

# Exodus Global Alliance: Growing

Exodus Global Alliance is growing to meet the need for a worldwide ministry that speaks with one voice, offering God's life-changing truth and grace – the truth about God's plan for sexual and moral purity and the grace of God to people who bear the damage of fallen sexuality.



Pat Lawrence,  
executive director  
of Exodus Global  
Alliance

Good leaders enable good ministries to grow. Exodus Global Alliance is committed to having an international board that is representative of the people and places around the world that we

minister in. And so I would like to introduce two new members of the International Board that provides leadership to the work of Exodus Global Alliance.

Joseph Vijayam manages Olive Technology's overall business planning and corporate strategy as its CEO. Prior to founding Olive, he served as the Chief Executive of Matrix Computer Consultancy, in India. He serves on the boards of several profit and not-for-profit organizations in India and the USA. He has been giving direction to several Christian agencies on the use of technology in global missions.

Joseph's focus will be on the development of new ministries in India. India is the second largest country in the world, in terms of population, with 1.1 billion people. Human sexuality has never been a part of public discourse in India. In the traditional joint-family system, prevailing patterns of behaviour, especially sexual behaviour, followed a code reinforced by customs, symbols and communal rituals. The general attitude towards homosexuality has been strong disapproval.

However, over the past few decades new economic patterns, the growing influence of the media and the diminishing influence of religion have brought about vast changes and diversity in people's beliefs and lifestyles. In modern-day India, influenced by technology, media, mobility, anomie and loss of moral absolutism, particularly in urban areas, people are changing their attitudes towards homosexuality. These changes are leading to a crisis in relationships. Many genuinely fear that the stability of the family, a value that has shaped human relationships in India, will be eroded by these changes.

Exodus Global Alliance sees that now is the time for India to hear they do not have to repeat the mistakes of the west. We want to bring the full truth and grace of Christ to this issue in India. We want to equip Christians and churches in India to deal

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**Meet Darren Thompson**, who recently entered the Exodus Global Alliance Missions Training program.

**Exodus introduces new school curriculum.**

# news from around the world

## Conferences

Exodus holds or attends conferences around the world to minister to people and equip Christians to minister to others. Conferences regularly play a significant role in helping people. Many people have said of Exodus conferences that they have never attended another conference so understanding, so full of substance and so full of hope. Conferences are often the first place that people hear that there is hope for them; that God has a real plan for transformation and healing. The testimonies from people who have experienced change are credible and encouraging. The information provided brings clarity and grace to people's struggles. And the personal ministry of one to another brings hope and encouragement. Our goal at each conference is ministry full of truth and grace – showing how people and their relationships can be changed by the truth and grace of God into the people that God intends them to be.

## Exodus Global Alliance: Growing *(continued from page 1)*

with sexuality. And we want to establish ministries for the people who are affected by homosexuality. Please join us in praying for the work of Joseph Vijayam, combined with the work of Peter & Dot Lane, to establish new Exodus ministries in India. If you have a particular interest in this region, we welcome your participation in the work to equip the church and establish local ministries that reach out to and help people who are struggling.

Pastor Darryl L. Foster has also joined the International Board of Exodus Global Alliance. Pastor DL Foster is founder of the Restoration Sanctuary United Church of God in Christ, in Atlanta, USA. He also founded WITNESS!, an outreach ministry to African American men and women trapped in unwanted homosexuality. Darryl's testimony of struggling as a youth, embracing homosexuality for more than a decade, God's message of love, and God's ability to break the power of sin, including

the hold of homosexuality is available in the testimony section of the Exodus Global Alliance website. Darryl says of his own experience, "...while [church] said God could do anything, it didn't apply to homosexuality. Homosexuality in the black church could only be whispered about in private... After years of homosexual sex in all its devaluing forms, I still felt unloved and worthless."

During an encounter with God, Darryl learned anew that God loved him, Jesus died for him and was willing to forgive and cleanse him from sin and years of rebellion. He left that encounter "...knowing that no matter what happened, I would always love him and I knew that he would always love me. In a word, I was changed." He says of the following years, "Jesus assured me that he would "never leave me nor forsake me" (Heb. 13:5). It hasn't been an easy journey but, because of God's love, power and faithfulness, I am and will

## Egypt

This month, October 2005, Exodus Global Alliance will be the main speakers at a conference in Egypt. Homosexuality in Egypt? A conference in Egypt? The first reaction of most Egyptians is disbelief. Not



Awsam is the conference organizer and director of the ministry in Egypt.

here. But the truth is, yes in Egypt. The conference is the next step in developing a ministry in Egypt that has been helping people for several years. We seek to broaden connections with the Christian church community in Egypt and help them to understand the needs of people

continue to be a whole man. My deepest desires for love and belonging have been met, through Jesus Christ and his family, the Church. Because of the grace and power of the Lord Jesus, I'm no longer the broken, hate-driven homosexual man I used to be. I live for and enjoy my life serving the Lord Jesus, raising my children, loving my wife and leading the congregation God has given me the favor to lead. These are the fruits of change. A promise that only be fulfilled in a life submitted to God." Pastor DL Foster joins the International Board to strengthen the work of Exodus Global Alliance amongst African Americans and other black cultural groups around the world.

