

EXODUS ASIA PACIFIC *Meets needs despite cultural challenges*



Shirley Baskett

Exodus Asia Pacific (EAP) is starting a new season of ministry under the leadership of a new director, Shirley Baskett. She says the new season of ministry includes a fresh approach to the way it meets the ministry needs within the region.

This new chapter in the life of EAP comes after Peter Lane served a distinguished 30-year career, the last 20 years as director of Exodus Asia Pacific. He started a ministry to homosexuals in Australia in 1978. It was called Liberty Ministry. That year, he was given the book, *The Third Sex?*, by Frank Worthen. Mr. Lane wrote the author and received encouragement and guidance during those formative years. A grassroots coalition of ministries to homosexuals began to emerge from 1978 to 1986.

Mr. Lane became the director of Restoration Ministries in 1986, the coalition of ministries in Australia and New Zealand. In 1987, Restoration Ministries changed its name to Exodus South Pacific. Peter Lane and his wife Dot decided more recently to launch a new ministry,

On Eagle's Wings, in India and to pass on the reigns of the directorship to Shirley Baskett. Ms. Baskett says the region owes a great deal of gratitude to Peter Lane for his pioneering, formative work. The region, she says, continues to move forward.

"We have begun to forge some strong links with other likeminded ministries such as Living Waters, Roundabout Ministries and Courage. There are people from across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific who feel the call of God to become part of the answer to people struggling with same sex issues. This is exciting, and some of these people have been working on their own or have been working with other organizations in already-proven ministries. They now feel the desire to connect with Exodus."

She says that some "churches in our region are either confused about how to approach this issue or have adopted a gay theology. These churches are far more likely to either take a more liberal approach or ignore the problem. Few are offering grace and truth in an effective way."

"Therefore, we feel our role is to attempt to resource churches who do want an answer. We have begun to talk with people in churches who are open to this, to find one or two people who can be trained to understand a biblical approach and a loving approach so that, when hurting people come to their churches, there is both a biblical standard and an answer that offers support and freedom." Ms. Baskett says.

Part of EAP's fresh approach to ministry involves recreating its website and developing a database of supporters and others interested in the ministry. "We are almost like a new region in many ways. This means that those who work for Exodus here are voluntary and one of our greatest needs is to be able to have some full time, paid staff, including the director."

Ms. Baskett says she continues to receive cries for help from across the region and, "if we can get a church network up and running, it spreads the possibilities for people to find help. In the meantime, our member ministries are doing well and there are three potential new ministries who are in dialogue with us. We are clearly on the right track."

She says the region was blessed by the recent visit of Jenny Li, director of Exodus East Asia, and Tryphena Law, who heads up a ministry in Malaysia called PLUC. Tryphena interpreted and called people to prayer after meetings held on the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Bunya Mountains and Melbourne. Laurie Jean Wilson from Sanctuary Ministries on the Sunshine Coast organized the visit that included four radio interviews. Each of the women shared stories from their personal journeys of sexual brokenness. Jenny Li's story was powerful and touched many hearts. She explained that, "as a very tall Chinese woman with a short hairstyle", she was often mistaken for being a man. "Yet, God called me 'cute!'"



Jenny Li

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Three of the member ministries in Australia are:

Mosaic Ministries in Melbourne, www.mosaicministries.org.au, provides a counselling service for individuals and support groups for parents.

Liberty Inc in Brisbane, www.libertyinc.org.au provides a counselling service for individuals and support groups for men and parents.

Sanctuary, www.sanctuary4u.faithweb.com, is an online support ministry for women.

The region also has many contacts across Asia, from English-speaking people who learn about the ministry through the website to people from as far as Abu Dhabi, Korea, Japan and China. These people are generally referred to Exodus East Asia which can respond locally.

There are two ministries based within Exodus Asia Pacific which work overseas. Peter Lane heads up On Eagle's Wings, which works mostly in India. Nick Kuiper is based in the Philippines where he has found Open Doors for a very fruitful ministry. He is working alongside Exodus East Asia to oversee an Exodus ministry in that country, however he also continues to have an interest in his home city of Adelaide, Australia.

Ministry in Exodus Asia Pacific is growing at a measurable pace. Ministries are transforming lives and they are impacting church communities and society in general. Within the region there are several highly qualified leaders who are always happy to take up invitations to speak. Ms. Baskett says the region strives "to strengthen those who are keen to help people by applying a biblical standard and showing God's love."



Peter and Dot Lane

Nick's story – from misery into ministry

My name is Nick. I was born in the Netherlands in 1956 and immigrated to Australia in 1959. English is my second language which I learned when I went to school. I had difficulties very early on in my relationship with my father. He never hugged me or said that he loved me. I know now he did love me, but had difficulty in communicating because he was deaf and he never knew how to express his emotions.

From a very early age I felt there was something different about me. I was physically tormented by school bullies. At age 11, I was sexually abused by a man living in the neighbourhood. I was again sexually abused by an older man at age 15. So I struggled with the need to be loved by men, and also found I was sexually attracted to men. At 19, I ended up in a gay relationship that I thought would last forever. We had bought a house together and were building a life together.

