

Exodus Global Alliance:

God is opening doors for ministry development across the Caribbean



Pat Lawrence,
executive director
of Exodus Global
Alliance

In 2005 we reported that God was opening doors in the Caribbean for Exodus Global Alliance. In this issue I would like to give you a deeper look into the work of ministry development by looking at the Caribbean. But before I take you with me into the

Caribbean, I want to share what God does when His people say "Yes Lord. I will." Dolina Geddes is one of God's people who said "Yes Lord, I am willing." Though Dolina never struggled with homosexuality, she has openly shared her life of sexual abuse as a child. She took her pain and used it to open an Exodus member ministry in Scotland. She joined the Exodus Europe Board in 1998, served as Vice President in 1999 and as President from 2002. For the last 6 years she also served on the Exodus Global Alliance International Board. Her dedication and her love for the Lord has touched many people.

I want to thank Dolina Geddes for her work as Director of Exodus Europe and



Dolina Geddes

member of the Exodus Global Alliance International Board. Dolina finished her term as Director of Exodus Europe and member of the Exodus Global Alliance International Board by speaking at a conference in Germany. Germany does not have any Exodus member ministries and Exodus Global Alliance is working to encourage the development of new ministries. This conference sought to develop people's understanding of the roots and nature of homosexuality, the possibility of change and how Christians and churches can respond with Jesus' truth and grace to bring hope into the lives of people who have been hurt by homosexuality. The conference also sought to bring people together and encourage them to move forward into ministry. The conference was well received by those who came. Pray that God will use it to further the development of new ministries in Germany.

Please pray for Dolina as her next focus will be the development of a live-in program at GHOB Ministries in Scotland.

In a remarkable example of the value of working together, while Dolina was headed from the UK to Germany to speak at one conference, another couple from the UK was headed to the conference in Barbados. Colin & Yvonne Mason have Caribbean and



Yvonne & Colin Mason

Exodus connections. I met Colin in England at the Exodus Global Alliance International Conference in 2000. Colin and Yvonne believe God is leading

them to work with Exodus and so they decided to go to the Barbados conference to explore what direction God might lead them. They spent some time at the conference talking with me about the calling they felt God was placing upon them. After the conference, they returned to England to talk with their pastor. With the blessing of their pastor and church they are planning to move ahead into ministry with the start of a new ministry to black people (and other ethnic groups) in England. And they are seeking God for a broader role in Exodus Europe.

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in this issue

We report on the ways that God is opening doors across the Caribbean to start new ministries in a region that had no ministries before.

We thank Dolina Geddes for her work in Exodus Europe and on the International Board.

How can you help?

We explore ways you can help ministry development and missions: Pray, Give and Join in Ministry.

news from around the world

Ministry Development in the Caribbean

In 2005 we reported that God was opening doors in the Caribbean for Exodus Global Alliance. In this issue we would like to give you a deeper look into the work of ministry development in this region. This region has close to 39 million people. For many years there was no place in this region where people could go for help.

While Exodus Global Alliance does a variety of things to encourage ministry development, conferences play an important role in ministry development. They give people a chance to see and hear from people who have been changed. Seeing and hearing is much better than reading an article. Face-to-face contact is very helpful. Conferences give people hope because they see what change looks like. Conferences 'demystify' the issue of homosexuality. They present a credible Christian theology of truth and grace that people can use to reach out or respond. Conferences also demonstrate what ministry will look like. Strugglers, Christians and churches all

need to participate in a demonstration of what ministry will look like.

How does a conference in a region where there are no ministries get started? In this case, it started 2-3 years earlier when Shernel Evelyn was talking with Pat Lawrence and



Shernel Evelyn

praying for the start of some kind of Christian ministry in the Caribbean. She contacted Roger Marshall of Project PROBE Ministries. Roger contacted Bryan Kliever at the Exodus Global Alliance office. This led to an invitation from Project PROBE Ministries to Exodus Global Alliance to work with them on a conference in Barbados with the goal of starting new ministries. Bryan worked with Roger on the conference purpose, theme, title, topics, schedule and speaker selection.

Barbados

Hundreds of Bajans (as the locals refer to themselves) turned out April 27-29 for Barbados' first ever conference on sex and sexuality organized by Project PROBE Ministries in conjunction with Exodus Global Alliance. In addition to the local Bajans, the conference recognized delegates from Jamaica, England and Trinidad and Tobago adding to its truly international flavor. The conference was a purposeful exploration of the core issues and concerns citizens had expressed regarding homosexuality in Barbados.

