

FREEDOM PRESS

Proclaiming healing, wholeness & freedom in Jesus Christ

A quarterly publication of Joseph's Coat Ministries, Inc. (JCM) - April 2008

REACHING OUR YOUTH



Last year, we were invited to have a ministry booth at the J-103 Christian Radio event called *J-Fest*. There were a lot of young people (between the ages of 12-25) who dropped by to visit our tent. While there, they asked questions, picked up free literature about the ministry, and received prayer if they so requested. It seemed to me at the time that God had touched my heart with His vast mercy by allowing me to have an inside look into the hurts, confusion and sense of utter loss that so many of our young people are facing today. They had so many questions! Some felt that the Bible did not address the issue of homosexuality, while others felt the Bible was totally irrelevant. Some were familiar with what the Bible had to say about homosexuality but had resolved within themselves that this choice in lifestyle was okay with God. This group of young people did not seem to have a "moral compass" pertaining to either their choice of living the gay life, or their acceptance of a friend who lived in that lifestyle. They were totally comfortable with their sexuality and felt that God was fully accepting of it. I asked them how their parents felt about their lifestyle (or their friends' lifestyle) and some would say that their parents were perfectly fine with their choice. When I followed up their response by asking them if they and their parents were Christians, they always answered affirmatively. Others I spoke with were Christians who struggled with same-sex attraction but had not been totally convinced that living in that lifestyle was okay with God.

I think back to when I was a teenager, and I am reminded of how truly difficult it was for me to go through those years. When I entered puberty, my body, as well as my emotions, began to go through a lot of change. I remember carrying a great deal of fear, feelings of rejection, insecurities (e.g., do I measure up to other guys?) and loneliness. Puberty, for me, was the "jumping off" point with my awakening sexuality. I had always struggled (as far back as I can remember) with wanting to be close to men. I was drawn more to them than to girls. However, before puberty, those feelings were not sexualized; they were just feelings of wanting to be close to another male. The arrival of puberty is when I began to struggle with the desire to be with guys sexually. I knew, though, that it was socially unacceptable (to have same-sex attraction) and that I would be persecuted even more if anyone knew about my inner conflict. During part of my teenage years, I was very overweight. One summer vacation, I worked hard to lose the weight, and I returned to school very thin. However, regardless of what my body looked like, I was still made fun of and harassed. Even my accent was publicly criticized in the classroom by some students, which made me feel ashamed. As a result, I feared so much for my wellbeing and was never really able to apply myself in high school. At the age of 17, I quit high school, which was one of my biggest mistakes. I made this decision because there was no one in my life to encourage me to press on in tough times! If there had been someone in my life whom I could have confided in about the struggle I was having with my sexuality, I believe my life would have taken a different course other than living a full-fledged homosexual lifestyle.

At the upcoming "Truth that Sets You Free" seminar on Saturday, May 17, I will be teaching on the subject of *Youth and Homosexuality*. I will discuss specific issues that young people are facing today, such as: Feelings and attraction for the same sex. What do I do with these feelings? Is it normal to feel this way? Should I accept myself as being gay/lesbian? What do I do if I think I'm gay or lesbian? The pressures of sex. Rejection issues and how not to get normal healthy needs met the wrong way. Sexual abuse - it's not your fault! What is homosexuality and sexual orientation? Can orientation change? Can a person change from being gay to straight?

Please register today for this seminar. If you are a young person, a parent or loved one of a young person, or a leader to young persons in a church, ministry or school, then this meeting is for you. **Last day to register is Monday, May 12.** Hope to see you there.

In Him,

Chris Delaney



Joseph's Coat
ministries

"He dressed me up in a suit of salvation, he outfitted me in a robe of righteousness"
—Isaiah 61:10 TM

Inspirational Quote

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:7,8



Prayer Requests

- Our clients and their families.
- The seminar on May 17—that people will be freed from condemnation, guilt, and shame.
- The continuation of the message that freedom is possible!

Praise Report

The mission and services of JCM is being broadcast on J-103 Christian Radio every day for the next 12 months. We praise God for His divine favor. May many people become aware of the work we do.

Financial Update

We need you to prayerfully consider becoming a partner in the work of JCM on a regular basis. God is doing mighty things in this ministry but we need your support to continue pressing on to new heights. There are many new areas of ministry we would like to enter but are waiting on God's provision. Your donation will be wisely used and will go toward changing the lives of hurting people. Feel free to contact us for more details on contributing.



Joseph's Coat
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Reaching Our Youth.
Free seminar details
inside.

CLERICAL HELP NEEDED!

If you can type, perform data entry, answer phones, file, or fold, we need your help. Some computer experience is helpful. Days and times are flexible depending on your availability. We are praying for individuals who are being led by the Lord to be a steady, practical support to our ministry in this way. Please contact Chris Delaney for details.

OUR WEBSITE

We are continuously updating and improving our website. Visit us soon to see what is new. Our goal is to make it easy for people to get help and information. We welcome your feedback! Go to:

www.josephscoatministries.org

About Us—About Christopher—Seminar Information & Registration—Get Help—Get Involved—Helpful Links—Issues/Questions—Photo Gallery—And More!

Joseph's Coat Ministries'

Truth that Sets You Free

Quarterly Seminar Series

Topic: Youth and Homosexuality

For everyone who wants to better understand the issues and respond from a Christian perspective.

- **DATE:** Saturday, May 17, 2008
- **TIME:** 5:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.
- **WHERE:** City Church of Chattanooga
- **COST:** None (a love offering is accepted)
- **LIGHT DINNER PROVIDED**
- **ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** By Monday, May 12, 2008.
- **TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:** Please provide us with your name, mailing address, e-mail address, and names and contact information for additional reservations. Make reservations by phone, e-mail or visit our website at www.josephscoatministries.com.
- **Christopher Delaney**, JCM founder/director, will discuss specific issues facing our youth today. Read Christopher's article inside for more information.
- A **Special Guest Testimony** will be shared.
- Join us for a time of **food, fellowship, songs of praise, learning, and small group discussion.**