



Freedom from homosexuality through Jesus Christ

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My Vision for the Future by McKrae Game

Sixteen years ago, in 1999, the Lord laid on my heart to start this ministry. Then it was Truth Ministry, today, Hope for Wholeness. Despite being around for sixteen years, not enough people are aware we exist and finances are tight. Even in our own hometown of Spartanburg we're not really well known. One reason that we've replaced our small Truth Ministry sign with a big Hope for Wholeness sign is to help get the word out there and put the new name in people's minds. Jacob Morgan and Rita Brown have teamed up to get the word out locally and nationally about our growing network. Would you help them get the word out? Give this newsletter to your pastor. If you let us know, we'll be glad to send you extra copies for friends. One of the biggest ways people find out about our ministry is by word of mouth, so we need partners that share our vision of seeing people walk free from homosexuality to help spread the word.

Our culture is in a constant shift towards promoting sexual promiscuity, specifically homosexuality. This week, we were excited that TLC featured a show called "My Husband's Not Gay" that featured Mormon men with same-sex attractions that were devoted to their faith. Before airing, over 10,000 calls were made in an attempt to cancel the show. That shows the type of cultural pressure and backlash on those with same-sex attractions that want to live a life that honors God. The show is not available online, but will hopefully be shown again at some point.

While I didn't think everything about the show was great, I could see much of my life reflected, including my relationship with my wife and family, and my commitment to faith in Christ. I don't try to hide the fact that, like these men, I continue to have same-sex attractions. Frankly, I think that's easier for people to understand in today's world than to say that you've "changed." Yes, I absolutely have changed. Like the men in the show (real life guys), I'm attracted to and satisfied in my wife. However, I'm not attracted to, nor do I desire, any other woman. Frankly, my wife can rest in that. Like these men, if I'm going to struggle (and at times I do), it will be with the same-sex. However, unlike these men, I see this as something to be confessed and repented of as my faith in Christ convicts me of sin. That's the case with any un-Christlike behavior, whether that might be exaggerating, anger, gossip, or a glance that might become a lustful thought. Many years ago, I learned that I don't have to sexualize a man, and the intensity of my attractions have lessened for sure. I learned to have healthy relationships with men, and have greatly appreciated these relationships as life-giving and affirming. One thing I appreciated about the TLC show was that these men weren't hiding. I say all the time in introducing myself, "I'm a former homosexual, however I still have same-sex attractions." I'm in love with my wife and family, and I wouldn't change anything. I do not expect my attractions to change towards other women, and frankly don't care.

My vision for Hope for Wholeness is that we are an honest and God-honoring group of people and ministries that lead people to Jesus. We are not focused on therapies trying to change people's attractions. Jesus is the change maker. He changed my heart 24 years ago on the afternoon of February 1, 1991, and I have never gotten over it! I don't believe God cares what I struggle with, only that I surrender my struggles to Him. God's not concerned about my failures, just that I know and believe that I'm loved by Him and He has a plan that includes me. He's got a work for me to do, and sinful behavior isn't part of that plan. God does, however, use the experiences of these failures to help others.

As long as He is our focus, we will accomplish a lot, and people will want to follow. We want them to follow Jesus. Come with us. Join us. Support us. Pray for us. We need your help.



A Review by Daniel Mingo of Abba's Delight, Louisville, KY

On Sunday night, January 11, 2015, cable station TLC aired a program called "My Husband's Not Gay." It was a reality show featuring three couples and a single man, all of whom are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, also known as the Mormons or LDS. All of the men are same-sex attracted (SSA), but have chosen to live a heterosexual life, much like many of us who have walked away from homosexuality, citing their Mormon faith as being the reason for not pursuing a gay identity.

As we have seen over the past couple of years, there are many new and varied expressions of Christians who identify as being SSA. One distinction that these couples made was termed, "SSA, not gay." Each wife was made aware of her husband's SSA at some point in their relationships, though not necessarily prior to their weddings.

Overall, I had a positive response to the showing of this program. It presented these marriages realistically, in both the positive and negative aspects related to the men's SSA. All of the married couples seemed to have solid relationships with their own spouses, which were reflected in their open communication and transparency with each other. And as couples, they all seemed to get along well together. They also talked of struggles and challenges in the marriages, such as the wives observing the day to day attractions their husbands face. One wife told her husband to just go ahead and look at cute guys rather than keep noticing him trying to sneak looks. And even so, this particular wife appeared to be secure in their relationship. Another issue came up when a husband wanted to go on a camping trip with some guys his wife did not know. His wife was understandably suspicious. To me, this was a no-brainer, and certainly a step backwards for trying to build trust with a spouse.



