

## **M e r r y C h r i s t m a s a n d H a p p y N e w Y e a r !**

This time of year is often a time of reflection, looking back on things we have learned and experienced during the past year. We at Outpost, also need to do that, as it is important for us to judge the effectiveness of our ministry activities. Are we really helping people? Are people powerfully experiencing God in terms of their sexual and relational brokenness? These are our goals at Outpost.

Although this term is usually not thought of in the Christmas season, we want people to know Christ and the power of his *resurrection* in our whole lives, especially in our sexuality. God created us good and as sexual beings. But sin has ravaged our true sexuality. The world has ruined our true gender identity. Our own flesh has weakened the powerful gift of holy sexuality God has given. The devil has decimated our awareness of and ability to know the other. This all has had the effect of making *gender* a prejudiced preference of one's own choosing, rather than the purposeful provision of One who created us and who really knows us.

And that's the way it is with resurrections, isn't it? Something appears that could not have been observed previously. Like Abraham at 99 we're living in '99. And for many of us, our sexuality, like Abraham's was, is as good as dead. We're symbolically waiting for the next century —from '99 to '00. When Abraham turned from 99 to 100 he had a child. His sexuality was restored. As we move from '99 to '00, we look forward to "the Promise" of a renewed sexuality. One that is rightly ordered and creative.

Does this mean that it will be easy? Does this mean that many of us will not try to create our own fulfillment of the promise of God by our own effort? There are plenty of "Ishmaels" out there, and I believe there are even more to come. But those of us who wait on the Lord, those of us who trust in Him to fulfill His covenant, we will see the inheritance of the Lord. We will get his richest blessing, we will realize the Promise.