

December 2013

Offering Hope and Help to Individuals and Families Affected by Homosexuality

LOVE EXPRESSED



How do you express your love to family, friends, and strangers? For some it is harder than for others. Some of us are naturally more effusive and generous with our emotions while others of us are shy and reticent to express our feelings. No matter our temperaments and preferences, God desires that each of us express our love to one another no matter how hard (and risky) it may be at times. The way we show our love makes a difference in people's lives, especially our loved ones.

God does not keep us guessing as to whether he loves us or not. When we reach out to him for love, he happily takes us into his arms, despite how we may have hurt and neglected him. (In fact, even before we reach out to him, he has been reaching out to us.) God's heart is not Grinch-like, two sizes too small. God's heart is big and fearless and willing and able to love because he is selfless. When God expresses his love, it's not about him - it's about us (John 3:16).

God's greatest expression of love was giving us his Son, Jesus. Would you hand over your son to save the world, knowing what the world would do to him? God did. He went all the way - giving up all he had and enduring the worst kind of pain - all for us. This is perfect love.

God's love also shows itself in grief and even anger when we turn from him and sin against him and others. He will do what it takes to bring us back to him, and this always requires pain on our part. Are we willing to undergo what it will take to enjoy intimacy with your Heavenly Father? Are



you willing to hand your heart, your past, your sexuality, your insecurity, your pride and fear over to him?

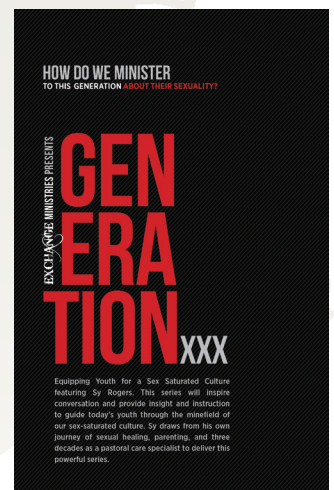
What are you willing to endure, give up, or face that will help your child know God as Father

and Christ as Lord? Sy Rogers said that when he became a father, he was scared. "How can I be a good father?" he asked the Lord. Sy said that he heard God tell him to write down the ways that He (God) had loved him (Sy). Then God encouraged Sy to love his daughter in the same way.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16-17)

NEW SERIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Starting in January 2014, we will be starting a new video series called "Generation XXX: Equipping Youth for a Sex Saturated Culture" taught by Sy Rogers. Our desire as a ministry is to reach our community and churches to help equip them to address issues of sexuality. This series will inspire conversation and provide insight and instruction to pastors, youth leaders, and anyone in the church who wants to help our young people live out their sexuality as God intended. Please consider coming to this series and inviting others to come. The series will span the winter and spring of 2014. You can download our fliers from our website or we can mail them to you.





Freedom from Homosexuality
Through Jesus Christ

Office: 864.583.7606
www.hopeforwholeness.org



HOPE FOR WHOLENESS NETWORK

This October, leadership from Exchange Ministries went to South Carolina to participate in a conference and to learn more about the Hope for Wholeness Network. For 30 years, Exchange had been affiliated with Exodus, but as Exodus shut down, ministries around the country came together to form a national ministry that will help support and promote local ministries around the country. Exchange Ministries has joined this network, and we look forward to the benefits that united fellowship offer. Please be praying for us as we seek to offer hope and help to those affected by homosexuality in Orlando and all around the country.

Having been a personal recipient of grace through the ministry of Exchange, how can I do less than devote my energies to making it available and more effective to all who may need it! Although this work is at times challenging, one of the encouraging things that lifts me up is others like you standing with us. May the blessing of God the Father, the fellowship of His Son Jesus and the Peace of the Holy Spirit surround you during this advent season.”

– Keith Venum

MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

“At this very special time of the year when we celebrate the coming of our Savior into the world, I want to express my special thanks for your help with Exchange Ministries during the past year. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees it is part of my job to make sure that Exchange functions with integrity and accountability in legal and financial matters. My Board stands behind me in believing that this is a sacred trust that cannot be compromised in any manner. I believe in Exchange and the mission it fulfills having been in the past an attendee-participant, and more recently co-facilitator of the Parent’s group prior to being elected Board Chair. It is a joy to see lives transformed by God’s work among us.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HOW TO GIVE

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