

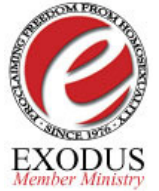
# OUTPOST NEWS

Loving God, Declaring Freedom

Vol 35 No 9 September 2010

## Report on the PCUSA General Assembly

By Kristin Tremba



It is a “sign of the times” when the message of Christ’s healing and redemptive power in regards to human sexuality is rejected by his Church. This past [July] the governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. voted to approve gay ordination as it did in 2008. Again, this legislation will go before the Presbyteries in the coming months for a final vote. Hopefully, it will be turned down, as it was in ’08, and yet year after year more Presbyteries endorse homosexuality as a gift from God to be blessed and celebrated.

Team members of OneByOne were present at this year’s PCUSA General Assembly sharing personal testimonies of the blessing that comes from turning our sexuality over to Christ. Hundreds of commissioners, pastors, and young adult delegates heard the message that the Lord heals same-sex attraction and desires his followers to express their sexuality according to God’s design. We asked a local Exodus ministry “Outpost Ministries” to help us out, and 15 volunteers came and shared their testimony in front of hundreds of delegates. We spoke to 200 young adults and hosted a luncheon where we encouraged Presbyterian pastors to join the Exodus Church Association

([www.exoduschurchofassociation.org](http://www.exoduschurchofassociation.org)) and to consider doing ministry in their churches. Many pastors expressed their gratitude to us for sharing our testimonies and providing resources for their churches.

Despite our powerful witness, the delegates voted overwhelmingly to approve gay ordination in our churches. As a team member and director of OneByOne, we were disappointed but not surprised. In fact, we attended this year’s assembly knowing that the votes would not go our way. We attended for one reason only: to be a light in the darkness and to encourage churches to stand up for truth and grace. ON

*Kristin Tremba is the director of OneByOne, a PCUSA outreach which has joined with Exodus International. This article was excerpted from her blog at [www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org)*



**OneByOne and Outpost at PCUSA**

## HIV Strikes, Outpost Responds

By Daniel Belich, Used by Permission

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Here at Outpost, our mission is to partner with the Lord Jesus in ministering to His people and helping them embrace the fullness of life that comes through relationship with Him. He wants to give each of us not just life, but *abundant* life. Yet the stark reality is that, while the Lord is raising up a generation in His love and power, the thief is also working overtime to steal, kill and destroy a generation. There is a cosmic battle taking place for the heart and soul of this generation, and one of the major battlegrounds for this war is the issue of homosexuality

itself. This is literally an issue of life and death. Homosexuality is killing young men and women, ones who are being robbed of the life and calling that God has for them. This was made painfully obvious in a recent front-page article, “HIV Strikes the Next Generation,” from the Star Tribune (16 March 2010).

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, new HIV infections in Minnesota jumped 13% in 2009, with the rate of infection nearly doubling among young gay men 18-24. This means that 77 young men in Minnesota were diagnosed with HIV last year. In other words, HIV/AIDS is experiencing an unprecedented resurgence in the



*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

Outpost Ministries was formed to meet the needs of men and women who have made a decision to break away from gay life. We strive to deal with individuals as whole people, not merely sexual beings, offering teaching, encouragement and support. Outpost emphasizes obedience to God’s Word which begins the healing process. For information visit us on the web at [www.OutpostMinistries.org](http://www.OutpostMinistries.org) or write: Outpost, Inc., PO Box 22429, Robbinsdale, MN 55422. Phone: (763) 592-4700 Fax: (763) 592-4701 E-mail: [outpostinfo@OutpostMinistries.org](mailto:outpostinfo@OutpostMinistries.org)

gay community, with many people asking why and wondering what to do. To illustrate the point, the Star Tribune article case-studied Tim Steeves, a young gay-activist who happens to be HIV positive. Steeves, who spoke at an AIDS rally at the Minnesota State Capitol on March 10<sup>th</sup>, recounted his life story of discovering his homosexuality, falling into alcohol abuse and promiscuous sex, and eventually being diagnosed with HIV. His story is sad. After sharing his homosexual desires with his parents, he was eventually kicked out of the house. He took shelter with gay men and eventually contracted HIV after being raped. To him and many others in the gay community, the rise in HIV among young men is a sad consequence of a lack of education in the gay community regarding the dangers of unsafe sex. In other words, the problem behind the problem is ignorance in the gay community and a lack of education regarding homosexual sex in society at large. As the article points out, “Steeves doesn’t remember any sex education classes while growing up in Raleigh, North Carolina, nor when he moved to Woodbury as a senior in high school. As for HIV, ‘I think I learned about it on TV or something...’”

