

## event highlights

### Exodus Equipping Event

Friday, January 21, 2011  
Church of the Nations | Phoenix, AZ  
Contact Info: 888-264-0877  
jbuchanan@exodusinternational.org

### Love Won Out

Saturday, February 19, 2011  
Church of the Nations | Phoenix, AZ  
Contact Info: 888-264-0877  
lovewonout@exodusinternational.org

### 36th Annual International Freedom Conference

Wednesday, June 8 - 11, 2011  
Ridgecrest Conference Center  
Asheville, NC  
Contact Info: 888-264-0877  
conferences@exodusinternational.org

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



## real stories by david fountain

I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. John 15:1

I love this description of God as "The Gardener." As someone who made a lifelong decision to embrace the process of change over 13 years ago, I can certainly relate to how God chooses to reveal Himself by this title. Night after night, I would beg God for freedom from my struggle with same-sex attractions. I knew that my feelings and attractions were outside of God's design and intent for my life, but I found myself conflicted over wanting to pursue God and constantly being barraged by overwhelming desires to sin against God. I would continue to be consumed by Internet porn, making man and my own desires lord of my life instead of completely surrendering everything to The Lord, including my struggle.

I knew that I was sinning against God. It was through great conviction, grief, and shame that I was brought to my knees one night, praying the same prayer that I had prayed many times, "Lord, please free me of this struggle!" I realize now **I wanted a quick and instantaneous release from my burden.** However, that night the Lord revealed Himself to me as "the Gardener" when I heard the Holy Spirit gently say, "David, I've already given you the freedom, you just have to choose to walk in it." See, a gardener knows there is a process to obtaining mature fruit - Planting, watering, feeding and pruning and it all takes time. **Without a daily determination to walk out my process, freedom and maturity would not come.**

Through Christ's finish work on the cross, the victory has already been won, but that's not the end. As a Saint, I have access to the same power that raised Christ from the dead to defeat temptation and sin. So, I recognized that night, in order for true freedom to be realized I had to submit everything to the Gardener's precise process and care. I had to take responsibility as a child of God to pursue purity, maturity, and righteousness in and through Him. That included humbling myself greatly, reaching out for help from other mature believers, and being transparent with my struggles even beyond this one area of my life. Walking away from such a stronghold didn't happen overnight for me. That simply isn't how "the Gardener" chose to work in my life. For my good, He continues to patiently care for me, as I remain submitted to His Lordship. I allow Him to reveal the ongoing areas of sin in my life that need attention and pruning, so I can be holy as He is holy.

# exodus international

November 2010 | Vol. 6 | Issue 10  
PO Box 540119 | Orlando, FL 32854 | 888.264.0877

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

Dear Partners,

Did you notice that you have been promoted? Those of you who are involved in Exodus, which is the majority of you reading this letter, are more than just our friends. You are our dear partners in ministry. **As partners you are vital to the mission of Exodus: mobilizing the Body of Christ to minister grace and truth to a world impacted by homosexuality.** Thank you for answering that call via your prayers, gifts and regular encouragement.

As is the case every year about this time, **my team and I are gearing up for a new year! We have been in meetings regularly since August praying and talking about how and where God is leading Exodus International in 2011 and beyond.** Some years we roll out big new endeavors and introduce big ideas that God has given us. This year, however, God isn't calling us to do anything new. He has impressed on our entire team the need to do 3 things with what we already have: simplify, amplify and intensify.

### Simplify

Simplify means to clarify or reduce. We are in a fast paced, ever changing culture that demands we focus everywhere, have an answer for everyone concerning everything. At Exodus that means people call on us for input about anything related to sex and sexuality. Honestly, there is a vacuum in our culture where this overarching topic is concerned. Millions, if not more, are in the dark when it comes to understanding sexuality from a truly God-focused perspective. Sadly, many who claim the name of Christ are also in the dark. Exodus doesn't have all of the answers nor the staff to deal with many of the questions we get that fall outside of our primary mission. And, while the need is great, we must simplify our focus. We want to be clear about what we do and what we don't do at Exodus. We want to steward well the call God has given to us and do it with greater focus and excellence.

Our primary mission is reaching out to the Church to help them engage people inside and outside of the Body of Christ who are impacted by homosexuality. **We believe the Church should be passionate in their pursuit of assisting people who are desperate for help.** People like me who grew up in the church and wanted help pursuing a life of holiness.

### Amplify

Amplify means to elaborate or magnify. In 2011 we will turn up the volume on our simplified message and begin providing increased and focused resources for individuals, families, schools and churches. For instance, the greatest area of need in our culture is outreach to young people. **We will be changing the name of Exodus Youth to Exodus Student Ministries in order to encompass middle school thru college age students.** We have listened to youth pastors, parents and especially students and we want to amplify our message in a way that they will best receive it: via web communication, YouTube, podcasts and short to the point booklets. **We are also in the process of creating an App for iPhone users.** We must be intentional and relevant if we are going to make an impact. In 2011, we also want to amplify the specialties that our member ministries provide across the country.

### Intensify

Intensify means to deepen and strengthen. There are numerous areas where we need to go deeper. For instance, our relationship with you, our vital partners, is an area we want to intensify. **We also want to strengthen our communication about the true point of this ministry and the reality of our stories.** We are in a season where people are throwing away their marriages and leaving their children. Staggering numbers of young people are abandoning their faith because they cannot reconcile their homosexuality with their Christianity. The temporary but instant satisfaction of this world is far more appealing to them than the eternal benefits of a progressive journey of discipleship. **Understanding how we in the Church must address this "instantaneous" culture with the message of lifelong discipleship is a huge challenge but the only answer to a life of freedom.** We have our work cut out for us, which is why we depend so heavily on each of you; your prayers, your gifts and your input.

