

FREEDOM PRESS

Proclaiming healing, wholeness & freedom in Jesus Christ.



A publication of Joseph's Coat Ministries, Inc. (JCM)

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4th Quarter Newsletter

A PRICE TO BE PAID!



Recently I contributed an article to the *FISH* Christian magazine for October, November, and December about the work of Joseph's Coat. Considering the controversy that surrounds the topic of homosexuality and the persecution that comes with it, I jumped at the chance when asked to share my insight with *FISH* readers. The article, *Can Homosexuality Be Changed*, reads:

"Secular psychology says 'No.' The Bible says 'Yes.' The APA (American Psychology Association) says homosexuality is not an illness, mental disorder or emotional problem and is not changeable. The Bible says

homosexual behavior is a sin, not a mental disorder. The Bible also says a person can experience freedom from homosexuality through a relationship with Jesus Christ. "Those who indulge in sexual sin...or practice homosexuality...none of these 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 6:9-11 NLT. Studies have shown, and we have seen, that at the root of homosexual feelings there are usually unmet emotional and identification needs with the same-sex. When a person learns to understand his or her identity and purpose in Christ, unwanted homosexual feelings powerfully diminish and ultimately disappear through Christ's love and power."

Wow, what a powerful, thought provoking statement. I hope the article stirs up a lot of questions for those who falsely believe that God created homosexuals and that He blesses their union. The Bible is clear concerning His intent for sexuality: *"for the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame."* Genesis 2:21-25.

We are entering a time in American history when Christians will be challenged in their beliefs as never before. The Hate Crimes Bill, recently passed by the U.S. Senate, could pave the way for Christians who verbalize their belief that homosexuality is a sin to be prosecuted for "hate speech" and could be sentenced to prison under the Hate Crime Law. When the bill was up for a vote earlier in the year, President Bush vowed to veto it, so Senate leaders suddenly pulled it from consideration. Recently, the bill was reintroduced onto the Senate floor and passed. At the last minute, however, it was attached to the Defense Bill, which goes toward funding our war efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. So it is unclear if President Bush will hold to his word and veto the bill when it crosses his desk. Please visit the American Family Associations website at www.afa.net to find out additional information about the Hate Crime Bill as well as other issues important to Christians.

Recently, the United Kingdom issued a statement that reads: "People convicted of

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Things You Should Know

- Check out a JCM article in the October's *FISH* publication
- Contact of Chattanooga a 24 hr. Crisis Hotline 423.899.5719
- American Family Association "America's Largest Pro-Family Action Site" www.afa.net

A PRICE TO BE PAID...CONTINUED

stirring up hatred against homosexuals face up to seven years in jail under a new law. This statement prompted fears among Christian organizations *that they could be prosecuted for preaching that homosexuality was wrong.*" Source: Telegraph.co.uk. Article is titled "Seven Years Jail for Gay Hate Preachers."

There is coming a time when all Christians who stand up for righteousness will be persecuted for the stand they take not only on the issue of homosexuality but also on all sin. We live in dangerous times and it will only get worse. John 15:18-21 states: *"if the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember the words I spoke to you: No servant is greater than his master'. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me."*

While everything I have written lately can be interpreted as gloom and doom, what I express on paper is what I'm sensing first in my spirit. It is the heaviness that I carry in my spirit that alerts me to be coming dangers. I continue to hear the Lord's voice calling all His people to a life of holiness. I still struggle with my flesh in so many ways, but God is able to help us with our weaknesses. 2 Corinthians 12:9,10 states: *"...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* We are NOT to call upon His name just during times of trouble, but in our everyday walk with Him as well. The time will come when only the elect of God will make it through the coming persecutions. If our foundation is not securely grounded in Him, then we will crumble under the pressure. 2 Timothy 2:19 states: *"Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."* It is not God's will for His people to live in fear but instead to live victoriously, even in the face of persecution. May the Lord bless the work of Joseph's Coat and the many other organizations that stand hand in hand proclaiming that there is indeed freedom from homosexuality through an intimacy with Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Him, **Christopher**

Hope for Healing Seminar Registration Form

Saturday, November 17, 2007, 5:30-9:00 p.m. (Chattanooga, TN)

Advance Reservations Required By Tuesday, November 12th.

Your Name _____

Your Address _____

Your Phone Number _____

Additional Reservations:

First & Last Name	Phone Number

Comments:

Provide this information to Joseph's Coat Ministries by or before Tuesday, August 6th.

You can also make your reservations online at www.josephscoatministries.com

Part II of IV:

WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE IS GAY

**This is a free quarterly seminar series.*

**Light dinner provided.*

Christopher Delaney, JCM founder/president, will provide information for people who want to learn more about how to reach out to a loved one who struggles with same-sex attraction (SSA) or those who live an active homosexual lifestyle. This seminar is for anyone who struggles with SSA as well as for family, friends and ministers of individuals who struggle with SSA.

A personal testimony from a parent with a child in the lifestyle will be given during this event.

Join us for a time of food, fellowship, songs of praise, learning, and small group discussion.

