

# news briefs

## Asian missions work is expanding

Men and women struggle with homosexuality in every culture and country around the world. There are about 155 million homosexuals around the world who need to be reached. With so many Christians refusing to reach them, they are the largest deliberately unreached people group in the world. And the majority are in the Far East regions from India to China and the Asia/Pacific region.

Exodus Global Alliance has raised the profile of missions so that the people God is calling into missions will have someone to send them and a place to go to. Exodus



Kelvin and Tammy Chung are the directors of New Creation in Hong Kong.

Global Alliance is called to send people to places like Africa, India and China.

The missions work in Exodus China is an example. Dr. Melvin Wong is the coordinator and consultant for Chinese ministries in Exodus. He has been instrumental in developing Exodus China and getting missions work started in this region.

Exodus China has a new ministry in Hong Kong. It is called New Creation and is directed by Kelvin and Tammy Chung (pictured at left). They lead a support group for homosexual strugglers. The first group of men and women seeking to overcome homosexuality completed the support group program in March. Most of the participants will continue with the follow-up group that runs from May through November. They expect the follow-up group will have about 15 men and 5 women in it.

Kelvin and Tammy report that God has prepared a good leadership team at New Creation. But they are looking for more people with the same vision for ministry to strengthen their team and broaden their work. So, people who feel called to missions can apply to Exodus Global Alliance to work with Kelvin and Tammy at New Creation. Or they can work with Dr. Wong, helping to start new ministries in other

parts of China, places that currently do not have any ministries.

People ask, "What can I do?" First, they can pray. God works through Exodus only when you pray. Exodus needs people who will pray for its ministry in Hong Kong and through out the world. We invite people to send us a letter telling us that God has called them to pray.

We also tell them they can give. Exodus is able to help people only because we are supported by the gifts of people and churches. Your gifts can bring the good news of hope in Jesus to men and women struggling with homosexuality in these places.

Finally, people can participate by being a missionary. "Some Christians feel they cannot be a missionary because they have never been a homosexual," says Pat Lawrence. "As a result, Exodus works without the resources that many other Christian ministries have received.

"We need people to bring their gifts & talents in ministry service and ministry development to Exodus—the potential harvest is vast, the workers are few. God has no other plan than to work through the people He has called. Exodus Global Alliance has missions opportunities for people interested in ministry to homosexual men and women. "

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## Exodus Global Alliance is formed

On April 1, 2004 Exodus International announced that we have become Exodus Global Alliance, a worldwide outreach to people affected by homosexuality.

Homosexuality has grown to become the strategic issue facing society and the church on every continent. With it, the Exodus movement has grown to meet the intensifying needs and guide people to an understanding of homosexuality and the issues surrounding it.

Now, to better serve these needs around the world, the global network of Exodus ministries have formed an international coalition called Exodus Global Alliance. This new alliance will better enable Exodus to reach people looking for help, develop and nurture local ministries to serve them, and guide people in caring and redemptive relationships to those affected by homosexuality.

"We are changing our name to reflect the step forward we are taking in becoming a world-wide ministry to people affected by homosexuality," says Pat Lawrence,



Pat Lawrence, executive director of Exodus Global Alliance

executive director of Exodus Global Alliance.

"Our new name reflects the commitment that the coalition of Exodus ministries around the world have to work together to proclaim the message of hope and healing that Christ brings to a world

that is increasingly struggling with homosexuality. We believe God wants us to work together because each region brings resources, creativity and gifting to make Exodus a stronger and more productive organization.

"Our organizational structure has been

developed strategically to show that even though we are different in our cultures and background we hold each other accountable and help one another."

How did Exodus get to this point? According to Pat, "The history of the world as recorded in Genesis begins with the words "In the beginning God..." The history of Exodus starts the same way. In the beginning God reached out to homosexual men and women on each continent around the world. Reaching out to them with grace and truth, God brought hope, healing and transformation to men and women affected by homosexuality. Then He called them to let Him work through them to bring His grace and truth to others around the world."

One example of this is Frank Worthen.

(continued on page 3)

### 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.**

### in this issue

**Exodus Global Alliance has changed its name** to reflect the step forward we are taking in becoming a world-wide ministry to people affected by homosexuality.

**Exodus wants the homosexual community to hunger after Jesus.** And we want the Church to present a holy and merciful God. When people hunger after Jesus, He will feed their soul and restore their broken heart. Their hunger will be satisfied, with Him. They will feel alive, experience a sense of purpose and freedom and adventure and hope.

**Asian missions work is growing.** Rev. Chooi Seng joins the board as an international member. Dr. Melvin Wong is the coordinator and consultant for Chinese ministries in Exodus. Exodus China has a new ministry in Hong Kong. It is called New Creation and is directed by Kelvin and Tammy Chung.

# news from around the world

## What's different with Exodus Global Alliance?

### **WorldNews: Is your message still the same?**

Pat: Yes, our message is still the same. Exodus Global Alliance is committed to proclaiming the good news that change is possible not through a method but through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus came to give us life, make us new people. That is why there is hope for all of us; why change is possible. Jesus sees what the people involved in homosexuality need. He knows we are empty, needing love, hungry, weary and burnt out on religion. He invites us saying, "Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life." (Matt 11:28, The Message).

Exodus wants the homosexual community to hunger after Jesus. And we want the Church to present a holy and merciful God.

