



The official newsletter of Parents & Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

Fall 2013



Parent Talk

Ex-gays, families, friends celebrate Ex-Gay Awareness Month

PFOX families and friends celebrated the first Ex-Gay Dinner and awards banquet in honor of September's Ex-Gay Awareness Month.

Our ex-gay speakers and dinner guests spent the early part of the day lobbying for their rights to equal access and protection under the law, and to co-exist in peace. They were charged up and ready to share their life's testimony with us that evening.

It was a wonderful, uplifting evening as families came together for a very special time. We received hope and listened to speakers as they shared their life stories of how they were able to change their sexual orientation from gay to heterosexual, finding peace and happiness in their new life.

Regina Griggs, executive director of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX) started the event by introducing the speakers.

Greg Quinlan of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays (PFOX):

When I was in the gay lifestyle, I buried 100 of my gay friends who died of AIDS before I stopped counting. My friends would ask me, "Greg, would you please read this Scripture at my funeral? Would you tell my son I love him and why Daddy couldn't be with him? Would you pray for me and ask God to forgive me?"

After suffering through so much heartbreak, pain and death around me, I made a choice to come out of homosexuality and I haven't looked back. I continue to speak out so that others will know that I have seen the change.

Citing Acts of the Apostles, Quinlan proclaimed his Christian duty is to preach the good news, "I will continue to declare that ex-gay is ok, you can change!"

Douglas McIntyre of Homosexuals Anonymous spoke about how far the ex-gay community has come:

Having lunch on Capitol Hill today

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I'm going to live as a transformed ex-gay and I don't care who doesn't like it!

*advice for ex-gays to say of themselves from
Bishop Harry Jackson, Jr.
Senior Pastor, Hope Christian Church
Chairman, High Impact Leadership Coalition*

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with friends that have shared the same experiences, I am reminded that we've come a long way. When I was boy, I was unable to tell anyone that I was experiencing unwanted homosexual feelings. There was no place to go, no safe group or organization to help people like me. Today, I'm surrounded by friends. It's a day to celebrate what God has done.

Trace McNutt, who received the Courage Award for Former Homosexuals, said:

Unlike many of the people you have heard speak tonight, I still struggle with same-sex attraction. But one thing I know for sure: Through the support of the church and Christian community, who have loved me unconditionally, my heart has been changed forever. I stand before you a sinner saved by

grace, and I am humbled and honored to receive this award. This award is not for me, but for Jesus Christ who lives in me, I know that through God, all things are possible.

(Watch Trace's riveting story at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eosYfCAJjio&feature=youtu.be>.)

Christopher Doyle of Voice of the Voiceless expressed the need to create safe places for youth who struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction:

We have to find a way to minister to people of faith – young people especially – and allow them to struggle just as we allow other non-SSA young people to struggle as they mature. How many of you have children in their 20s and 30s who continue to struggle with problems in their lives that keep them from reaching their full potential? You love those kids and continue to love

them even as they struggle. We people of faith need to celebrate those young people and mentor them as the mature. We need to provide welcoming places for them – not to endorse their behavior, but to see their potential and look beyond their behavior

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Unity at Value Voters Seminar

Once again our PFOX team hosted a booth at the Value Voters Seminar last month to educate and provide resources about ex-gays, gays and the families who love them.

I so enjoy the fall Value Voters Seminar. It's our time to come together with organizations that support our mission and bring light to a year darkened with despair by gay activists seeking to discredit ex-gays who prove changing sexual orientation is possible.

Families and teens with unwanted same-sex attractions (SSAs) are also victimized, their rights to get life-saving health and scientific information are withheld by public schools which take their queues from the National Education Association (NEA). Now parents' rights to help their teens seek help to overcome unwanted SSAs are being legislated away by the gay socialist agenda. In California

and New Jersey, even though statements by gay activist to the Legislators were proven to be outright lies, these same legislators sold their narcissistic souls for money and re-election, asking where to sign on, taking away the right of self determination of parents and teens.

The Christian community is under attack; gay marriage and civil-rights laws do not exempt Christian businesses or churches and have created numerous lawsuits and Christian businesses closing their doors.

We need your financial help to reclaim our parental rights and save our nation's children. Their lives and souls are now in danger.

Please donate so that PFOX can continue to provide the truth and travel to events nationwide. We are willing to come to your town. Contact us; let's work together and make it a reality.

The photos below are of men and women who helped operate our booth this year.



Janice and Stephen Graham: Janice is a novelist and authored numerous books. The Grahams are parents and grandparents with an ex-gay son, David.

Celebrate *continued from page 1*
and into their hearts.

Doyle challenged the audience to invest in young people if they want to see a change in the culture war on homosexuality.

The Ex-Gay Freedom Pride award was given to Mat Staver of Liberty Council for his work defending individuals seeking therapy for unwanted SSAs. In accepting the award, Staver said:

It makes absolutely no sense that someone's right of self-determination be infringed upon in the counseling office, especially when it threatens our fundamental liberties of speech and religion.

