

stone news etter

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

MINISTRIES

He Taught Me How to Trust



Sherry Gurney

My same-sex hunger and attraction to nurturing women began at a very young age. Mother was unable to adequately fill her nurturing role. She had no experience with babies and religiously followed the childrearing practices of the day. When they said that feedings should be every 4 hours and I began crying at 3 hours, she bundled me in my carriage and put me on the porch until the hour passed. After crying so long, I would be too tired to eat.

Mother's life had been full of dread from physical and verbal abuse by her father and then by my alcoholic dad. Dad had been drinking alongside his father since he was 7 years old. Dad died when I was 24 from esophageal varices, a complication of alcoholism, which caused him to tragically choke to death.

My little sister and I learned when to escape for safety in the ebb and flow of our scary home. There were drunken parties that went into the early mornings. Dad's 20-year-old cousin stayed with us for a time. He slept with me in my big double bed. He was a protector from our alcoholic dad, but then he touched me inappropriately when he was drunk. I believed a lie that it was my fault that he touched me because I loved him. The confusion of this sexually abusive relationship was awful and my feelings for him vacillated from love to fear and confusion.

Our church was on the next corner. Both my sister and I were blessed to be invited into the family gatherings of church families, experiencing what could be but wasn't at our home. At school, I adored my loving teachers and fanaticized about being their daughter. I stayed at school as late as I dared. Hunger in those late hours prompted my friend and me to jump through an open storage window to steal graham crackers and milk. The day before my 7th birthday, my dad was taken away in a straitjacket to the state hospital for alcohol detox. My mother had him committed at the counsel of our Methodist minister who observed that mother and I were on the verge of nervous breakdowns. My giggles at the slightest funny

INSIDE

- Feature Testimony
- Truth About Transition... p 3
- Grieving the Holy Spirit p 5
- Ministry Travels p 6
- Groups & Staff p 11

Continued from page 1 | He Taught Me How to Trust

happening would devolve helplessly into uncontrollable, hysterical crying. My health was a concern as well as I had also tested positive for tuberculosis and was removed from school. The losses of school and the chaos of home separated me from important stabilizing relationships.

My dear great-grandmother came to help take care of me.



"The intensity drove me

to the conclusion that I

was gav! I must have

been born this wav!"

As I rested, she read her Bible out loud and told me about her best friend, Jesus. He became my close friend too. When dad was released early from the hospital into the care of his mother, my mom obtained a restraining order and refused to let dad return to our home. Our lives changed drastically! My timid, fearful mother began working a man's job. She became tough, angry, and verbally abusive to my sister and me. I became her sounding board, hearing how she was sexually and verbally harassed at work. She grew to hate men but also had illicit affairs. I became more afraid of men and more confused.

As a teenager, I loved the care and attention I received from both my male and female teachers. I hungered for

their attention and approval and became an amazing people pleaser! At 16, two Girl Scout troops traveled together by bus to Cuernavaca, Mexico. On that long excursion, I fell headlong in love with a girl in the other troop. I couldn't get enough of the stories of her life with her dad on a houseboat. She was strong, exciting, and caring. How could this be? I had never felt this strong emotion about anyone before!

Upon returning home, I searched for answers in the local library about these strong feelings and read about a psychological illness called "homosexuality." Then I searched the Bible and found that God wished to "vomit out" the sin of homosexuality!! Satan twisted these words, and I felt that God hated ME because I must be gay! I knew I was attracted to my same-sex. What would that mean for my life? Tragically, during that same summer, my mother divorced my dad and then married a man who divorced his wife for my mother. In my searches, I learned that their behavior was called adultery and that adultery and divorce are not God's plan. He hates divorce. This invited more confusion!

I graduated high school and went into a nursing program in another state. It was a relief to be away from the close watch of my mother. I could finally be me! But who was I?

I had met a guy at home who insisted on driving to my school to take me out every Friday. The anxious anticipation as I waited for him to come would make me sick to my stomach. So, I broke it off. I realized that I had an issue with men. Other girls were not getting sick about having a date!