There are many black people groups around the world who have no place to get help. You are invited to contact Exodus Global Alliance to see how you can participate in or support DL Foster's work with Exodus Global Alliance to reach out.

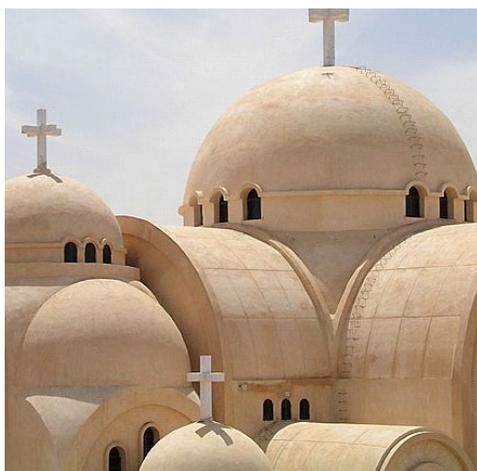
Pray that God will speak through Awsam, Pat and Darren a message that meets the needs in Egypt, in ways that are acceptable to and reach the hearts of people in Egypt.

affected by homosexuality and the ways that church and Exodus ministries can help those who are affected. We also seek to deepen the training of the people serving in ministry. Lastly, we seek to give people looking for help an opportunity to hear people share their testimonies and get information.

There are some unique challenges in this conference. Some are legal. Others are cultural. The conference cannot make homosexuality the specific topic of a presentation. Instead, the conference will present God's plan for personal healing and change. Examples drawn from the lives of the Exodus presenters will be used as illustrations.

Awsam is the conference organizer. Pat Lawrence and Darren Thompson (an Exodus missionary in training) will be going from Canada to the conference. Pray for Awsam, Pat and Darren. Pray that God will lead them and speak through them a message that meets the needs in Egypt, in ways that are acceptable to and reach the hearts of people in Egypt.

The conference will be held outside of Cairo in Wadi Natroun - an area that became a sanctuary for Christians who were fleeing the systematic Roman persecution in the 4th century. There the Coptic Christian church established numerous monasteries, a few of which still survive today.



## Barbados

There's a hurricane brewing in the Caribbean, but it has nothing to do with wind or rain. In the Caribbean, a region that's historically religious and conservative, the promotion of homosexuality and the demand to legalize homosexual acts, in particular, has incited controversy that some have likened to a hurricane. Internal and external forces are working to make homosexuality both legal and acceptable in the Caribbean. In opposition are many who want to use firmly held religious beliefs to retain laws against homosexuality. Caught in the middle are people struggling with homosexuality.

In the religious values of many Caribbean societies there is a great deal of ambivalence related to sexual activity. Sex is largely characterised as sinful except within marriage, yet the majority of children are born out of wedlock. Homosexuality is frowned upon. Those who struggle with homosexuality find little hope, instead they often feel misunderstood and condemned by the church.

We are delighted to have been invited to speak at a conference in Barbados in May 2006. Project PROBE Ministries is organizing the conference. Pat Lawrence & Darryl Foster will be the main speakers. We desire to teach and demonstrate how to apply God's truth and grace to those who struggle with homosexuality.

Here is a brief summary of the topics we will address. Will you pray that we are able to effectively present these topics, give people hope and courage to enter God's plan to transformation? We also want to find people who will work with Exodus and Project PROBE to start a new ministry in Barbados and perhaps in other Caribbean countries.

### The Roots of Homosexuality

Some claim people are born gay. Others believe people choose to be homosexuals. We will examine the true nature of how homosexuality develops and illustrate this from personal experience.



### What Does the Bible Say?

We will take a powerful, straightforward look at what the Bible says about homosexuality, the way God deals with people struggling with sexuality (including homosexuality) and how God wants the church to respond.

### Is Change Really Possible?

We will discuss why change really is possible and how this brings hope into the lives of people who have been told there is no hope for them because they cannot change.