And so the article begs the question, “How are we to respond?” What is the solution? Obviously, the number 77 is unacceptable. That means 77 young men’s lives have been forever altered and most likely cut short. The enemy has gotten a foothold in the lives of 77 young men for whom God has a unique plan and purpose (Jer. 29:11). For Steeves (and many in the gay community), the solution is to end the “culture of silence” surrounding the issue of HIV/AIDS. If ignorance and avoidance is the problem, then the solution is “a frank, community-wide conversation about HIV and its risks.” This means more sex education and earlier, with specific education regarding the issue of unprotected gay sex. Moreover, Steeves also advocates greater education in the gay community regarding available preventative medications.

But as ones who believe that homosexuality is not God’s plan for our young men and women, how are we to respond? As the Church, we are

called to partner with God in redeeming creation, so how *will* we respond to this alarming statistic?

First, we must redefine the problem itself. At root, the problem is the belief that homosexual behavior is morally neutral, and can be indulged without consequence. What Steeves and other gay activists like him are searching for is freedom from the consequences of homosexual behavior. What he fails to conceive is the reality that homosexual behavior, in and of itself, is physically harmful to the human body. The “safe sex” message will not change this. Furthermore, the article itself states that gay men are 44 times more likely to contract HIV than heterosexual men. Is this all to be attributed to ignorance in the gay community? Apart from sex, gay men also experience a relatively higher rate of depression and suicide.

In Christian terms, the problem is not ignorance about the dangers of unsafe sex, but rather ignorance about the reality of sin. We live in a fallen world; every single person on the earth has been sinned against and loved imperfectly, and those struggling with homosexuality are no different. Underneath each new case of HIV infection is an unmet love need and unhealed wounds. The reality is that no amount of education or empowerment will meet the unmet need that drives an individual to homosexual practice in the first place. Yet out of our pain, broken humans also choose to sin by thinking and acting in ways that are contrary to God’s plan and purpose. God says, “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.” (Deut. 30:19)

Second, while offering compassion to those impacted by HIV, we must continue to affirm the reality that the only hope for finding life is through giving up our lives (Luke 17:33). This means that all are called to submit—mind, body and spirit—to the will of Jesus. The sad reality that Steeves highlights is that many who struggle with homosexuality believe that death is their destiny. That would be true, apart from the power of Jesus to heal and restore *those who turn to Him*. Abundant life comes not

through education and the mitigation of the consequences of our behavior.

And so let this fuel our intercession. Nothing is beyond God’s power to change, heal and restore. Nothing. Not even HIV/AIDS. Let us cry out for God’s love and healing power to fall upon Steeves and each of the 77 men impacted by HIV last year. As the days grow darker, and the Enemy continues his mission to kill this generation, let us not forget that there is One who offers life, even in the midst of sin and brokenness. *ON*

*Daniel Belich is an Outpost  
Ministry Apprentice*

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# called out

OUT OF HOMOSEXUALITY INTO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST  
worship testimony thanksgiving fellowship

Friday 15 October 7:00 pm

presented by Outpost Ministries

Northbrook Alliance Church  
6240 Aldrich Ave N Brooklyn Center 55430  
www.outpostministries.org  
763.592.4700

