

first
stone

newsletter

"Let him who is without sin cast the First Stone" And Jesus also said, "Go and sin no more." – John 8

MINISTRIES



Stephen Black,
Executive
Director

Weapons of Spiritual Warfare

PREFACE

The following article is a compilation of scripture and the weapons to be used in spiritual warfare. Christians are given an arsenal of spiritual weapons, and many do not use them or are unaware of their power and effectiveness. I encourage you to please read over this list and put into practice these weapons in the coming months. Our country and our churches are under attack like never before with various forms of demonic spiritual warfare and several different kinds of manipulations and theological distortions around human sexuality. There is a growing movement to accept the concept of "sexual minorities" as a viable subset of so-called LGBTQ+ Christians in most of the mainline denominations. This movement is being pushed by Ph.D.s and educators in American

seminaries and Ph.D. coalition groups. There is a cult-like mentality bringing erosion to the Biblical mandate of "Made In The Image of God"—that is, to accept the American Psychological Association's narrative—introducing "orientation" as

the new 'gospel' of human sexuality and desire. There has been an attack on Biblical grace that has the power to transform the soul. They are exchanging it for a watered-down, hyper-grace, false-mercy version which accepts unnatural affections and lusts as normative. The root of this erosion is fear (at many levels), but fear of man is primarily rooted in the desire to please man, please family members, and to please big givers. A man-pleasing spirit is an idolatrous spirit. Please pray with us to pull down these strongholds as we continue in spiritual warfare and in promoting

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bold truth, bold courage, and bold compassion through offerings and resources like those found at the First Stone website. We continue to promote Freedom Realized Live and my book, also called Freedom Realized. We have a new offering of hope with the new movie, "In His Image – Delighting in God's Plan for Gender and Sexuality." The DVDs will be available soon along with a power-packed bonus DVD filled with equipping truth.

Please pray with the First Stone Ministries' staff and the American Family Association (American Family Studios) as we continue to promote movie screenings and the DVD. We at First Stone Ministries are also launching a new support group program called, "Living Free – Aligning Our Souls, Our Relationships and Sexuality According to God's Divine Intent." Please continue to pray for us as we gain clarity of vision for 2020 as a ministry of sexual redemption in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The following weapons should be used weekly, if not daily, in prayer and worship.

WEAPONS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"Resist The Devil And He Will Flee From You" (James 4:7)

"For the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God" (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

Use the Weapons of this Spiritual War through God's Power In You!

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, (do not ignore him) steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." (1 Peter 5:8-9)

The Word of God. Use the Scriptures, just like our Lord Jesus Christ did, to overcome temptation in the wilderness. Jesus overcame the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life (Matthew 4:1-11, 1 John 2:15-17). Know the Scriptures and hide the Word of God in your heart to be ready for Satan's attacks. Read Psa. 119 to grow in love with God's Word.

Revelation 12:11

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

- **The Blood of Jesus.** Acknowledge the Blood of Jesus and His absolute atoning sacrifice in cleansing you from all sin. Jesus' Blood destroyed the work and kingdom of Satan. Jesus' Blood now gives you overcoming power to resist sin and causes the devil to flee from you. (1 Cor. 15:57 *"Thanks be to God, who gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ."*) Rev. 7:14.

- **The Weapon of The Testimony.** (Psa. 19:7) Using your testimony of how God's grace works in your own life gives you a clear conscience and empowers your own faith in Christ. Use your own testimony of how God has forgiven you and cleansed you from all sin. He will empower you more, and this will cause you to be evangelistic. This will cause others to come to Christ which will bring defeat to Satan and his kingdom of darkness. *"The testimony of the Lord makes wise the simple."*
- **Loving Not Carnality or Your Life, Even Unto Death.** Your life is but a vapor (James 4:14). Put the value of your life into God's hands, and don't put all your value in a temporary existence, but put all your value and faith in the eternal position of living with Christ forever. Comfort yourself with God's faithfulness to complete this work in you. *Philippians 1:6 "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ"*

