

NEWS UPDATE DECEMBER 2007

The Long and Winding Road

Recently I was once again in conversation with a despondent young man questioning commitment to the process of change in coming out of homosexuality. He was so overwhelmed by his feelings and track record. He was despairing of ever seeing an end to his struggles. I have seen so many variations of this scenario in 20 plus years of ministry. I remember asking myself the same questions. I was not sure I could make it. Would the loneliness and battle ever be over? Was it really worth it?

Through the years many have come to us with a desire to experience freedom from the enslavement of homosexuality, lesbianism, or sexual addictions. They have been at different stages in their walk. I always assure them that nothing is impossible with God, and that He is committed to seeing them through their process of healing even when they are not. Even when people go "on detour", God does not give up on them. He has given me a great measure of His Grace to reflect that when the prodigals return. Sanctification is a life long process for all Christians, and overcoming homosexuality is just a subset of that truth. God desires sexual purity from all, regardless of their marital status, orientation, or past experiences. Growing in my relationship with Christ has served me well in deepening my walk with Him as I realized that the old illegitimate sexual ways would never truly bring satisfaction. He is the Only One who can truly satisfy.

-July 26 I did a 30 minute in person interview with Lasse Jensen of Danish Public Radio about coming out of homosexuality. I ended up on the cutting room floor, but I did steer him to other ministry colleagues here in Texas

-One of my Aggie grads is working and going to seminary!

-Two of our Aggie group members attended the National Exodus Freedom conference in Irvine, CA June 26-July 1, thanks to generosity of scholarship funds provided through the San Antonio Awakening parents group. They had really good reports about their experience.

-I gave my testimony at CELEBRATE RECOVERY at Houston First Baptist Church August 10

-I am encouraging some women considering ministry to lesbians

E MAIL ALERT

Many of you receive only the biannual mail updates. We would like to keep you more current, so would you please provide us your email for more frequent, confidential mailings? And please keep us updated on new addresses!

HEALING 411 conference

Along with other healing ministries, I presented "Codependency, Affected or Infected" and "Telling Ourselves the Truth" at the, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday, October 6, 2007 at Grace Community Church.. Tim Gould had organized the conference and there were several other speakers, as well. I saw many of my CCR contacts at the event, and also had opportunity for individual ministry.

Right before I left for Europe I met with Raquel Lara and Victor Cardenas with OTRA ONDA, a ministry with Hispanics, especially teenagers. We talked about interviews with me for future Spanish programming.

MINISTRY TRIP: Italy and France /October 10-31

I flew to Paris, then Easyjet to Milano for a few days with friends of CCR. This was my first trip to Italy. From the first day my college Italian was re-activated and I was enjoying conversations in Italian. My friends were such good hosts showing me Milano, doing a day trip to Firenze, and introducing me to the ex-pats at their church.

October 15 I took the train to Torino to connect with a missionary friend. I ministered with him and First Baptist Summit ministries to university students in a daily English Club through 10/20. We had over 50 students in attendance, all eager to learn English. It was like fishing in a barrel. Some highlights of the week were a tour of the city with Spiritual truth talks, an unstructured day trip to Genova, and dancing at the Texas hoedown. There were so many opportunities to share with the students, even though Torino has the reputation as a Black Magic Capital. I had some significant encounters with sharing my testimony, and at least 4 students had accepted Christ by the end of the week. Because of the French train strike, I stayed over and attended a wonderful testimony and baptismal service at Il Rifugio.

After a brief, but wonderful visit with French friends in Brive, I arrived in grey, overcast Paris on October 25. A French friend with Campus Crusade for Christ was overwhelmed with many American visitors stranded by the Air France strike, so we were not able to spend as much time together as anticipated. I visited a French speaking Baptist Church, shared the Gospel with a Spaniard as well as a Bolivian student I met on the Champs Elysees. I used all my languages to glorify God! I had lunch with a French Christian friend for whom my testimony was very important. He also appreciated my not being an insensitive American missionary. My friend and I did team up to establish relationships with students at Cite Universite, and we had a great prayer walk. I know better how to pray for him, and we anticipate more trips and ministering together.

