

Sexuality, Truth and Grace: What the world needs to know

The impact sexuality has on personal, family and social levels makes homosexuality the crucial issue of our time. The confusion and damage from the promotion of sexual freedom can be seen in families, churches and across society. No one can avoid this volatile social issue and personal concern.

At the same time, the Church is being denounced by many as evil for upholding Biblical values. Throughout history the Church has faced persecution and criticism from the world but never before has the Church been so frequently denounced as evil for upholding Biblical principles.

Homosexuality is a barrier that stands between you and your neighbour. It is a movement that is transforming the society we live in and the education our children receive. It is a movement that reaches around the world.

So, what do Christians and the world need to know about sexuality, truth and grace?

For over three decades, Exodus Global Alliance has boldly proclaimed that Change is possible! Freedom from homosexuality not through a method, but through a person, the Lord Jesus Christ!

We extend to you a warm invitation to attend our 5th international conference, one of the most widely respected

Exodus Global Alliance 5th International Conference May 8-10, 2008 Toronto, Ontario Sexuality, Truth and Grace What the world needs to know

information and training events on issues surrounding homosexuality. During this international conference, you will discover powerful teachings, relevant testimonies and gain a rich sense of the redeeming hope and freedom that is available through our Lord. A global music experience will be a sweet sound at the international conference. You'll be stretched in your understanding of how to worship God whether it's through music that is fast or slow, contemplative or triumphant. Praise God as you sing in Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, or French. It may lead you to get up on your feet or down on your knees. We hope your heart will be directed to God through the use of international rhythms, styles and the music of various cultures.

Whether you come for yourself, a friend or relative, or to prepare for ministry, this conference will touch your heart and equip you to apply Jesus' truth and grace to yourself and those around you.

God has called each one of us to share truth and grace to others – whether in our family, church, neighbourhood, or even a foreign culture. *What the world needs to know* is that God has a life-changing message for all men and women seeking a way out of homosexuality.

The conference speakers, Esly Carvalho (Brazil), Bruxy Cavey (Canada), Alemu Beeftu (Ethiopia/USA), Oscar Galindo (Mexico), Laurie Jean Wilson (Australia), Heisha Fernandez (Puerto Rico), Alan Chambers (USA), Willy Torresin (Brazil), Pat Lawrence (Canada) and others will answer questions such as:

- How bad is the problem of sexual brokenness and damage in our church?
- Why do Christians have these problems?
- Why haven't we addressed them better?
- What can I do to better manage my own vulnerabilities?
- How can I reach out to people who are affected by homosexuality?
- What is happening around the world as homosexuality is promoted in Africa, Asia, India and Latin America?

The second purpose of this conference is to train people for ministry. For people who want to reach out and minister God's truth and grace, this conference will provide training for ministry.

Who should come to this conference? Pastors, Christian workers and individuals who want to be better equipped to minister to the sexually broken and respond to the changes in society – in Canada or in places around
(continued on page 4)

in this issue

Exodus announces the 2008 International Conference

Exodus work around the world.

Pat Lawrence brings 12 years as Executive Director to a close.

news from around the world

Exodus Brasil

Exodus Brasil is growing! Willy Torresin, executive director, has been working to start new ministries across the country. He reports there are 20 local ministries in development seeking to reach out to people affected by homosexuality.

Exodus Brasil invited Pat Lawrence, DJ Thompson and Fred Allan from Exodus Global Alliance to speak at two Exodus Brasil conferences and one Youth Conference in October.

The Exodus Brasil annual conference was held in Belo Horizonte. Attendance more than doubled from the previous conference with close to 300 people attending the main conference and 700 youth attending the youth conference.

Pat spoke about communicating the Good News to people involved in homosexuality. She challenged Christians and churches to speak with one voice, not in judgment against the people being caught up into and hurt by sexual freedom, but with 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. Pastors and Christian leaders at this conference repented of their attitude towards the homosexual community and committed to helping those involved in homosexuality. DJ spoke about helping youth who are struggling with



Pat Lawrence and Willy Torresin

homosexuality and developing a regional strategy to reach gay youth with the Gospel.

The other Exodus Brasil conference was held in the northern city of Belém, close to the Amazon River. One of the 20 new local ministries in Brazil is being started in Belém.

