

treasures

JULY 2009

Volume 1 number 2

EXPECTATIONS

A thousand chapters was the goal. A vision of simple interaction between those who knew the pain of SSA and a freedom that comes from honesty with ourselves and others spreading around the world was the dream we shared. Was that vision too great? Were we having delusions of grandeur? As I watched the growth of the HA program over the years it seemed easy to think those visions were unattainable.

This morning I was reading Ephesians 3: 21 KJV and had a new thought about the verse. "Now unto him that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...**" It hit me like a brick. I had stopped asking and thinking. Perhaps we have been in maintenance mode. **GOD IS IN EXPANSION MODE!** He is able to do it exceeding abundantly. All we have to do is start asking and thinking that God is not limited.



As I visited El Salvador last month it became very clear to me that we are not in charge. God gave many times over the answer to our simple goal of "one group". He almost shouted to us "Your goals are too small!"

The last phrase of the verse is "according to the power that works within you." That POWER is the Holy Spirit! I now believe we have to go back to the original Goal and start ASKING AND THINKING AND PRAISING THAT THEY ARE EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY POSSIBLE.

As other ministries begin to scale back or freeze their programs, the time has come for us to accept the reality that God set this program up and HE will expand it to match our faith and vision.

Isaiah 45:3 "And I will give thee the treasures of darkness"

Step TWO

"Forgiveness"

We came to believe the love of God, **who forgave us and accepted us** in spite of all that we are and have done.

All we really want as children is acceptance. I couldn't tell anyone the things I had done until I knew I had found someone who could relate. My counselor knew, I felt I was to blame, for the way the "man" had kept coming back. He knew also that, at first, the things that were done to me felt good. He

events

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Chicago—Exodus | July |
| El Salvador | Sept |
| HA Conference | Oct |
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| | |
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WE ARE GROWING

NEW CHAPTERS

- San Antonio, Texas
- Clinton, Mississippi
- Waco, Texas
- Mt Sterling, Kentucky
- Tampa, Florida



TEACHING IN EL SALVADOR

ICEBERGS

We moved! Within two weeks of meeting my new friend, my wife and I had packed up everything and moved to Pennsylvania. For the next several years we lived and worked in the area while I went through the process of learning about true growth. The basic principles of the Gospel began to come alive in my life and it seems like every day new changes began to manifest themselves.

One thing I had to understand early on, was, that God's timetable might not be the same as mine. There were many things in my life that needed to change, but I couldn't see them all at once. Each of us sees himself in the light of his own understanding. I believe it's similar to a child growing up. Each stage of development seems different than the stage before. Nothing has changed, but the understanding changes with time. It may be very much like an iceberg.

Icebergs are only water. They are in a form that the water cannot be used, but as the berg enters the warm water of the southern oceans it begins to melt. The water is released and becomes usable. Only about one tenth of the iceberg can be seen at one time but the rest of it seems to control the path it takes. The part of the iceberg that causes so much drag in a given direction is the huge part under the surface. The course is totally affected by the unseen and, until enough of the berg melts there is little that will affect it. God begins to "melt" us with his love and the course corrections in our lives become reality.

Gay people, like everyone else, have many different issues that are affected by the things that happened while they were developing. Many of these issues are very pronounced and need to be dealt with before, the freedom we so much desire, can come. The process may take a long time to complete but total restoration in Christ is assured. The changes in my own life began very quickly. Other people have been slower or faster in the changes they experienced, but they all had pronounced growth when they followed the program that was developed to help them.

I can look back and remember the day I "noticed" a women for the first time. A young women in "tight jeans" walked by, and I did a "double take". This was totally out of character for me and I was surprised at the reaction I was having. I soon remembered that I "may look but not touch" in the future. I was amazed as the new reactions kept coming. Each time they seemed to grow stronger and I began to believe that the promises I had been claiming were answered.

Another time I was having lunch with a friend when the busboy walked by. Out of a lifetime of habit my eye immediately followed his movement. A short time later a young lady went by and I had almost the same reaction. My friend noticed both reactions and started to chuckle. He said "It must be a real problem for me not to be able to get away from temptation. He said, he could escape by going into the restroom, but I was caught everywhere". He was right.