A second positive aspect was several of the quotes that were shared throughout the hour long show. One of the fellows stated, "I thought for a long time that I was gay; I thought that these feelings defined me." He then went on to share how he had come to an understanding how they did not define him. Another remarked, "What the LDS church teaches is that behavior is a choice, that choosing to act on these feelings is what it's all about; having the feelings, not so much." During the scene showing the four men going to shoot baskets, one of the guys said in his commentary, "I don't think I'm playing basketball to make me more manly; I'm playing basketball to feel connected to a part of masculinity I felt excluded or rejected by." I suspect that statement struck a chord with many of us, and I view that as part of Father's reclamation process in us. And finally, one of the men declared at the end of the program, "I don't think the SSA will ever go away totally. I think I'll always have some level of attraction to men, but I'm okay with that."

A third positive perspective was how the men all portrayed themselves as secure in who they are as men now. There was no self-loathing. They talked about positive changes that have occurred in their lives since choosing to live the way they believe is God's will for them.

Though while my overall response to the program was positive as I mentioned above, and I would certainly recommend the show to other folks to watch, there were some troubling points about the presentation as well. Coming from a Christian worldview, as I suspect most who will be reading this piece will be, I'm always going to measure what I read, see and watch by a Biblical standard. While the subjects talked about their LDS church and faith and their "gospel message," for my taste it stopped way too short by not introducing Jesus as the One who enables us to no longer carry out the desires of the flesh. Rather than quote Biblical text to underscore their choices to live in a heterosexual marriage, they quoted the Book of Mormon. This representation, to me, spoke only to a decision to live a life one way versus another, and not any kind of change towards holiness in their lives, which the Lord calls us to. One of my Facebook friends put it this way, "Different Jesus. Theirs is "brother of" and equal in power to Satan as created beings. Ours is begotten, not created, through Whom all things have been created; the Son of God. God incarnate."

Secondly, one of the wives described her husband's SSA as "So, it's somebody who is attracted to the same sex, but wants to be in a heterosexual relationship." While this definition perfectly fits the lives of those in the show and its premise, it is limited to their experiences only. There are thousands of SSA individuals who do not want to live in a heterosexual relationship, or may not want to embrace a gay-identified life either. Just clarifying!

Also, there were some statements made during the program, with which I believe many would take issue, mostly related to their appropriateness. One wife declared, "When you're married to an SSA guy, he tends to be your girlfriend and your husband, and so you isolate yourself from your real girl friends." Again, this kind of

statement speaks to the lack of any kind of change or maturation process offered in the presentation. In another statement made by one of the men, he announces, "I was certainly born with homosexual attractions." I don't even know where to start with that comment. How can he say such a thing with the lack of scientific evidence there is for such a link!

Some other faults the program didn't address that were outstanding to me include: 1) Flagrant flirting with a waiter on the part of one of the men in the restaurant in front of his wife and one of the other couples (although the wife did joke, asking who the husband was going home with); 2) The use of a four-point system which rates the attractiveness of guys based on the number of looks one takes at the subject of his lust, rather than any mention of restraining himself not to go back for continued looks, which again goes to the lack of Biblical content; 3) The overwhelming majority of relationships presented in the show, aside from the wives, were with other SSA guys, almost to the exclusion of any ever-straight (only one guy mentioned who is not SSA). For decades we've known that other kinds of relationships with both men and women are essential to our full reclamation process. 4) There seemed to me to be a continued thread of narcissism in that it was solely focused on what they did, their decisions, their belief, rather than on work/change that God was doing in them. And they seemed to be content to leave it that way, as if the decision to be in a heterosexual marriage was the end goal. 5) The men's identity was in their SSA and heterosexual marriages, not in Christ, which for LDS is not necessarily uncharacteristic, just noteworthy.



In my opinion, "My Husband's Not Gay" is a groundbreaking program in today's culture. It really did a wonderful job of presenting an other-than-gay life option for the one who has SSA. Whether approaching leaving the gay life from a Christian or secular view, it served to present options into the mainstream that have not been so visible to date. We can absolutely expect the gay community to denounce the program, but for what it was, I am glad to have seen it and will continue to recommend it when the opportunity presents itself. ✝

Prayer Request

Rita Brown is not featured in the front picture with our staff to take her husband to the doctor, which is now a regular occurrence. Her husband, Bob, has been diagnosed with Stage IV Metastatic Melanoma Cancer in his lungs. We appreciate your prayers. Please add Bob and Rita to your church's prayer list.

Who do you know that may need our help? Give them this newsletter or tell them about our ministry.

Hope for Wholeness is a ministry of Truth Ministries, Inc. DBA Hope for Wholeness.

CONTACT OUR STAFF: McKrae Game, President of Hope for Wholeness; Nylene Wilds, Office Manager; Jacob Morgan, Ministry Associate; Rita Brown, Partnership & Events Manager; for the remaining staff, see our website under Our Team.

This monthly publication is available by email or US mail. Your donations are very much appreciated and are tax deductible. You will receive an acknowledgement for your gift and a year end report. We welcome your phone calls and/or correspondence about prayer, counsel or partnership. ****YEAR END RECEIPTS WILL BE MAILED OUT BY END OF THIS MONTH.****

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