

# Celebrate With Us

- April
- National Humor Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- Week 1: Library Week
- Week 2: Garden Week
- Week 3: Organize Your Files Week
- Week 4: National Karaoke Week
- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1 International Fun at Work Day
- 2 Children's Book Day
- 2 Reconciliation Day
- 4 School Librarian Day
- 5 Go for Broke Day
- 7 No Housework Day
- 7 World Health Day
- 9 Winston Churchill Day
- 10 Golfer's Day
- 10 National Siblings Day
- 11 National Submarine Day

- 12 Big Wind Day
- 13 Scrabble Day
- 14 International Moment of Laughter Day
- 14 National Pecan Day
- 14 Reach as High as You Can Day
- 15 Titanic Remembrance Day
- 16 National Librarian Day
- 16 National Stress Awareness Day
- 17 Pet Owners Independence Day
- 18 Patriot's Day
- 20 Volunteer Recognition Day
- 21 Kindergarten Day
- 22 Girl Scout Leader Day
- 22 National Jelly Bean Day
- 23 Lover's Day
- 24 Easter Sunday
- 26 Executive Admin's Day
- 26 Hug an Australian Day
- 27 National Prime Rib Day
- 27 Tell a Story Day
- 28 Great Poetry Reading Day
- 28 Kiss Your Mate Day
- 30 National Honesty Day

- May
- Date Your Mate Month
- Foster Care Month
- National Blood Pressure Month
- Older Americans Month

- Week 1: Nurse's Week
- Week 2: Wildflower Week
- Week 3: National Police Week
- Week 4: Emergency Medical Services Week

- 1 May Day
- 1 Loyalty Day

- 2 Baby Day
- 2 Brothers and Sisters Day
- 3 National Teachers Day
- 3 World Press Freedom Day
- 4 Renewal Day
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 6 Military Spouses Day
- 6 National Nurses Day
- 6 No Diet Day
- 7 National Tourism Day
- 8 Iris Day
- 8 V-E Day
- 8 Mother's Day
- 12 International Nurses Day
- 15 Police Officer's Memorial Day
- 18 Visit Your Relatives Day
- 20 National Bike to Work Day
- 21 Armed Forces Day
- 21 National Waiters and Waitresses Day
- 25 National Missing Children's Day
- 26 Sally Ride Day
- 28 Amnesty International Day



## Current address

Please note our address: PFOX, PO Box 510, Reedville VA 22539. You can also reach us by telephone at 804-453-4737. Thank you.

## Family and Friends Prayer List

Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher, Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin, Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole, David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James, Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen, Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara,

Damon, Sam, Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery, Melanie, Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad, Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly, Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael, Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke, Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul,

Tobby, Sandy, Brian, Larry, Alan, Christian Tom, Delores, Mark, Tara, Angela, Jessica, Dawn, Alicia, Jason, Frank, Paul, Edward, Maria, Mario, Michelle, Connor, Angela, Carl Jr., Marcus, Brandon, Gaylon, Edmond, Keshia, Shannon, Paige, Melissa, Donny, William, Wendall, Leno, Mandy, Andy, E., Erik, Lauren, Chris, Todd, Jayson, Carl III, Steve, Zachary, Kelly, Toby, Cody, Dylan, Wayne, Tom, Jeff, Walt, Cayce, Tim,

David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc, Heather, Gary, Bill, John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy, Karen, Brian, Shellie, Pattie, Emily, Carrie, Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin, Phil, Bryce,

Ethan, Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn, Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine, Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike, Lisa, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha, Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric, Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Joe and Idario, Miranda Marie, Sarah.

Donate online at

<http://pfox.org/donate.html>



## Parent Talk

### Reaching Out Against the Odds: A CPAC Adventure

This year numerous Christian and Conservative Organizations boycotted the American Conservative Union conference known as CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference) held February 10 -12 in Washington, D.C. The boycott was called because GoProud, a "conservative gay" organization, donated thousands of dollars to the ACU to become a sponsor and also hosted a booth as an exhibitor. There was much concern that GoProud, a gay organization, claims to be fiscal conservatives yet supports numerous homosexual causes. Repealing DOMA, DADT and civil unions are a few of the things that GoProud supports.

What to do? PFOX families, board members and volunteers prayed about the most effective way to get our message out

that changing sexual orientation is possible. How do we meet our goal of showing unconditional love to the homosexual community and those who experience unwanted same-sex attractions? I believe we made the right decision: we chose to attend CPAC.

On opening day I was approached at our booth by a young man from GoProud. He came over to speak to me because they had heard PFOX was attending. We spoke for quite a while about equal rights for ex-gays and that marriage is that of one man and one woman. We spoke about the fact that changing sexual orientation, feelings and behavior—not genetics—is what homosexuality is about.

We had daily visits from GoProud; there was no animosity toward us. One college student brought over a friend and introduced us as "normal and nice." We discussed the legal rights already available to homosexual couples, hospital visitation, property ownership; inheritance, etc. I gave them the web address of a gay law firm that offers information and forms online to help accomplish all of these things. I pointed out that heterosexual couples also need legal documents to inherit, provide medical rights and a will. Numerous facts like this are withheld from homosexual students in order to promote victimization.

