in rehab for a cocaine addiction 5 years ago.

9. Are there patterns of physical illness in your family? It is very hard to answer this question without more generational knowledge. My father had one form of arthritis, and my mother has several, and now I have arthritis as well, but mine was totally expected due to numerous sports injuries and car accidents, so I am not sure if that counts or not.

10. Anything not covered in the previous questions? Favouritism. My dad was his mother's favourite child. I was the favoured of her many grandchildren; she said it many times, and I was well aware of it.

While my sister and I do not feel we were at all unloved, we feel my brother was favoured, at least by my mother and her parents. The mantle of ministry was firmly laid on him, and he carried the name of my deceased uncle. We always felt he could not be a disappointment if he tried, but he felt he was a disappointment no matter what, which is also how my sister and I felt.

My adult children each feel I favoured the other and can come up with good reasons for their feelings, but I never felt I favoured one over the other. My younger children have favourite parents, and it has hampered the bonding with the non-favoured parent, despite my husband and I trying to rectify the situation for years.

Sin and wound patterns I see in multiple generations of my family:

- abandonment/rejection
- victimization
- abuse
- sexual immorality
- pride
- legalism
- anxiety/depression/suicide
- fear
- guilt/shame
- performance/perfectionism
- worthlessness/self-rejection
- favouritism