The three day event was held at the Sherbourne Conference Center in the midst of Hero's Day, a national holiday celebrating the island's distinguished men and women of the past. The holiday provided a perfect contrasting backdrop for the conference's focus on ordinary men and women who could be empowered to raise up and sustain ministry in the small, but influential island nation.

Many of the people in attendance knew someone homosexual or had a strong desire to stand for what was right and wanted to know how to do this. Pat Lawrence, Exodus Global Alliance's Executive Director and Pastor DL Foster of Atlanta, an Exodus Global Alliance board member, were the



Roger Marshall, Pat Lawrence and Darryl Foster

speakers at this conference. They spoke about the roots of homosexuality, what the Bible says, why change really is possible, how friends and families should respond to loved ones involved with homosexuality, how Christians and churches can respond with God's grace and truth, and youth. They carefully fielded steady flow of questions on topics from youth to church ministry to personal overcoming. Both also shared powerfully moving stories of their own struggle and subsequent freedom from homosexuality.

Youth and concerns about the desensitization of children emerged as one of the most discussed workshops offered. Several public school teachers voiced fears that certain subtle practices already working in schools would lead to tighter restrictions of them as Christian teachers.

In a graceful but firm way, Lawrence told both parents and professionals alike, "We must learn how to reach out and touch people who are in this type of lifestyle so we can find ways to show God's grace and kindness, and to break down misconceptions."

Some misconceptions come from those who seek to promote homosexuality. And so the conference addressed issues such as the roots of homosexuality and whether homosexuality is just a 'healthy' alternative. Pat Lawrence also faulted unfounded apprehensions about sex and sexuality within the church as contributing factors to growing misconceptions.

"They [the church] don't really want to talk about sex and I don't know why the

The poster features the title "Sex, Sexuality & Homosexuality: Engaging the Truth" in large, bold letters. Below the title, it lists speakers: Pat Lawrence and Darryl Foster. The poster also includes a list of topics to be explored, such as "The Roots of Homosexuality" and "What Does the Bible Say?". At the bottom, it provides the dates and times for the conference: "Thurs. Apr 27, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm" and "Fri. Apr 28, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm".

While Exodus Global Alliance does a variety of things to encourage ministry development, conferences play an important role in ministry development.

church doesn't want to talk about it because it [sex] was God's idea," she said.

Pat Lawrence and DL Foster spoke about what the Bible says about homosexuality and about how the church is called to reach out to those people who struggle with gender confused issues.

The conference was given prominent press coverage by the major news outlets due in part to the efforts of organizer, Mr. Roger Marshall who serves as president of Project PROBE. Marshall lauded the work of Exodus Global Alliance saying, "The conference was a tremendous success. Both Pat and Darryl were exceptional in their presentations, and as one delegate said: "The conference totally demystified homosexuality." All who attended were equipped with tools to help affect positive change in the lives of persons struggling with unwanted homosexuality."

Rather than follow a path of political reasoning, Exodus Global Alliance determined from the beginning that the conference would be spiritual and address concerns from a Christian perspective.

Speaking to the *Nation News*, Pastor DL Foster said, "We're here to say to people: 'Here is what God wants you to know about all of these people who are in your churches serving, sometimes in high positions, but who are torn up. What we are doing here is planting a seed and, hopefully, there will be someone to water it.'"

Indeed the conference proved to be fertile ground for ministry.

One of the highlights of the event was a special post conference training session conducted by Exodus Global Alliance for individuals interested in starting ministry. Following the training, 27 people made commitments to launch ministries for same sex strugglers in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad.

A team of 5 people from Trinidad & Tobago came to the conference to explore what would be involved in starting a ministry. They returned home committed to starting a ministry in Trinidad & Tobago.

Conferences clear up misconceptions, demonstrate what changed lives look like

and give an example of what ministry involves. But, there is more to ministry development. Local churches and church leaders must become part of ministry development. For that reason local



Five people from Trinidad who made a commitment to start a ministry in Trinidad & Tobago.

churches are encouraged to be part of the conference. In this case, 31 churches sponsored the conference. In addition, prior to the conference Pat Lawrence met with Dr. Nigel L Taylor, President of the Barbados Evangelical Association and later spoke to the Barbados Evangelical Association. She also conducted several TV and radio interviews and discussions in the week before the conference. Local churches need to understand their role in ministry to those within the church and those outside. And they need to be equipped and encouraged to take up their role. By speaking to churches and church leaders in church services or special meetings organized around the conference, Exodus Global Alliance helps gather local church support that is crucial for ministry development to take place.