### Someone I Love is Gay

Finding out that a child, spouse, relative or friend is homosexual can be a shock. We help find the crucial balance between conviction and compassion in responding to or helping those who have embraced homosexuality.

### Responding with Grace and Truth

Many people have wondered what to say to someone who comes to them for help with confusion about homosexual feelings? We share our experiences to help churches, pastors, mentors or caregivers to come alongside those affected by homosexuality with grace and truth.

### Homosexuality & Youth

The promotion of sexual freedom puts many youth at risk. We will explain the struggles youths can have, how they can deal with these and what families, teachers and churches can do to help students who are struggling with the roots of homosexuality.

# news briefs

## Missions training

Exodus Missions provides opportunities for people to serve as missionaries in local Member Ministries, help start new ministries, serve in an Exodus Regional Office or the Exodus Global Alliance Office. To prepare people for missions, Exodus Global Alliance has a Missions Training program. Darren Thompson recently entered the Missions Training program and we would like to introduce you to him and the training program.

Darren felt called by God to enter into ministry. His began by joining the work of His Way Out – a Christian ministry to homosexuals in California. He went to Guyana, South America on short-term missions trips with His Way Out's director Pastor Phillip Lee. There they worked on laying the foundation to start a new ministry. This led Darren to make a commitment to long-term foreign missions reaching youth who are involved in homosexuality. He was attracted to the Exodus Global Alliance missions program because it offered the opportunity for long-term foreign missions reaching youth.

The first step in long-term missions is training. Darren's first step was a six-week training program. The first four weeks were in Toronto at the Exodus Global Alliance office and mission house. He went through a physical and psychological assessment by International Health Management. He worked through an assessment of his spiritual gifts, abilities, interests and

calling. Darren received instruction in cross-cultural issues, applying leadership in cross-cultural settings, support and fund raising. He spent some time with people involved in counselling, support groups and outreach ministries - specific training about ministering to people affected by homosexuality. And he had opportunities to speak to youth in churches and youth conferences.

His last two weeks were spent in Egypt (see page 2). This gave Darren his first taste of working with Exodus Global Alliance in another part of the world, observing how an Exodus ministry can be developed in an Arab country and seeing first-hand how he can reach youth in foreign missions.

Pray for Darren – that he will make the most of this first step and that God will lead him and Exodus Global Alliance as they work through the opportunities for youth ministry and outreach around the world and plan his next step in Exodus missions.

## School Curriculum

When it comes to the topic of sexual orientation, what should be taught in schools? Secular schools in many countries are increasingly teaching that homosexuality is just as acceptable as heterosexuality and students should experiment with both to see what their own orientation is. Christian schools teach about physiology and morality. But judging by the number of students from Christian schools who 'go all

the way' or have trouble with sexuality, it would appear that this is not sufficient to counter the world's promotion of sexual freedom. Something more is needed.

Students in both secular and Christian schools struggle in this area. Can teachers and schools help students who are facing the roots of homosexuality? The answer is yes. Are they equipped – do they know what to do? Their answer is no. They need curriculum and training. Sharon Cracknell, a teacher at Peoples Christian School and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) have worked with Exodus Global Alliance to develop a curriculum unit that schools can use to teach students a comprehensive Christian understanding of sexual issues and equip teachers who encounter children struggling with sexual issues.

Teachers who attend the ACSI Eastern Canada conferences this fall will be the first to receive the curriculum along with a training seminar on how to use it. The curriculum unit has been designed according to the Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines and the training seminar is creditable as teacher training. In the first phase of its use, we hope to see Christian schools add this unit to their curriculum. In the second phase, we hope that to broaden its use to the public school system.

Additional information can be found in the Resources section of the Exodus Global Alliance website. You can also contact the Exodus Global Alliance office to ask for more information.

## Exodus Global Alliance

**A world-wide interdenominational, non-profit Christian organization that serves to:**

- Educate and equip Christians and churches regarding the issue of homosexuality and the church's response.
- Proclaim the truth, both scriptural and clinical, in church and society that change from homosexuality is possible.
- Provide opportunities for people to serve as missionaries with Exodus' local ministries around the world or develop new ministries to homosexual people around the world that have no one to help them.
- Refer people to a network of qualified member ministries throughout the world providing counseling and support groups.

**Exodus Global Alliance is a charitable organization made possible by your prayers and financial support. All contributions are tax-deductible; gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an annual official income tax receipt. Spending of funds is confined to board-approved programs and purchases. Gifts designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when any need has been met, designated gifts will be used where most needed.**