



*Ministering Hope, Healing and Wholeness  
to the Relationally & Sexually Wounded  
Through the Power of the Cross!*

**We must deny ourselves.....**

I referenced this scripture back in February 2007, 2 Tim 4:3-4 3 *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths”* well I see it more and more everyday. Where is the truth, where is obedience, when did it become all about us, are desires, wants and needs?

We live in the “ME” world today. What ever “I” feel, I want or I need to make “me” happy I should be able to have. There is this entitlement spirit that seems to be invading all of society including many of us who are followers of Christ. What will it take for change to occur in our world? What can we do as individuals to live a righteous life in Christ? How can we overcome this “me” spirit we seem to be bombarded with

on a daily basis. Who will get us through the troubles of our current situations?

Well, it’s not us and it’s not our president. The only hope we have is found in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is in seeking Him, His Truths, His Promises and His Commands that we will survive or overcome all of the difficulties in our lives.

We must deny ourselves, reading in Matthew 16:24 and Mark8:34 from Jesus himself *“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me”* This is where is each of us must begin every day, in surrender to Christ and a daily commitment to pursue His ways. Alan Chambers says it like this “we must get up every day and deny what comes naturally to us, what comes naturally to all of us is the sinful nature of our fallen flesh.” We continually renew

our minds by the reading of the Word, spending time in worship, prayer and most importantly spending quite time in Gods presence allowing Him to speak to us as one of His precious sons or daughters. We also need one another to encourage each other in our relationship with the Lord. Prov. 27:17 *“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another, Eccl 4:9 “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10 If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!”*

I have shared this question with many and you have probably heard me say it before, but I think it is worth repeating. “Who knows you well enough, has been given permission and is willing to speak the truth in your life?” Without these kinds of relationships in our lives we are setting ourselves up for failure. It is simply living life in a community that is safe, vulnerable, and healthy and desires to be the image bearers of Jesus Christ.

**Financial News**

Operating Budget	Ministry Needs!
January 01, 2009 thru December 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer Partners</li> <li>• Financial Partners</li> <li>• Speaking Opportunities</li> </ul>
\$92,482.50	<p><i>Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.</i></p>
Monthly Need \$7,707	
Current Income to date \$ 19,814.79	
Thank you for your continued financial support.	



**“TAKING BACK GROUND”**

**New group for men and women beginning in March**

“This is the sort of tool I wish I’d been given when my own journey began.”  
-Joe Dallas, author of *Desires in Conflict*

“Anyone experiencing the struggle...will find solid comfort and direction...”  
-Jan Frank, M.A. MFT, speaker and author of *Door of Hope*

**A Young Man's Journey**

Growing up, I found myself attracted to other guys my age. My first thoughts when facing this and growing up as a youth were, "This is just me." I didn't question my sexual attractions because I knew I couldn't simply change them. I was just...gay. Whenever there were people who challenged my sexual attractions, I became defensive. My thought pattern was, "If you could not accept that this is who I am, you aren't accepting of all of me."

I became an angry teenager as soon as my parents confronted me and asked me if I was gay. The moment that I chose to stand up for who I believed I was became the turning point for my parents and me. My parents did what they thought best at the time and began exploring avenues to help me. Seeing several counselors and psychologists, (not of my own personal choice) spoke to me that there was something wrong with me. I simply wanted my own parents to accept me. I wanted to feel safe in the one aspect of my life that should rightfully be deemed safe.

Finally, when my mother came in contact with Bob Ragan, she set up an appointment for me to speak with him. Unfortunately, I had already been closed off to listening to anyone who wanted to "change me." Bob Ragan ran a Christian ministry that aided in loving and educating those who struggled with same-sex attractions or those affected by a friend/family member who struggled. As soon as I stepped into his office, I immediately gave him the cold shoulder and wanted nothing to do with what he offered. I didn't want to listen about how he wanted to help or change me. This occurred before my parents and I came to know the Lord. Bob recommended a church near our home and my parents called the pastor of this small Anglican Church. They welcomed our family with loving embraces. I remember the moment we walked into this church. I wanted nothing more than to simply bail and head back to my usual Catholic church. Everyone in this church looked so joyful and when it came time to sing, they lifted their hands and sang with

enthusiasm. For a teenager who hated life and everyone who stood in his way, this just didn't sit well with me. I felt I couldn't trust anyone. I felt that anyone who was placed in my life through my parents had the sole intent on "fixing me."

That was when I met my youth pastor. I found something in him that attracted me to him, not sexually, but something deeper. I found that I could trust this individual and that he did not have an agenda to "work on" or "fix" me. He simply loved me and demonstrated it with his heart and actions. Soon, after attending the church for a short period, my parents came to an understanding of an intimate relationship with God. Shortly after that, I understood the same concept as well. I found that in following God, I experienced an affection and caring that no other person or thing could provide. I stumbled upon this "God-high", if you will; but in truth, God had been pursuing my life and my family from the beginning.

Soon, in my new life with God, I came to a crossroad. Homosexuality was an apparent sin in the life of a Christian. Every comment, every scripture verse, every book that dealt with this issue still inflamed a deep anger within me. It was as if I could, from time to time, feel the rejection of who I was as a person. This jabbed deep within my soul. I couldn't seem to understand why homosexuality was a sin when I found myself loving God with my heart and couldn't help whom I had attractions for. If God wouldn't accept homosexuality, then He wouldn't accept me.

This didn't make sense to me because I did believe that God loved me and wanted me to be close to His heart. Looking

back on this, I really see how God had so much patience with me. God understood where I was coming from but He still had different desires for my life. I think once I started to understand that my identity didn't reside in my sexual attractions, but resided in who I was as a person and where I belonged in this universe, I began to shift my perspective. I started to realize that my identity resided in God, meaning that I was His and was under the love, grace, mercy, protection, and provision of the One who loved me more than I could ever know. Because of the unceasing affection that God has shown for my life, I know that He desires to cultivate my life to be more than just homosexual desires but a life lived in fulfillment of who He created me to be.

**Recent Events**

- Faith Assembly High School Ministry  
400 students February 4
- Faith Assembly College Ministry  
200 young Adults February 15
- Faith Christian Academy  
6th - 12 Grades February 20

**Upcoming Events**

- Tim Wilkins April 6, 7:15pm  
Director of Cross Ministry  
Wake Forest, NC

**Homosexuality**

First Baptist Orlando, E2 Building,  
3rd Floor in room 335

*Please pray with me for our facilitators, who give themselves unselfishly to this work. We greatly appreciate their dedicated service and without them this ministry would not be possible!*

- Bob Bryce
- Eric Didia
- Scott Moffet
- Tracy Moffet
- Cherrie Rowe
- Nancy Sandroni
- Scott Shattuck
- Matthew Walker



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Member Ministry

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