

No More Becoming

Andrew Comiskey, Founder, Desert Stream Ministries

Leanne Payne used to quote Charles Williams’ line: ‘Hell is an image that knows no more becoming’ in reference to persons who stall in their growth as persons and cease to aspire to more.

That came to mind as I read a review on the latest ex-gay film ‘Pray away’. You’ve heard it all before—Christians with sexual identity issues who vie for chastity then relent to the broad path of LGBT+ options. Instead of going quietly into the night, they live to blast everyone who supported their previous commitment.

This docu-melodrama takes the now tired genre (‘I tried, I lied, now I vilify’) to new lows of irrationality. Catch these soundbites:

"Witness ‘defectors from the religious right’ in a ‘sobering account of toxic homophobia’ driven by ‘barbaric notions of forcing people to live a lie’ through ‘soul crushing behavior modification programs’! Gasp as they are ‘fed a diet of internalized self-hatred while having their trauma shaped by manipulative religious leaders into a testimony’!

Enough already. Besides the Hollywood Reporter’s over-the-top review, this genre’s limited appeal is founded on persons making new decisions about their sexuality then revising history, e.g. remaking pretty good Christian caregivers (I am one and I know most of them) into creatures from the black lagoon. The ex-ex-gay stars become winsome victims reveling in their great escape, and 15-minutes of fame.

I contend that these now repentant rainbow devotees are in conflict, and that their conflict expresses itself in such historic revision. It is a tried and true defense mechanism: ‘underneath it all, I am not sure if I am right about this gay superhighway so I am compelled to demonize all the old reminders of my previous path, in this case, the orthodox Christians who cheered me on what is difficult and counter-cultural’. Jesus called it ‘the narrow way that leads to life.’

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MEMBER NEWS

- **Grandview, MO—Desert Stream Ministries** also founder of Living Waters International and USA is celebrating 40 years of ministry in early August! The ministry is growing and thriving and has a reach all around the world in training leaders to host healing groups in their churches.
- **Folsom, CA—HIS Ministries** led by Carl Conli offers excellent discipleship opportunities for those who struggle with same sex attraction in the Sacramento area.
- **Minneapolis, MN—Sojourn Campus Church's** senior pastor Craig Kruegar shared about pastoring same-sex attracted persons at HOPE2019. At HOPE 2.0 he taught a powerful workshop on Homosexuality and the Bible.
- **Rockford, IL—Hope 2 Turn** is delighted to be caring for those in LGBT community even in the heart of the gay community near Chicago. New exciting opportunities have happened there.

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**Contact Information--** P.O. Box 64588 • Colorado Springs, CO 80962 | Phone: 719.598.0659 | info@restoredhopenetwork.org Restored Hope Network is a non-profit 501(c)3 ministry. Your gift is tax-deductible. We are thankful for those who invest in and partner with us in this mission of hope. [RestoredHopeNetwork.org](http://RestoredHopeNetwork.org)



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Anne Paulk, Executive Director

I have several topics to cover--our online conference, financial update, the President of Focus on the Family joins of our Board of Reference, and unfortunately some which are concerning, such as Facebook's censorship of the Restored Hope Network page.

HOPE 2.0 ONLINE: A Huge Success



Our keynotes for HOPE 2.0 were Sean McDowell, Joe Dallas, and Linda Seiler. I took over the host role for the conference. We were also joined by some very special guests on Friday afternoon: Nancy Heche, Bob Davies (seen above), Dennis Jernigan, Julie Hamilton and Georgene Rice.



Although an online conference was not our goal, it ended up having rave reviews and reached people on five continents with real hope found rooted deeply in the Bible. It took all three of us operating at full capacity behind the scenes, but so worth it. The videos are now available for all on our website under Resources, Hope Conf Videos.

Our hope for next years conference is to have an in-person event at Ridgecrest Conference Center in NC on June 11 & 12, 2021. So please save the dates. Registration opens on October 1st, 2020.





## FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are grateful for our board of directors who put out calls to two dozen of our faithful supporters to come up with a Giving Challenge fund for HOPE 2.0. We were seeking \$10,000 to challenge the attendees to match during the event. The Giving Challenge fund donors gave nearly double that starting amount! Then during the event, people donated beyond the \$10,000 hoped for to \$14,500. **Thank you** all so much for providing for Restored Hope Network!