Prayer Is a Mighty Weapon. Prayer is our invitation to access the very presence of God, to go to His presence to find freedom, His Kingdom, His Life flow, and deliverance from sin and temptation. God will even tell us secrets in the quiet place. He desires for us to draw near to Him in prayer/conversation to have intimacy with Him. We take our needs to our heavenly Father, who is a GREAT Father, who is VERY FAITHFUL to meet all our needs. James 4:8 *"Draw near to God and HE WILL draw near to you"* (See Hebrews 4:14-16). Christ Jesus is a faithful high priest who sympathizes with all our weaknesses. He has given us a model prayer in which we are to war with, Matthew 6: 9-13 *"In this manner"* - (this is the way) therefore, pray:

The Lord's Prayer

(Spending time to meditate on each of the following phrases, you will have no difficulty praying for an hour.)

- **Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.** (Think of all His Names and Worship HIM).
- **Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** (Praying God's Word & HIS Will: Make a Scripture promise list and pray the promises. Praying for others first before praying for yourself).
- **Give us this day our daily bread.** (Asking SPECIFICALLY for your needs and desires).
- **And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.** (Be an ambassador of reconciliation; we must forgive to have our prayers answered). Spend time forgiving every offender of your life.
- **And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.** (Praying for deliverance out of all temptation and every evil circumstance; we are giving all our troubles to the Father in heaven). (1 Peter 5:7)

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The War on Gender



Laura Beth Perry,
Women's
Minister
Intern

Earlier this year, The American Journal of Psychiatry quietly retracted their previous conclusion that gender-transition surgeries were determined to be a helpful course of treatment. "The Bränström study reanalysis demonstrated that neither 'gender-affirming hormone treatment' nor 'gender-affirming surgery' reduced the need of transgender-identifying people for mental health services."¹ While this got little to no media attention, this was actually a profound retraction. The media, and sadly much of the medical field, is shoving the transgender ideology down our children's throats. The legislatures in many states are now even enacting laws that prevent anyone, including medical and mental health professionals, from offering any care to a gender dysphoric patient other than affirming social and medical transition. In fact, I have heard many stories of those who were rushed through the process of transition without any counseling or mental health assessment.

One such case is that of James Shupe, the first legally declared non-binary person. He had a known extensive mental health background after suffering years of abuse as a child and then having served in the U.S. military for seventeen years. His records showed a long history of mental health medication as well as psychotic breaks. No prior delusions had ever been played into by the doctors as if real, but rather treated as a mental problem. However, the day he announced to his doctor that he believed he was a woman, he was immediately prescribed hormones and began the treatments that day. After a couple of years of trying to make it real, he realized tragically that he was not a woman. Still not able to face his true identity, he declared himself non-binary, meaning he was not male or female. The LGBTQ community celebrated this decision, and he was ushered through the legal process on a royal red carpet with the best of the LGBTQ attorneys. A judge granted his request and declared his legal sex as non-binary.

This is what Shupe has now said about his case: "Although my landmark court case was built on lies, deceit, and pseudoscience, I didn't care. It didn't matter to me that the sex change petition fictitiously claimed my sex was non-binary and got two doctors to say so. It didn't matter to me that before the brief hearing, which lasted mere minutes, my lawyer had confided that the case was essentially fixed, that the judge had a transgender child and had recently granted a sex change for a 12-year-

old. None of that mattered, because winning meant getting sweet revenge against those who I'd come to believe were harming me and stopping me from engaging in my addiction—the feminists, and conservative Christians."² Because of this landmark case, many states have created or amended laws to allow a legal third sex or "other" or "x" or similar. Shupe is now a born-again Christian and activist against transgender legislation.

Transgender treatments are based on pseudoscience and fueled by political ideology and money rather than sound medical science or genuine scientific study. Not only is the standard "transition" care from one sex to another a complete biological fallacy³, but it has been proven both in studies and



in personal testimonies that it does not resolve the issues that led to the transgender belief in the first place.

