

## event highlights

### Exodus International Freedom Conference

Wednesday, June 27 – June 30, 2012  
Northwestern College | Saint Paul, MN  
Website: [www.exodusfreedom.org](http://www.exodusfreedom.org)  
Contact Info: 888-264-0877  
[conference@exodusinternational.org](mailto:conference@exodusinternational.org)

### Equipping Event for Ministry Leaders

Tuesday, August 28, 2012  
West Shore Church | Harrisburg, PA  
Contact Info: 888-264-0877  
[conference@exodusinternational.org](mailto:conference@exodusinternational.org)

### Love Won Out

Saturday, September 22, 2012  
West Shore Church | Harrisburg, PA  
Website: [www.lovewonout.com](http://www.lovewonout.com)  
Contact Info: 888-264-0877  
[conference@exodusinternational.org](mailto:conference@exodusinternational.org)

## giving opportunity

### Live Video Stream Feed

Every year we have individuals from all over the world that would love to come to the Freedom Conference, but because of the expense of travel they simply can't attend. We also have those that are curious or interested in our message, but would be apprehensive or anxious about coming to the venue.

Well, we are very excited about **an opportunity this year to provide the General Sessions of the Freedom Conference via a live stream feed.** The expense to provide this service is costly, but when we consider how it will enable us to **extend our reach** to those who are looking for help, we really feel God prompting us to take the step of faith.

Based on our web traffic, we know there are many that would benefit from the live feed. Our desire is to keep the cost to watch the feed at a minimal level to make it as accessible as possible.

We need to raise \$7,500 dollars to utilize the technology.

### Would you consider giving a gift to make this happen?

To give, simply return the attached giving slip and write the words "live feed" on it OR give a General fund gift online at [exodustinternational.org](http://exodustinternational.org) and write "live feed" in the comments section. Thanks so much! Please also be in prayer for the conference. We are believing God for great things!

Exodus is a member in good standing with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), a Christian financial monitoring organization.



**YES!** I want to help Exodus continue offering hope and healing to those seeking freedom from homosexuality.

- Please charge my credit card (please use form on back).
- I have made changes to my mailing address below.
- Please sign me up to receive monthly electronic newsletter.  
My email address is : \_\_\_\_\_
- Please remove me from your mailing list. [Note: you may receive additional issues, due to timing of our mail cycles.]

**Thank you for your gift!**  
Please mail this form with your gift in the envelope provided, made payable to Exodus

### Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Mail To:  
PO Box 540119  
Orlando, FL 32854  
For More Information:  
888.264.0877 | Fax: 407.599.0011

To help you determine the tax-deductible portion of your gift, we will acknowledge your contribution with a receipt, showing the portion above the fair market value of goods received along with the total gift amount.

# exodus international



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## MOBILIZING THE BODY OF CHRIST TO MINISTER GRACE AND TRUTH TO A WORLD IMPACTED BY HOMOSEXUALITY

Dear Friends,

As we approach the 37th annual Freedom Conference, I am filled with great expectancy of what God is going to do in and through each one of us. Year after year, in our weakness and humility, Jesus shows up mightily in both our personal and corporate time. Who among us doesn't leave changed?

**Our theme this year is *Made for More*.** I think most people would admit that at some point in time in their lives they have wondered if there is anything more to the life they are experiencing. For many, something seems to be missing. Often there is a deep void in our hearts that goes unfilled and unsatisfied.

During the early days of trying to figure out my struggle with SSA I remember thinking that what I truly needed was the love and affirmation of a man to fill that need. I was consumed by a need to heal the ache inside because the ache was all I paid attention to. The focus and direction of my desires was also in direct conflict with my biblical beliefs. But what I perceived as my deepest and most overwhelming need suppressed those feelings of conflict and I chose to act on my SSA.

I know of others who have experienced that same level of intense desire for a member of the opposite sex. Regardless of how we choose to meet our own needs through our overwhelming sexual desires, the fact remains that such efforts will fail to satisfy at the deepest core. I believe that Proverbs 13:12 (NAS) speaks perfectly to this:

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

Any way that we seek to meet our own needs instantly rather than allowing God to meet them (or to help us survive when needs go unmet) is deferring hope. I truly believe that seeking to meet my needs sexually, or in other ungodly ways, served as a counterfeit and made my heart sick.