free-will offering for youth program



## Ministry & Other Events

- 8/10** David spoke at Cedar Valley Church, Bloomington, MN
- 8/15** Dan and Jon spoke at Northbrook Church, Brooklyn Center, MN
- 8/16** *Outpost Friends & Family BBQ* — A good time was had by all 35-40 people at the annual picnic. Bocce Ball ruled! Robbinsdale, MN
- 8/23-24** Dan and Daniel present Outpost to the pre-*Love Won Out Conference*, ockford, IL
- 8/26-31** MO3 BWCA Canoe trip
- 9/18** **DEADLINE** for fall *Exodus Regional Conference* *discounted* registration. See [www.ExodusInternational.org](http://www.ExodusInternational.org) for details.
- 9/25** NEW CLASS: *Foundations*, the new introduction to Outpost and the healing ministry. **All are welcome** to attend. Six weeks. We ask \$10 donation per week.
- 9/25** *Love Won Out Conference* at Rockford, IL. See [lovewonout.com](http://lovewonout.com)
- 10/6** Nate speaks at Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, IN
- 10/7** *Living Waters* starts! Call immediately for application info.
- 10/8** Dan and David interviewed on WLWL AM 1330 "City Winds", 9:15-45 am.
- 10/15** Annual *Called Out of Darkness Celebration*, 7 PM
- 10/23-24** Luke speaks at Valley Christian Fellowship, Crookston, MN
- 10/29-31** *Exodus Regional Conference*, Green Lake, WI

## 11/13 *Homosexuality: What the Research Shows*

The Outpost Board invites you to this academic presentation—part of its own educational process regarding this topic. \$10 plus free-will offering. Scholarships are available. Location TBD. 7-9 p.m.

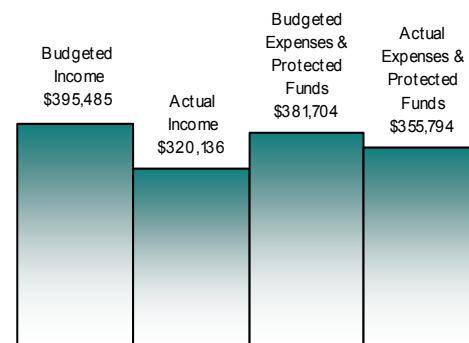
## A Call to Prayer

- Pray for funding for our office building needs (we're asking for \$1.5 million to buy and operate it) and wisdom and strategy for Dan and the Board.
- Pray that the Outpost staff will achieve full funding! We each have to contribute to the fundraising effort with "deputational fundraising". With eight paid staff now, one can imagine the great need for funds. We are currently under-funded by about \$65,000 for everyone to be full-time. This really holds us back from advancing the cause of healing and restoration: five of our staff have to split their time with other employers. Adding medical insurance for the five part-time staff who wish to be full-time, will cost another \$24,000. Whew! That totals nearly \$90,000! We need a prayer breakthrough on this. It can be discouraging to always be chasing that carrot!
- Pray for the upcoming fall events and classes. When the season changes in Minnesota, we tend to see a lot more people interested in finding hope and healing. We love to proclaim the love of God which transforms lives.

## A Word About Finance

It's hard to believe but, as I write this column, we are very close to the end of our fiscal year. I must say that God has miraculously met our needs,

### Income, Expenses & Protected Funds as of 7/31/10



but not necessarily in the ways we might have predicted a year ago. Who would have ever thought that we'd raise over \$320,000 to fund the work of this ministry? I still remember the days when our budget was only about \$80,000—one quarter of what we've seen so far! I attribute this growth to the amazing work of seven other people on this staff who so strongly believe in the work we do that they live to work here and raise money to work here. Of course, there's YOU to thank, too. We're really grateful for your support. I'll have preliminary figures for the year-end to share with you next month. Meantime:

Bless you,

Dan Puumala  
CEO

*Inside!*

## *Called Out of Darkness Celebration Info*

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*Please Cut Along Dotted Line and Return With Your Donation*

- Here's a gift of: \$35 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$1000 \$5000 \$90,000 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- This gift is to support the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_ (List person you choose to support)
- This gift is for the Building Capital Campaign: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$18 *testimony* CD/each (incl. S/H)  \$10 *testimony* CD Download/each  \$18 *lover* CD/each (incl. S/H)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Outpost Ministries has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Your gift designation preference will be honored up to the amount needed for that designation. All funds received in excess of need will be applied to the general fund. No goods or services are provided in connection with donations. All gifts to Outpost are tax-deductible per IRS code 501(c)(3). Outpost is a 2010 member-in-good-standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability ([www.ECFA.org](http://www.ECFA.org)). The ECFA seal is visible evidence to donors that ECFA member organizations adhere to the highest standards of financial integrity and Christian ethics. We are a charity you can trust.