The PFOX booth provided information for all; JONAH, a Jewish organization for families and strugglers, was available to speak with numerous Jewish attendees. We had families with homosexual children and parents of an ex-gay who offered support and suggestions about the importance of keeping

the family together and loving our children for the wonderful person each one is.

Nobody chooses to have same sex attractions (SSA); who would? Never label your child. Attractions are about feelings, and feelings can and do change. Our ex-gay volunteers were awesome, for they could bear witness and provide answers that only those who have experienced a prior homosexual lifestyle could address. It was important for those who have SSA to understand that with hard work and time it is possible to work through same sex attractions and achieve heterosexuality.

The mission of PFOX is to provide support and hope for families, to stop the deliberate forcing of families like ours into silence, and to obtain a place at the table for the ex-gay community. The PFOX message of change is what the homosexual community fears and wants to silence, for it is the message that provides truth and facts about sexual orientation and change.

The way to prevent questioning youth from adapting a homosexual identity is to demand presentations by ex-gay speakers

See "CPAC" continued on page 3

#### In This Issue:

- CPAC Adventure ..... 1
- Dave's Testimony ..... 2
- Holidays ..... 4
- Prayer List ..... 4



### Maryland Victory!

From left to right, Peter Sprigg of Family Research Council and Greg Quinlan, PFOX President, were among those testifying against gay marriage at the Maryland House Committee on Feb.25th. Their testimonies helped to convince the house committee not to vote for the bill.

# Dave's Testimony: Beloved – A Journey From Rejection to Acceptance

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you, but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9)*

That verse is my story, and it's one of finding true love, acceptance, power and protection in the arms of Abba Father. David in Hebrew means "beloved." My story is a journey of realizing that I am what my name says I am – beloved.

In the '60s an unwanted pregnancy was looked upon with much scorn and shame. So I came into this world feeling rejection from mom, dad, grandparents, the rest of my family and society.

Many say I was an illegitimate child, but now I know that there is no such thing – only illegitimate parents. My father, Ray, never married my mom and I never met him. Despite many efforts to meet him, Ray chose to shut me out of his life.

Mom married my stepfather, Walter, when I was six months old. Walter was a Vietnam veteran who experienced the horrors of war. He was also a physically abusive alcoholic. As a child, I called the police when he pulled a knife on my mom or pried the hinges off the bathroom door to get to her.

I felt that Walter rejected me and chose to focus his attention on my younger brother, his namesake.

My mom and Walter divorced when I was young. Because of this, I never had a dad to play catch with or to run to when I was afraid.

Mom was irresponsible and unpredictable in her love. Her whole life was plagued with mental illness, severe depressions and bouts of mania. Sometimes I wouldn't hear from her for long periods of time, and then she would call many times a day.

In school, I was painfully shy and reclusive. Allergies and asthma kept me from gym class and sports. When teams were chosen, I was always picked last. I felt rejection, and I also rejected myself with feelings of low self-esteem and self-hatred. Finally, someone really paid attention to me. He was an older

second cousin who sexually molested me at age 12.

Stability in my life came from my grandmother who lived two blocks away. This strong-willed, kind, extremely generous woman not only raised me, but also provided for me financially and emotionally.

At the insistence of my devout grandmother, I was active in a liberal mainline church. At age 15, I accepted Christ as my savior at an evangelistic seminar. Although I still went to the same spiritually dead church, I grew by reading Christian books and listening to Christian radio. When it came time for college,

“  
My story is a journey  
of realizing that I am  
what my name says I  
am – beloved.  
Dave  
”

I attended a conservative Christian school. There I grew relationally with others and began my journey out of shyness. My family could not afford a private school education for me, but God miraculously provided for me with a campus job and government grants. I was able to graduate with only \$2,000 in school loans.

After graduation, I headed to Washington, DC to pursue a career in politics and began attending a nondenominational church, where I was baptized.

I soon became aware of a growing same-sex attraction that was becoming overwhelming, so I got involved in Regeneration, an ex-gay ministry. My life was finally starting to click. I became a support-group leader and began seriously dating a girl named Karen.

At this point, I began to trust God not only as my savior, but also as Lord of my life. I had a fantastic relationship with Him, others and myself. I was on top of the world.

Then my world came crashing down. It seemed that every summer I was plagued

by a persistent and deepening depression. The year my world crashed, it became so strong that I experienced extreme stress and panic attacks. I lost my job, my girlfriend, and the peace I felt from God. I remember crying out to God but I felt that the heavens were silent.

After seeking help from an incompetent counselor, I plunged into a suicidal depression. I was obsessed with dying and going straight to hell. I even began hallucinating.

A new counselor rescued me with medication and therapy. Then, my deep depression was followed by an equally unrestrained manic phase. I started many businesses, had grandiose ideas, and plunged head-first into the gay lifestyle. My life was filled with anonymous sexual partners and hanging out at gay bars, beaches and bathhouses.

