

RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES

“Bridging the Gap Between the Church and the Sexually Broken”

Reconciliation Ministries Newsletter for March 2014



Living in Ephesus... These days it seems like we are living in Ephesus along with Paul. In the beginning of Acts 19 we see the reports of many supernatural miracles. Many people were coming to Christ. Along with the miracles, we see others in the synagogue rising up against Paul and causing a great disturbance. Nonetheless, Paul remained faithful to speak the word of God and numerous lives were touched by the Holy Spirit. There became a great distinction between those who held faithful to the Lord and those who held fast to the idolatrous culture of the times. An uproar arose in the city during which the multitudes came against Paul for speaking against their goddess. It seems that Paul's preaching was persuading many to renounce their idolatrous ways and their sinful culture. People were furious. Verse 32 reads, "The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. *Most of the people did not even know why they were there.*" [NIV – emphasis added] They were simply swayed by the cultural tide to rise up against Jesus Christ and His ways, and to speak out against the church. Paul and other faithful Christians refused to back down to public pressure. He continued to speak the truth of Jesus Christ and encouraged the disciples living there to remain faithful.

We need to be people like Paul in today's culture. I write this newsletter days after Arizona Governor, Jan Brewer, vetoed a bill that would have allowed photographers, wedding cake bakers, and others in the service industry to follow their conscience and decline services which would violate their faith-based convictions. Today as I write, a trial is underway in Federal Court in Detroit that challenges Michigan's constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Those who support the sinfulness of today's culture are in opposition to those who hold true to the Word of God. Those who are against homosexuality are called bigots and homophobes. Legal challenges against traditional morality are becoming more and more common. Nonetheless, we must remain faithful to uphold Scripture and speak the truth in love. When we do we will be met with opposition, but we must look beyond this present world to the reality that we are living for eternity. When the souls of men and women are at risk, the most loving thing we can do is to graciously tell them the truth. Encouraging a sinful lifestyle *of any type* that will lead men and women to eternal destruction is not love.

It is easy to become intimidated by the furor of those who support homosexuality. It is easy to be swayed by the compassionate stories and warm personalities of those who are active in the LGBT community and who actually *have suffered great emotional pain* because of their sexuality. It is easy to allow our emotions to influence our beliefs about homosexuality; however, it is critical that we remain grounded in the Word of God and focus on eternity. With the leading of the Holy Spirit, we must reach out graciously to those involved in homosexuality. As we hold out the truth that the Lord calls all men and women to repent, we must be willing to walk with them as they learn to walk out the redemption that Jesus Christ provides. We must be willing to share the journey with those in the LGBT community as they seek the Lord to help them replace what has most likely been the only identity they have ever known with their true identity in Christ. The journey will be difficult for them, and it will be challenging for us. Are we willing to sacrifice everything to walk with those who are seeking deliverance as the Redeemer does His work in all of us? That is true compassion.

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When My Mother and Father Forsake Me... – Dan Hitz

Dan Hitz is the Executive Director of Reconciliation Ministries of Michigan, a member ministry of the [Restored Hope Network](http://www.restoredhope.org) dedicated to bringing freedom to men, women, and adolescents struggling with sexual and relationship issues. For more information contact Reconciliation Ministries at 586.739.5114, or visit us on the web at www.recmin.org.

***For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well. – Psalm 139:13-14***



Those verses were intended to give us comfort as we realize the great attention to detail that Lord used to lovingly put us together in our mother's womb. For those of us who grew up in a dysfunctional family, those verses may bring up different emotions altogether. We may wonder why the Lord "chose to put us in that specific womb". Far from feeling good about ourselves as the Lord's creation, our negative upbringing can make us feel like damaged goods.

Erik Erikson is a developmental psychologist famous for identifying the stages of psychosocial development. His theory basically describes God's intent for the role that parents and other significant people play in our emotional and social development. **Unfortunately in this fallen world, not all of us have grown up with a healthy mother and father. Not all of us have gone through childhood and adolescence with a healthy connection to our peers. If that is the case in your life, the Lord can heal the emotional wounds inflicted through the things you have experienced.** He can also heal the wounds you've endured because the nurturing and care that you were supposed to receive didn't happen. Psalm 27:10 reads, "When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me." God can heal the hurts in your heart and fill the emotional voids.

A brief exploration of God's intended role for our parents and peers will help you understand where you need the Holy Spirit to touch your heart. **Our relationship with our mother is the most important relationship that we have when we are born. Mothers are intended by God to give us a sense of being – a sense that it's okay to be alive and that we have value.** Mom's nurture us. When we are hungry they feed us. When we mess our diapers, they change us. We learn from them that our lives are celebrated and that we will be well cared for.

After we learn to crawl and walk, we look beyond mother to our father. **Fathers are intended by God to help us learn to explore the world and take the initiative to try new things. They are also designed by God to encourage us to grow into the identity and purpose that He created us to have.** Dads empower us to become established in this world and succeed. Little girls learn what it means to be female through their mothers, while little boys learn what it means to be male from their fathers.

As we enter school, the next important relationships we have are with our same-gender peers. At this stage boys usually think girls have "cooties" and girls may think boys are a bit nasty. This is a normal stage of development. Little boys learn how to relate to other little boys as they interact and play together. It works the same for girls. We learn that we are a good and acceptable little boy or girl as we fit in well with other little boys or girls.