When individuals come to Exodus for help they are looking to resolve the conflict they feel between their faith and the directions of their attractions and desires. I understand, as that was my initial motivation for pursuing help, too. **But attempting to change the direction of your sexual attractions is not the solution. While God absolutely gave me a new and complete desire for a woman, that was after many years of pursuing Christ as I lived out the truth of Matthew 16:24, denying myself and following Him.**

To be more specific, in the story of the Exodus, the Lord delivered the children of Israel from slavery, but they quickly forgot His goodness and mercy and began to worship idols. First let me clarify, most of us don't literally bow down to statues anymore, but we do have a tendency to look to created things, ideals or persons to provide for us what only the creator can. **Even good things can become idols if we place our focus and trust in them over Christ.**

One such idol is the "idol" of romantic/sexual love. Pursuing Christ, the only one who can truly give us the core satisfaction, meaning, identity and purpose we are desperately looking for, must take precedence. He is the only one who can fill the insatiable thirst in our lives, which actually may not ever be completely satisfied here on planet earth. **He is the only one who can define us and the only one who brings that sense of validation we so need.** So, when we talk about being Made for More, that is the MORE we speak of.

Exodus International doesn't exist to give you false hope or a false security in something earthly. Doing so, even with something that we might see as good, like marriage, would be deferring hope and usurping God's role in your life. We aren't here to encourage you to bow down to the idol of attraction change, though you might experience that. We are here to point to the fact that there is a God who gave up everything to reconcile us to Him. **We are here to help those who have surrendered their hearts to Christ and who are struggling with temptation and sin to find refuge, community and a path of restoration as they seek to surrender their sexuality to the Lordship of Jesus Christ who is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine.**

Whether it is through the corporate gathering of a conference, the weekly support from one of the two-hundred plus member organizations under the Exodus banner or as you read a book or story from the many that we provide, **our goal is to simply encourage you to look beyond your present reality and seek the Lord for His answer.** The Creator of the Universe designed you, knows you best and has a plan. If we can help you as you seek Him please let us know.

Made for More,

[facebook.com/AlanManningChambers](https://facebook.com/AlanManningChambers)  
[twitter.com/AlanMChambers](https://twitter.com/AlanMChambers)

[ExodusInternational.org](http://ExodusInternational.org) | [ExodusStudents.org](http://ExodusStudents.org) | [ExodusBooks.org](http://ExodusBooks.org) | [ExodusFreedom.org](http://ExodusFreedom.org)



Alan Chambers  
Exodus President

# real stories by me Leah Allard

Shortly after September 11th, 2001 I found myself at a crossroads. It had been almost 10 years since I left my lesbian relationship of 8 years, after having embraced a gay identity for over a decade. Leaving my girlfriend and my way of life was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. Resurrendering to Jesus was one of the easiest. His love overwhelmed me, drew me, in a way nothing else ever had. So almost 10 years later, I was now married and raising a family. Yet my marriage was on the rocks, and I had a mediocre Christian life: proof that marriage and family doesn't fix everything. Even surrendering to Christ doesn't resolve every problem and heal every hurt, wound, or situation. I knew in my soul after those towers came crashing down and my heart came crashing down with them, that there had to be more. All of sudden the immediacy of life had slammed me against a wall. I knew that I was **Made for More** than what I was living.



I began to pray, asking God for help. He led me to a book, The Purpose Driven Life. I began to learn that there was more to this Christian life than I had been experiencing. Over the next several years God began to teach me. He cleared up many wrong perceptions I had developed about him. He showed me the joy that comes from using my gifts for his kingdom. Unfortunately, I did what my perfectionistic, worker bee personality always did. I became a workaholic for God and was more focused on serving him than knowing him. While my new focus was much more rewarding and the mediocre of my Christian life fading, I was quickly reaching exhaustion and burn out.

All that began to change in 2005 after my first Exodus conference where I experienced the most amazing worship. It truly was relationship altering. It completely changed how I related to my God and set me free in such a surprising way. I grew up in a very conservative Christian environment in the 70's with beautiful hymns, but honestly the worship part of church services was just tradition. At the Exodus conference, I learned what it means to commune with God through music. I felt his presence in a way I never had before.