In fact, Harry Benjamin, who wrote the WPATH standards of care for gender dysphoric individuals warned those who would follow these standards that transition would not change their biological sex. He said, "find peace and clarity before you decide on something that cannot be undone... You should remind yourself once more that when you awake from the anesthesia, you are not a woman by any means."⁴ This is backed up by mounting numbers of testimonies of those who have been through so-called "gender-affirming" surgeries including those chronicled in a book by Walt Heyer called "Trans Life Survivors". The media is telling our children that transition will make men into women and vice versa, but the tragic reality is that it is only a paper-thin façade.

Dr. Paul McHugh, who helped author one of seven letters sent to the American Journal of Psychiatry in response to the original study which asserted

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that gender-affirming surgeries were helping the mental health of their patients, was the chief psychiatrist at John's Hopkins in the early years of the practice of these surgeries. In 1979 he ordered the program to be shut down after seeing that the surgeries were not helping the mental health of his patients. It was only reinstated later due to pressure from transgender activists. In fact, Sy Rogers, memorialized in this newsletter on page 10, was scheduled to have his "sex-reassignment surgery" that week had Dr. McHugh not shut down the program. Thanks to McHugh's efforts, Sy was able to later have a wife and a daughter and to live peacefully as the man he was.

On August 10, 2020, I had the privilege to fly to Sacramento, California and testify in front of the California Senate Health Committee in opposition to AB 2218 on behalf of the California Family Council. According to Greg Burt of the California Family Council, "The text of AB 2218 says, 'The grants shall be available to a hospital, health care clinic, or other medical providers that currently provide gender-affirming health care services, such as hormone therapy or gender reassignment surgery.' With a little research into the gender clinics [that] the bill funds, Santiago and the complaining Senators would have easily discovered that children, who identify as transgender are first given drugs to prevent puberty from occurring.



Next, they are given cross-sex hormone therapy, so their bodies start to imitate the look of the opposite sex. Both these drugs used together sterilizes [sic] most kids. After these trans-drugs are given, surgeries are available: girls can get double mastectomies at 13 in California, and both sexes can receive full sex-change operations at 18, all 'treatments' funded by AB 2218 grants."⁵

Due to transgender activists pushing for the bill to be heard, the Senate Committee scheduled the hearing with only a few days' notice. Thankfully, my schedule allowed for the last-minute flight, and the Lord gave me the privilege of being a witness for how the transgender life is not real and will not bring true happiness or peace, but Jesus Christ does. Dr. Quentin Van Meter, a board-certified pediatric endocrinologist, also testified against AB 2218 citing studies that prove the consequences of ensuing physical and mental health issues for children

who are given these hormones and warned that they were setting the state up for future lawsuits.

I expected heavy support for the bill and was not surprised when there was a smattering of calls for their side. But with jaw agape as I heard call after call after call roll in for our side, I was stunned as I felt the Lord fighting for us and for His children. These calls went on for over forty minutes when the chairman finally announced he was recognizing the number remaining on the line and that they were opposed to the bill. While they are only technically allowed to say that they oppose or support AB 2218, many of the callers said: "I oppose this bill that will sterilize children." The senators were at least warned over and over.

However, when the Senators began to speak it was painful to keep my mouth shut as my turn was over, and I heard the enemy begin to utter his lies. In dramatic fashion, Senator Susan Rubio (D-West Covina) stated, "I got hundreds and hundreds of calls asking me not to support something that sterilizes children... So, after those calls, I decided to read the bill very, very carefully and I didn't find anything about sterilizing children." I was indignant. Of course the bill wouldn't actually spell that out! I cried angrily to myself. I was outraged. But I was even more outraged as Senator after

Senator parroted the same narrative, chalking up our callers to being misinformed and being victims of fearmongering. I was deflated as the bill passed 7-1.