As we gain confidence in our own gender peer group, we then begin to reach out to the other gender and learn how to relate to them. Boys notice that the girls lose their cooties and are becoming attractive. Girls notice that the boys aren't so nasty after all. Confidence in who we are as a person continues to grow as we establish healthy relationships with the opposite sex.

God intends our emotional and relational development to continue throughout our lives as we enter into committed relationships, begin our families, and relate to others in our community. Many of us have not had the ideal development and growth described in this article. **A problem at any stage of development will create challenges in the future stages. Fortunately, the Lord has taken that into account and has made provision for our emotional healing on the cross.** We can take comfort in the verse that was referenced earlier in this article which reads, “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.” When Jesus began His ministry, He read out of the book of Isaiah where it says, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted...” (Luke 4:18-19). In the original language, the phrase “brokenhearted” refers to shards of glass like when you break a mirror. Jesus was saying that He was sent by the Father to heal the “shards of glass” – the fragments of our heart – from emotional trauma and neglect. We find in Jesus a loving Savior who is willing to hear our prayers, heal our emotional wounds, and fill the voids in our hearts with His presence.



If you’ve grown up without the kind of nurturing that God designed you to have, spend time in prayer and share your hurts with Him. **Recognizing our areas of deep need is a first step in overcoming our mother and father wounds.** Be honest about your pain. Ask Him to teach you to recognize His healing presence and to heal your heart. As you work through the various areas of need in your heart, you may recognize pockets of hidden anger. **It is important for your own personal growth to learn to forgive those who have wounded you. Forgiveness is more for your sake, than for the sake of those who have offended you.** Your offender may be totally unaware that he or she has wounded you, or he or she may actually be glad that you were wounded. We live in a very fallen world. Harboring anger and resentment will only serve to hinder you, keep you bound to your wounds, and give your offender the victory. Forgiveness sets you free. Ask the Lord to help you release your anger and resentment to Him and allow Him to deal with those who have hurt you. Your offender and your wounds will lose their power as you experience the healing power of Christ.

Sometimes when we are sinned against, we respond with sinful reactions. Ask the Lord to show you the areas in your own life where you have responded to your pain in sinful ways. When He does, repent and seek to make amends where appropriate. In walking away from our sin we find a deeper capacity to receive God’s love and walk in deeper relationships with others in the Body of Christ. **In addition to friends, we all need others who are more mature than us and have journeyed successfully through some of life’s difficult pathways.** Ask the Lord to send



you a safe, Christian mentor to walk with you and help you in your journey. Your pastor, a recovery group, or the pastoral care department at your church may be a good place to start. No pastor or mentor can become the long lost mother of father that you never had, but he or she can share his or her experience with you as you both walk towards Jesus together.

As you follow these steps in your journey, you will begin to experience the fulfillment of the verse, “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.” You will grow into a beautiful relationship with God the Father where He truly will fill the voids in your heart. He longs to become the safe, loving, nurturing parent that you have always wanted.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dan Hitz will be sharing a Biblical response to homosexuality at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Walled Lake on Sunday, March 16th starting at 7pm.

Topics include his personal journey out of homosexuality, the building blocks of homosexuality, steps to overcoming, and how the church can respond and minister to those in the LGBT community. [St. Matthew](#) is located at 2040 S. Commerce Road in Walled Lake. For more information call 248.624.7676.



Healing Hearts, is a confidential Christian support group for parents and families of those struggling with homosexuality. **The next meeting will be held at Rockpointe Community Church on Sunday, April 13th from 2:00 - 4:00 pm.** [Rockpointe](#) is located at 38100 Utica Road in Sterling Heights. For more information on the meeting call **Doug and Ginny** at **586.709.0745**.

Mike & Renee - 313-937-3422 - rcboyle@sbcglobal.net
Doug & Ginny - 586-709-0745 - dougsqirl821@gmail.com
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Dan Hitz, Director of Reconciliation Ministries, will be traveling to the Philippines and another country in SE Asia in May with [Robert Hartzell Ministries](#) to assist with seminars on sexual wholeness, the Father heart of God, and prayer ministry training. Please prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible contribution designated to missions in support of this trip.

The approximate cost will be \$2960. Individual needs are highlighted below for those who would like to sponsor a specific part of this trip.

Main ticket to SE Asia \$1564

Flight from first country to Philippines \$175

Round trip from Manila to Cebu \$145

Visa for travel \$170

Travel health insurance \$90

Food, lodging, and misc. \$800

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for the participants of the Living Waters Troy program who have just completed their session. Ask the Lord to help them make a smooth transition from Living Waters into the greater Body of Christ.
- Please pray for the new Living Waters Brighton participants that they will continue to hold their hearts open to what the Lord has for them.
- Please pray for both leadership teams – that the Troy team will have a blessed time of refreshment during their training season and that the Brighton team will be strengthened and led by the Lord as they minister.
- Please pray for wisdom and clear direction for Dan Hitz and the ministry board as they make decisions on what specific ministry opportunities the Lord would like us to pursue in the months ahead.
- Please pray for clear direction as we work on our outreach to pastors and ministry leaders, and as we continue to revise the ministry website. It has been challenging to have the time to focus on these two important projects and complete them.