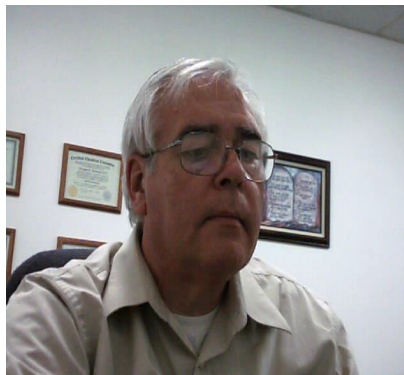


# treasures

MAY 2009

## What's in a name?

"Treasures" . It has been over thirty years since I met with the first little group of strugglers in a conference room in Reading, PA and formed what has become the HA program. It was a time of rejoicing for some of us because we could finally express the inner thoughts we had been hiding without fear that anyone would condemn us or make us feel so guilty and depressed that we wanted to just end it all. We could feel the hope that comes from knowing that others knew our pain and that they had gained a victory over the fears and obsessions we lived with. We were being set free!



Today as we begin a new chapter in the HA story I feel that it is good to look back at the original concept of that little group. It is best expressed, I feel , by the text in Isaiah 58: 6: "is this not the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

As I look around today and see that "everything that is evil is being called good and everything that is good is being called evil" , I wonder if our mission has become impossible. Those at the first meeting would shout "NO". We have been given a greater opportunity to show Gods' power in the lives of his "treasures". We have been given a greater task. We must reach down and educate even the youngest of our children who are under attack by the lies taught even in kindergarten. We must give hope to those parents that feel their children are lost to them forever. We must give the churches a new vision of the grace of God for his lost and hidden "Treasures"

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

## Step one

1. We admitted that we were **powerless** over our homosexuality and that our emotional lives were unmanageable.

*The first step to change is admitting that we have no power.* I believed that I could not have changed my desire to be attracted to the same sex any more than you can change the reaction from looking at whatever person attracts you. I believed that the desire to change might be there, bur the ability was not. When I begin to admit that "I" do not have the power, two things began to happen. **One**, I had to begin to accept the fact that "I am not in control". Our whole life is an effort to maintain control of everything around us. Even the fact that we think we are homosexual is a subconscious effort on our part to control. We try to control the pain we feel as the things of life become clear to our consciousness. (continued page 4)

### events

New England	May
Washington, DC	May
El Salvador	May
Chicago—Exodus	July
HA Conference	Oct

## WE ARE GROWING

### NEW CHAPTERS

San Antonio, Texas  
Clinton, Mississippi  
Waco, Texas

## The challenge

"Are you homosexual?" The Pastor asked this question with a tone in his voice that told me to be very careful with the answer. The "emergency" board meeting had been called to settle the question once and for all. I had not been told the purpose of the meeting and was totally unprepared for the exchanges that followed. The group believed in a portion of scripture that stated, "touch not the unclean thing," 2 Corinthians 6:17. I, apparently, was unclean in their eyes. They were preparing to make sure that I was not allowed to infect their church with the sin of homosexuality. My answer, "I have those feelings but do not act them out," did not seem to solve the problem.

How do we as a church take the chance that someone will "infect" the children of the church? You try to understand that homosexuality "is not infectious!" You can't catch it and you can't learn it by sitting next to someone in a church pew any more than you can become a liar, by singing in the choir with one. We must learn the truth about the problem and realize that, acceptance of people struggling with any sin and support in the love of Christ, is the only way that we can serve God's purpose.

I realize that some may feel that this approach of love and acceptance is over simplification and that real steps need to be taken to safeguard our children. That may be true but as the old saying states, "Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater!" God will show us how to accept and love without causing pain.

While a babe in the faith is learning, we need to understand that there may, and probably will, be failure. We don't unlearn the patterns of a lifetime in a day. People make mistakes. Babies need Diapers! When those babies need a diaper change we don't throw the baby in the hamper. You clean him up and love him until one day he surprises you by telling you he doesn't need the diaper any more. How long this takes depends on the child but eventually the desired behavior is achieved and guess what? He is still living in your home. He is loved and cherished with every new phase of growth. While the growth in the area of sexual dysfunction is progressing we can, with a few simple safeguards, love those that the Lord brings to us.

It's often felt that it is better to remove the possibility of a problem than to give the love needed to save a child of God. It's the acceptance of the person, not acceptance of the action that is really needed.

The vote was taken and it was years before I darkened the door of that church again.

The "Hospital for sinners" that is the church "must not and cannot" fail its' mission to reach out to all people. It cannot just refuse to help and work with those that have certain problems.

When we moved to Pennsylvania I went to a local church that was recommended by my councilor. I told the pastor my story and to my great surprise He just stood up and gave me a big hug! He told me that this was a place where I could feel at home and he would love to see me active in the congregation. I had the advantage of being quite normal in outward actions so no one in the church was afraid of me.

I do wonder if we are able to accept those that are more open in their dress or mannerisms as easily as I was accepted. What do you do when the "man in the dress" wants to come and worship and praise God for the new acceptance he has found?

I have come to believe that it is a special blessing on a church that is given by God, to be able to unconditionally love and accept. for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart, 1 Samuel 16:7.

How often do we as churches drive off the very ones that God brings to us, by an attitude of condemnation? Perhaps we need to allow freedom among those that we find. They will change in the proper time, as they are led, to become complete in Christ.