**Exodus is a \$10 Million dollar a year organization operating on less than 1/8 of that figure. We remain the #1 place that people call when they are dealing with the issues of homosexuality. No other church or organization in the world can report that they receive 400,000 inquiries a year from people looking for help with these complex issues. Our ultimate desire is to refer them all back to the local church.**

Please remember us as you plan your budgets, missions giving and targeted outreaches for 2011. Whether you are an individual, family, church, or foundation, we need your prayers, are worthy of your time, energy and financial gifts.

All for the Kingdom,

ExodusInternational.org | ExodusChurchAssociation.org | ExodusYouth.net | ExodusBooks.org | ExodusFreedom.org



alan chambers  
Exodus President

**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



# giving opportunity year-end giving

This is the month of Thanksgiving and we couldn't be more thankful for our friends and partners who have prayed and given sacrificially to Exodus. **God has shown us HIS faithfulness through YOUR generosity.**

During this past year, your support helped us directly impact the lives of over 3,000 people through our Freedom Conference, Love Won Out and church equipping events. 150 of those individuals received partial scholarships that made it possible for them to attend. Countless others were reached through our monthly newsletter, websites and blog. **We recently found out that 2,500 individuals visit our Exodus Youth website EVERY DAY!** We had 88,000 visitors on that one website alone last month. Praise God!

In 2011, we will be celebrating 35 years in ministry! While the message and mission of Exodus has always been important, much has changed in our cultural landscape in recent years that has **AMPILIFIED** the need for our message to be heard. Many are confused and have questions about sexuality. The world is offering answers. We **MUST** have a voice in the conversation – an alternative, redemptive and biblical response.

## Will you help us get the message out there by giving a tax-deductible year-end gift?

We need to continue to equip and educate the church by providing multiple equipping events across the country. We need to continue to offer scholarships to those who desire to attend our Love Won Out or Freedom Conference events. We need to expand the range of resources available. We need to increase our efforts to communicate the truth about biblical sexuality to this generation that has so many questions. Youth pastors and campus workers are desperate for resources to equip and assist them in ministering to students. While we still have the ability to share the message of transformation and freedom through Jesus Christ, we must do our best to proclaim it.

While God has given us much vision for 2011, our primary focus is on the church and students. Below are our specific needs related to these two critical areas:

**Church Equipping Events** - \$35,000 (\$3,500 per event)

**Student Ministries** - \$200,000

- Hire Exodus Student Ministries staff
- Develop new resources
- Equip student workers through multiple equipping events
- Enhance on-line resources and web presence
- Launch national campaign

\$45,000 of the \$200,000 dollar goal has already been received due to a generous grant. Would you help you to raise the remaining dollar amount to reach students?



Please include your best gift to Exodus in the enclosed envelope. **We appreciate your partnership!**

# real answers by randy thomas

## "I have lived a gay life for over 30 years. Is this going to be more difficult to overcome than someone who is much younger?"

That is a very good question and the short answer in many cases would be yes. There are 30 years worth of memories and relational investments on a personal and communal level. As time goes on, the affects of our decisions regarding identity, thought life and relationships can have a deeper and wider impact on our personal dreams and life goals, loved ones and friends (gay-affirming or not.)

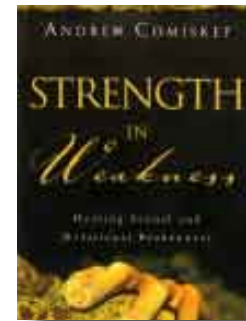
Science has also proven that repeated sexual behavior increases neurological imprinting within the brain. Meaning, the more a behavior, identity and belief are bolstered ... the more ingrained that pattern is in our actual biological brain.

Yet here is the flip side of that same coin. Older people seeking freedom are usually more settled in life and have well-developed critical thinking skills. They've had many experiences that can't be written off by idealism, naïveté or undermined by "what if" scenarios.

So while the process of overcoming same-sex attraction might be more difficult, they usually bring a greater motivation and commitment to pursuing wholeness and freedom.

All of that is said as a huge generality; young people may have a very difficult time for other reasons. For example, the young people today are being raised in an environment that encourages and blesses homosexual behavior and a gay identity at increasingly younger ages. It is quite possible that a young woman may decide she wants to begin a Christian post-gay journey at the age of 25 but has believed she has been a lesbian since she was 9. That's 16 years of identification and relational investment that is not easily questioned or overcome. Also young people are forced into critical thinking (concerning this issue) at earlier and earlier ages. It's very possible for a young person to be realistic and pragmatic about the reality of what it means to find freedom in Christ.

## featured resource



### Strength in Weakness

By Andy Comiskey

Now On Sale at Exodus Books!

Telling real-life stories of despair, hope and lasting change, Comiskey lays out the foundations for healing from relational and sexual sin. With chapters focusing on particular areas of vulnerability for men and women, on the battle over homosexuality in church and culture,

and on the essential role of the church in ongoing healing, Strength in Weakness makes clear the way to the cross--God's sufficient answer to our deepest needs.

Regardless of age and life circumstance, the truth is that those who have placed their faith in Christ are already overcomers whether their sexual temptations change or not. Jesus is our life's goal and He knows exactly what path we have come down and lovingly comes alongside to rescue and lead us Home. The path out of being "gay" and abstaining from homosexual behavior is not easy or simple for anyone. That said, God's grace is far more abundant than our personal trials. He's not a stranger to our history and wants to see us have a blessed and content future in Him.

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

Please make this a one-time donation.  Please make this a Monthly Gift.

Name on Credit Card : \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # : \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(credit card cannot be processed without a signature)

Dear Exodus, Please pray for:

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\_\_\_\_\_