

NEWS UPDATE DECEMBER 2009

THE TIMES ARE CHANGING

- Most movies and television series now have gay character(s)
- Most people know a homosexual personally these days
- Families are being redefined
- The first presidential proclamation of June 2009 as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender month
- Various self-proclaimed gays are being appointed to many political positions of importance
- Hate crimes legislation pushed
- Marriage is being redefined by courts in various states
- Increasing number of people believing homosexuality to be a perfectly acceptable lifestyle
- Homosexuals are seen as a specific protected group by law with rights to their civil rights as homosexuals

HOW DO YOU MINISTER TO A HOMOSEXUAL?

This is the question that conservative Christians have always asked me in my 25 years in ministry. Most people in our culture are not even asking this question. They may be asking how to co-exist peacefully, and be respectful of their lifestyle. Everyone just wants to get along. After all everyone is free to do whatever they want as long as it doesn't harm anyone else, right? Everyone wants to be seen as tolerant, not homophobic. Words are being redefined; tolerant means total approval of any behavior. Homophobic is redefined as referring to homosexuality as sin, unhealthy, or harmful.

Most of twenty somethings and teens (including those who may be in church circles) believe that one is born gay, and it is perfectly acceptable.

The church has been apathetic, thinking that small groups of people struggling with homosexuality had little to do with their congregations. At the same time they were concerned about the right to life, the gay rights movement was starting, and they virtually ignored it. They could not see it as another attack on the family, a lifestyle that could not reproduce life, and could even bring death (addictions, STD, AIDS).

And now look where we are!

But Light shines even brighter in darkness. CCR is still here to proclaim freedom in Christ, and equip people how to minister to those involved homosexuality.

Following are some points taken from teaching seminars I have done for years:

DIALOGUE WITH HOMOSEXUALS?

How do you know he/she is homosexual?

Define terms:

- Political
- Social
- Moral/theological

Do you understand anything about how homosexuality develops?

What is our motive?

How are we accepting in appropriate ways?

Truth versus Feelings

So, do you really want to know how you can learn how to dialogue? Please schedule me for a talk. Testimony, seminar at your group, church, etc! Be part of the solution for God's light to shine by helping to provide a platform for us to minister through CCR!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Sharing my testimony at Celebrate Recovery at Christ the King Lutheran in Kingwood in July was a great opportunity to minister to many, since underlying factors with homosexuality are the same as with many other addictions.

CBS COUNSELING SEMINAR

I presented "Dialogue with a Homosexual" at College of Biblical Studies counseling seminar in Houston August 22, 2009. My room was completely packed out as people were anxiously listening to every word I said. I received lots of good feedback, as well as two persons confidentially sharing with me that they also were over comers!

EL SALVADOR TRIP

Homosexuals Anonymous director Doug McIntyre made an initial trip there in May at the invitation of Pastor Francisco Karraa of Centro Evangelico Familiar Asamblea Dios (CEFAD). Pastor Francisco has a big heart offering the love of Christ for those desiring recovery. Aware of homosexual strugglers in his congregation, he had contacted Doug. This was the second trip, and Doug invited me to join the team that went to San Salvador August 30-September 7. With the help of Sonia and Lucy, Dr. Marlin Lance of Messiah Methods did daily training for over 500 interested in training to be certified Christian Counselors. Meanwhile, Doug and I were available to high school students and pastors to talk about homosexuality and sexual purity.

--We were really able to build up and encourage Pamela who heads the SKYPE support group, as well as her brother Teddy, who is a junior pastor (with great heart for evangelism)

--I was interpreter for Dr. Lance's friend Mike who gave his testimony

--I was Doug's interpreter for his talks on Sexual Purity to two youth groups: one at the CEFAD high school, and the other at a youth meeting at Centro Cristiano Canaan (CCC), a daughter church in Soyapango (the most dangerous town, in the area, home of 2 major gangs)

--I gave my testimony to a smaller conference of pastors and at CCC

--I handed out Spanish material (my testimony, magazine interviews) to several pastors and church leaders

--With Pastor Jesus Escobar and his wife Yanira we visited and shared with a group of transvestite streetwalkers

--I had several days of counseling teenage boys about sexuality and purity

--Doug and I were able to meet with our guys from the SKYPE support group

--Pastor Francisco (CEFAD) asked me to come back in a few months to give my seminar and do some teaching and training!

You can look at the photos at the following link:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreid?uname=miguelHouston&target=ALBUM&id=5379562117239893873&authkey=Gv1sRgCMjShtrFs7C6lQE&feat=email>

PRAYER NEEDS:

-FREEDOM SEMINARS --we need more churches to sponsor us in presenting these

- Publicity for new participants to continue -monthly College support group for men in College Station.

-Coordinators for monthly UPLIFT parents and friends meeting

-Getting new CCR Brochure to churches and people who need it

-Frequent flyer miles donations, especially Continental (50,000 each for trips to Argentina, Europe)

-Centrally located, donated office space for CCR

-More monthly financial partners

-More board members and fund raisers

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2010

- Possible FREEDOM seminar in El Salvador at beginning of year
- LIVING WATERS training in Cordoba, Argentina in April 11-17, 2010
- FREEDOM seminar in series at local church (TBA)
- SBC conference in Orlando, FL June 15-16, 2010
- Exodus conference in Irvine, California July 22-26, 2010
- Mission trip/Conference Europe (tentative)

FINANCIAL UPDATE-DECEMBER 2009

2008 Income \$65,978.61

Current receipts YTD \$51,153.81

2008 projected budget \$77,425.00 (not yet reached)

Minimum needed per month- \$5,000 (for basic expenses)

Dedicated monthly pledges- \$1,500

MONTHLY DONATIONS

-January - 9,716.00

-February - 3,151.00

-March - 3,247.56

-April - 1,305.00

-May - 13,570.00

-June - 3,642.00

-July - 2,497.75

-August - 4,336.50

-September - 1,587.00

-October - 1,079.00

-November - 7,022.00

2009 YTD 51,153.81

We appreciate You!

The media has successfully convinced people that homosexuality is inborn; therefore, a civil rights issue. I constantly hear that in schools, secular counseling, and work world the only information available about homosexuality affirms it as a valid, acceptable, or even preferable lifestyle.

PLEASE PRAY ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE IMPEDING PEOPLE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HELP TO OVERCOME THEIR STRUGGLES. We need more people like YOU! You make this ministry

I minister to 30s something and younger raised in gay affirming society. My ministry is increasing in the Afro-American, Hispanic, and Asian world. And many more via internet! If we do not give them the truth about God's plan of sexuality, we have lost this next generation!

Please consider a generous year-end gift to CCR, and/or joining us as a CCR financial partner for 2009. We are committed to reaching as many as possible. Thank you so much for your financial support, prayers, and words of encouragement.

Pastor Michael R. Newman

PS. Don't forget CCR has an account at Randall's (1982)
***** You can now also contribute by credit card through**
www.paypal.com!!