But my life was a mess; I was unhappy and unsatisfied. In all of this, Jesus found me and I became born again. I did not know then what had happened to me, but there was a real change in my life. I had a couple of Christian friends who really guided me. I developed a strong hunger for the word of God. I immediately went to Bible college.

One night at Bible college, I was reading about the second coming and it struck me that homosexuality was sin. I had heard this many times before, but I felt that people did not understand me and that I was born this

way. But the Holy Spirit took those words and pierced my heart. I asked God, if this was really His will then He would need to do something about the relationship I was in. He did. I had a lot of hard choices to make, including moving out of the house and cutting myself off from all my gay friends.

"I am amazed that God can use someone like me ... with all the garbage that I have had"

I went through a period of rebellion because I was not happy that my life was suddenly being turned upside down. In that rebellious period, the Holy Spirit just fell on me and bathed me with his love. I did not understand what happened but I knew it was God. He also gave me a vision of something in the future in my life. I saw myself preaching to a dark-skinned people and that, as I spoke, God's light just began to bathe them. It was after that vision that I started to make those hard choices.

I started going to a Pentecostal church but life was a struggle. The temptation was so strong that I thought I was going crazy. One night in a home fellowship, I was baptised in the Holy Spirit. This was the turning point in my Christian walk. I was now able to access strength where before I had none.

I also had significant health issues. I almost died three times in the space of about six weeks. I had developed severe asthma and had two bad attacks that were almost fatal. I also had a brain tumour which God miraculously healed. It was later discovered that the asthma was caused by a severe infection in my sinuses that went into the bone in my forehead. So I was severely ill and in a lot of pain.

In 1992 they discovered the severity of the problem. I had an abscess that had penetrated the orb of my right eye, and another that had started to penetrate my brain. During the operation a lot of bone was removed from my forehead. The last operation I had – 37 in all – in 2000 further removed bone. With treatment, my health improved.

I moved to Brisbane, Australia in 2004 where I was involved in pastoral work in a church. It was during this time that God started to really rebuild me on the inside. One thing I know is that we need to give ALL our heart to God and to live passionately for Him. This does not mean that there will be no temptation; rather, God will give you the strength to deal with it.

God called me to go to the Philippines in 2009 where I am currently serving as a missionary. I am amazed that God can use someone like me, with all the garbage that I have had in my life, and with my limited ability. God just wants someone who is available.

Lovelinx Conference was a gathering of professionals



The Lovelinx Conference in Victoria was described as having the most comprehensive line-up of ministries to people who are sexually broken. It offered a wide range of workshops and seminars for those struggling with their sexual identity, for family members and for organizations engaged in their ministry to those dealing with their sexual identity.

There were several presenters at the September 2009 conference:

Noel S. Cabigting is a member of the Missionaries of God's Love. Noel has been in full time ministry for the past 11 years with a particular focus on pastoral counselling young people as well as healing ministry. He has worked in the Philippines, Italy, Australia and The Netherlands.

In his seminar on "redeeming stories", participants learned to give voice to their stories and to examine the themes and beliefs that have shaped their lives. Our past does not have to determine our future and that there's a freedom that comes from realizing that our life-stories – no matter how messy and bloody – can become part of God's redemption story and a source of grace for others.

Simon Riches was part of the initial team that planted Christian City Church in Whitehorse, where he was also responsible for establishing a house for homeless young men. He worked with chronically homeless and marginalized young people in Melbourne in Sydney's Kings Cross. He leads Liberty Christian Ministries, a ministry that supports Christians who are struggling with their sexuality and gender identity. His role includes numerous speaking opportunities in churches and theological colleges, including teaching regularly at the Ministry Training College at Christian City Church, Oxford Falls.

He led a seminar on human sexuality which

covered a theological, psychological and sociological view of what it means to be a human in the midst of the 21st century and the challenges with living in a sexually-obsessed society. He also offered a seminar on pornography and the internet which provided an overview of the impact of pornography on men and families, and a brief look at the addiction cycle.

Laurie Jean has a passion to see the "captives set free." She overcame lesbianism through "the word of her testimony and the blood of the Lamb." She has been the director of Sanctuary International in Queensland, Australia for nine years.

She led a seminar on emotional dependency and lesbianism, designed to equip those involved in ministry to more effectively deal with women who struggle with lesbianism and emotional dependency.

Keith Wiegold heads Living Waters ministry in Victoria. He has been ministering to people with sexual additions, gender confusion and damaged lives through abuse for seven years. Living Waters is an international ministry offering courses to help Christians deal with many types of relational problems.

He offered a seminar on healing men from sexual brokenness. He talked about the process of walking out of brokenness, and how imperative it is to develop a deep relationship with God.

Carol Hardy is the director of Mosaic Ministries which helps people understand issues related to sexual orientation. This counselling service provides help for Christians who struggle and it includes supporting parents as well as individual strugglers. Carol has worked as a professional counsellor for 13 years.

She offered a seminar on grief, loss and

trauma which looked at acknowledging pain and grief and how to deal with the hurt associated with one's own struggles and with seeing the struggles of loved ones.