I remember when we were working with a young lady the Lord had brought to us. She had a habit that we as a church didn't really approve. It took a great deal of restraint to never mention the habit to her. One day she came in and said "you don't ---- do you? I just decided I won't ---- either." We had never pointed out the habit to this baby in Christ but she grew to understand that there was a standard and she automatically began to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

When you walk with the Lord He will impress you what to do and the change will come naturally. The specific changes needed for any person will always come to "him" under the learning experience of God. We don't have to do anything other than to live "the life of example". The people around us will notice and the changes will occur without condemnation from us.

Jesus never, in His entire ministry, condemned anyone except the hypocrites who thought they were the undisputed keepers of the law. He never said or did anything to wound a soul that came to Him. He did, however, love everyone as if they were His brother, and treated everyone as He wished to be treated. He was "The new commandment" in action.

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."<sup>40</sup>On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:39

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

## "operation treasure"

### "OPERATION TREASURE"

New outreach material will be available from the HAFS office beginning the week of March 5, 2009.

"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 YOU WANT US TO SEND IT TO.**

Please send us a list of places to send "Treasure" and we will get it out to 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 October 2-3 2009

### *"STRAIGHT TALK"*

*"An educational conference for anyone dealing with the realities of same sex attraction"*

*Is being planned for the first weekend in October. The conference will be presented by some of the best minds in the fields of recovery from SSA.*

*Presenters include:*

*Arthur Goldberg  
Richard Cohen  
Greg Quinlan*

*Several other prominent speakers will be invited.*

*This should be one of the best conferences ever held that deals with the subjects from a "Straight Talk" perspective*

*Several workshops for those needing help with specific areas of dealing with SSA including:*

*Families  
Pastors  
Churches  
Counselors  
Strugglers  
Aids  
Abuse*

*We will keep you informed as to cost, accommodations  
And transportation.*

**Keep this weekend open on your calendar and we will see you there!!**

## New work in el Salvador

A request has come for Doug M. to travel to San Salvador on the 18th of May.

We will be establishing a new group for strugglers, families and mentors at a three thousand member Assembly of God congregation. This will be first work of this kind in the area. The pastor and members of this church have a very strong burden for the young people

that are struggling with SSA and have committed to do whatever is necessary to save their precious youth.

Time has been allotted for individual counseling, group sessions and mentorship training.

This is a God given opportunity for the men and women of the church to step up and become the leaders and mentors of young people struggling to be

free, as God intended.

We feel that this will be the first of many opportunities for the HA program to advance around the world.

Please remember us in your prayers as we work with our dedicated brothers and sisters in San Salvador for the entire week.

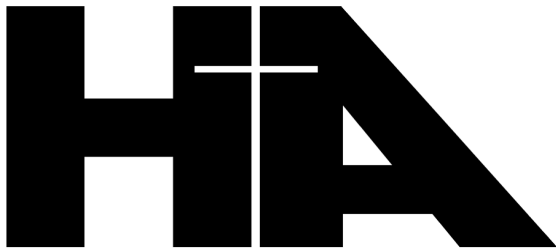
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**“ A Christian fellowship of men and women who have chosen to help each other live free from same sex attraction.”**

Check out our new website  
[Ha-fs.org](http://Ha-fs.org)



## STEP ONE continued

We form our sexual identity on the model of those around us and if the model is improper, we try to subconsciously control what we become. If mother is dominant, we pattern in that direction. If the male role model is lacking or extremely weak we pattern in the wrong direction. If traumatic events, such as molestation, become part of the experience then the mind makes the adjustments and we block the pain.

In making these adjustments our mind may not, and usually does not, perceive the truth of the outside situation. It may make our gender identification on misinformation. Our mind may simply believe a lie and misinterpret the facts.

There are many theories for the cause of homosexuality. Each is based on studies of patterns that show up in large numbers of people that have the manifestation, but they all

seem to relate to a basic fact. The mind of anyone with these desires seems to be set very early. The patterns may not manifest until later in life but they are there. The course is set within the first few years of life.

There are those, who after choosing a certain lifestyle, seem to develop the feelings. Those feelings become “fixed” with enough reinforcement, but the underlying factors are still evident. Our mind has developed a certain sexual reaction to outside stimulus. We feel perfectly normal. We have no control over those reactions.

**Second**, our emotional lives become totally unmanageable. When we discover that we are “abnormal” the process of living the double life begins. Anger, hatred against God or any authority figure, selfishness, and a total breakdown of our ability to cope with depression cause us to block the

healthy emotions that would normally be part of our being. As these emotions break down, the loss of control becomes obsession. We are not able to keep ourselves from acting out. The more we try to control, the more we lose control. We seem to become everything we hate.

It is at this point, the point of realization that we are powerless, that we can begin to experience the process of change. This point of “hitting bottom” is the place we must reach before our mind will relinquish the control that keeps us locked in our sexual prison. When we just “give up” we can begin to reach out for the help we need to reverse the affects of the lies we have believed.

***Homosexuals Anonymous will attempt to reach out to all who come to us using these principles.***

***A place to meet has been established. ‘Step’ group meeting and educational classes are provided for those caught in addictive behaviors.***

***Hot lines for crisis intervention will be established or linked with the group and a resource center has been set up to find help for any problem that is presented.***

***Counseling services and seminar presentations covering as many aspects of growth as possible are available by referral.***

***No one expressing a desire to find growth and healing from same sex attraction will be excluded.***

***The acceptance found only in the family of God is shared and the presence of the Holy Spirit will touch all who are willing.***