Yet, as I reflected on it later, the Lord brought great blessing out of it. At the very least, He gave me and others the privilege of warning them. I was reminded of what God told Jeremiah, "Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee." (Jeremiah 7:27). We are to speak the truth even when we know they will reject it. Secondly, this bill and other similar bills are beginning to wake up a sleeping church. The wolf has been exposed and I pray that the Lord will reveal to us His battle plan that we may fight. And most of all, prior to the hearing, the Lord gave me an incredible opportunity to share the gospel and the freedom I have found in Jesus Christ with a man living as transgender. He was testifying in support of the bill. He is the mobilization coordinator

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Praying for the hedge of protection - see Hosea 2:6 .
The prophet prayed a hedge of protection.

- **For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.** Again closing in worshipping God and thanking Him for answers to your prayers!
- **Amen. SO LET IT BE DONE!**

The Name of Jesus. Mark 16:17 *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons . . ."* (Luke 10:20) (Matthew 18:20 using Christ's name, HE WILL BE PRESENT WITH YOU!)

John 14:13-14 *"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."*

Living by Faith. Hebrews 11:6 Those who **please God, (bring joy to His Heart)** live by faith.

1 John 5:4 this is our deliverance, our victory that overcomes the world, our FAITH. Our faith is upon the Word of God and HIS PROMISES to us. Romans 10:17 *"faith comes by hearing and the hearing (of faith) by the Word of God."* ". . . Fear Not, Only Believe. . . ." Luke 8:50 *"Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."* Luke 12:7. Faith/Hope in God is the opposite of the root of all sin which is unbelief. The Shield of Faith is the weapon by which you take every thought captive and extinguish the fiery darts of Satan's lies in your mind. The Anchor of Our Soul is HOPE! Hope in God, HE is the one who centers our life in His powerful grace!

Praise and Worship Is a MIGHTY Weapon!

"Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand, To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples." Proclaim! Exalt! Adore! Magnify! "Praise the Lord" = MANY expressions of "Praise the Lord" in the Hebrew Words please study each 'praise the Lord' in Psalms and put to practice in your own life. You will find this is an amazing weapon! Psa. 149:6.

Fellowship of The Saints = Confession And Humility = Accountability.

James 5:16 *"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed (set free). The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."* *"For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."* Isaiah 57:15

Fellowship gives a natural way to be edified and built up in the body of Christ. We need encouragement! We must be freed to fight the enemy! We must be able to receive strength from one another. (See 1 Cor. 12:12-26).

Covenant Authority, and Who You Are In Christ!

We must study what God says about us. We must know what God has given us in Christ Jesus as: His Children, His Church Bride, His Friends, and His Warriors. We must know our positional truth and protect ourselves for the devil's scheme of shame and condemnation.

Submission to Authority = Protection | Submission = Trust.

If you will trust God to use authority in your life, especially spiritual authority and parental authority your life will be protected and blessed. Pray for those in authority over you so you can live a peaceful life. God will even make your enemies to be at peace with you. Honor Your Mother and Father that it may go WELL WITH YOU! Make sure you have done all within your ability to make peace with your parents. (Suggested Reading: "The Tribute and the Promise" by Dennis Rainey). Ex. 20:12, Rom. 13:1-6, Eph. 6:1-3.

USE The Armor of God Daily! - Eph. 6:14-18

- **Eph. 6: 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth,**

GIRD YOUR WAIST WITH TRUTH. Memorize Scriptures. The Scriptures are now part of your daily living. The Word of God is part of your thinking.

- **having put on the breastplate of righteousness.**

RECEIVE RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH IN CHRIST. SELF-ACCEPTANCE = POSITIONAL TRUTH OF WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST! Your spiritual vitality is protected by wearing this breastplate. Tell yourself the truth of WHO you are indeed!

- **15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

READY TO GIVE GOOD NEWS WHEREVER YOU ARE.

- Testify of God's GOOD NEWS to those around you. You share your testimony! You share the truth of forgiveness!

- **16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**

BY FAITH TAKING ALL YOUR THOUGHTS CAPTIVE.

