

event highlights

Equipping Event for Ministry Leaders

Thursday, April 26, 2012
Legacy Church
Albuquerque, NM
Contact Info: 888-264-0877
conference@exodusinternational.org

Love Won Out

Saturday, May 19, 2012
Legacy Church
Albuquerque, NM
Website: www.lovewonout.com
Contact Info: 888-264-0877
conference@exodusinternational.org

Exodus International Freedom Conference

Wednesday, June 27 – June 30, 2012
Northwestern College
Saint Paul, MN
Website: www.exodusfreedom.org
Contact Info: 888-264-0877
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

Love Won Out

Saturday, September 22, 2012
West Shore Church
Harrisburg, PA
Website: www.lovewonout.com
Contact Info: 888-264-0877
conference@exodusinternational.org

giving opportunity

Freedom Conference scholarships

Every year people come to the Exodus Freedom Conference looking for answers, for encouragement and hope. Some come conflicted about their desire to follow Christ and their secret struggle with same-sex attractions. Couples come in the midst of crisis. Family members and friends come hurting and confused looking for support and ministry. Church leaders come to gain understanding and to get equipped to minister to those in their congregations and communities.

However, many will NOT be able to attend without your help.

Many of our attendees travel great distances, across multiple states, time zones and even across oceans to receive the unique ministry that Exodus provides. Even though we do everything we can to keep registration costs at a minimum, putting on high-quality events simply costs money.

Would you consider giving financially to our scholarship fund? Your gift could open the door for someone to hear the truth and grace of Christ they so desperately need. Any dollar amount would be helpful.

To give, simply return the attached giving slip and write the word "scholarship" on it OR select the scholarship fund option under our Give Now page online at exodusinternational.org. Thank You!

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
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- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$ _____ Other

Mail To:
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exodus international



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

Dear Friends,

For years Exodus has been well known for our outreach to people with same-sex attractions (SSA). Sixty percent of the people who seek help through Exodus and our membership network for their SSA are single. Over the years we have sought to highlight stories of men and women who have experienced great resolution in their lives related to their struggles. Often, our most frequent speakers at conferences like Love Won Out have been people that have "overcome homosexuality" and gone on to get married. While I think anyone would celebrate the stories like mine, where amazing marriages have resulted and produced children, I do hear from people who say, "Alan, that's great for you, but I don't want your life. I just need to know that it's okay if I choose celibacy." In addition, dear friends of mine have said, "Alan, why don't you ever highlight messier stories where everything doesn't end in marriage and sounds like complete and absolute change has occurred?"



Alan Chambers
Exodus President

This year we have made an enormous effort to make sure our ministry to married folks and our promotion of married leaders doesn't overshadow our ministry to those whom God has called to be faithfully celibate, whether for life or a season. Also, we never want to communicate, even indirectly, that the answer for people with SSA is marriage. While these things have often been at work in our hearts and minds, I have never shared this in a newsletter. Some of my long-term single friends have recently challenged me to make sure that the Exodus Freedom Conference, specifically, is a safe place for single folks who may not want the life that I have, but deeply desire to be faithful celibate Christians. I want to let those folks out there who are single know that Exodus is a place that you can find help on your journey towards holiness. Marriage is a hopeful desire for some, but our experience is that most men and women who come to us for help simply want encouragement for where they are and some tools and help as they move forward one step at a time.

I think it is important for us, as a ministry, as well as the broader Church, to teach that celibacy is not only a reality for millions of people, but the Godly option for people who are not married. There is no place in scripture that states that everyone will get married or that everyone is supposed to get married or that everyone should want to get married. And, it is easy for those of us who are married to want to force that on our single friends. I have a friend who told me once, "Stop trying to fix me up. I'm not in need of your prescription for happiness. I have all that I want and need." She was right; I needed to back off. My dear friend and fellow Exodus board member, Dr. Kathy Koch, often states, "I am single and more than satisfied." I love that. And, as a single woman she often helps married couples with their marriages. In fact, this year at the Exodus Freedom Conference, Kathy will be the special guest at Steadfast, our marriage conference within the Freedom Conference.

In addition to making sure we are truly a place for both single and married people, we want to make sure that we accurately communicate what change looks like for Christians with SSA and not present a little shiny silver package that insinuates the process is easy or that people get to a place where they never have to think about it again. I realize we've done that. We don't want to limit God or say that amazing things aren't possible, but we also recognize that amazing can be a part of the messy journey and not just a descriptor of the final outcome. So, we have an increasing number of testimonies, workshops and resources at conferences and on our website that highlight the reality of our daily pursuit for God's very best.

It is our sincere desire to honor Christ as we pursue holiness on a daily basis and to help others who want to join us on that journey.

On behalf of the membership of Exodus International, it is our sincere desire to honor Christ as we pursue holiness on a daily basis and to help others who want to join us on that journey. Whether your struggle is same-sex or opposite-sex or whether you are the friend, spouse, pastor of parents of someone struggling, we want to serve you well by providing encouragement, resources and space to walk out your journey towards Christ. There is hope and there is help.

With You on the Journey,

Alan Chambers

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twitter.com/AlanMChambers

ExodusInternational.org | ExodusStudents.org | ExodusBooks.org | ExodusFreedom.org

real voices by ethan martin

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) This is the TRUE definition of love. This is the love that brought me to a screeching halt in my life and Christian walk. I grew up in the church. I was saved at the age of four and we were a family dedicated to attending church services. I started noticing my attraction to other guys at around the age of 12. This was a huge source of shame for me. I knew homosexuality was a sin, so for me to have homosexual attractions was pretty devastating. I kept it a secret. At every youth event, I would re-dedicate my life, I would fast, I would pray. And yet my attractions did not seem to go away. I had no idea what to do or where to turn.

