

## **Michelle's story (interviewed by Wendy Mann)**

Wendy: Michelle, you have a remarkable story of God breaking in and doing something incredible in your body, so I need to make sure I have all my questions ready! You were diagnosed with something called endometriosis nine years ago. Can you tell us what it is and how it affected you on a day-to-day basis?

Michelle: Yes sure. This is a girlie thing so guys you're just going to have to cope with it! I figure most of you are either married to a woman or would like to be one day, so this is just a fact of life. Endometriosis is a condition where cells that are supposed to be inside the womb somehow end up outside it and all around the pelvis, but they carry on acting as they would inside the womb. Each month they fill up with blood and bleed out but there's nowhere for the blood to go so you get a lot of scar tissue in your pelvis. It sticks organs together and very often causes the bowel to twist. The scar tissue attracts more endometrial cells so you get more growths all over the place. It's nasty and it causes pain.

Wendy: Tell us how it used to affect you.

Michelle: It crept up on me. I was pregnant or breast-feeding for 5 years solid. After that I began to get very painful periods, with pain lasting for about 2 weeks and for 2 or 3 days of that I couldn't really do anything. I was taking a lot of painkillers but they weren't very effective at all. Eventually I went to see my doctor.

Wendy: I know you've had some different treatments over the years – tell us about some of them.

Michelle: The condition is incurable and has to be diagnosed through surgery, so I have had 2 lots of surgery to investigate. They also try to laser off the growths. The other big treatment is to be on the Pill and I would be on packs of this back to back. Four times a year I would have a period but would prepare for this by making sure I had nothing on for a few days and dosing up on strong painkillers.

Wendy: So I know you went on a journey in terms of receiving prayer for this over several months – what happened?

Michelle: I had prayer the last time I had surgery, about 2 years ago. I remember saying to Simon, 'I don't think there's much point in praying for this because I've got it under control. The only way I could test the healing would be to come off the Pill, and I'm just not prepared to do that.' Then last October I was involved in a deliverance and felt God speak to me about his authority. Although I was managing to control the condition I wasn't allowing God to break in; so I felt challenged to come off the Pill and did that last October. It was really scary!

Wendy: What happened?

Michelle: It was ok - the hardest thing for me was having a period every month – I am still struggling with that! But after a while the Pill had worked its way out of my system and the pain started to build, so by April I was back to having 2 weeks of pain during my period. I felt bloated and miserable.

Wendy: I know you were seeking prayer and lots of people prayed for you over those months...when did the breakthrough come?

Michelle: The first one came when I came forward for prayer in April – I had had enough. One of the ladies who prayed for me encouraged me and stepped out in faith. The week before my period was due the pain started to build and I had almost run out of painkillers. I prayed from Psalm 103 and focussed on 'God heals all our diseases'. I remembered that God had reminded me of his authority and I took authority over the condition and commanded the cells to only go where they belonged. I woke up the next morning, and the next, and felt ok. When my period started I still felt ok. I wanted to pinch myself because I couldn't believe it. Since then I am still fine!

Wendy: That's amazing – let's thank God for that.