I decided to seek acceptance from those who could relate to me best – other gays. However, rejection – not acceptance – was what I felt the most. I was rejected by those who were more muscular and handsome than I. And I rejected those who didn't measure up in my eyes. I allowed myself to be treated in ways I would never otherwise allow. And, I treated others in ways I would never otherwise treat them. All of this was based on looks. For seven years, I became the prodigal son with my "to hell with the world" attitude.

I didn't choose to have homosexual feelings. I believe the development of my same-sex attraction was rooted in a number of factors: an absent father, abusive stepfather, strong-willed grandmother, passive grandfather, sensitive personality and sexual abuse. These were things that happened to me. However, there were things that I did to contribute to my problem. I chose how to respond to what happened in my childhood. And, I chose to act on my same-sex attractions and discount the power of God's grace in my life. This choice to pursue the gay lifestyle not only endangered my physical life, but also my relational, emotional and spiritual life. It also led to a life-dominating sexual addiction that would take years of pain and struggle to overcome.

Father God lovingly and persistently pursued me. And in 2000 I started my journey back home. I returned to Regeneration and

See 'Dave'  
continued on page 3

## CPAC

and fact based resources in our nation's schools. If conservative and Christian organizations want to positively impact our nation then we must stand together. It's time to demand our nation's schools and legislators provide equal access and mutual respect for ex-gays and their message that changing unwanted same sex attractions is possible.

Ex-gays work in all segments of society yet are not protected by current federal law such as ENDA; ex-gays are bullied and silenced not because they adapted a heterosexual identity but because they are former homosexuals.

Ex-gay testimony can make the difference. An educated public will stand for natural marriage and traditional families.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, Greg Quinlan, an ex-gay and PFOX president, traveled to Maryland to defend natural marriage and traditional families. As an ex-gay

## Dave

began to deal with my overwhelming sexual addiction as well as the roots of my same-sex attraction. I entered into an accountable relationship with a ministry leader and began attending and serving in a local church. I also forgave my mother and the cousin who molested me.

Gradually I was able to forgive my stepfather, a man I hated for over 20 years, and begin a relationship with him and my brother. Now we don't see each other without an "I love you" and a hug.

That forgiveness allowed me to help reconcile my sister with her dad. What a blessing it was to be able to take my nine-year-old nephew to see his grandfather for the first time!

Now my family has been restored. For many years I prayed about my stepdad's alcoholism. In 2009, he went to a treatment center and then regular AA meetings and he has been sober ever since. He even visits other veterans who are dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and alcoholism.

A few years ago, I learned that he had always wanted to adopt me and my mom wouldn't let him (which caused a lot of friction in their

Greg was able to present the truth that sexual orientation is not immutable, there was no need to redefine marriage. Greg was quoted in the Washington Post, and numerous television networks and other media. Thanks to the powerful message Greg presented, the vote to redefine marriage in Maryland did not succeed.

Please remember to donate to PFOX—the voice of the family and advocates for the ex-gay community. If we are to compete on a national level and spread the message of hope and change we need to be in the public eye 24/7. PFOX needs to raise the money necessary to hire an ex-gay speaker so we can work full time spreading the message that ex-



Defending Natural Marriage traditional families

gays exist. When ex-gays like Greg speak out, legislators, educators and people with unwanted SSA listen.

marriage). After waiting around for him to initiate the adoption discussion, I decided to bring it up. I feel that this is a way to publicly acknowledge the healing that has taken place in our relationship and it's a way for me to honor him and him to honor me. So on my upcoming birthday, I will be formally adopted.

The same day I contacted my stepfather about adoption, I also decided to try (once again) to reach out to my biological father, so I sent him this testimony. A week later I had a strong prompting to pray for him, and I did for three days. A month later, he called me and we talked for almost two hours. I told him that I didn't want anything from him, but I had a gift for him. I thought that he was stuffing the emotions of guilt and shame since I was born. I said that I would like to meet him and my family, but would wait until he was ready. I haven't heard back from him yet, but think that I will be traveling to Fargo, ND sometime soon to meet him.

My journey to wholeness and holiness has not been quick or painless, and many times I stumbled along the way, but Father God was always present. I let go of quick, fleeting

counterfeit "love" (lust and sex) and slowly developed true and lasting love through deep meaningful relationships with others and God. I learned how to love others correctly and love myself again. I have also learned to rely on God. He has shown me, through promises in His Word and through my experiences with Him, that He is faithful. As I step out in faith, trusting His promises, I have seen that He will protect me, he will provide for me, and he will bless my efforts.

Most importantly, I have come to know what it means to have God as my father. Growing up without a healthy father figure hindered my growth into masculinity. Abba Father is healing many of these deficits. He has shown Himself as a strong provider, protector and caring dad who adores me whether I perform or not. As I learn to be loved by the "Father to the fatherless", I am growing into the man He wants me to be.

As Abba lavishly meets my needs for love and acceptance, I am able to love Him and others correctly and abundantly. My desire is that all of my purity, giving, serving, loving and sharing flow from this supply of limitless love and acceptance, for I am beloved.

**Donate online at <http://pfox.org/donate.html>**