Staver spoke of teen boys who benefit from counseling for unwanted homosexual attractions. Many "began to cut themselves, hate themselves, question who they are, and their relations with family and friends became fractured. After beginning counseling, however, their self-esteem improved, their same-sex attractions decreased, and their friendships improved."

A highlight of the evening was Dennis Jernigan who sang the new Ex-Gay Anthem, "Rise Up," a song "from God's perspective toward us" as based on scripture from Psalm 32:7 and Zephaniah 3:17:

It is true. I once identified as homosexual. Through an encounter with Jesus Christ, I was given a brand new identity. I am tired

of feeling like I have to be quiet about it in today's culture. My story is my story... and the more I share it, the more I find a great number of men and women who once thought they were homosexual as well. It is time to rise up and declare who and whose we are.

Dennis attended the dinner with his wife Melinda; they are the proud parents of nine children. (See Dennis Jernigan perform Rise Up, the ex-gay anthem, and be inspired: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jExF1U_ZXm4&feature=youtu.be. For information on how to order Dennis' music see page 4.)

The evening ended with a keynote address by Bishop Harry Jackson, Jr., senior pastor of Hope Christian Church in Beltsville, Maryland and chairman of the High Impact Leadership Coalition. Bishop Jackson advised the ex-gay community to declare passionately:

I'm going to live as a transformed ex-gay and I don't care who doesn't like it!

Thank you. We could not have done this without you! Your gifts do make a difference. Please continue to support us financially as we plan next year's dinner. We hope to see you there!

Blessings
Regina



Regina Griggs and the Rev. Grace Harley working at the PFOX booth.



The Rev. Grace Harley, ex-gay and former transgender, with Dr. Juan Torres, a speaker at the seminar who stopped by to meet us.

Gay Christians

By Anne Paulk, Executive Director
Restored Hope Network <http://www.restoredhopenetwork.org>
Author of "Restoring Sexual Identity"

I, Anne, have this to say concerning sin struggles, identity and marriage or singleness:

Another portion of the 'gay' Christian statements go like this, "But many of us still struggle with sin to some degree and are not intent upon marriage, 'gay Christian' seems to make us feel comfortable and fit us better." These things should not fit together at all.

Of course people still will struggle with sin, regardless of their backgrounds! Though they will be tempted in many areas, not only in what were once life-dominating areas. They may struggle even more if they have just left homosexuality (or drugs or use of alcohol or other sinful intoxicants).

As life-dominating sin gets further in the rearview mirror and becomes a more distant memory, the less likely it is to dominate one's life choices. Yes, I always try to keep in mind that what once seemed to offer the answer to my problems in life may at some point rear its ugly head and to not be surprised, but deal with it handily. (I do devote a chapter of this topic of dealing with temptation in my book "Restoring Sexual Identity.")

Does it mean that EVERYONE who leaves homosexuality will someday become attracted to a special member of the opposite gender and get married? No, yet Restored Hope does have a high percentage of men and women who have been in this field of transformation over the long haul and eventually do find such feelings emerging. These ones, by God's great kindness, sometimes move forward into God-defined marriage. We all know that marriage doesn't prove one's healing, but when it happens for the right reasons, it is an expression of self-giving that reflects back to the delight of the Garden of Eden and of something even more profound — the love of God for His bride, the church.

Singleness that is holy and devoted to God is a wonderful outcome according to the apostle Paul, and this applies to all believers, including those who have or are leaving homosexuality behind and submitting their lives in obedience to Christ: "One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of



Anne Paulk

the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord." 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

So may we be men and women whose lives glorify God in holy devotion, whether as single or married Christians!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



Thanksgiving is a time when the world gets to see just how blessed and how workable the Christian system is. The emphasis is not on giving or buying, but on being thankful and expressing that appreciation to God and to one another.

~John Clayton

Rise Up!



Dennis Jernigan at the PFOX-sponsored First Ex-Gay Dinner in honor of September's Ex-Gay Awareness Month. You can buy the mp3 of Dennis Jernigan's song RISE UP at: <http://www.dennisjernigan.com/store/product.php?c=24&p=3264>

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.

Celebrate With Us

November:

- Adopt A Senior Pet Month Link
- Military Family Appreciation Month
- National Adoption Month
- National Family Caregivers Month
- National Pet Cancer Awareness Month
- Nov. 10-13: ar Santa Letter Week
- Nov. 10-16: National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week
- Nov. 11-17: World Kindness Week
- Nov. 24-30: Better Conversation Week
- Nov. 24-30: National Bible Week
- Nov. 24-30: National Family Week
- Nov. 10: International Tongue Twister Day



- Nov. 11: Veterans Day
- Nov. 13: World Kindness Day
- Nov. 14: National American Teddy Bear Day
- Nov. 23: Family Volunteer Day
- Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Day

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