(2 Cor. 10:3-5)

- **17 And take the helmet of salvation,**

THE MIND OF CHRIST, THE HELMET OF SALVATION YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER WITH JESUS, NO MORE FEAR OF DEATH! YOU ARE SAVED! You now walk in the victory of Jesus Christ knowing you are alive from the death of sin, you now take all your thoughts captive to Christ's holy ways and to His holy word! The battle ground

is in the MIND, however, the battle belongs to the Lord. Invite Christ into your thoughts.

- *and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

USE THE WORD OF GOD LIKE THE SON OF GOD! IT IS A SWORD TO FIGHT WITH IN BATTLE OVER TEMPTATION. Remember Jesus' battle in the wilderness, He was in pain fasting for forty days and He overcame the devil giving us an example to live by.

- *18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*

PRAYER. Knowing how to PRAY. (LEARN to USE the Lord's Prayer (see above) and practice as much as possible. Be accountable with your prayer life. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

Other Powerful Weapons In Spiritual Warfare

The Gifts of The Spirit of God. This is a Bible Study in itself; however, I mention this as 'Other Weapons' because it is vital to know and understand the power of the operation of the Holy Spirit in our lives to overcome Satan in greater battles. (See 1 Cor. 12:1-11 and 1 Cor. 12:27-31) and (See Grace Operational Gifts of the Body of Christ Romans 12:3-8).

Love Covers. You are a secret keeper, a safe person. You do not walk in judgment any longer. You have chosen to forsake the sowing of strife. You have chosen the higher road of LOVE, which desires to cover a person's sin and take it to the cross of Christ. *"He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter*

separates friends." Proverbs 17:9 *"Hatred stirs up strife: but love covers all sins."* Proverbs 10:12

"And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8 (**Study 1 Cor. 13:1-13).**

JOY! The Joy of The Lord Is Your Strength! The BIGGEST LIE of Satan is condemnation and his work of shame. This tactic of Satan paralyzes believers. Believers lose their confidence. Condemnation steals away the strength of God; enjoying a intimate relationship with God. Condemnation causes you to put your eyes on your sin. God's joy gives you spiritual vitality! The Joy of our Lord's salvation gives us the ability to shut the mouth of Satan and walk in confidence. Worship God at the foot of the Cross of Jesus Christ gives us JOY in our forgiveness! Neh. 8:10. Rom. 8:1, Rev. 12:10.

Forgiveness is a Very Powerful Weapon. The gospel message, the love story of Almighty God, is the message of the preaching of the cross. This is where God completely forgives and reconciles man to Himself. Jesus Christ died on the cross to bring absolute and complete atonement (propitiation). This is when God Himself became our sacrifice for complete forgiveness and cleansing from all sin. Forgiveness is a powerful spiritual weapon because God has forgiven you, so you now forgive in return. This changes the spiritual atmosphere and the condition of your heart and has the potential to change the heart of the one you release from the emotional debt. Matt. 6:14-15, Matt. 18:18-35, Matt. 20:28, Matt. 26:28, John 20:23, Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14, 1 Peter 1:19-23, 1 John 1:9.

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for the California Gender Health Center in Sacramento. My heart soared as I realized that if the Lord would save him and set him free as well, he could have a major impact on transgenders in California. Please pray for him.

This bill and others like it *will* lead to the sterilization of children and many other health and psychological problems. The University of California at San Francisco states the truth plainly. "For youth whose pubertal process has been suspended in the earliest stages, followed by administration of gender-affirming hormones, development of mature sperm or eggs is unlikely at the present time..."⁶.

This information, however, is being suppressed. This should be common sense that blocking puberty, a process in which reproductive systems fully develop, would potentially leave a child sterile. But a simple search on Google brought up article after article claiming that they are safe and that the effects are reversible. In addition to sterility, sexual function and organ development are severely suppressed to the point that normal sexual

function may never be possible. Furthermore, other healthy biological, physiological, and anatomical development processes such as brain development and bone growth will be severely hindered.