I was an officer in the Nurses Christian Fellowship, an arm of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. The experience of same-sex attraction was torture to me. I prayed and pleaded with God to change me. The church I attended reached out to those struggling with problems, but I was ashamed and kept my secret. At the same time, I had an inordinate, emotional draw to a classmate. She was struggling with her identity as well. Our affiliations transferred us to a large hospital in Philadelphia, PA. We both became emotionally and physically involved with other classmates. She felt so ashamed of her actions that she cut her wrists and had to leave the program; however, I kept my painful secret to myself. The affiliation ended and I suffered through a month off at home, keeping a happy face when my insides were weeping, day and night. This intensity drove me to the conclusion that I was gay! I must have been born this way!

My last year of nursing school ended and a group of us went to Connecticut to experience the thrills of living near 'the BIG Apple'. Now I was part of a bigger group of 'likeminded' people at work. Then, one of my roommates invited me to her church. It was vibrant! All ages raised their hands joyfully because of their love of God; however, my roommate was in an adulterous relationship, and I was in a lesbian

relationship! Often, while on our way home

for help! He must have made me this way; I believed that I was a lesbian. I went to the altar over and over, giving myself to Him, but the yearnings continued. Scripture frightened me but also gave me hope and answers to my many questions: "Those who indulge in sexual sin or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people- none of these people will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you WERE once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with GOD by calling on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9b-11)

On January 10th, as a 24-year-old, the tearful surrender began. Our church had been fasting together for a week and meeting each evening in various homes called 'cottage prayer meetings'. On this evening, I had come home to an empty house, so began praying before leaving for the meeting. As I prayed, I heard the Lord say, "You don't trust

from church, we would ask each other, "How did the pastor know what we were doing this week?" We were convicted and kept going back as God drew us with His goodness. I learned about the power of the Holy Spirit and the Lordship of Jesus and gave my broken life to Him. I wanted what God offered but believed that He couldn't fix me. After all, I had asked so many times

The Truth About Transition is On Our Side



Laura Beth Perry, Women's Minister Intern

We are living in a day where chaos reigns supreme in our land and feelings are exalted over truth. Our entire culture is engaged in an ideological war that is becoming more and more divisive. Many Christians and churches are beginning to cave under the heavy burden that the LGBTQ community is placing on them. The only information that they are seeing or hearing is that which the LGBTQ activists want them to see and hear. Many believers do have deep convictions in their spirits that to embrace homosexuality and transgenderism is against God's Word; yet they are compromising based upon the "evidence" that is being presented to them by the so-called experts. Many other Christians are unwilling to compromise but are afraid to speak out. They are willing to fire but don't have the ammunition.

I have been grieved over the constant misinformation being presented to our culture on the issue of transgenderism. Transitioning is being touted as a wonderful, heroic decision, even for children who are not old enough to have an understanding of what they would give up by doing so. The only narrative we are being given is that this identity, which the child (or adult) has created, is who they truly are

at the core of their being and that it is hateful to suggest otherwise. The media is filled with stories of children, teens, and adults who were depressed and suicidal until they embraced their "real self" and transitioned to the opposite sex.

Until a few years ago, the stories of detransitioners were almost unheard of. Detransitioners are those that have lived as trans and have now returned to identifying as their biological sex and have stopped medical transition. Some will take steps to reverse the transition process where necessary. One thing I have consistently heard in many of the stories is that "no one told me the truth". Many of them lament now that all they had seen before the transition were the pictures and videos of people that had transitioned and who asserted that all of their problems and unhappiness had gone away.

Consider the story of "Michael" from Walt Heyer's book, Trans Life Survivors. "It's just like a 'bad dream' and it won't go away. You can fantasize and dress like a woman, but you can never be a woman. No, the sex-change surgery did not change my gender/ sex either. It just made every second of my day unbearable and a living hell. The problem is, as you continued on page 4

RAPY SSANARAM RAPY SSANARAM BENEFITS **SELF HARM** ALIH S GENETIC E PHOBIA E BIPOLAR L

know, when this disgusting thing consumes your life, you're not open to hearing 'the truth'. All I saw was the websites, videos, and 'girls' in the streets of Bangkok telling me how pretty I was going to be."

