

# POTTS NEWS

Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is within you.

1 Peter 3:15

## Upcoming Schedule

- **September 2018** - Helping to teach Focus on the Family's *Truth Project* curriculum at Christian Life Center, Vandalia OH.
- **Early October 2018** - Attending the National Conference on Christian Apologetics in Charlotte, NC
- **Late October 2018** - Helping to teach a class on the occult at Christian Life Center, Vandalia OH.
- **November 2018** - Traveling to Toronto, Canada with Haven Ministries to attend the Parliament of World Religions. Please pray for a successful time of witnessing to the lost.

## A Quiet Summer But Busy Fall

This summer was primarily taken up with family visits, a vacation to Hilton Head, SC, and repairs to our basement after a small backup of the sewer. But the fall is looking to be a very busy time. I will be helping to teach some classes at our church in Vandalia, Ohio and will be traveling with Haven Ministries to Toronto for the Parliament of World Religions in November. Unfortunately, the Ratio Christi club at Wright State University is in a holding pattern until we can get more students to step up and take a leadership role. Please pray that we find a treasurer, which is our most dire need at this point in time.

## How Should We Look at Conversion Therapy?

I spent a good portion of the summer listening to various podcasts and reading several articles about the Revoice Conference that took place in St. Louis in late July. Nate Collins (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary), the founder of the conference, has served as an instructor of New Testament Interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and currently is a partner associate at The Sight Ministry, a Christian organization based in Nashville, Tennessee, that provides resources and support for individuals, families, and churches regarding LGBT issues.



Collins and the other organizers of the conference say *"Revoice exists because we want to see LGBT people who adhere to the historic Christian sexual ethic flourish in their local faith communities. We envision," they wrote, "a future Christianity where LGBT people can be open and transparent in their faith communities about their orientation and/or experience of gender dysphoria without feeling inferior to their straight, cisgender brothers and sisters; where churches not only utilize but also celebrate the unique opportunities that life-long celibate LGBT people have to serve others; where Christian leaders boast about the faith of LGBT people who are living a sacrificial obedience for the sake of the Kingdom; and where LGBT people are welcomed into families so they, too, can experience the joys, challenges, and benefits of kinship."*

Although Collins and the organizers identify as Christians who adhere to the historic Christian sexual ethic of celibacy, many of them also argue that homosexual relationships and homosexual desires were present before the fall, and thus are part of the goodness of God's creation! This is clearly contradicted by scripture in verses such as Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, in that what God considers an abomination could not have existed within God's perfect creation. Al Mohler, President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, recently spoke out against the language used by the conference arguing that the conference's goal is "acceptance of the idea that our sexual identity or any individual's sexual orientation becomes a defining issue that isn't changed by the gospel and isn't transformed by sanctification." Mohler also states "holiness and sanctification as revealed in the New Testament means that progressively whatever sinful desires mark us should become less a part of us and we should seek to identify with them in a lesser way, not in a greater way, by the Holy Spirit's work in our hearts and in our lives in sanctification." It is clear Collins and the other organizers of Revoice do not fully believe in the transformational power of the Holy Spirit.

A cursory examination of Mohler's previous statements regarding the possibility of homosexuals being able to change may suggest that Mohler has a tendency to flip flop on the issue depending on who he is talking to. Some believe his open abandonment of conversion therapy at the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission conference in 2014 was a cave to the pressure of the progressive left. However, in a 2015 AP article Mohler clarifies that although the "sin" of being attracted to a person of the same sex can't be turned off like a switch, which is how conversion therapy is viewed by some, it can be changed by turning to the Bible's teachings and through prayer. So was Mohler correct in his abandonment of conversion therapy and how should Christians respond to the growing movement to have it outlawed nationwide?

Exodus International was a non-profit, interdenominational ex-gay Christian umbrella organization connecting organizations that sought to help people who wished to limit their homosexual desires. It was founded in 1976 and ceased activities in June 2013. Their techniques included "abstinence, lessening of homosexual temptations, strengthening their sense of masculine or feminine identity, and correcting distorted styles of relating with members of the same and opposite gender." However, in January 2012 then-president of Exodus International Alan Chambers, during his address to a Gay Christian Network conference, stated, *"The majority of people that I have met, and I would say the majority meaning 99.9% of them have not experienced a change in their orientation,"* and apologized for the previous Exodus slogan "Change Is Possible".

What is sad about the demise of Exodus International isn't the failure of its conversion techniques, but rather its failure to rely on the transformational power of the Holy Spirit. They apparently were too reliant upon human understanding in order to change the human condition. We as Christians must realize that without God we can do nothing (John 15:5). Unfortunately, the progressive left will now paint all conversion therapies, even ones reliant on the Holy Spirit alone, with the same brush. We must get on our knees and pray for wisdom to be bestowed on our leaders on how to move forward. The radical elements within the LGBTQ movement are looking to capitalize on our mistakes in order to silence us from speaking out against their lifestyle.

God bless you and thank you again for your continued prayers and support!

Stephanie