As one mother stated on a transgender social media forum—this is a mother describing her biological boy she now calls her daughter, "Now she is 20... The puberty blockers have left her with a micro penis. She has to get part of her vagina made with her colon. One of her friends had that surgery, and even years later it smells fairly colon-like. Obviously my daughter is now distraught. She is in counseling, but is becoming worse and worse in her mental state and I am frantic. On top of this, she has never had any sexual function. No urges, no erections, even when she tried masturbation to see if she could stimulate herself... nothing. The doctors say this may not even change after the surgery. Her dating life is dismal as well. We knew it would be hard. But its impossible. The one man who was

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with her for a while, soon just became frustrated by her lack of sexual anything and broke it off.”

Keep praying that the Lord will avenge us and save our children. Pray that He will bring the lies of the activists into the light. Pray that many who regret puberty blocking and transition will come forward and that their stories will be heard. Keep telling the truth and sharing stories of those who have been rescued. The light shines brightest when the night is the darkest.

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Report: Tupelo, MS

On Wednesday, July 8, the First Stone staff set out from Oklahoma City to travel together by RV to Tupelo, Mississippi. Our invitation was to provide to the area a conference they called “In His Image Purity Conference.” And that vehicle allowed the team to visit, worship, pray and move around a little bit. It was perfect and so helpful.

We arrived to stay in Tupelo, MS which was only a short commute to the host church down the highway in Verona, MS. After check-in, our staff walked together to a nearby restaurant and had dinner with the pastors of Anchor Church.

Thursday morning the staff commuted to the church and met up with Associate Pastor Bubba Loller and Pastor David Ball. These men are wonderful servants of God who love their church beautifully. Bubba loaned his van to Laura Leigh and she drove about an hour up the road to visit family for a few hours before returning to join the team for the night’s ministry. This was a generous provision for our Director of Women’s Ministries, and we are so grateful. The rest of the team unloaded into the church, joined a prayer meeting, served, and worked throughout the day. FSM provided an extensive table of books and literature for the conference and church attendees. Sadly, during set-up, we had our first awareness that Jim Farrington seemed ill and in distress,

but that evening, he pressed on. We launched t h a t

evening with powerful worship, two powerful messages, and a Q&A panel. There were other things that we learned about the church that day. There are three recovery ministries inside of their fellowship. There is a men’s recovery, a women’s recovery, and a sex trafficking rescue under the cover of this fellowship. The entire church is invested in the men and women coming through those ministries. Not only are their lives taking place in the church, but the church is surrounding these individuals—covering them, supporting them, and praying for them. This church so invested that they knew that they couldn’t shut down for the sake of those they were covering. These men and women would not have been able to tolerate the isolation and find help and recovery. What a beautiful sacrifice and we were there to witness the beauty of it.

Friday morning Stephen and Laura Leigh were each contacted by Jim that he was in a great deal of distress. Stephen tended to him quickly and then Laura Leigh took Jim to the emergency room. A few hours later she



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was able to be with him as the test results came in and doctors discussed what they were seeing. A doctor with great intuition decided that the test results were not telling him a full story and suggested that Jim needed a heart cath. That decision was difficult; however, that decision likely was an intervention that saved Jim's life. It was found that he had severe blockages and they admitted him and intervened with a stint. As the afternoon approached, Laura Leigh and Laura Beth traded places at the hospital so that Jim was not alone and so that Laura Leigh could be present at the conference for her part. Later that evening, Jim was released back to us to recover.

For the rest of the team, Friday was a full day of ministry as we offered a Pastors and Leadership Luncheon, a seminar on understanding sexual brokenness and identity issues, and an extensive altar call. We drew heavily on the team for teaching examples and testimonies. We ministered until late.

Saturday was a full conference schedule. A focus of the morning was worship and then the first public screening of the movie, "In His Image: Delighting In God's Plan for Gender and Sexuality." The director, writers, and producers from American Family Studios were there for the day and served the event beautifully. We were so blessed at our first full viewing as well, and we were thrilled at the enthusiastic reception in the congregation. We followed the viewing with a message and panel discussion. The afternoon was given to workshops and breakout sessions which were times of instruction, discussion, and lots of direct ministry. Our final gathering of the conference was back in the auditorium where corporate ministry was the focus. We ministered through all the mealtimes and into the evening until late. Jim was feeling well enough to join us for dinner, and that was a joyful time for all of us.