To access my photos of English club copy and paste the following into your browser:
<http://picasaweb.google.com/miguelHouston/Torino2007?authkey=nVjYZ1x6H4g>

***While you are there, click public gallery, and you can also access my photos from [Argentina](#) in May!

Sexual Wholeness Conference

-Back in Houston, I had a long time Louisiana friend come to visit me and attend this conference with Mark Laaser at the Vineyard in Sugar Land November 9-10. Mark is one of the authorities on sexual addiction and was an excellent speaker. The conference was co-sponsored by my friends and colleagues at the Houston Center for Christian Counseling and International Bible Society.

Texas Baptist Convention

November 12-13 I helped Bob Stith, Gender Analyst for the SBC Task Force on Homosexuality at the information booth at the in Arlington. We had lots of opportunities to share information and minister. I met quite a few people from the Houston area, as well as people needing help in Spanish.

Please remember our ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- FREEDOM SEMINARS** –as churches invite us to present
- **Barnabas** group on Monday
- Bi-monthly College support group for men in College Station.
- Monthly **UPLIFT** parents and friends meeting, a weekly day of prayer and fasting for loved ones
- Monthly Sunday **AWAKENING** parents and friends support group in San Antonio
- INDIVIDUAL MENTORING FOR MEN**

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2008

- LIVING WATERS training in Cordoba, Argentina in May 17-24
- SBC conference in Indianapolis June 10-11, 2008
- Exodus conference in Ridgecrest, NC July 15-20
- LIVING WATERS training in Chile October 11-18, 2008
- Mission trip/Conference Europe (tentative)

PRAYER NEEDS:

- Frequent flyer miles donations, especially Continental (50,000 each for trips to Argentina, Chile, Europe)
- Centrally located, donated office space for CCR
- More monthly financial partners
- More board members and fund raisers

We appreciate You!

As we enter into the Holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving, I am so overwhelmed by all of you who are interested in this ministry. Many of you have been conduits to relay information to your churches. Others of you have referred people to us for help. Some of you have opened the door at your churches so we could speak and give seminars. Some have labored besides us in helping with administrative tasks, especially in financial matters. Others have contributed with wonderful cooking skills at CCR events and functions. We have had board members give selflessly of themselves in helping guide and direct this ministry through the years. CCR would not be able to function without the many volunteers in leading groups, etc. People involved in fundraisers. Donations of cars, air miles to use for trips, office supplies and equipment, and office space. Tickets to opera, theater, and Christian concerts. Inspirational books. Phone calls of encouragement at just the right time. Thoughtful handwritten notes of thanks. Prayer warriors and intercessors. The spontaneous financial giver. The regular financial partner committed to a certain amount on a regular basis. Memorial financial gifts. Financial gifts flowing out of hearts of thankfulness as a result of unexpected personal financial blessings. I am thankful for all of these

FINANCIAL UPDATE-DECEMBER 2007

2006 Income \$69,326.05007

Current receipts \$47,651.17

2007 projected budget \$63,000.00 (not yet reached)
Minimum needed per month- \$5,000 (for basic expenses)
Dedicated monthly pledges- \$1,335

MONTHLY DONATIONS

-January - 3,992.13
-February - 14,852.32
-March - 2,345.00
-April - 3,779.00
-May - in June deposit
-June - 1,645.00
-July - 10,522.00
-August - 3,438.00
-September - 1,786.00
-October - 1,267.72
-November 1,532.00

2007 YTD 47,651.17

The homosexual issue has become THE ISSUE in our society these days. The media has successfully influenced most people into thinking of homosexuality as inborn and as a civil rights issue. Most school counselors only have gay affirming information, and corporate America has bought into including homosexuality in diversity training. We have more challenges than ever! We are the sole full-time ministry in Houston, and we are being stretched. Today's teens and young adults have bought into popular media propaganda. If we do not give them the truth about God's plan of sexuality, we have lost this next generation!

Please pray for us. As we have no offices or facilities of our own, we are dependent on churches to invite us to use their facilities for Freedom seminars and conferences. We are willing to teach and train churches, and have never had to turn down an invitation yet! Introduce us to your church and persons needing our resources.

Please consider a generous year-end gift to CCR, and/or joining us as a CCR financial partner for 2008. 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!!**