TESTIMONY: A WALK THROUGH THE FIRE

Our journey began in 2001 when I stumbled upon homosexual pornography on our computer. Our oldest son was attending *seminary* in Rhode Island, so that left our 15 year old, Josh, at home. After I managed to get hold of my emotions, I shared what I knew with my husband. I was afraid of his reaction; he was brought up so rough, so I never expected his response. He wept. We wept together. Then we confronted Josh. We assured him that no matter what, we would never stop loving him. He said that it (*the pornography*) was nothing and got defensive and angry with us. This was not like Josh. We decided to do everything we could to help him. We immediately set up counseling with a Christian counseling group, but Josh refused to talk to them. Finally the counselor told us we were wasting our money because until the boy was ready to get help and talk, there was nothing anyone could do. We came home distraught, not knowing where to turn, and feeling alone. Who could we share this with? None of our friends had ever experienced this problem and we didn't want to uncover Josh—he hadn't admitted anything. Of course there was the pride thing and the guilt. Where had we gone wrong? We had always lived out our faith. Time went by and *this issue* became the Pink Elephant in our living room—it was there but nobody talked about it. I kept a close eye on Josh's every move. He got home from school a couple of hours before I got off work. One day when I tried to call him, the phone just rang; no answering machine picked up and his cell went to voice mail. Someone had to be on the phone or the Internet, since we had dial up. My husband went home early to see for himself, and that day was one of the most emotionally wrenching days of our lives. He continued to call home as he drove and got no answer, but when he saw Josh's truck in the driveway, he decided to go in the back door since the computer was in the kitchen. There was Josh online in a gay chat room. His father was devastated and immediately called me at work. I went home and was horrified to find out that our precious son had not only been in a gay chat room but he had sent his REAL picture to some guy! I tried to explain how dangerous that was and how that person might not even be who he said he was, but nothing seemed to get through to Josh. This was the only time I saw my son upset and crying about this issue. We begged him to tell us what we could do to help him. We told him we loved him and nothing would ever take that away. Josh only screamed through his tears, "Why didn't you ever teach me how to throw a ball? Why did you make me wrestle? Why did you make me go to that Christian school where every day kids made fun of me and called me faggot and queer? WHY?!" We were dumbfounded. We had no idea Josh had been going through this abuse for THREE YEARS! We begged him to forgive us and to tell us how we could help. The only thing he asked was for us to take the computer out of the house, and this spoke volumes to us about his wanting not to be this way. Besides that, nothing else was decided that night; we all went to bed in turmoil. We all got up on Sunday morning, put our Sunday smiles on, and marched to our front row seat where we sat through the service hearing

nothing, but with minds and hearts racked with pain. We talked Josh into going to counseling. He went faithfully for about six months and then convinced us that he didn't need counseling anymore. He seemed to be doing well and was attending his youth group regularly, and was involved with the human video team. Between school, work, and video practice, he had no time for anything else. He went to youth camp and seemed to grow closer to God. He took a leadership role in his youth group and became its praise and worship leader. He met a godly girl at youth camp and they began dating. By the time he turned 18, we thought *that this part of Josh's life* had been just a phase. He was approaching the end of his senior year of high school and was preparing to attend Lee University in Cleveland. He felt called by God to be a praise and worship leader. After dating the same girl for about a year, he broke up with her. She was devastated and so were we, as we couldn't understand what had brought this on. I was hospitalized the entire month of July 2005 with cryptococcal meningitis and came close to dying. Our son seemed so busy he hardly came to the hospital. A couple of months went by and things seemed to be going well. Suddenly Josh called a family meeting the first week of October, and included our older son and his wife. At the meeting Josh announced that he was dropping out of school and moving to California with some guy to live the homosexual lifestyle. We were crushed! We cried together—everybody except him. He was calm and resolved. We told him that we would never approve of this lifestyle but that nothing would ever take away our love from him. He hugged us all and left. Our nightmare was coming true but now we were finally released to reach out for support from our church family. Since Josh had made a declaration and was going public, we could get the help we so desperately needed without betraying him. My husband fell into a deep depression and began working until all he had time for was to shower and sleep. I on the other hand had nothing to do but sit in a recliner all day and weep. Between my illness and this situation, I no longer wanted to live. I told Him (God) I could not bear to see my 18-year-old son drive off to California with a stranger. God heard the cry of my mother's heart—Josh and the guy broke up and he would not be moving to California! But God didn't *deliver* him from the lifestyle. I know that God can only do so much because He gave us a freewill and Josh had the freedom to choose. It has been almost two years since that dreadful night in October, and God has brought us so far. We still have days when all seems lost but we wait with anticipation of how and when God will bring our prodigal home. Recently Josh told me he no longer believed in God. This really grieved my heart. How could God convict him if he no longer believed there was a God? Then he came home for my birthday in February and went to church with us on a communion Sunday. Just as the elements were being passed out, Josh ask his Dad for the car keys, explaining that he had left something in the car. He left and returned after communion was over. God gave me the best birthday present that day when He let me know that Josh does still know that He is real and that's why Josh didn't partake. He had been raised in God's house and he knew better than to partake in the condition his life was in. God is so faithful, even when we are faithless.

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Hope for Healing Seminar Details

NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS:

WWW.JOSEPHSCOATMINISTRIES.COM

Visit us at www.josephscoatministries.com to find:

- Our mission & services
- Christopher's testimony
- Christopher's wife's testimony
- Ministry news and copies of previous newsletters
- Hope for Healing* seminar information
- Links: Resources & online support group
- Statistics
- Change is possible scriptures
- Testimonials
- Board member information
- Secure online donation link
- Suggested reading materials
- Volunteer opportunities

MINISTRY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Office clerks to work one day a week at the ministry office: answering phones, performing clerical tasks, learning and maintaining our mailing list software, data entry, typing

Attorney to provide advice concerning incorporation of the ministry, the corporate charter, and any ongoing business-related questions

Accountant to figure quarterly income taxes for the ministry

Prayer warriors to regularly pray for the ministry leadership and its clients who suffer emotional and/or spiritual pain

Regular monthly donors

Personal testimonies of God's healing and deliverance to publish in newsletters and/or share at a seminar

Lay or professional counselors who can offer our clients encouragement, wise counsel, support and empowerment.

Grant writer

Helpers to set up ministry booths, fold and prepare newsletters & mailings

Contact us by phone, email, or visit our web site to inquire.