Sunday morning, we rose to join Anchor Church's Sunday School and two corporate worship services. We were happy to have all FSM team members present! Anchor Church people were open, engaged, prayerful, and God-fearing. The FSM team each offered testimony that morning surrounding a message by Stephen and strong exhortations from Pastor David Ball. We ministered for several hours, packed our materials, and joined for a late lunch before loading up into the RV to begin our

trip back. We stopped Sunday evening at Little Rock to rest and took our time on Monday morning before we checked out to finish our final leg into Oklahoma City.

Please pray for this wonderful church—Anchor Church—as they minister from the resource of God's truth, His unchanging character, and His transforming grace. They carry the lives of many to freedom.

Jim Farrington returned to Oklahoma City with instructions to immediately take action regarding his heart. On August 3rd, Jim had triple-bypass surgery which was wildly successful. He has been recovering nicely and strength and stamina are growing. We are so grateful for this and God's protection over him.



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Report: In His Image Screening



Stephen Black,
Executive
Director

The public screening of *In His Image – Delighting in God's Plan for Gender and Sexuality* in Oklahoma City on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, was a wonderful success. We were so blessed to have the American Family Studios Directors and Producers (Kendra White, Austin Brooks, and M.D. Perkins) join us for the Q&A panel discussion following the movie screening. Dr. Michael Brown and Denise Shick also joined us for the panel. The video of this Q&A panel discussion from this evening is now available at inhisimage.movie or firststone.org.

We are grateful to Pastor Keith Burkhart, Pastor Steve Russell, and to the entire First Southern Baptist Church family for hosting this event in their newly remodeled auditorium. We had almost 500 people present.

I received many heartfelt communications and expressions of deep appreciation for First Stone Ministries hosting this event. Many people thanked me personally for giving my testimony, but most were overwhelmed by First Stone's own Laura Beth Perry's story. All the testimonies around First Stone Ministries are stories of incredible amazing grace; however, the devastation around Laura Beth's testimony touches the hearts of many as they witness the hope in her redeemed life while witnessing the devastation in our culture.

The following is from American Family Studios, Executive Director, Austin Brooks:

"As a filmmaker, there are few things more rewarding than seeing two years of tedious work finally completed and shown to a live audience of nearly 500 people. We were honored to be able to join First Stone Ministries in hosting the 'In His Image' screening at First Southern Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. We had many conversations with people after the screening who shared with us how much the film touched them and how the film has given them confidence

to be able to speak truth to friends and loved ones who they know are struggling with their sexual identity. Having Stephen Black, Dr. Michael Brown, Laura Perry, and Denise Shick there to be a part of the panel discussion was an absolute joy! We had not seen some of them since we filmed them for the documentary. We have all become brothers and sisters who love and encourage one another, and that is a beautiful picture of God's intention for the Church. I hope and pray that this film will bring other believers together on issues of gender and sexuality. If we expect to change the direction of the Church and the direction of our culture, then we must stand together on the truth of God's Word. It was so special for AFS to have this opportunity to finally reveal this timely and urgent film, and we are so thankful for our partnership with First Stone Ministries!"



Friends it is an honor and a real privilege for our entire staff at First Stone Ministries to partner with American Family Studios to get the timely and necessary message of hope to this generation.

In His Image is now available to watch online at inhisimage.movie, and the additional 24 bonus videos will be upload soon to the *In His Image* website along with many other resources to equip the family and church with the truth on the issues of God's plan for gender and sexuality. Please sign up to receive the DVD package at the *In His Image* website (inhisimage.movie) for a donation of any amount to AFA.