Once in a while, you can find where the person has a moment of clarity and tells the truth. Consider this quote from Roshaante, a girl who claims to be intersex but does not have a medical diagnosis that I am aware of. Regardless of the genetic condition, she has had to go through much of the same transition process as other female-to-males transgenders. "I feel like I'm kind of ruined, mentally and physically. The good effects of testosterone stopped at maybe 3 years... I would just give a massive warning to anyone who is thinking of transitioning... I wish I could have done a more positive video about it, but I changed my mind... transitioning hasn't been as great as people make it seem. You know I'm not gonna be one of them people to add to the list that who's gonna deceive people and make them feel like this is all a lot of fun. It's not fun, it's not fun at all... your body goes through absolute hell... I can't deal with the editing of the videos, and the looking good in the videos, and the talking nice and acting like everything is great and I'm happy. I'm not happy. If I had one wish, I would have never taken that first testosterone shot... all it's done is given me unrealistic expectations and ruined my mind in the process. I was gorgeous before. Nine years ago I was gorgeous. Now I don't feel so gorgeous because my personality is so ugly because I have become obsessed with wanting to look good... You can change your life for the worse as well. You need to think about that. You must have sanity first, man. I had sanity and now I don't." (https:// youtu.be/AVW0U0tOIk4).

Sadly, since that video, she has gone on to make many positive videos talking about how amazing her life is and how glad she is that she transitioned. People that have made mistakes of this magnitude not only have a difficult time admitting it but often continue to tell others why it was a good decision in hopes that they will convince themselves that they are truly happy.

Those who claim that they are happy after transition are telling the truth to some degree. For a time, transitioning does seem to solve all of one's problems. In most cases, the desire to transition is birthed out of rejection of self for one reason or another. If they can re-create themselves as someone that doesn't feel the pain of their life, who hasn't been rejected or abused, and who isn't a failure, then it's as if they have been born-again and given new life. But this is a counterfeit that Satan is selling our young people.

We all do need to be re-created—to be re-born. We are all desperate to become someone greater than who we are



in this flesh. Yet we know, of course, that the only way to achieve that is to die to self and to be resurrected by the power of Jesus Christ. This is exactly what Jesus wants to do in us. C.S. Lewis said of Jesus, "He came not to make bad people good but to make dead people alive!" The apostle Paul demonstrates this in his letter to Rome: "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who has died is freed from sin." (Romans 6:1-6) The only way we will ever overcome

Grieving the Holy Spirit in the PCA

"When we sin we are

not sinning against a

concept, a theory or an

influence. You cannot

grieve a concept.'



Rev. Al Baker

"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed to the day of redemption." -Ephesians 4:30

Have you ever considered that our issues in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) are actually grieving the Holy Spirit? And what are those issues? They are many but let's take just one -Side B homosexuality (one can be attracted to

someone of the same sex as long as he does not act upon it) as well as all the sexual perversion which flows from it. I suggest the recent debacle at Memorial Presbyterian Church, St. Louis is a practical example of grieving the Spirit. The present situation involves a ministry partner called The Chapel which hosts The Q Collective Theatre. This theatre describes its mission as exploring the spectrum of gender, sexuality, and romantic orientation. The Q Collective, meeting at The Chapel (The Chapel receives free use of space and utility expenses from Memorial Presbyterian Church), recently completed its Second Transluminate Arts Festival. Transluminate is a short-play festival

and celebration of transgender, gender, nonbinary, genderqueer, and gender fluid artists. One of the short plays, entitled Testosterone People, is about Andy, helping his husband Jack administer his first testosterone shot. They talk about their love, their marriage, and the oddities of being "testosterone people." Another play, Transcodicil, is about a transgender man named Joe and Shawna, a transgender woman, who are married. Joe is carrying their child. Joe's Aunt Tammy has recently died, and Joe was expected to be

her sole heir. Tammy's executor, Virginia, tells Joe and Shawna about a codicil Tammy added to her will, which may prevent Joe from inheriting the estate. It turns out that Joe's transphobic mother, Loretta, and her church pressured Tammy into creating the codicil. Thanks to Shawna's shrewd thinking, the codicil goes through its own transition, and Joe and Shawna stand up to the bullying. My friends, in the context of a church's ministry, is this not grieving the Holy Spirit?

