



from Hal and Lisa

Grace to you!

I love the verse from Galatians 5:1 where Paul wrote that "it was for freedom that Christ set you free". What a promising and hopeful verse of scripture. Christ set me and you free at salvation and He freed us so that we could now live free in Him. And then he exhorted his readers to "keep standing firm and not be entangled again in a yoke of bondage." I know he is writing about their following the Law when it comes to being right with God but ultimately it is about forgiveness and freedom from sin's power. The fact that he says "do not be entangled again in a yoke of bondage" tells me that it is very much possible to live free in this freedom that is our in Christ Jesus. Praise God! What hope is ours in Christ. What freedom!

But how does this that is powerfully stated in principle become reality in our lives practically? This is exactly what we are wanting to do through the ministry of Refuge 461. We want to help those who are struggling with the bondage of sexual sin to not only know this freedom that is theirs in Christ but to live it daily. One of the ways we do this is through Bible study groups. It is in these small groups that we learn how to live free in Christ one step at a time. We have plans to begin a new *Live Free....One Step At A Time* group on September 4 at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in being a part of this group, then contact me at 228-297-9823 and I will share with you the details. I believe in the biblical principles found in this Bible study and as I am personally following them I am able to live free in Christ

one step at a time from the bondage of sin and specifically homosexuality and same sex attraction. I invite you to join me on this journey.

While I am excited about this discipleship group and the possibilities for those taking part in it, I am deeply burdened over the increasing number of teens embracing a gay identity. I base this on the conversations I have had with a number of teens (male and female) over the past few months whose opinion is that they are gay and they have no desire to entertain any thoughts of change. In fact, they see no need or reason to change. My heart breaks for these individuals and their families. What I have realized from each of these is just how influenced they are by the culture and the predominate philosophy held by this world. Why wouldn't they think these things and come to the conclusions they are coming to? This is what they are hearing and seeing constantly. After each conversation, I wonder how can this be changed? I have always felt that the church is key in this and we as the church have to become more involved and we can't waste any more time. And it is not just about taking a stand against homosexuality, that obviously is not working. We have to more intentionally talk to our children at an earlier age about a biblical gender identity and godly sexuality. Furthermore, we as Christian adults must model healthy and holy sexuality for our children. Also, we must equip parents in how to talk about this topic in a way that is both clear and biblical. Our children are hearing the pro gay point of view in every setting of their lives

and there is not much being said or done to counter those lies. We must start addressing this or our situation which is already bad will go from bad to worse. We stand the risk of losing this generation and the next if we don't take some proactive steps with our kids now! May God help us have the wisdom and courage we need to address this issue more intentionally. Please join us in praying about this.

As you can see from our "Events" section of this update, we have a number of events coming up. We praise God for these opportunities and we request your prayers.

Back in June we had an awesome experience meeting with Rich Malone and the counselors and staff at Lake Forest Ranch in Macon, MS. These young men and women have been interacting all summer with that generation I was just writing about earlier. Our prayer is that they had many opportunities to help these teens know the freedom that is theirs in Christ in every area of their lives.

Please keep praying for us as we seek to help those impacted by homosexuality find freedom in Christ. Thank you for standing by our side.

Hal & Lisa Selby



Refuge 461
Hal and Lisa Selby
Ministry Directors



Events

August 14 Oktibbeha County Ministers Conference, Adaton Baptist Church, 2:00 pm Hal will lead the pastors in a discussion of what it looks like for the church to respond redemptively to those impacted by homosexuality.

August 15 Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union Basic Training, Adaton Baptist Church Basic Training is an outreach to incoming freshmen and transfer students at MSU. It is an effort to introduce them to the local churches. This is not Refuge 461 related but it is an opportunity to meet a large group of students. Hal will lead the afternoon session of this event.

September 4 "Live Free...One Step At A Time" A twelve week study designed to equip those impacted by same sex attraction to live free in Christ one step at a time. The group will meet each Thursday beginning September 4 and continuing through November 20. Call Hal & Lisa for meeting time and location. They can be reached at 228-297-9823 or by email at halselbyjr@bellsouth.net

September 14 Margaret Lackey State Missions Emphasis, Bethel Baptist Church, Columbus, MS Hal and Lisa will share about their Mission Service Corps Missionary work through the ministry of Refuge 461 as they share with Bethel Baptist Church in their Margaret Lackey State Missions Emphasis.

October 12-15 Revival, Pinelake Baptist Church, Vancleave, MS

November 4 East Mississippi Community College, Scooba, MS, Baptist Student Union Meeting, 7:00 pm

November 11 University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, Baptist Student Union Meeting, 7:00 pm

Praying With Us

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers..."

Ephesians 6:18

- Praise God for the opportunity to speak at Lake Forest Ranch. Pray for Rich and his staff as God uses them to impact students.
- Pray for those teens who are embracing a gay identity.
- Pray for our *Live Free...One Step*

At A Time group that begins on September 4. Pray for God to work powerfully in the lives of these men and women.

- Pray for the opportunities we will have over the next couple of months to share about the freedom that is ours in Christ. Ask God to be preparing hearts for the message He will give them.

- Pray for the church to wake up and rise up to meet this moral challenge of our day and to do so in a way that is redemptive.
- Pray for our family as we seek to follow Him in the ministry of Refuge 461.
- Pray that in all things God is glorified.

Become a ministry partner

The ministry of Refuge 461 depends on the financial support of ministry partners. If you would like to become a ministry partner you may do so through the "Support Us" page at www.refuge461.org. You may also mail your tax deductible donation to:

North American Mission Board

Attn: Accounting - MSC

P. O. Box 116543

Atlanta, GA 30368-6543



NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

Make your check payable to

North American Mission Board

and write *Hal and Lisa Selby #9634* on the memo portion of your check. We are so thankful for you and for God's leading you to give to Refuge 461. You are helping us help others!

■ *Refuge 461 is a Christian discipleship ministry providing biblically based help and encouragement for those individuals, couples, parents and families whose lives are impacted by homosexuality. This is done through individual support, weekly group meetings (which include worship, Bible study, and small group accountability), and by helping churches respond redemptively to those who are impacted by homosexuality.*

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