

June 2012

Offering Hope and Help to Individuals and Families Affected by Homosexuality

"Statistics"

I would like to share an article that a fellow ministry leader, Miranda Pettit, shared with me. She is a leader for Truth Ministry, a ministry that helps those affected by homosexuality. As the director of Exchange Ministries, I relate completely with what she has written. I pray that it encourages you as it has encouraged me.

"Several years ago during a press conference for Truth Ministry our director was asked, "What is your success rate?" This was, of course, in reference to the clients that come to Truth Ministry. I don't remember his answer, but as I thought about that question later that night wondering how to answer it, the Lord spoke to me inaudibly but very clearly – "Your success rate is 100%. You are doing exactly what I have called you to do." It has been many years since He spoke that to me, but those words still echo in my mind and spirit.

Most believe large numbers equate success, but the Bible does not substantiate that claim. God is more about individuals, not vast quantities. He is about leaving the 99 sheep behind to look for the one lost sheep (Matthew 18). He is about the one crucified sinner asking, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom" than he is about the many mocking and cursing him. We should heed his warning in Matthew 7:13, "Wide is the gate that leads to destruction and there are many who go in it." Quantity does not determine success.

I've worked with Truth Ministry now for 6 years, ministering to many dozen girls and women who seek to find help, hope, and answers. I have answered numerous emails & phone calls, and have met with many women, parents, and young girls on a one-time or frequent basis. Some women I may never meet, as many live too far to come to our office, and some I may only have a couple of hours in an appointment. On certain occasions with speaking opportunities, I have 10-20 minutes.

I never know when meeting with a person or group if I will only have one opportunity to impart truth & hope. I really don't even know in the support groups who will return each week. I've seen women come and go; I've seen determination wane in face of temptation; and I've seen success but I've never seen failure. Many women have and will return to the very life they want to leave for various reasons, but that does not mean failure. What it does mean is that I am doing exactly what God has called me to do – I'm responsible for my obedience, not theirs. I plant or water the seed for God.

In six years I have seen the miraculous work of God restoring and reconciling individuals, families, and marriages. Some of the most hopeless, despondent situations & lives have become filled with hope: the effects of abuse are being healed; addictions are conquered; chains of hatred, anger, self-destruction, etc. are being broken.

We cannot use numbers to gauge success in the Kingdom of God. His measures are beyond our understanding. Each person has value and is worth our investment. We are to make a difference one life at a time without focusing on quantity. I'm humbled to have said the prayer of salvation with some clients, but I only harvested a seed that was planted and watered by others long before me. Maybe the people in their past thought they failed because they didn't see a changed life, a changed heart. Statistics would show they failed, but success shows that they did exactly what God called them to do - 100%."

–Miranda Pettit, Truth Ministry, Spartanburg, SC

EXCHANGE MINISTRIES

Ministry Update

Exchange Ministries continues to reach parents who have children who are gay-identified, men and women who struggle with SSA, and students (18-23) who desire to seek God and turn away from homosexuality.

Our "All-Group Meeting" meets the 1st and 3rd Monday nights, and our men's group also meets on 4th Monday of the month. We have a great leadership team, and I would like to celebrate all they do by featuring them in this newsletter.



*Keith and Pauline Vennum
(Parent's Group Leaders;
Keith is chairman of the
Board and Pauline is a
fellow Board Member)*



*Greg and Tami Bowles (members of the
Board and Group Leaders)*



*Laurie Ellis
(Women's Group Leader)*



*Donna Trent
(Parent's Group Leader)*



*Mark Schumacher
(Board Member)*



*Kristin (Director, Women's Student
Group Leader) and Mike Tremba
(Men's Student
Group Leader)*

Stay Informed Via Email

We will be sending out more frequent newsletter updates via email. If you prefer to be added to our electronic mailing list, please send your email address to kristin.tremba@exchangeministries.org.

Ask God What You Can Do

Times are tight for all of us, but we ask if you have benefited in any way from this ministry to please consider prayerfully supporting us financially.

Thank you to those who regularly support us! Many of you who directly benefit from this ministry do not give financially. Please consider doing this, so we can continue to serve you and others. Thank you!

You can donate online at exchangeministries.org or send your check to 3000 John Young Parkway, Orlando, FL 32805.