My freshman year of college, an individual came to my school to speak about being gay and Christian. I never even thought this was a possibility. I fell to this “pro-gay theology” because it was a way to feel less shame about my attractions while “reconciling” my attractions with my faith. What a lie that was! After a few months, God showed me the TRUTH about Christianity. To be like Christ, we must love. God showed me His love by sending His son to die on the cross. And Christ willingly did so. He did so, so that we might be free from sin, not continue to live in it. If I say I am a Christian and yet I do not love Christ sacrificially, is it really love? Was I really laying down every facet of my life for Him? God showed me that I was not “laying down my life for my friend.” I claimed to love Jesus, but I was holding on to this sin because I had “tried” everything to get rid of it earlier in my life. I made the decision, then, to follow Christ, to pick up my cross again, and to deny myself again.

After giving my life back to Christ, He revealed to me another Truth. The opposite of homosexuality is not heterosexuality, it’s holiness. This helped to relieve me of the shame I was feeling. My goal had been to get rid of my same-sex attractions. But it was such a short-sighted goal. God wants more! God wants the desire of my heart to be for Him. I realized that I was not making this goal about Him at all; I was making it about myself. My goal should be for holiness. When this becomes my goal, then everything else will fall into place according to God’s timing. True love is about sacrifice. True love is not selfish. God revealed to me that by attempting to achieve goals according to MY timing, I was being selfish and not sacrificing my all for God. I was taking things into my own hands and became a “slave” to timing and man-made goals. Jesus said “no longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15) What a blessing to no longer be a slave! To be called a friend of God! To have Truths be made known to us! In order to truly love, we must love sacrificially; we must “not love our lives, even unto death.” (Revelation 12:11b)

Ethan will be one among several who will share their testimonies at the 2012 International Freedom Conference this summer in Saint Paul, MN. Register now to attend and hear an extended version of Ethan’s story!

featured resource



LIVING HOPE MINISTRIES

Perhaps you don’t live near an Exodus member ministry, church or counselor. You feel isolated and alone. Well, there is still help available! One great, innovative tool is provided by Living Hope Ministries, an Exodus member ministry in Arlington, TX – online forums.

Online support forums are available for men, women, young adults, wives, friends, and family of those affected by same gender attractions.

It is free of charge, private, moderated, safe, and available 24/7. Participants are not allowed to share outside contact information and interactions are restricted to on forum communications. Living Hope has been around for 23 years and their online forums now serve individuals from 90 countries around the world. An application is required to participate, please visit their website www.livehope.org for more information.

made for
M+ORE
exodus freedom conference
June 27-30, 2012 | Saint Paul, MN

real voices by rev. bob ragan

Made for Something More

All too often our focus is earth bound. We can be so sin conscience that we fail to be God aware. Early in my process I pursued all the resources I could find in overcoming my unwanted same-sex attractions (SSA). I became the focus, in restless activism searching for what I felt would bring me to the goal I desired. My goal of overcoming unwanted SSA was far too small. God had so much more for me.

In John Eldredge’s Journey of Desire, he writes, “This is the great lost truth of Christian faith. That correction of Judaism made by Jesus and passed on to us: the goal of morality is not morality – it is ecstasy. You are intended for pleasure.” You can imagine the reaction I get from the men in our sex-addiction support group when I read this quote! These men are so focused on stopping their wrong desires that they end up shutting down all desires. In so doing they kill their hearts. They thwart what they were made to be, made to become.

C.S. Lewis states it wonderfully that we settle for making mud pies when we could be having a day at the beach! There is a much bigger picture at stake here. We so easily get caught in diseased introspection, analyzing ourselves to death. I’m not indicating analysis is wrong. However, if we think we can achieve freedom through mere understanding we have missed the mark. Tim Keller states God is not after a morally restrained heart, but supernaturally changed heart. We must invite God in to change our hearts, giving us His vision and purpose for our lives.

I had to finally release my process into God’s hands. I had to submit my goals to Him. The Holy Spirit began to realign my heart, my passions, and in so doing realigned my goals. I had to learn to rest in what He was doing. I had to release my expectations, hopes, and dreams into the hands of Him who knows me best. In so doing He began to center me in who He created me to be, one who bears His Image uniquely.

The virtue of magnanimity, aspiring to great and noble things, is a worthwhile pursuit. The challenge is do we have the courage to make the sacrifices necessary to walk in this virtue? **We can become so much more than we could ever imagine possible.** Why is this possible? Because the very Creator of the universe lives within us! It’s changing our focus off of what is limiting us and realizing what we can become. We know we were meant for something vastly different than what we see around us. We were created to experience so much more in our lives.

In June, the annual Exodus Freedom Conference will be focusing on the realization we were made for more. We cannot come to the place of becoming who we were meant to be in isolation. At the very core of our being is the desire to know and be known by God. Also present is the desire to know and be known by one another. We were created to be in relationship. This conference is a place where we can fellowship with others who are on a similar journey in becoming the men and women they were meant to be since the very beginning of creation.

This will be the 23rd annual Exodus conference I have attended. It has been the continued highlight of my year. Being able to connect with friends, be inspired by the speakers, and gain insight through the many workshops, has been a wonderful blessing. My hope is you will prayerfully consider attending this wonderful event. I look forward to seeing in June!

Rev. Bob Ragan is the Director of Regeneration Ministries of Northern Virginia, an Exodus Member Ministry.

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Dear Exodus, Please pray for:

