



from Hal and Lisa

Grace to you.

Lisa and I are so thankful for the opportunity to serve as Mission Service Corps Missionaries with the North American Mission Board. We are also thankful for the prayerful support we receive from so many of you. This work of ministry that God has called us to would not be possible without those of you who are standing with us as you pray and give.

Our need for others to stand by our side in this ministry was clearly brought home to us this past month. We had two specific opportunities where the prayers of others were greatly needed and felt.

The first was on Labor Day weekend. We were able to join with Vieux Carre' Baptist Church in the French Quarter and New Life City Church from Albuquerque, NM during Southern Decadence week in New Orleans. Southern Decadence is one of the largest gay pride events in the United States. During this event, we got to spend some time with Tom and Sonja Bilderback as they shared with us about their ministry in the French Quarter. They are in the heart of the quarter and specifically in the area of a large number of gay bars. What an incredible ministry God has given them. While at Vieux Carre', we were able to set up a table outside the church and offer water, lemonade, snacks and share some gospel tracts with those walking by. We had a few conversations and we are praying that God will use what was said and done to draw some to

Himself. On Saturday morning we met with the team from New Mexico. We did not get to minister alongside them but did get to spend some time hearing about their ministry and praying with them. The time with them was so encouraging and enlightening.

Before meeting with the team, Lisa and I walked around the French Quarter. While we were walking in the area where there are many gay bars, we met a lady and were able to spend about an hour with her sharing our story and why we were in the French Quarter. She was not gay but she had her own struggles and hurts. As we shared with her, she opened up and began to tell us her story. It was awesome to see God working.

We went to New Orleans for God to work through us and while He did, He also worked in us. This aspect of ministry to gays and lesbians was new for us but God used it greatly in us.

The other opportunity took place the last week in September as we participated in a conference at Lakeside Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, MS. "Coming Out: A Gospel Response to Same Sex Attraction" was the name of the conference. The conference was led by Randy Cofield who is the pastor of Lakeside and was an equipping conference for the church but because it was publicized publicly it drew the attention of the gay and lesbian community. The gay community responded by organizing a protest during the same time as the conference. There were

also plans by them to attend the conference and specifically to take part in the question and answer time. They did what they planned but it was done peacefully.

The conference consisted of messages by local pastors Kevin Shearer, Kyle Jones, and Shane Freeman as well as testimonies by Lisa and me. Each night there was also a time for questions and answers. A great crowd attended nightly and we believe God worked in a great way.

We learned that the protest group was having a meeting on the Saturday after the conference to counter what we had shared. About 7 of us from the conference at Lakeside attended the meeting on Saturday and were able to meet some of those who are in opposition to the ministries like ours. We are praying God uses our willingness to go to their meeting and to meet them to show that we are not about hate as they had assumed we might be.

As we prepared for these events, our prayer was that we would see beyond the sinfulness of people and just see people with a great need for God's love and grace in their lives. We also prayed that these individuals would see and experience God's love and grace from us. We believe that God answered these prayers.

Thank you for standing by our side in this critical ministry.

Grace,

Hal & Lisa Selby



Praying With Us

With all prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit. And pray....

- that God would continue to give us wisdom as we minister to those who are seeking to live free of same sex struggles.
- that God would help these who are seeking to live free to have the courage and commitment to face their struggles in His strength and power.
- on behalf of those who are living in homosexuality. Pray for these and their families who are seeking God on behalf of their loved ones.
- that the church will learn to always respond redemptively to those whose lives are impacted by homosexuality.
- that we will have many opportunities to help equip the church in how to respond redemptively.
- that during the Mississippi Baptist Convention God will give us opportunities to share about the ministry of Refuge 461.
- for us as we look to God for His provision for and protection of our family.
- with us that in all things God will be glorified.

Events

October - December The Purity Principle, 7:00-8:30 pm A small group study of the Purity Principle book by Randy Alcorn beginning on October 17 and continuing every THURSDAY night through December 19. Contact us at 228-297-9823 for meeting place and other details.

October 27 World Missions Conference, First Baptist Church, Richland, MS We will set up a booth to share information about the ministry of Refuge 461 at the Missions Conference of First Baptist Church, Richland, MS.

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.

October 28, Mission Service Corps Annual Meeting, FBC, Jackson, MS We will attend the annual meeting of the Mission Service Corps Missionaries of Mississippi.

October 28-30, Mississippi Baptist Convention, Jackson, MS We will set up a booth for Refuge 461 Ministries in the exhibit area during the convention.

November 6, Mississippi State University BSU Noonday, Starkville, MS Hal will be at the Wednesday luncheon of the BSU of MSU.

Become a Ministry Partner

Become a ministry partner with Refuge 461 through the "Support Us" page at www.refuge461.org. Or 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 your giving to God for the ministry of Refuge 461 and the support of our family. God bless you!

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.

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