Almost 2000 young people attended the two youth events. DJ shared his testimony and Pat challenged them to keep godly boundaries and not have sex outside of the limits that God asks of us. Many young people rededicated their life to God to walk in purity and holiness in obedience to God.

Quebec

Exodus Global Alliance held its second conference in Quebec, the French-speaking province of Canada. This conference was held in Quebec City. It was called *Aimer et aider ceux qui sont concernés par l'homosexualité* (Loving and helping those affected by homosexuality). It was co-hosted by the Églises Évangélique Baptiste de Québec and Alethia Bible College. About 250 people came to the youth part of the conference and 150 people came to the main conference. Pat Lawrence, DJ Thompson and Michel Robillard (Chasteté Québec) spoke about understanding homosexuality, reaching gay youth, roots, change, and how to respond. Pat also conducted a *Starting a Ministry* workshop for people interested in supporting a ministry in Quebec. Please pray that God will call people to step forward and work with Exodus to start new ministries in Quebec that will bring healing to a



Exodus Brasil conference participants.



DJ Thompson and his translator Reneta.

province where many people live without the hope that comes from God's truth and grace.

Latin America

Oscar Galindo, executive director of Exodus Latinoamérica shares a very encouraging report from Camino de Salida, an Exodus ministry in Quito, Ecuador that was founded by Tim Broach. Five speakers from Camino de Salida were invited to play an important role in an International Conference in Lima, Peru. Betty Van Engen, one of the directors of Camino de Salida, was also invited to Chile to speak in several cities. Camino de Salida was also able to complete the process of becoming a registered non-profit organization – something that in most of Latin America is a difficult task. They continue working

155 million men and women around the world who experience same-sex attractions need to hear a message of hope that change is possible.

with support groups, providing personal counselling and training new counsellors who will expand the ministry.

Oscar also spoke of the fruitful ministry of Abba Padre, in Medellin, Colombia. They have been working hard and growing under the leadership of Omar Cano.

Exodus Latinoamérica was invited to lead a 2-day training seminar to start a new Exodus ministry in Chihuahua, northern Mexico. Oscar and Heisha Fernandez, leader of the ministry called Nueva Condición (New Condition) in Puerto Rico were the seminar teachers. It was organized by the local church called "Vino, Trigo y Aceite." About 100 people attended including some pastors, leaders, counsellors and psychologists. Oscar and Heisha also spoke on 2 radio shows and preached in 2 churches. People were very motivated and the local church is determined to start a ministry. The new ministry will be called "Vuelo de Aguila" (Eagle flight), based on Exodus 19:4, "You have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings, and brought you to myself"

New ministries are being started in Bogotá, Colombia, directed by Diego Felipe Toro and his wife; in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, directed by Sandra Rubert; and in the Dominican Republic, directed by Xenia Attias. Work is also being done to start a new ministry in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico. Please pray for these and other ministries now being raised up in Latin America.

Asia Pacific

Exodus Asia Pacific held a conference and a leaders retreat in June in Melbourne, Australia. Carol Hardy and her team from Mosaic Ministries organized both events. Exodus ministries from Lismore, Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast as well as people from Living Waters and other recovery ministries participated in this

conference. It was a great time of refreshing, encouraging and networking. Guest speakers were Shirley Basket who came out of lesbianism and Adrian Rowse who overcame Internet pornography.

Liberty Christian Ministries Inc in Sydney, Australia held a conference in May and completed a CD resource that is now available for purchase. Paul & Janis Wegner, leaders of Liberty Inc, opened a new ministry office in Brisbane's VALLEY area, an area with many gay nightclubs.

Exodus Asia Pacific held its annual conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The local host for the conference was Tryphena Law, director of the Exodus ministry called Pursuing Liberty Under Christ. 200 people from across Asia attended the conference. Exodus leaders lead the workshops and plenary sessions. The conference was followed by a leaders retreat that provided Exodus leaders with training and networking opportunities.

Peter Lane, executive director of Exodus Asia Pacific, travelled to Jakarta, Indonesia to launch of his book called *Setting the Captives Free* in the Bahasa language. The International English Service (IES) Assemblies of God Church in Jakarta is a key partner in this effort. Pete promoted the launch of the book by running a marathon. Two hundred copies were sold on the first day. The IES Church plans to have Peter & Dot return in early 2008 to travel in other parts of Indonesia promoting the Bahasa book through seminars and they plan to print the English translation of the book in 2008.

