



from Hal and Lisa

Grace to you!

OVERWHELMED! In many ways that is the word I would use to describe my thoughts and emotions in light of the events that took place during the past few weeks. There have been very few times in my life when so many critical things happened in such a short period of time. I knew they were coming but I did not know it would turn out as it did. My initial responseoverwhelmed!

What I am referring to are the decisions made by the Boy Scouts of America, the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States of America and the leadership of Exodus International. All of these things happened within weeks of each other and what the full impact will be is yet to be realized.

The Boy Scouts of America made their decision first. They changed their policy to now allow openly homosexual boys into scouting. While on the surface that may seem like a good idea as these boys need healthy role models, I believe that ultimately those with a desire that our culture be fully accepting of homosexuality will use this as an opportunity to advance their desires. I personally don't believe it will stop with this most recent decision.

Next came the decisions by the Supreme Court. The justices ruled on two key cases related to the issue of homosexuality. The justices decided not to take up the appeal regarding California's recently

passed law known as Proposition 8. Prop 8, as it was referred to was passed by the voters of California and it placed a ban on gay marriage in that state. Opponents of the proposition appealed to a lower court who ruled it unconstitutional. The Supreme Court said those appealing the lower court's decision did not have the right to do so and so the lower court's decision would stand and thereby overturning the voters decision to ban gay marriage.

The Supreme Court also ruled on a challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act. The justices ruled that in states where gay marriage was legal that federal benefits traditionally reserved for heterosexual couples would now be extended to gay couples who are married.

Both of these decisions by the Supreme Court will pave the way for those wanting our society as a whole to accept and affirm homosexuality and gay marriage to advance their agenda and they will do so.

And then, on top of all of this, Exodus International decided late in June that they would close their doors as a ministry. Exodus International for the past 30 plus years has led the way in ministry to those whose lives are impacted by homosexuality. They served as an umbrella organization for over 200 ministries whose purpose was to offer hope and help to those impacted by same sex issues. The closing of Exodus International was not the closing of these 200 plus ministries

but Exodus' decision did have an impact on all of us who are involved in this kind of ministry.

And my response to all of this? Well, it was overwhelming but I must say that I have not nor will I ever lose hope. Regardless of how the culture may "spin" all of this and how many may view this as a major gain for homosexuality and a major set back for ministries like ours, I refuse to lose hope or give up. Why? Because I know first hand that God through the powerful gospel of Jesus Christ can transform anyone's life and set them free from any sin that binds them including homosexuality. It is not some theory or some therapy, it is the gospel of Jesus Christ...the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes. I have personally experienced this in my life!

And because of this, we will pray more intently and work more diligently that those who are impacted by homosexuality may come to know the power of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ that can transform their lives as well.

Thank you for standing by our side in the ministry of Refuge 461. Your support of us and the ministry of Refuge 461 through your praying and giving is greatly appreciated and needed now more than ever. We praise God as we thank Him for you!

Grace,

Hal & Lisa



Upcoming Events

July 8 Lebanon Baptist Association Ministers Meeting, 11:30 a.m., 38th Ave. Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS

July 16 Finding Refuge Group Meeting, Ocean Springs, MS 6:30 pm Call 228-297-9823 for the details.

September 23-25 Lakeside Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS An event designed to equip the church in understanding the impact that the gospel of Christ can have in the lives of those impacted by homosexuality. More details next month.

October 28, Contemporary Ethical Issues in Ministry, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm(Lunch Included), FBC, Jackson, MS
An event prior to the Pastor's Conference of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Speakers include Dr. Russell Moore and Dr. Richard Land and will include a Q & A session as well.

Prayer Requests

- All that is in the news about the Boy Scouts, the Supreme Court decisions and the decision by Exodus International not only impacts us in what we do but it also affects those we minister to who are seeking to live free from homosexuality. Pray that they will keep their eyes on God and continue to believe the truth of God as found in His Word rather than the philosophy of man.
- Pray that the church will not cave in to the pressure of the culture but that we will follow the example of Jesus and redemptively reach out to those impacted by homosexuality. Ask God to give us opportunities to engage our family and friends in redemptive conversation about the subject of homosexuality.
- Pray for our Finding Refuge group as we are meeting only once in June and July. Pray that those in our group will depend on God to help them continue living free one step at a time. Pray they will stand firm and fight through.
- Pray for us as we make plans for resuming our weekly meetings in August.
- Continue to pray for me as I seek to complete the "Live Free" Bible study. Pray that my personal deadline of August 9 will be met. Ask God to lead me by His Spirit as I write and edit. Pray that the end result will be something that every church can use to help those impacted by homosexuality learn to live free in Christ one step at a time.
- Pray for the events listed above. Pray that God will work through each of these.
- Pray for us as we seek God's guidance in building our team of financial partners.
- Pray that God is glorified in all things.

Become A Financial Partner

If you would like to partner with us and help impact our culture, 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. Thank you for your support of us and the ministry of Refuge 461!

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 Life Transformation Groups (which include worship, Bible study, & small group accountability), and by helping churches respond redemptively to those impacted by homosexuality.

Refuge 461
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