



from Hal and Lisa

Grace to you.

Nineteen years ago God led Lisa and me to follow Him in moving from Starkville, MS to Ocean Springs, MS. We would move there to minister through First Baptist Church where I would serve as senior pastor. It was a huge move for us but we were confident that God was in it. What we did not know was just how "huge" this move would be for us.

Five years into our serving FBC I would have an encounter with God out of which I would never be the same. It happened as God spoke to me on two separate occasions from 1 John 3:4-11 to show me that I had never been born again. Even though outwardly there was a lot that was good, I had a heart that had never been redeemed and one evidence of that was my secret habitual practice of homosexuality. When He showed me this the second time, I humbly agreed with Him, repented of my sin, called upon the Lord to save me and became a new creation in Christ. That was Saturday, November 13, 1999.

In the week that followed I told Lisa I had been saved and confessed to her my homosexuality. I resigned my church and we began a journey with God that included His breaking my bondage of homosexuality and the healing and restoring of our marriage. It has been an intense journey but an incredibly amazing one as we have seen God do amazing things.

The year after all of this God called us to Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ocean Springs to serve there as pas-

tor. Besides giving us a place to serve, God would use this body of believers greatly in our lives. We are so thankful for them and for God's blessing us through them.

Nine years into serving Emmanuel, God led us to begin the ministry of Refuge 461. That was May of 2010. Refuge 461 is a Christian discipleship ministry offering help and hope to those whose lives are impacted by homosexuality. It is endorsed by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and we were appointed by them as Mission Service Corps missionaries to serve as ministry directors. God has blessed this ministry in ways beyond our comprehension. He has given us many opportunities to work with many whose lives are impacted by homosexuality. He has also opened doors for us to share our story and ministry with a number of churches as we help equip them in how to respond redemptively to those impacted by this sin. It has been amazing to see all that God has done.

In addition to these opportunities, God has called out individuals from various places in the United States to support us by their praying and giving. God has worked mightily through these individuals and churches to meet the financial needs of our family and ministry. We praise God for what He has done and we are so thankful for each one who has come alongside of us to make it possible for us to do this full time. God is so good!!!

And now here we are at another

crossroads in following God's leading. At this time God is leading us back to Starkville, MS where He has opened a door for us to minister through Adaton Baptist Church where I will serve as pastor and where we will be able to continue to direct the ministry of Refuge 461. We feel this is a great opportunity to grow the work of Refuge 461 while serving as pastor of a growing church in the area. We can hardly wait to see all that God has planned for us.

We need your prayers as we make this transition, settle into the church and start the "finding Refuge" weekly meetings. We know there will be many new challenges and difficulties but we are confident of God's leading and we know that with His help and your prayers God will see us through it all!

Thank you for all you have done to stand with us and we pray you will continue to do so. Given the current trends in the church and the culture, ministries like Refuge 461 are greatly needed. And we need you standing with us by praying and giving as we continue to follow God in the ministry of Refuge 461 as we help those impacted by homosexuality live free in Christ one step at a time.

May the God who transforms people bless you! We pray that you and your family have a blessed Christmas. May joy and hope and peace be yours in abundance! We love you.

Grace,

Hal & Lisa

Events

January 20, 2014 *Baptist Student Union, William Carey University, Hattiesburg, MS. 8:45 pm* Hal will share his story with the students attending.

January 22, 2014 *Mississippi State University, Baptist Student Union, 12 Noon* Hal will be speaking on the topic: "A Gospel Response to Same Sex Attraction".

January 26-27, 2014 *State Evangelism Conference of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian, MS*

February 8, 2014 *"ManUp" Men's Conference, First Baptist Church, Euless, TX. 9 am - 1 pm* Hal will share his testimony and speak to the issue of living morally pure.

Praying With Us

- Pray for that those men, women and families on the MS Gulf Coast who have been involved in our weekly meeting over the past three years. What a blessing to have been able to be a part of their lives during this time. Pray that they will rely on the Spirit of God to live free in Christ one step at a time.
- Pray for each of the events we will be involved with over the next two months. Ask God to work powerfully and that those attending will come to know the awesome possibility of living free in Christ.
- In early January 2014, we plan to start our "finding refuge" weekly meeting. Pray for us as we seek God's leading in starting this. Pray that God will lead to these meetings those who are wanting help. Pray that the Spirit of God will work through us to help many know how to live free in Christ.
- Pray for us as we move to Starkville, MS and settle into the community and the church. Pray for our daughters as they begin new schools. Pray for our son, his wife and our grandson as they adjust to our not being only a few miles away. Pray for us as we adjust to not being able to see our grandson weekly.
- As we had our home inspected to sell it, the inspector discovered that we may have Chinese drywall. This happened a lot after Hurricane Katrina when drywall was imported. The Chinese drywall corrodes the copper in the AC unit and electrical switches and outlets. If it is found to be so we will have to replace the drywall, AC unit, and redo most of the outlets and switches in the house. Please pray as we seek resolve to this so that we can sell our house.
- Pray that God is glorified in all things.

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

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, and parents whose lives are impacted by homosexuality. This is done through individual support, weekly group meetings (which includes worship, Bible study, and small group accountability), and by helping churches respond redemptively to those impacted by homosexuality.*

Refuge 461
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