The Exodus ministries in Singapore and Taiwan are busy. They see real healing and freedom occurring in the lives of men and women. Please pray for male leaders to join the ministry in Taiwan and female leaders to join the ministry in Singapore.

Developing Regions

Sri Lanka & India

"Woman Why Are You Weeping?" was the theme for Sri Lanka's first Women's Seminar on sexuality. Over 100 women attended the seminar led by Dot Lane from Exodus Asia Pacific. Peter and Dot plan to return to Sri Lanka in 2008 and print a women's book on sexuality.

Peter and Dot returned to India in October to launch the book *Setting the Captives Free*, printed in Hindi and English, and conduct seminars. Exodus Global Alliance chairman Joseph Vijayam launched the Hindi version of the book in Hyderabad.

China

Melvin Wong led an Exodus team of Jenny Li (Taiwan), Kelvin & Tammy Chung (Hong Kong) and Tryphena Law (Malaysia) into mainland China for ministry. China has over 30 million people involved in homosexuality. The homosexual movement has developed quickly in China to the point where it opposes and threatens Exodus ministries. In 2001, the Chinese Psychiatric Association dropped its reference to homosexuality as a pathological condition. Homosexuality is no stranger to college students in China. Unlike older generations, young adults are more open to the sexual freedom promoted by the homosexual movement. Many of the major universities in China have homosexual forums on their websites.

With more openness comes more damage as people experiment with sexual freedom and are hurt by it. As a result, the Exodus ministry called New Creation in Hong Kong is growing under the leadership of Kelvin & Tammy Chung. They provide support groups and counselling help to men and women.

Ministry development

The Exodus International Board, meeting in 2007

(continued from page 1)

the world. Individuals who want to live according to biblical norms and values but are struggling with homosexuality, lesbianism, or other kinds of fallen, damaged sexuality.

If you cannot come, consider providing a financial contribution that will enable a missionary or ministry leader from Africa, Asia, Europe, India or Latin America to come for training at this conference.

Youth Conference

Are your youth enjoying healthy relationships and prepared for a world that portrays immorality as normal and purity as strange? Many churches and youth groups feel ill-equipped to discuss sexuality and healthy relationships with youth.

On Saturday, May 10, 2008 Exodus will also hold a youth conference with Bruxy Cavey and Exodus speakers to share with youth what they need to know about "Sexuality, Truth & Grace." The Youth Conference will be held at the same location as the International Conference.

Brochures and information about both conferences are available from the Exodus Global Alliance office and on the Exodus Global Alliance website.

<http://conference.exodusglobalalliance.org>

<http://youthconference.exodusglobalalliance.org>



Executive Director Change

Pat Lawrence will finish her second term as Executive Director of Exodus Global Alliance in May 2008. She will not continue for a third term. Pat has been the director of Exodus Global Alliance ever since it was formed in 1995. She has pioneered its development and been a significant leader in the growth of Exodus as a global ministry.

Willy Torresin, executive director of Exodus Brasil says, "Exodus Brasil owes a debt of gratitude to Pat Lawrence. Her encouragement and tireless efforts have been fundamental for the growth of this area of ministry. Pat came to Brasil several times to help establish ministries here. She also came at a time when Exodus Brasil was going through a very difficult "growing" phase. We believe Exodus Brasil would not exist today if she had not been always available to support, encourage and help us throughout these years. Pat, thank you very much, and may God bless you and continue to use your life as He has been doing until now."

Alan Chambers, executive director of Exodus International, North America says, "There are very few people like Pat Lawrence. Her strength, passion, dedication and heart have served to catapult Exodus from a handful of ethnocentric ministries into a united global outreach. Because of Pat Lawrence, we are now ministering the grace and truth of our Saviour in every corner of the world. Pat is my friend with whom I have laughed, fought for and with, ministered and served for the last 14 years. Despite the amazing rewards, working in this ministry is difficult and tiring. Pat has earned the well done of the Father and now she can rest. But, I cannot think of anyone who will be able to fill her shoes. I will miss her a great deal, but am incredibly grateful for her many sacrifices, leadership, encouragement and partnership over these many years. She is truly one of a kind."

Exodus Global Alliance has begun the process of selecting her replacement. More information about this is available on the Exodus website - <http://www.exodusglobalalliance.org/searchcommittees88.php>. We ask you to pray that God will direct the selection the next executive director.

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.