

NEWS UPDATE DECEMBER 2008

Different = Gay = BORN THAT WAY??

Many people have felt different. Some have felt that way for a long time. We didn't fit into the mold. Others labeled us, and we began to question our sexuality and identity! We looked around, researched, and it seemed to make sense for the confusion of our very being. Some people were kind, some were not. Being different had its advantages and drawbacks. Some of us prayed that our feelings would change, yet God seemed silent. Puberty was confusing and painful. Accepting being gay seemed to bring peace; therefore, it seemed so natural and led us to believe we were born that way.

For those from a faith background it was harder. Eventually we had to reconsider our values, not just our attractions and feelings.

Jesus understood the misunderstood. He reached out to all. He reached out to the sexually promiscuous like the woman at the well without condemnation

The Bible tells us that **HOMOSEXUALS CHANGE!** Check it out for yourself in **1 Corinthians 6: 9-11**. Homosexuals in the first century church experienced changed lives! That has continued through the 21st century. There are actually lots of us!

If you would like to talk confidentially about the possibility of Jesus reordering your sexuality according to His Wonderful Plan, please contact us at ccrhoutx@att.net -

***This comes from our new CCR brochure. Let us know if you would like to have some for you to use or have on hand for your church.

EXODUS FREEDOM CONFERENCE/JULY 15-20

What a great opportunity to share the Exodus conference experience at Ridgecrest, NC with InterVarsity staff members Nick Dombroski and Ana Graves. They were able to come thanks to the generosity of Awakening scholarships. When I began my journey out of homosexuality at LSU years ago, Intervarsity helped me as my roommate had established a chapter at our campus, and there was also a book by IVP press on the subject! I was very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of both Nick and Ana. I was also glad to get their perspective on status of current college mind set, as both have already had to deal with homosexual strugglers among their students. They found the conference invaluable for training to minister more effectively in this area. I offered to come to their campuses in San Antonio and Pan American to do talks, seminars, etc. I really look forward to that.

As my roommate, Nick and I had lots of opportunities to brainstorm and debrief, with yet another perspective from our Filipino roommate/pastor/missionary, Victor De Campo. We adopted him the first day of the conference. We also befriended some other Filipinos, Latins, Canadians, etc. Michael International is always on call! It was a pleasant surprise to run into one of my Aggie graduates who has not moved to another city, as well as a Barnabas member.

CYBERWORLD CHALLENGES

Now that CCR has wireless access, I still can work online out of town, do friendship evangelism, as well as write articles, and correspond via email while at Starbucks. I have had so many evangelistic conversations as I am out and around.

Online: discipling a 16 year old, encouraging my Colombian friend, a few talks with Eastern Europe friend, regular talks with Mario in Chile, new contact in Paraguay, and my Iranian friend asked me to begin to explain Christianity to him!

HURRICANE IKE

God showed Himself strong for me during Hurricane Ike!

I left Houston on Sept 11 to be in Pensacola with my mother who has been very ill (trigeminal neuralgia, stroke, two minor strokes, COPD, pneumonia) since last November. Thanks for your prayers as God has given her grace to be at peace about being in the nursing home. She was doing really well for the first time in months.

When Ike hit Houston on September 13, Jorge Espinosa from Vera Cruz accepted Jesus as his personal Savior after I shared with him in Spanish. He was in the nursing home 5 more days for rehabilitation, so I did some more discipling, since he spoke no English.

I returned to Houston September 20. NO DAMAGE to my home/office, car in airport parking lot, storage, or belongings during my absence!

LIVING WATERS CHILE/ OCTOBER 11-18

This was the first Living Waters training offered in Chile. En route at the Atlanta airport, I shared Christ with a Santiago businessman, Daniel Caravajal, who has been studying the Bible for a few years as he has seen difference in life of evangelicals!

Our training was very intense, as there were fewer participants, giving more opportunities for more in depth ministry to sexual and relational wounding. My small group consisted of men from Bolivia, Chile, and Ecuador, group assistant Mario from Chile. After the week long training, I was invited to share and minister through prayer at a small home group, as well as the following day at a church service in Santiago. I served as translator Spanish-French for a French couple at the Undarraga tour! To access my Chile photos, copy and paste the following into your browser: <http://www.picasaweb.google.com/miguelhouston>

****Please check out our new improved website www.ccrhouston.org. thanks to new webmaster Todd Schuh.

ALSO ASIA.... HERE AND ABROAD

New disciple: a 20 something Vietnamese who survived abuses in growing up in big city welfare system, and has been seeking after God in a cult. Patiently showing him with the Bible how the cult errs.

Pastor Yung Tuan of Chinese Christian Church heard me on KHCB and asked me to do two interviews with him for his weekly program on AM 1420 on Wednesdays. This program is also available through MP3 through his website, and it reaches mainland China, as well. He tells me there is a big need in the Chinese community, and plans on using me as a regular resource! We have already had responses from my first interview. Pastor Yung will be translating CCR web site into Mandarin Chinese.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS OF TEXAS CONVENTION /NOVEMBER 10-11

November 10-11 I helped Bob Stith, Gender Analyst for the SBC Task Force on Homosexuality at the information booth at my home church, Houston First Baptist Church here in Houston. I enjoyed meeting several seminary representatives, as well as introducing myself to the Hispanic Initiative and Ethnic Ministries. I saw several old friends, as well as talking with a couple whose son I had helped.

****-I recently did an interview with Ministerios Generacion, ministry/magazine/ cyber magazine/blog in Spain!

PRAYER NEEDS:

- FREEDOM SEMINARS** –we need more churches to sponsor us in presenting these
- Publicity for new participants to continue bi-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 2009

- Love Won Out conference, San Antonio April 18, 2009
- LIVING WATERS training in Cordoba, Argentina in May 17-24, 2009
- SBC conference in Louisville, KY June 23-24, 2009
- Exodus conference in Wheaton, IL July 14-18, 2009
- Mission trip/Conference Europe (tentative)

FINANCIAL UPDATE-DECEMBER 2008

2007 Income \$63,517.12

Current receipts \$47,662.77

2008 projected budget \$72,700.00 (not yet reached)
Minimum needed per month- \$5,000 (for basic expenses)
Dedicated monthly pledges- \$1,335

MONTHLY DONATIONS

-January - 5,250.00
-February - 15,826.27
-March - 3,262.00
-April - 2,482.00
-May - 3,733.00
-June - 5,292.50
-July - included in August
-August - 7,432.00
-September - 1,994.00
-October - 2,050.00
-November 1,997.00

2008 YTD 47,662.77

We appreciate You!

Did you notice that president elect Obama purposefully mentioned gays and straights in his acceptance speech? He has accepted the world view of homosexuality which very likely will be reflected in his presidency.

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.

I see so much apathy, disinterest, and fear in the Christian community concerning homosexuality. These days most inquiries come by email, preferring anonymity of cyberspace. 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

My job is more challenging than ever. Notice that more and more I am ministering to 30s something and younger who have been raised in gay affirming society. I am ministering more in the Afro-American, Hispanic, and Asian world. And much more via internet! If we do not give them the truth about God's plan of sexuality, we have lost this next generation!

Please pray for us. We are dependent on churches to invite us to use their facilities for Freedom seminars and conferences. We are also available to teach and train churches. 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 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!!**