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Help us spread this powerful message by donating a gift of any amount to AFA and receive the 2-disc In His Image DVD set. You can share the feature-length documentary with your friends and family and explore over 3 hours of special features on Disc 2 that include deleted scenes, extended interviews, and biblical answers to commonly asked questions.

A Tribute: Remembering Sy Rogers



Stephen Black,
Executive
Director

I had my first encounter with Sy Rogers in 1983 by correspondence. He was one of the people I had found who I believed really wanted to be faithful and was finding lasting freedom from homosexuality in true obedience to Jesus Christ as Lord. Sy was one of the first "ex-gays" who truly gave me hope! I remember thinking, "This man fears God and knows the love of God." His writings gave me the truth with profound wisdom from God's word and principles. I thought, "This is someone I want to know." I remember Sy sending

me a packet of articles, not like today's materials at all. There were hand-drawn images, and the text was pulled together from an actual typewriter. I remember laughing with Sy many years later as we recalled the early days of ministry and ministry articles. It would be another 12 years before I met and heard Sy speak at Wheaton College during an Exodus Conference. It was also during this time, in the late '90s, when Sy came to speak at a regional conference in Wichita, KS. During those years, we began to forge a ministerial relationship with him. In 2000, soon after I became the Executive Director of First Stone, we had our first conference with Sy as a guest speaker. We also invited Sy to keynote again in 2007 and 2011.

There were several memories from our Sy Rogers encounters. My personal favorites were centered around our fellowship and dinners, talking about eschatology—end times and prophecy. Sy loved to talk with me about it and he shared amazing things I will never forget. Sy was intense about these topics and I loved it; we both shared this passion! It was absolutely a blast watching Sy Rogers and my daughter Charity Hope sharing fun times together! My family respected Sy as a man of courage and wisdom! My kids loved him!



Words from Sy:

"Sinner saved by God's Mercy & Grace. It's a miracle God bothers to use me at all, knowing all that He knows."

"I've had people say to me, 'You're the LAST person I'd ever pick as a representative of sexual redemption!' I can only agree and say, 'I know — and that's probably exactly why God would deliberately pick someone like me... after all, it is God who first originated the idea of not judging a book by its cover... of picking 'the reject,' 'the weak one,' the 'least likely

to succeed.' Oswald Chambers describes my situation well when he said: 'We are still just a bunch of beggars... the difference is, we now go to God for our bread.'"

Sy Rogers Biography:

Regarded as a gifted international communicator, award-winning talk show host, recording artist, and pastor; Sy has served for over two decades in ministry as a pastoral care specialist regarding sexuality and related concerns.



Dec 15, 1956 - Apr 19, 2020

Sy's seminars and speaking events are conducted trans-denominationally on 6 continents, for a wide variety of audiences including leadership conferences, counseling training, youth festivals, and men's events such as Promise Keepers.

His insights and dramatic life story have been featured in numerous international media interviews & articles (such as Donohue, 700 Club, Good Morning Australia, and The Phillip Adams Show), as well as being featured in several books written by authors such as Dr. James Kennedy (Thomas Nelson Publ), Thomas Trask (Zondervan Publ) and Philip Baker (W&P Publ).

In 1996, *Christianity Today Magazine* selected Sy as one of 'Fifty Up & Coming Evangelical Leaders Under 40'. In 2004, Sy became an adjunct professor at King's College, New York City, and is a frequent speaker in several major Christian Universities & Colleges.

SY QUOTE:

The creator Himself has been victimized by evil and He has shared our suffering -- He knows evil and its price firsthand. He sees, and He knows, and He cares about your suffering. One day the issue of evil will be permanently and absolutely resolved. And we who have suffered because of it will be compensated forever if we are reconciled to God. Until then, let us follow Him faithfully, not because we know or understand everything, but because we know Him and believe He is good!

Sy Rogers reminds us, from an A.W. Tozer quote: "Historians will conclude that we of the 20th Century had the genius to create a great civilization. But we lacked the MORAL WISDOM to preserve it."

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Charity Black and Sy Rogers
enjoying God's presence together
on April 15, 2007 in Oklahoma City.



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