Over the years the desire to "look" or "notice" the men around me has almost totally vanished. The reaction to women is growing stronger. I praise God for the beauty He has created and my new ability to "see".

Several months passed and the changes were remarkable. My ability to see the other things that needed work in my life began to sharpen as well. Selfishness, anger, and lack of self-control in many other areas came to the surface. Each one needed to be faced in it's own time but the method of facing them was always the same. The growth in Christ that we go through continues for a lifetime.

Two questions that are often asked are, Can I really get over the problems and affects of homosexuality and how long will it take? The answer is "Yes" and. "we will continue to grow in Him for eternity".

"What if I Fail?" Here is the really hard part for most Christians. They have been trained from childhood that they "must not". Put your own word after the "must not" and you have the makings of a good guilt trip. The reason we all seem to have such a hatred of God is that we think He requires something that can't be done. Every time we read the "Ten Commandments" we get the "Don't" reaction. We start "listening to the clock tick" again. The law seems to be the very thing that makes us fail. It doesn't "make" us fail, but it brings a feeling of condemnation for the failure.

The beauty of what I discovered about the "Gospel" is that the "don't side of the law is overshadowed and fulfilled by the "Do" side of the "new" commandments. These new commandments aren't new at all. They were explained by Christ and the apostles very clearly.

So now I say to you. ³⁴*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.* ³⁵By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:34-35

⁵And now I beseech thee, lady, *not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.* ⁶*And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.* 2 John 1:5- 6

Failure is now a problem that has an answer. God loved us and did everything to reclaim us. We can do no less, in love, than to reclaim anyone who is coming to us. "Seventy times seven" is the standard. With failure comes the ability to have more insight into how God wants us to be. Thank God for your trials and failures. "All things work together for good." As long as there is a God who loves us, we don't have to punish ourselves over failure. We only have to "believe and praise God for the reality of total reclamation!

"operation treasure"

"OPERATION TREASURE"

New outreach material is now available.

"Treasure" is a single DVD playable on most computers and contains a reference source for Pastors, Teachers, Youth Leaders and Parents that includes four hours of lectures and many articles in written form covering all aspects of SSA.

We designed this DVD to be a reference source that will be easily accessible to anyone needing to address these issues.

THE TITLES INCLUDE:

Dear Pastor I'm Gay
Dear Church I'm Gay
Dear Mom I'm gay
I'm gay what do I do now?

We feel that every Pastor, Teacher, Church, Christian school and family struggling with the issues of SSA in the United States needs this resource material immediately.

WE ARE MAKING THIS DVD AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE TO ANYONE who requests it.

Please send us a list of places to send "Treasure" and we will deliver them immediately.

I am sure you realize there is a cost involved in this project, however we feel the Lord will provide funds from those who have a heart for this type of outreach. Some matching funds have already been provided and we feel that as others are moved to contribute to this specific project we will be able to spread the DVD's to the entire country.

HA Conference

*"Save this date !!!
It will change your life*

- Houston, TX
- Friday Evening & All Day Saturday.

(For information about two of our featured speakers. SEE PAGE 6)

October 2-3 2009

- Practical, time tested methods to help you find peace in dealing with SSA.
- Real answers to the questions

- Strugglers
- Families
- Friends
- Clergy
- Counselors

Information is being finalized for rooms, meals and will be available in the next news letter.

God Blesses in el Salvador

.The goal of starting a new HA chapter in the church in El Salvador was stated as the primary reason for this trip.

I feel that this has been accomplished and much more beyond that goal has been given to the church. I believe our vision may have been too small but God has stepped in and expanded the outreach beyond our greatest dreams.

A group of six that desire to be free

has begun.

A second group is already working with the transvestite population.

A third group was discovered a few blocks from the church and is now included in our efforts.

Over thirty of the students from the Christian school expressed desire to have counseling.

An unexpected radio broadcast grew into a five hour broadcast of

radio and streaming video to the entire country.

A large number of men and women pledged to act as mentors for those that desire to find freedom from SSA.