I also experienced a rich diversity of teachings through the workshops and keynote speakers. I was 40 years old, and had never attended a church or heard a message from any other denominational persuasion than my own. It had left me quite one-dimensional and pretty judgmental. God enabled me to open myself up to being taught from other believers with differing views and perspectives. I believe this has been one the richest parts of my experience with Exodus and its ministries. Today I don't really use any denominational label. Even though I am the proud daughter of a Southern Baptist preacher, I consider myself a Believer and follower of Jesus.

Through all of these things my Heavenly Father has revealed more and more of himself to me. **He's securing my identity in nothing but him. I don't derive my sense of self from being a wife, mom, ministry director, or counselor. My sexuality doesn't define me either. These are simply roles I fill by his power and strength. My identity is as his daughter.** Today, I have a rewarding marriage and ministry. I'm moving into the empty nest phase of life and excited to see what God has on this new leg of my journey. Whatever it is, I am founded in his love. His grace means everything to me and has freed me in a way I could have never expected. I know how much he loves me today. I know that I am accepted by him. I don't have to work so hard anymore. I often hear people say that grace is not a license to sin. I find that statement odd. I find his grace more and more to be a license to love: to love him, others and myself and that is what I was made for...to love and be loved by him. I certainly thank him, and I'm grateful to Exodus and its ministries for being a channel he could use. It is my deepest desire to be that kind of channel.

## featured resource

**Cross Power Ministries (CPM)**, a ministry of Stonegate Fellowship Church, in Midland, Texas, is focused on married couples and families impacted by same-sex attraction and on equipping the church to be a redemptive voice to anyone impacted by homosexuality. CPM does not have a local support group ministry. Instead, CPM, which is led by Mike and Stephanie Goeke, hosts a married couples conference each spring and a parents conference each fall. People from all over the country attend these conferences. They are completely free (including ground transportation and meals) and are designed in two parts. The first half of the weekend is designed to pull eyes off of the 'big' issue of homosexuality and onto the transformative message of the Gospel for all people. The second half of the weekend gets practical – helping families know better how to relate to their children, and helping married couples know better how to relate to each other.



As part of CPM's mission to help equip the church, couples attending the marriage conference are invited to bring another couple with them who knows of their struggle and is walking with them. CPM pays the entire way for these mentor couples and takes them on a special track during the course of the weekend. Likewise, parents attending the parents' conference are invited to bring their pastor and CPM pays the entire way for any pastor who might attend.

CPM, and a team of over 20 Stonegate volunteers, will be sponsoring the Refuge for Couples group at the Exodus Freedom Conference this year. This group meets in afternoons and evenings to focus specifically on the challenges of couples impacted by homosexuality. Their special guest this year will be Dr. Kathy Koch.

# exodus news

## NEW this year at the Freedom Conference

### Live Video Streaming of General Sessions

We are very excited to be able to provide Live Video Streaming of the Freedom Conference General Sessions this year! For those who cannot attend the conference in person, you will have an opportunity to hear our wonderful group of General Session speakers from the comfort of your own home or church. For details, go to [www.exodusfreedom.org/streaming](http://www.exodusfreedom.org/streaming)

### Journey Track

This year, we're pleased to offer a new workshop track called the "Journey Track". Consistently over the years, one of the most popular aspects of our Freedom conference has been the testimonies shared in our General Sessions. However, those testimonies are brief and the context does not provide an opportunity for attendees to ask questions or delve deeper into the stories. So, this year we have selected individuals with years of personal experience to share their testimonies in a more intimate workshop setting. This will enable them to share for an extended period of time and to answer questions. For each workshop block, the Journey Track will provide a new person sharing their testimony from a different perspective (parents, spouses, men and women). Brief testimonies will also continue to be a part of our General Sessions.

### Young Adults Refuge Group

Our Refuge Groups are another popular and unique portion of our Freedom Conference. They provide a safe, welcoming and hope-filled place for attendees to discuss and process the day's events. Groups are already available for Students, Parents, Couples & Spouses, and for Men and Women. Since the Men and Women's groups can include individuals from a wide age range, we decided to create a Young Adults Refuge Group (for 22 – 30 year olds) to make conversation easier and more relevant.



\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (amount)

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Dear Exodus, Please pray for:

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\_\_\_\_\_