When people hunger after Jesus, He will feed their soul and restore their broken heart. Their hunger will be satisfied, with Him. They will feel alive, experience a sense of purpose and freedom and adventure and hope.

Our message includes the hope of recovery but it is not limited to that. Our message is that Jesus transforms homosexual people into holy people who bring Him glory. That transformation includes our sexuality. And godly sexuality brings God glory.

### **WorldNews: Is this an important development in Exodus's history?**

Pat: I think the formation of Exodus Global Alliance is development is exciting and important.

It's exciting to be adding board members who represent the international nature of our work. We are strengthening our global leadership. And we are ready to



Some of the Exodus missions people working in the Far East gather together in Hong Kong.

focus on the growing needs in the places we already work in and in places like Africa, the subcontinent of India and the subcontinent of China. Each of these places needs to hear there is hope because Jesus brings change to everyone who submits to His Lordship.

It is important because homosexuality has grown to become the strategic issue facing society and the church on every continent. From Mexico to Brazil, from England to South Africa, from the Middle East through India to China, homosexuality is touching the lives of individual & families, affecting churches & denominations, and changing nations & societies. And so Exodus Global Alliance is growing to meet the intensifying needs and guide people to an understanding of homosexuality and the issues surrounding it.

As Frank Worthen has said, "Exodus



Rev. Chooi Seng is a new international board member.

Global Alliance is a "right time, right place" ministry that will focus on equipping these rapidly developing regions."

### **WorldNews: You mentioned new board members. Tell us more about this.**

Pat: I would like to introduce Rev. Chooi Seng from Singapore to you. It takes international people to lead international development. Rev. Seng is an example of Exodus' commitment to put people from Africa, India and the Far East in positions of leadership so that Exodus can move into

"Our message is that Jesus transforms homosexual people into holy people who bring Him glory. That transformation includes our sexuality. And godly sexuality brings God glory." PAT LAWRENCE

these parts of the world.

Rev. Seng says, "My interest in this ministry began when couples came to see me about their marital issues and I found that the third party turned out to be a same-sex partner for the husband.

"Later as I oversaw the work of [the Exodus Member Ministry in Singapore called] Choices, which was started by Sy Rogers, I began to see the importance of coming alongside those who are in need of great help to change their lifestyle. The cry for help is often ignored and the pain is lightly brushed aside. The church needs to offer them acceptance and guide them through life to come through victorious without a judgmental attitude. This can come in the form of a support group and healthy fellowships within the church. I take every opportunity to speak on this issue whenever I can in churches or school or other public forum. Where possible, I share with decision makers to make this a priority in their organization."

### **WorldNews: What else is new?**

Pat: New member ministries are being welcomed and developed. We have welcomed new member ministries in Asia Pacific and Latin America. And we are developing more new ministries in every region.

We have space in this issue to introduce some of the new member ministries. In the next issue, I will tell you about some more. One of the new ministries is Nueva Condición (in English - New Condition Ministries) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They are a member ministry of Exodus Latin America.

Heisha Fernandez is the director of Nueva Condición. I first met Heisha at an Exodus International, North America Conference. She was an outgoing, bubbly Latin American who felt God calling her to minister to those in homosexuality and lesbianism. She shared with me that though



Heisha Fernandez is the director of Nueva Condición

she was not gay she knew that God wanted her to serve in this area. It all began when Heisha was watching a television program where Maria Esther shared her story. This woman, who had come from a Christian home, at the age of 18 had

entered into an 18-year lesbian relationship. Then she suffered an aneurysm. In that crisis she came face to face with another reality - she was not ready to die. Lesbianism had met an emotional and physical need in her life but not her spiritual need. She became aware that her lifestyle had separated her from God. In the privacy of her sickbed she cried out to God and confessed the sinfulness of her gay lifestyle. God forgave her and welcomed her into His

family. Heisha was so moved that she phoned Maria Esther and then met with her. For the next three years Heisha shared Maria Esther's personal journey from homosexuality to holiness and shared in a joint ministry to other people.

Last year Heisha invited me to teach at Nueva Condición's *Second Congress of Sexual Redemption*. I found myself teaching in the Carolina Baptist Church to 250 young people and 200 adults who wanted to either find personal freedom or wanted to be trained to help others.

Today Heisha and the others that have been trained are teaching church leaders, visiting more churches and young people retreats, with the message that "change is possible." Nueva Condición also provides a counselling ministry and has 25 people receiving counselling. Heisha has also written the first Spanish book on lesbianism. If you would like to purchase it please contact the EGA office.

## Exodus Global Alliance is formed

(continued from page 1)

In 1973 God led Frank to start a ministry to homosexuals in California. In 1976, Frank organized a conference of ex-gay ministries in the USA. At this conference Frank and others formed a coalition called Exodus International, North America.

But God was not just working in the USA. He was also leading people into ministry in Europe, Australia and elsewhere around the world. God gave Frank and other leaders a world-wide vision for Exodus. He led Frank to travel many places through out the world to spread the message "change is possible through Jesus Christ."

In 1995, Frank and other Exodus leaders from around the world began working to develop a worldwide structure and international board where every region has an equal voice in the decisions made about Exodus as a global organization; to begin an international missions program that would send people around the world to start new ministries; to establish accountability at the regional level similar to the way that our member ministries are accountable to a regional office yet still permits each region to carry out ministry in their region in ways that are appropriate to the people, culture and language groups in each region.

Exodus Global Alliance is the next step in this development.