## PRESIDENT OF FOCUS ON THE FAMILY JOINS RESTORED HOPE'S BOARD OF REFERENCE



It is my joy to share that my friend, Jim Daly, President of Focus on the Family joined Restored Hope's Board of Reference! He joins other new members, Pastor John K. Jenkins, Sr. and Alex McFarland. You can read more about these tremendous men on our website under About Us, Board of Reference.

Daly wrote, "I'm honored by your invitation to serve on the Board of Reference for Restored Hope Network, and I'd be delighted to accept that role. Your outreach to those struggling with homosexuality is commendable, and I have such admiration for all you're doing to come alongside those seeking to honor Christ with their sexuality. The Lord is obviously working through your efforts in exciting ways....Again, thanks for your vote of confidence, Anne. God's continued best to your team, Jim"

## CENSORED ON FACEBOOK

On July 10, I learned that Facebook and Instagram amended their policies to remove groups that advocate or practice so-called 'conversion therapy'. At first glance, this seems fine after all we **never** advocate or use any harmful things they mention. It took days after this announcement for a liberal media watchdog group, Media Matters to ask for us to be removed from Facebook.



This is a 'bait and switch' technique. What they are really after is the Gospel--that fact that lives change through God's kindness and provision, period.

The way they approach doing this is through dark marketing methods--misinformation campaigns--that now span the globe through media outlets. Just type 'conversion therapy' and read results. They equate spiritual care and talking with a regular counselor to horrid practices. The main advocate for these things is the UN Expert on SOGI, Victor Borloz. You can check out his page here: <https://www.facebook.com/IESOGI/>

Despite these challenges and threats, currently our Facebook page remains and I have given a dozen interviews on a variety of Christian media outlets for radio, print, online, and next week, TV. Focus on the Family has put out the alert on our behalf-- **"Media Matters Targets Christian Organization Helping People Leave Homosexuality – But They're Fighting Back"**, and Family Policy groups are standing alongside of us.

We have issued a **"Call to Action"** (<https://www.restoredhopenetwork.org/call-to-action>) to write Facebook and appeal to them to keep our page active on their platform. Would you pray for us? Might you also write an email to Facebook asking on our behalf?

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## FEATURED MEMBERS & AFFILIATES



### Reconciliation Ministries

Dan Hitz, Director, Warren, MI

***Bridging the gap between the church and the sexually broken***

Reconciliation Ministries is a ministry that helps men and women overcome sexual and relational difficulties in a safe, confidential, Christian setting.

We offer private pastoral counseling and licensed professional counseling for those struggling with sexual and relational brokenness, and for their family members. Our Christ-centered counseling has a strong emphasis on healing prayer, allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to the wounds and misconceptions that cause pain and leave one open to sexual sin.

“He whom the Son sets free, is free indeed.”



### Transforming Congregations

Garry Ingraham, Director, The Woodlands, TX

Our primary mission is to equip The United Methodist Church to model and minister God's amazingly good design for sanctified and life-giving sexuality, as clearly revealed through the scriptures.

We accomplish this through leadership team meetings, preaching and teaching, development of conferences and retreats, recommendation of solid programs, help in cultivating groups that go deeper--opening up heart-level discussion that most Christians avoid--as well as confidential support for sexually-struggling pastors and Christian leaders.

**To learn more about Restored Hope Members and Affiliates visit:** [restoredhopenetwork.org/ministry-finder](http://restoredhopenetwork.org/ministry-finder)

## FEATURED RESOURCE

### I'm Glad God Made Me a Girl

by Denise Shick

I'm Glad God Made Me a Girl, For ages 5–8 (K–2nd grade)

Susie is surprised when her friend Amy cuts her hair short and dresses like a boy because she thinks boys are braver, smarter, and stronger than girls. Susie feels sad. Can't girls be brave, smart, and strong too?

With her parents' guidance, Susie learns to be glad that she's a girl. In I'm Glad God Made Me a Girl, young girls discover God's design and purpose for them. The story also touches on the reasons some girls believe becoming a boy makes sense for them.

This resource shows girls that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God and that as females, they are beautiful, kind, brave, smart, and strong. It is also a valuable tool for parents, pastors, and counselors who seek to demonstrate love and compassion as they minister to children who struggle with gender confusion.

For more information on **I'm Glad God Made Me a Girl**, visit: <https://www.amazon.com/Im-Glad-God-Made-Girl>