Paul, the Apostle, in the practical section of his epistle to the Ephesians, commands his hearers to not grieve the Holy Spirit. What does this mean and why is it important? The context of any Scriptural command is vital in helping us understand the meaning. After putting forth the glorious doctrine of the fullness of our salvation in Ephesians 1; and stating to his hearers in Ephesians 2, who were mostly pagan before their conversions, that the wall of separation between Jew and Gentile has been torn down, that all have access to the Father by the Spirit; and in Ephesians 3 declaring that the manifold wisdom of God has been made known through the church to the rulers in high places; Paul urges them in Ephesians 4 to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to be diligent to maintain

peace in the church. From there Paul says that they are to grow up in all aspects into Christ. They are not to walk as the Gentiles walk. They are to put off the old man. They are to be renewed in the spirit of their minds. And they are to put on the new man.

So Paul is giving a series of commands, based on the identity in Christ of his hearers. In the immediate context, verses 25 to 32, Paul tells them to lay aside falsehood and speak truth to one another, to be angry and yet not to sin, to not give the devil an opportunity, to not steal, to not use unwholesome speech, to not grieve the Spirit, to expunge all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and slander, and to forgive others as Christ has forgiven

So, to grieve the Holy Spirit (the Greek text is very emphatic, literally it reads, "Grieve not the Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God") is a serious matter. To grieve the Spirit means that we are living contrary to God's word in general and these commands in verses 25 to 32 in particular. Grieving the Spirit is to sin against God. The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Godhead. When we sin we are not sinning against a concept,

> a theory, or an influence. You cannot grieve a concept. You cannot grieve a theory or influence. When we sin against God then He is disappointed with us. We have hurt Him, grieved Him, angered Him. Paul later tells the Ephesians that they are to try and be pleasing to the Lord (Ephesians 5:10). This is serious business, my friends.

> Martyn Lloyd-Jones puts it like this, "When a Christian sins, what he should be most conscious of is not so much that he has

done that which is wrong, or even that he has broken God's law; what should really trouble him is this, that he has offended against love." [1] To be even more specific, we grieve the Holy Spirit when we do anything which is not holy, when we fail to realize His presence with us, when we use crass or godless speech, when we do not honor Him, when we fail to follow His promptings to pray, contact someone, or to speak to someone about his soul.

So, if we can grieve the Holy Spirit as individuals, can we not also be charged as a denomination of grieving the Holy Spirit? We are united. We have the same Lord. We have the same doctrinal standards. We are in one church.

What happens when we grieve the Holy Spirit? Again, Lloyd-Jones greatly helps us, ". . . if you grieve Him it will inevitably lead to a loss of the manifestation of Himself. If you grieve the Spirit, you will not have a sense of God's love to you, you will not have the joy of salvation, you will have no assurance, you will not have certainty, you will not have peace, you will not be able to say, 'The Spirit bears witness with my spirit that I am a child of God.' . . . If you grieve the Spirit and He withdraws His gracious

Continued from page 5 | Grieving the Holy Spirit in the PCA

influences, it means that He leaves you to the supremacy of the flesh; that is to say, you will be left with all the power of the flesh within you, and the devil making use of it to attack you. He will assault you, he will insinuate vile, foul, ugly, thoughts and desires into your mind and heart. . . And it is all because the Spirit, in order to teach you a lesson, is no longer, as it were, striving against the flesh." [2]

I have wondered for some time why we lack conversions, why so many of us in the PCA seem to lack joy and boldness in our daily walks with Christ, why we seem to see so little victory over the sins of unbiblical divorce, porn addiction, and so many more sins. I have wondered why we are battling with the issue of homosexual identity in our denomination and why we seem to be so powerless to stand against the secularism of our culture. I know we are not alone. This is rampant throughout the evangelical church in America. Could it be, my friends, that we

have grieved the Holy Spirit, that we have offended Him and that He has, in turn, left us to our own paltry devices?