Bryan Klierer is the executive director of Exodus Global Alliance. After 20 years as a professional engineer and volunteer participant in ministry, Exodus Global Alliance invited Bryan to work full-time with them in the international office in Toronto. In 2008, Exodus Global Alliance asked Bryan to become the executive director.

He offered a seminar on how individuals and churches should be guided by God's plan to respond. He said the church can either be a barrier to those who perceive Christians as fighting homosexuals, or it can provide godly relationships that God uses to heal and restore individuals who are searching for the kingdom of God. The church needs skills in helping people in their faith journeys to resolve their conflicts with biblical truth.

Courage is a Catholic movement of the spirit in the Roman Catholic Church consisting of men and women who experience same-sex attractions, but who seek to live out their lives in fidelity to the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

EnCourage is a Catholic ministry dedicated to the spiritual needs of parents, siblings, children and other relatives and friends of persons who experience same-sex attractions. What distinguishes the work of EnCourage is its concern to offer faithful witness to Catholic teaching on sexual morality while meeting the needs of its members with charity and compassion.

Participants left the conference fully equipped to return to their respective ministries with encouragement, hope and new insights.

Exodus Church Association — a network of supportive churches

Jeff Buchanan

Senior Director of Church Equipping Exodus Church Association

It doesn't seem that long ago when I was a teenager sitting in the pew of a Southern Baptist Church in Mississippi struggling with a dark secret. I loved church and I loved being with my church family. However, I knew that I couldn't trust them. I had heard too many jokes and remarks. Over the years, I heard the pastor talk about my secret with a judgmental and condescending tone of disgust.

I can't describe to you the torment of sincerely loving my relationship with Christ and His church and yet suffering with unwanted same-sex attractions. Even more intense was the pain of living with this shameful secret and knowing that I could never tell it to anyone. I loved Jesus but I knew what the Bible said about my desires so I continued to suffer silently in the pew for the next decade.

During the next few years I resisted my desires until I eventually gave in and entered into a relationship with another man. He had also grown up in the church. His father was an evangelist and he lived under the same fear and shame that I did. He never told anyone else until he met me.

After three years, I left the relationship and decided that I was going to be committed to God's Word rather than my desires. Eventually, I found a small church where I told a pastor about my secret for the first time in my life. I bluntly asked him if he had any challenges with what I struggled with and who I was. His reply was a simple "No." He then proceeded to tell me that he believed that I would find his church to be a safe place and a loving and supportive family. He was right.

For the first time, I was in a church family that accepted me and my brokenness. Not only did they love me but they were also committed to telling me the truth and holding me to a biblical standard. After several years of care and discipleship, I eventually became an associate pastor in the church that radically impacted my life.

Exodus realizes the crucial role that the church serves in the life of the same-sex struggler. It is God's miraculous work through the body of Christ that has the power to transform lives.

After 35 years of reaching out to individuals and families affected by homosexuality, Exodus recognizes the crucial need to work more closely with churches. Alan Chambers, the president of Exodus International commented, "Exodus is a kingdom ministry—it is no longer a ministry outside of the church, but a ministry of the church." This is why we have created the Exodus Church Association.

Exodus Conferences

Exodus Brasil Conference: September 4-7 in Fortaleza, Brazil.

For more information, visit www.exodus.org.br

Through our church association we hope to do three things. First, we hope to exhort the church to stand confidently and boldly on the truth of Scripture with regard to homosexuality. Secondly, we hope to equip churches to minister to individuals within their own congregation who are struggling with unwanted homosexuality as well as the family members of gay loved ones. And finally, we hope to create a nationwide referral list of churches — including your church — for those who are searching for a church family that will walk alongside them in their journey.

For men and women overcoming homosexuality, a pivotal part of healing and restoration is the need to be included in — and be a part of — the body of Christ. One woman overcoming lesbianism said, "My experience of being welcomed, invited and embraced by the men, women, and families in my church made all the difference in the world as I sought to overcome my sexual brokenness and sin." If you desire to become part of this important work, please contact your Exodus regional office. Many are looking for a future and a hope. Each Exodus region offers an Exodus Church Network. The church network in the USA was launched in 2006. Church networks are being launched in all of the other Exodus regions.

If you want your church to be a part of one of these networks, please contact the Exodus office in your region.

Churches in the USA — contact Exodus International at www.exoduschurchassociation.org

Churches in Australia & New Zealand — contact Exodus Asia Pacific at www.exodusasiapacific.org

Churches in Brazil — contact Exodus Brasil at www.exodus.org.br

Churches in Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan — Contact Exodus East Asia at exodus.eea@gmail.com

Churches in Latin America — contact Exodus Latinoamerica at www.exoduslatinoamerica.org

Churches elsewhere — contact Exodus Global Alliance at www.exodusglobalalliance.org

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- Exodus Global Alliance,
PO Box 1412 Troy, Michigan, 48099 USA

You can set up automatic monthly support. Truth Ministry in the USA does this through Network for Good.

Go to the Exodus Global Alliance website and select the [Supporting Exodus](#) page. Select Network for Good if you live in the USA or select CanadaHelps if you live in Canada.

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.