



Desert Hope Ministries

P.O. Box 620575, Littleton, CO 80162 ph: 303-277-8358 www.deserthope.com

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Desert Hope's purpose is to extend God's love, truth and healing to people struggling with relational, sexual and identity issues. Our **goal** is to bring a fresh and relevant message of hope and renewal to the church through conferences, speaking engagements, writing and counseling.

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From Janelle's Desk,

I walked out of the classroom saddened to know it was the last day of class. Elodie Emig, a professor of Greek at **Denver Seminary**, and I had just completed a two-week intensive course entitled "A Theological and Psychological Perspective of Homosexuality." Of course, we had been concerned there would even be enough students registered to justify offering the class, but as it turned out, we had no need to worry. On the opening day, 22 students showed up eager to learn and soak up all we could offer them.

I was extremely delighted to find even in the first few days of class, the students expressed a desire to know how to love yet also hold to the scriptural truths about God's design for male, female and sexuality. They ultimately wanted to learn how to interact with individual strugglers, the church and the secular world in a way that would draw *all* people to the heart of Christ rather than judge, isolate or condemn. At times, I felt I was preaching to the choir. These students had incredible hearts!

They were shocked to discover the massive amounts of misinformation almost daily shoveled out by the media and popular TV culture. They had no idea men and women had been seeking treatment for homosexual feelings and behaviors for almost 80 years. They had no idea the scientific literature, exploring genetic and hormonal causes for homosexuality, is replete with acknowledgements that we must also look at the environmental and developmental factors involved in the formation of same-sex orientation. **As of date, no gene or prenatal hormonal influence has been discovered or identified as a direct cause of female homosexuality.**

They stretched their minds as Elodie took us into the heart of passages addressing homosexuality, both in the Old and New (now First and Second, I understand) Testaments. She presented the pro-gay theological arguments alongside her historical, contextual and grammatical exegesis of each text. The contrast of differing styles of Biblical interpretation is amazing – but not so amazing when you consider there is usually a motive, agenda or even desired outcome to many attempts to "interpret" the Bible. Needless to say, we received an excellent overview of the passages and their inherent meaning.

The students were moved to their core as they heard my friend Sharla share her story of struggle. They were again shocked to discover her church had judged and condemned her to a homosexual

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identity even while she was attempting to find support and discover God's ultimate plan and design for her life. On the last day of class, this group of students brainstormed compassionate ways in which their churches could address such complicated issues as:

- A child in Sunday school with two mommies
- A cross-dresser regularly attending services
- An openly gay couple regularly attending services
- Two teenage girls in youth group showing public affection and signs of emotional enmeshment
- An increase in spouses and parents seeking guidance on how to relate to their homosexual loved one, and on and on.

It was my turn to be shocked. These students not only approached each of these issues soberly, but with incredible depth of wisdom and grace on behalf of the above individuals *and* on behalf of their potentially naive and frightened congregations. **I have no doubt God is raising up a mighty army of future pastors, counselors and spiritual leaders who will be able to take the Body of Christ into a new level of ministry, healing and education we have not heretofore known.** Praise be to God!

Other Engagements

In November, I traveled to **New York City** to stay with two Exodus Leaders, Penny Dalton and Elaine Sinnard, for an intensive writing retreat. The week was indeed a blessed time. It was not only extremely productive, but also renewing and fortifying. Being with Penny and Elaine was such a treat! Our fellowship during the evenings was incredibly sweet. Additionally, I was able to meet many of the women in their current support group. I was honored to hear each of their life stories and current process in dealing with their same-sex attractions and dependencies. Tears came to my eyes several times as I realized, once again, God's gracious call on my life to be involved with such incredible women as these. I was also able to meet four female therapists who have worked or want to begin working with SSA (same-sex attraction) women. Their hearts of care and passion for this subject inspired me to continue with this overwhelming writing project.



Janelle & Elaine holding one of Elaine's art prints.

Janelle at computer writing!



I then traveled to Washington, D.C. for the annual **NARTH (National Association for Research and Treatment of Homosexuality) conference**. There were more than 120 professional counselors present. We all heard some of the most cutting-edge therapeutic approaches and models currently being used by reparative therapists across the world. The conference was fantastic. On the opening day, five other therapists specializing in SSA women, and myself, presented a full-day seminar on causes and

treatment of female homosexuality. It was an amazing experience, not to mention a momentous occasion. Such a gathering of therapists has never occurred in the past, let alone a full day

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of presentations completely focused on the female struggler. We were each as excited to hear from one another as the audience. Our desire is to continue to offer professional presentations and hopefully publications on this very important topic, which, up until now, has received little attention in the scientific and therapeutic communities. We are grateful for NARTH's support and ongoing effort to provide a forum in which we can dialogue, learn and grow.