What is the solution? We must repent. We must confess. We must run afresh and anew to the Lord Jesus and bathe in His blood and once again receive the fullness of the Spirit in gospel holiness and power for ministry.

[1] Darkness and Light: An Exposition of Ephesians 4:17-5:17, page 271.

[2] Ibid. pages 274, 275.

"Grieving The Holy Spirit in The PCA" Used with permission from Al Baker and "Forget None of HIS Benefits" Volume 19, Number 11, March 12, 2020

FSM

Ministry Travels



Stephen Black. Executive Director

FSM MINISTRY TRAVEL TO SIDNEY, OH

The entire First Stone Ministries staff had the honor of serving Cornerstone Assembly of God in Sidney, OH on April 9, 10, and 11, 2021. All six staff (Stephen Black, Laura Leigh Stanlake, Joseph Thiessen, Jim Farrington, Laura Beth Perry, and Aaron Girod) traveled together in a brand-new, supporterprovided RV. It was wonderful, despite a small

setback of our RV being vandalized and robbed while in St. Louis.

Pastor Harry Peterson, his wife, Rhonda, his staff, and the people at Cornerstone Assembly of God were gracious hosts. We presented several messages of hope in a conference atmosphere which was called "IN HIS IMAGE Weekend of

Freedom." I had the honor of opening the weekend on Friday evening with two important foundational messages. First was a message, "God's Divine Intent for Human Sexuality" and secondly, "An Overview of Homosexuality" with Laura Leigh Stanlake helping co-teach this message. This laid the foundation for Saturday morning's message for screening the movie, "In His Image." On Saturday, April 10 our staff presented four more sessions with two Q&As. This weekend was very helpful in the Sidney community and the response was filled with gratefulness. We

were so grateful as a staff and honored to serve! Look for the In His Image sessions in April at this link: https://sidneyaq.org/messages.

The movie referenced above is available online at https://inhisimage.movie, along with 20 other short videos to give answers to most often-asked questions.



Stephen, Rhonda, Harry, Joseph, Laura Beth, Aaron, Jim, and Laura Leigh

THE ARK OF GOD

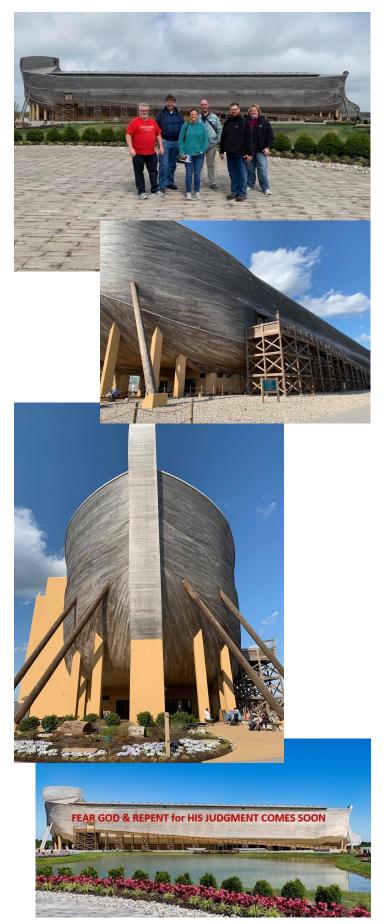
After the weekend of freedom in Sidney, OH the FSM staff traveled to Kentucky to visit the Creation Museum and The Ark Encounter for much-needed staff encouragement in the Lord and in His perfect ways. The entire staff was touched in a variety of ways, and we all want to go back to spend more time at both places. While at the Creation Museum I was struck by the enormity and magnificence of the mind of God and by a renewed revelation that His mind is incomprehensible

Continued from page 6 | Ministry Travels

for the human mind to grasp. I was equally challenged while at The Ark Encounter.