Dr. Nigel Taylor with Pat Lawrence and Roger Marshall

Jamaica

A second conference in the Caribbean was held in Jamaica one month after the conference in Barbados. On May 19-21 a Jamaican ministry called Wired Counselling Agency held a conference on Healing Sexual and Relational Brokenness. DL Foster, an Exodus Global Alliance board member and speaker at the Barbados conference, was one of the speakers at this conference. Craig McNally, director of the WIRED Counselling Agency, and 2 others staff had attended the conference in Barbados to network with others in the Caribbean and foster ministry development.



Craig McNally and staff, Wired Counselling Agency

Last year we asked you to pray that during this conference we would effectively teach and demonstrate how to apply God's truth and grace to those who struggle with homosexuality, give people hope and courage to enter God's plan to transformation, and find people who will work with Exodus and Project PROBE to start a new ministry in Barbados and perhaps in other Caribbean countries. Now we ask you to pray that the people in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago will follow through on their interest and commitment to participate in ministry development and that Exodus Global Alliance will have the people and resources to work with them in the development of new ministries.

Guyana ministry development

Guyana is another place where we can see how ministry development in the Caribbean is occurring. Here we see an example of an Exodus member ministry sending people to plant a new ministry.

Although Guyana is on the northern shoulder of South America, it is more culturally associated with the Caribbean than Latin America. With nearly 90% of its population made up of African and Indian ethnic groups, it is more closely related to Caribbean countries like Trinidad & Tobago than its Latin American neighbours Venezuela and Brazil. In addition, Guyana, as a former colony of the United Kingdom, is an English-speaking country.

God opened the door for His Way Out Ministries to make several trips to Guyana, South America. The purpose of these trips was to raise awareness, educate and encourage the Body of Christ to minister to those struggling with homosexuality. During the past few years the church and nation of Guyana have been confronted with a political debate seeking to constitutionally protect homosexual behaviour as a fundamental right. Consequently, these trips have not only been timely, but well received by Guyanese Christians.

His Way Out Ministries networked with several indigenous churches, schools, media and formed an important partnership with Operation Restoration, a

Guyanese-run outreach dedicated to educating youth and adults about the values of abstinence and sexual purity. The collaboration between His Way Out and Operation Rescue has made it possible for the first time in the history of the Guyanese church to launch a permanent ministry for those bound by the snare of homosexuality.

His Way Out Ministries kept Exodus Global Alliance informed about their ministry development work in Guyana. As the ministry in Guyana developed, His Way Out Ministries encouraged the local ministry to connect with and become a member of Exodus Global Alliance.

There is another looming crisis that His Way Out has also come alongside the Guyanese to help resolve. Unfortunately, just as is the case of other Caribbean nations, HIV/AIDS is a growing problem in Guyana. According to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, approximately 3-7% of the population has been infected. This is the second highest prevalence rate in the Western Hemisphere next to Haiti. In January 2006 His Way Out Ministries' executive director, Pastor Phillip Lee, made a trip to the eastern region of Guyana to formally dedicate Alpha Covenant Home, the first home in Guyana for children infected with HIV/AIDS. Along with prayers and financial assistance Alpha Covenant Home, a facet of World Harvest Missions, is now serving these children.

This is an example of ministry development through missions partnerships.

Exodus Global Alliance, member ministries such as His Way Out, local churches and Christians working together in ministry development. In some cases it is Exodus Global Alliance who leads the work. In this case, His Way Out led the work.

What Can You Do?

Pray. Exodus leaders and ministry staff work in a ministry that involves spiritual battle. Pray for each Exodus worker. Pray to that God will raise further workers to get involved in this needy world. Pray for increased financial support and for resources to support missions work in the Caribbean.

Give. Exodus' missions and ministry development depends on your financial support. Our support comes from individual donors, not institutions, company sponsors or government grants. We need you to give so that Exodus can continue and expand missions and ministry development.

Join in Ministry. If you feel called to 'go', apply to the Exodus Missions Program. If you feel called to 'stay', ask us how we can use your gifts and talents.

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.