Update on the Book Project

I have been humbled over and over again as I move forward on my book manuscript. The pieces are not only falling into place, but I have been miraculously financially supported during this time of sabbatical from full-time counseling and presenting *Restoring the Glory* conferences. Not only have my needs been met but I have been able to pay for all of the monumental expenses involved in a project such as this. The book bank account has not budged over the last six months even though we are paying out thousands of dollars each month for administrative and research support and expense. Truly, God is at work. I am sure it pleases Him that in the near future many special women and their counselors and pastors will receive tremendous help and support.

My working title at this point is: ***The Meaning of Female Same-Sex Attraction: A Resource for Therapists, Clergy and Other Helpers.*** Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of research I am compiling and reviewing for this book, we now have a bibliography comprising of almost 400 items that directly discuss female homosexuality. This includes all scientific studies done on causes, change and overall mental health. I have collected most of the psychological journal articles and books published prior to our current era, wherein to write such material would be considered politically incorrect. They address clinical frameworks for understanding and treating female homosexuality, pertinent clinical issues, and statistics covering family, childhood, adolescent experiences and family constellations. I have also gathered a good sampling of psychological literature containing pro-gay perspectives, techniques for gay affirmative therapy and dissenting views on reparative therapy.

These studies and book chapters now fill five 4-inch notebooks, collectively measuring almost two feet in height. Tracking this material down was like a treasure hunt. At least that is what I told myself. ☺ Reading this material could consume all of my time, so I review pertinent literature as I write specific chapters.

I am completing the Book Proposal, including a completely rewritten version of Chapter 1 and Chapter 6. Please be praying God will designate the publisher with whom I am to work. I hope to start making contacts in February and March. Also, continue to pray for the writing and editing process. I have several people assisting me. **We need wisdom and discernment to write what is essential in the spirit and with the clarity we desire.** Truly, we need His inspiration and anointing!

Finances and Other News

- **Automatic Bank Withdrawals**

We are pleased to announce we are now offering the convenient service of Automatic Funds Transfer. Many of you have asked for it. It will save us administrative time and allows you to make regular contributions without the hassle of check writing each month. You will still receive a receipt from Desert Hope for each contribution. Enclosed within this newsletter is an authorization form. If

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you would like to use this service, please fill it out (completely) and return it to our office with a **voided check**. You can decide when the contribution is deducted (the 15th or 30th of each month) and can still designate your funds to the Desert Hope project or staff member of your choice. (Note: all future contributions made through the automatic funds transfer will be designated to this choice unless you notify us otherwise.) Also, once you are set up for the automatic transfer, you may cancel at any time or suspend withdrawals, just by letting us know in advance. You are also free to change the amount of the withdrawal at any time. And for those of you who wish to continue writing checks, *please continue to do so!*

- **Matching Gifts**

Over the last few years, we have been blessed by receiving private donations that were matched by employers. We mentioned in the last newsletter that many companies will match the charitable contributions of their employees. Have you checked to see if your employer offers matching gifts? This can double the impact you have on the ministry of Desert Hope!

Restoring the Glory Conferences

The CDs and DVDs from the last *Restoring the Glory* conference have been remastered and are now available on our website: www.RestoringtheGlory.com. Even though we are not presenting conferences right now, our overhead expenses continue. Many of you have been so faithful in your giving, and for that we are grateful. We wouldn't have made it thus far without your help. We have attempted to be good stewards of the money God has blessed us with by closing down outside office space (we are back in Janelle's home) and cutting back Wanda's (administrative assistant) hours. We appreciate your ongoing prayers as we continue to seek God and His purposes for our future. We remain committed as a ministry team, to stand in unity, ready to move as He opens future doors. In fact, we are having a team meeting this coming Sunday evening. Typically 20-30 people come to these meetings to fellowship, cast vision and pray. The *Restoring the Glory* effort is still alive and well. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support and prayers!

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen
stand guard in vain." Psalms 127:1*

This is a time of waiting on Him, as He builds and watches over us. We will wait and trust.

Responses to
Restoring the Glory:

"I'm 68 years old and this has been one of the greatest blessings of my life." – J.S.

"In all my years of ministry, this ranked as one of the best conferences I have ever attended. Janelle took us through the Bible from cover to cover and laid a case for God's design and plan for us as male and female in a way that was unlike anything I had ever heard before in its comprehensiveness and approach. And in holding up the truth, she clearly and deftly exposed the distortions and lies that our society (as well as the church) has bought into."
– Pastor

"I left the conference freer, more whole and more full of joy. The greatest thing is the shame I've felt for years is lifted and gone, and deep-seated fears have been removed!" – J.H.

You may send donations to:

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is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and operates solely on the contributions of people such as you. All donations to this ministry are tax deductible and will be recognized by a receipt.