While at The Ark Encounter, I saw and heard that Jesus Christ is also our "Ark of Safety" if we are truly surrendered to Him as Lord. The Lord visited my soul with the Word of God from Matthew 24:37-39, as a clear reminder and warning of the day we are in. The Lord continues to press in on my heart to teach the significance of Mark 4 regarding the Parable of the Sower of the Word of God and of the need to be truly born again by incorruptible seed, the Word of God, the very DNA of Jesus Christ. The Lord has impressed on my heart to warn that only 25% of those in the parable of the sower of the seed were truly fruit-bearing believers. He has been telling me to warn people that only 50% of the virgins from Matthew 25 enter into the wedding feast, because Jesus said, he did not KNOW them. Virgins are a type and shadow of a type of believer in Jesus, yet only 50% enter in. Today, many thinkers in reformed theology are presenting a message of merely praying a prayer and having a mental agreement that Jesus is the Lord, and calling Him as Savior because of an agreement. They do not teach repentance and complete surrender to Jesus as Lord— teaching that repentance is not a necessity in their theology as it is considered "works." This is heresy though it is widely offered in modern Evangelical Christendom. Jesus put on my heart to remind us that there have been two arks built. One ark was built by the hand of Noah which took many decades, if not over 100 years to build. Could it be that the second ark, built under Ken Ham's leadership, serves as a warning for this generation? Just as in the days of Noah, mockers have scoffed, just like Bill Nye, the so-called "Science Guy."

Ironically, many have not paid attention to this fact. God is very loudly warning the Earth again in the creation of this second ark of His love, His provision in Christ, and His warning that judgment is about to come on the face of the Earth. This time the judgment will not be by water, but by fire. (2 Peter 3:9-18). This ark in Kentucky is not merely a museum. I was struck by the significance that God is sovereign and that HE wanted this ark to be built in these last days so that no one who sees it will have an excuse. It is a magnificent structure proclaiming the majesty of God's love to this last generation. 'The Ark of God' is that all who truly believe in Jesus Christ resulting in righteousness will have eternal life, but those who do not heed the warning and do not enter into 'The Ark of God,' Jesus Christ, will surely perish. Our God is magnificent in His love to reiterate often His love and warning!



Continued from page 2 | He Taught Me How to Trust

me." I argued that I did trust him, just not people. He asked, "Do you trust me concerning the lesbian issue?" I began to cry angrily, yelling at God, asking, "How was I to know how to trust anyone? Babies learn to trust when they are cared for, fed, clothed, and protected!" I had not experienced any of those consistently! I told Him I wanted to be free, but He was going to have to teach me how to trust! Just then, the

phone began to ring. I refused to answer it. When it stopped, I heard Him say, "I see you mean it." I felt a huge weight lift off me! I knew He had taken it away! I stood and began praising Him and a new language of the Spirit began rolling off my tongue! I was delivered of the spirits of fear and idolatry from having trusted in myself more than in God! This evil left and God's Spirit entered! I had allowed the truths about God to be exchanged for a lie! (Romans 1:25) Unforgiveness and hatred toward my family and others melted off me when I realized how forgiven I was. As I devoured the Bible, I learned so much more about my forgiveness and His love for me! Romans: 6:19-20 told me, 'Don't you realize that your

body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you at a high price. So, you must honor God with your body.'

Soon, the temptation of familiar attraction came again. After transferring to a different New York office, I met another nurse and felt immediate, mutual attraction. NO! How could this be? I took James 4:7 as my scripture to run to! I had to submit to God, resist the devil, and he would (must) flee!! Also, as I devoured the Bible taking especially the book of Romans to heart, God encouraged me to push on! I learned to let my yes be yes and my no be no! (James 5:12) I promised to God a very serious promise to share my testimony with anyone who needed to hear! But this temptation was so difficult! Sometimes the power of the temptation was so strong that I knelt and wept because of my weakness. Making the right choices felt very much like death to me. In this time of terrible testing, I was able to overcome through the wonderful power of the Holy Spirit and the Word.