Many parents and friends of the people affected by SSA have shown an interest in a parents group to help them deal with this situation. Many of the pastors and staff have openly stated that their ideas on SSA have changed completely and a new outreach of love is beginning. Praise god!!!!!!.

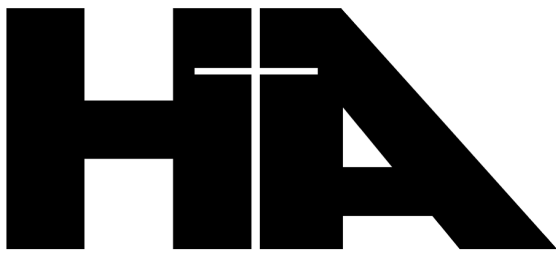
HOMOSEXUALS ANONYMOUS
FELLOWSHIP SERVICES

16506 FM 529 RD
suite 115 - Box 113
Houston, TX 77095

Phone: 281 712-2676
Fax: 713-983-0444
E-mail: dougmhafs@ATT.net

**“ A Christian fellowship of men and women who
have chosen to help each other live free from same
sex attraction.”**

Check out our new website
Ha-fs.org



STEP TWO continued

knew I felt guilty for enjoying them. He knew of the hatred that came after the pain of the later experiences. He knew I hated God for allowing them to happen. He knew these things because he could relate from his own experience. I also began to see that Jesus could relate (He was in all points tempted like as we are.) He could accept me because He felt my every pain and tear. He could give the hugs and touches I needed.

It was only after I began to realize that God was leading me, and “accepting me as I

was”, that I could begin to feel any love for him. He knew I had given much more pain to others through acting out my homosexual feelings, and he forgave me. As I began to experience the forgiveness that He offered me, I felt like I could start to trust Him. The trust that leads to love comes after we see the demonstrations of forgiveness and acceptance. It is the divine plan. “We love him because he first loved us.” “ He that is forgiven much loves much.” It does not matter what we have done in the past, once we find, in our rela-

tionship with God, the fatherly love and acceptance that every man seeks. We begin to want to let God wrap his love around us. Once we get past the “lie” “that God hates us”, we begin to grow past the arrested development that keeps us slaves to our false identity as a “homosexual”.

Letters

I want to tell you that God really makes a miracle in me, God really use to you to tell me that the confession brings freedom! and Jesus give me that kind of freedom that just Him can give us! now I feel without limits in my dreams, objectives, etc... I feel that the little rock in my shoe disappears! its amazing!, its amazing the love and mercy of our God. Thanks to God ! Anonymous El Salvador

FIRST FRUIT A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM USED WITH PERMISSION



Our purpose— give young people like these an opportunity to realize the love of God and the power of His forgiveness.

*ARTHUR GOLDBERG
FEATURED SPEAKER AT HAFS CONFERENCE*

Arthur Goldberg, co-founder and co-director of JONAH and author of *Light in the Closet, Torah, Homosexuality, and the Power to Change*, also serves as the secretary treasurer of NARTH (National Association for the Research and Therapy of Homosexuality - the principal scientific and clinical organization specializing in same-sex attraction issues), and President of PATH (Positive Alternatives to Homosexuality- the international coalition of secular and faith based organizations ministering to those dealing with homosexuality). He serves either as a Board member or a Scientific Advisory Board member of several other organizations involved with issues of sexual confusion. Although Arthur's is principally concerned with assisting those with unwanted same-sex attractions, his expertise involves any area of sexual confusion and lack of sexual discipline.

*RICHARD COHN, MA
FEATURED SPEAKER AT HAFS CONFERENCE*

Richard Cohen is the director of the International Healing Foundation (IHF), a non-profit organization he founded in 1990, and is a leading expert in the field of sexual reorientation therapy. For twenty years he has helped hundreds of men and women find freedom from unwanted same-sex attraction and fulfill their heterosexual potential. He is the author of *Coming Out Straight and Gay Children, Straight Parents*. Cohen travels throughout the world making presentations, training clergy and therapists, and conducting healing seminars. He lives in Bowie, Maryland with his wife and youngest son. His two adult children are making their mark in the world.