That was 50 years ago!! God has led me through many difficulties, and He has never left me! There have been many opportunities to keep my promise to share my testimony for the benefit of others—including now!!! My life from that point to this has been nourished and preserved as the Lord has spoken to me through the Bible, the voice of His Spirit,

and the wisdom of Spirit-filled friends and leaders. Those gems have included:

"Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me." (Psalm 25:4-5)

"Take your thoughts captive to obey Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to man. But God is faithful to make a way out." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5)

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin." (Hebrews 4:15) Forgive and be forgiven. (Luke 6:37)

Shortly after God called me to forsake sin and come to Him, He led me to Bible school. As the school nurse, I found myself bringing comfort to many students with same-sex

attraction, just as it says: "God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we receive from God." (2 Corinthians 2:1)

Three years later, I completed Bible school, married a wonderful man, and began to build our family. We entered into ministry, and soon our daughter was born. I had become a mother, yet I didn't know how to mother. But the Word guided me, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." (Prov 22:6) I was learning to trust God in everything.

I partnered with my husband in Pastoral ministry. We took seriously the responsibility of being leaders and teachers in the body of Christ as instructed in 1 Timothy 3. Sometimes the Lord would ask us to obey in difficult circumstances. Our family followed the leading of the Lord out to the mission field and back home again. We embraced the Great Commission to go and make disciples. (Matthew 28:18; Jeremiah 1:9-10)

The work of the Holy Spirit and the Word was amplified through the assistance of good, Spirit-led helpers. They accompanied me through many difficult times. Had I known the value of these godly counselors, I might have avoided some of my broken, relational reactions. Co-dependency in my thoughts and behaviors brought so much pain to me and those around me. These good people helped me grow in emotional wholeness through several rough patches of life.

One significant trial was the heartbreak of betrayal in my marriage. God used counseling and Celebrate

Continued from page 4 | The Truth About Transition is On Our Side

sin and broken identity is through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit that He gives to us as we are raised to new life in Christ.

Sadly, when the thrill of the new identity wears off and the person realizes that they are still the same broken person inside, a deep depression often follows. Walt Heyer, author and former transgender who runs the website sexchangeregret.com calls this "the creep". Slowly but surely, doubt begins to set in asking, "Did I make the right decision? Is this really who I am?"

This is especially intense after "sex-reassignment surgery". Before surgery, all feelings of doubt can be easily swept aside because the person can believe that the surgery will complete their new identity and that all gender dysphoria will vanish. When the surgery does not resolve the issue, then the person is left with the devastating reality that they have maimed their body in vain and they are no more the opposite sex than they were before.

I was frustrated over the lack of information about the horrors of transition, the medical studies, and much more. Information is beginning to surface, and as we have known all along, the truth is on our side. I have now decided to compile some of the information into one easy-to-access source. I have prayed and prayed over this packet that I have put together and have asked the Lord to help me find the information that I knew was out there.

Initially, I was compiling this information to prepare to testify in front of the Children and Families Committee of the House of Representatives for the State of Missouri in Jefferson City where I will be testifying in support of House Bill No. 33 on behalf of the bill author, Representative Suzie Pollock (R.). I had grown weary of legislators dismissing our testimonies in favor of one-sided "evidence" and the tear-jerking experiences of children who are neither old enough to understand these issues nor qualified to make life-changing decisions. I wanted to supplement our testimonies with the testimonies of many more whose voices are never heard, those who have been permanently harmed by transition therapies.

As I began compiling the information, I realized that the Lord may use the information in many other venues and applications. The packet contains a compilation of quotes from medical experts, psychological experts, findings from medicals studies, and testimonies of those who have been irreparably damaged and regret transition. If the sources of the videos or articles are taken down from the internet, I have downloaded all of the originals and am keeping



Continued from page 8 | He Taught Me How to Trust

Recovery's 12-step study to bring healing and truth to my codependent, enabling patterns. The inventory process required emotionally difficult work and showed me how fear had entrapped me. It was a difficult struggle to stay in the process while it required remaining so vulnerable in all of my relationships. I took Romans 7:18 to heart about the codependency: "And I know that nothing good lives in me,

that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't." It wasn't good! But I could overcome the codependency. "But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness." (Romans 8:10) Regarding this relational repentance and healing, I also realized the power of hidden shame. Good performance and people-pleasing were

how I sought to gain acceptance and love. My neediness did not have healthy boundaries. Spiritually, I needed to be re-taught and transformed. The lies of shame had been allowed to live alongside the truth of my salvation for far too long. "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone and the new has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) Also, "Teach me to do your will for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a sure footing." (Psalm 143:10) These truths brought me much relational healing and will last me a lifetime. I now use the

lessons learned through this journey to joyfully minister to families and friends of the gender-confused.

Over our 41 years of marriage, my husband and I grew into a couple who felt the love of being 'one flesh' in Jesus—living closely and happily together. On Christmas Day of 2015, my precious husband died, and I was to experience widowhood, adapting to its many changes. When he went home to be

"I was using good

performance and

people-pleasing to gain

acceptance and love."

with the Lord, I felt as if one of my feet was in heaven and the other on earth. The separation seemed paper-thin, causing me to long to walk out my remaining days as the pure 'bride' of my Savior. God is teaching me His ways. "A true widow prays night and day...but the widow who lives for pleasure is spiritually dead even while she lives." (1 Timothy 5:5-6)

There was a time in my life when I was confused, sad, and conflicted. A friend took me to a Spirit-filled church where I heard the Bible, and it came alive! I was lovingly wooed into a sweet relationship with the Father, Son, AND the Holy Spirit! I found that the source of my confusion was inner lies straight from the pit of hell. I made the choice daily to trust the Lord, even though it once seemed my 'truster' was broken!

He proved to me that my identity is as a daughter of Abba Father! (Romans 8:15) I inherited life because Jesus died for me, and my new life is sealed in the Holy Spirit forever! (Ephesians 1:13)

Continued from page 9 I The Truth About Transition is On Our Side

copies of them. This information is going to become harder to find as sweeping acceptance alters public information.

Some examples of the content available include a link to the Reddit detransitioners forum which has over 17,000 members, stories of several "regretters" (those that regret transition), the story of the first legally declared non-binary person, and several young people that have started non-Christian "ministries" to help those who regret. One young woman in England has had hundreds reach out, desperate for help.

The medical information includes expert testimonies from endocrinologists that truly understand the effects of hormones on the body, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon describing Body Dysmorphic Disorder, and the president of the American College of Pediatricians.

The psychological information includes findings from an unpublished study from The Tavistock Gender Clinic in England. This study is still available as part of the public record from their board meeting in June of 2015. The study described how the mental state of most of the teens on puberty blockers actually deteriorated, rather than

improved, especially the girls. Additionally, there are quotes from two former GIDS (Gender Identity Development Service) clinicians, a licensed Psychologist, and more.

Please educate yourself on the truth of this horrific lie that has been foisted upon our children. Stand firm on the Word of God and trust that no matter what Satan sows into this culture, the Word of God will speak to it. Do not let the culture intimidate you. The darkness cannot overcome the light unless the light is turned out. When the light shines, it always expels the darkness.

First Stone Ministries is making this research compilation available on our website. You can download the PDF by going to <u>firststone.org/transition-truth</u>. Please feel free to share this great resource.

Groups



MEETS 1ST & 3RD FRIDAYS **APPLICATION REQUIRED**

FIRSTSTONE.ORG/PARENTS-GROUP



STARTING JULY 2021 **APPLICATION REQUIRED**

FIRSTSTONE.ORG/SUMMER-GROUP

Staff













For more information about each staff member, including links to any blogs, please visit firststone.org/staff. Because our spam traffic is so high, please initiate contact with us using our contact form on the link above.

Every Friday at 10 a.m. FREEDOM REAL Bold Truth. Bold Courage. Bold Compassion. Host: Stephen H. Black



Freedom Realized webcast | stephenblack.org











1330 N Classen Blvd Ste G80 Oklahoma City, OK 73106-6856 **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Order Yours! <u>firststone.org</u> <u>inhisimage.movie</u>

Over 374,000 views!



Let's make a difference together in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus using this message of hope!