

# Wellspring

June 2010 – September 2010

Isaiah 58.6

*All things are possible with God*

[A publication of Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.]



## Times Have Changed

By Bob Van Domelen

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"—and you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32.5)

"On October 22, 1989, Bill Windel (founder of Broken Yoke Ministries) spoke before an audience of about 2500 people at the Milwaukee Mecca Auditorium. The meeting was sponsored by the Family Concerns Coalition and was organized to educate the attendees about the pandemic of AIDS. The main speaker was Dr Lorraine Day, an orthopedic surgeon at San Francisco's General Hospital. Bill was asked to bring his testimony following Dr Day's presentation.

"The response to Bill's testimony was overwhelming, a standing ovation! Of course, not everyone attending the rally was quite as exuberant about an ex-gay sharing the power of Jesus to heal the homosexual, but they heard the truth." (*Wellspring*, November 1989)

I was not present at that particular rally but I remember the almost electric excitement that surrounded it in the days, weeks and months that followed. Bill received several invitations to speak on both AIDS issues and homosexuality as a result of that 10-minute sharing.

Within a few years, people were no longer talking about AIDS or HIV+ situations. Most knew that they would not contract AIDS unless they used dirty needles or had unprotected sexual contact with strangers, so fear was set aside in favor of intelligent caution.

Every now and then the AIDS situation in Africa will make headlines; donations will be made to help the men, women and children affected; yet not much changes in terms of behaviors known to spread the deadly disease. In other words, one of the reasons this ministry was frequently contacted has more or less disappeared.

About ten years later, another shift started to become evident—public acceptance of homosexuality and lesbianism. *It's Elementary*, a pro-gay documentary aimed at elementary school-aged children began to circulate in Wisconsin schools.

Mike Levenhagen (Reclamation Resources) and I were part of a panel discussion on PBS television in Green Bay, sharing thoughts, questions, and concerns with supporters of the film. I recall asking a young man why the film made no mention of sexual behaviors and the possible consequences. He shared that school administrators had rejected any mention of this aspect of being gay. The main purpose was to show children how normal it was for people of the same sex to love one

another. I could object to many things in the film, but I could not object to that because we are *all* called to love one another. That love does not demand sexual intimacy, though.

Before long, people who considered same-sex behaviors immoral or sinful were considered biased or homophobic. Pro-gay literature could be found in school kiosks; gay and lesbian groups were formed to help students feeling persecuted by straight students; yet Christian students who voiced a different kind of love were denied a voice.

In that same time frame, I noticed that more pastors were unwilling to even mention our ministry to someone who shared same-sex attraction with them in counseling. After speaking to one lesbian pastor, I asked if she would point someone in our direction who felt a desire to deal with those attractions in a different way. She looked at me and said, "No."

The message she and others were sending was simple—a person who had same-sex attraction would be best served by learning to accept and embrace those attractions as who they were, who God created them to be.

From my perspective, what was missing was any concern for individuals of *any* age who sought alternatives, alternatives that coincided with their understanding of God's intent. What also became clear to me was that if pastors believed that God created individuals with same-sex attractions, then there could be no sin for those thus created.

### **Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity**

This is, I suspect, where my belief system comes face to face with a major decision. If I believe that same-sex behavior is sinful, then I am able to acknowledge it when or if it occurs in thought, word, or deed. I cannot cover up and present myself as blameless to others.

On the other hand, if I believe that God approves of same-sex behavior, then I have nothing to acknowledge and nothing to cover up. This is, I suspect, the choice many make and I don't believe that they make the decision lightly. I know too many who have done so and they are not terrible people. They are good people.

My understanding of the Bible is that there is no sin for those who deal with same-sex attraction. Every Biblical example of sin, however, is connected to behavior choices and I do not believe that God created the very thing we are told to avoid.

## You forgave the guilt of my sin

One cannot be involved in this kind of ministry for as long as I and others have been without coming to know that God understands our situation, knows why we have the attractions we do, sees us in our failures *and* in our victories, and forgives our failures.

Believing that simple truth has given me immense hope. I don't have to have complete freedom from the occasional temptation to know that my walk is the one I am called to make and that is such a blessing.

Times *have* changed—some things for the better and others not—but God's love and presence never changes. We are called to seek God in *all* things and I am convinced that when we do, we will make God-centered choices. They will not always be easy choices, but why are they meant to be. □

## Wisconsin Ministry Locations

### Broken Yoke

P.O. Box 5824  
De Pere, WI 54115-5824  
262-751-1128  
Bob@brokenyoke.org

**Meetings:** Wauwatosa

**Support Group** (weekly)

Tuesday, 7:00PM

**Website:**

<http://www.brokenyoke.org>

### Reclamation Resources

P.O. Box 1062  
Oshkosh, WI 54902  
920-303-1041  
<http://www.reclamationrc.org>

### Redeemed Ministries

A support system for women  
Support Group (weekly)  
Call 414-218-3940 for info

- For those looking for help in southeastern Wisconsin, that they will consider contacting this ministry and its support groups.
- For those needing information, that they will consider coming to the Regional in October.
- For pastors and church leaders, that the answers they give those struggling will shed light and not darkness.
- For the youth of our society, that in times of uncertainty about their identity, that they seek God in the mirror of their lives.
- For parents dealing with a child that struggles or has endorsed the gay life, that their love remains constant without sacrificing their beliefs.
- For the facilitators of our support group meetings, that they feel God's blessings for their efforts.
- For Mary Klucarich as she joins BY's board of directors, that we are blessed by her desire to serve.
- For the ongoing financial support of this ministry, especially for Jill Rennick, that those who are able will be willing to support us with both finance and prayer.

**Reminder: The next *Wellspring* will be published in October, 2010.**

## The God--The Good

*Jeff*

I think we are scared of God. Many of us worry about getting closer to Him. Many of us on some internal level question the goodness of God. Maybe it is that we don't know what goodness can look like. For example we know that in one way or another that martyrdom can be good, and that scares us. It is also scary that the good God allows this to happen. Many of us ask "what is God gonna make me do?" So we keep at a distance because of this fear. I think we miss the point.

Fear calls us to focus on death or the end of something. It calls some readers to still be thinking about "martyrdom." Fear is a wrench in the works of our minds.

What if instead of thinking of something painful associated with getting closer to God, we just knew that God is good. We often forget this. Many people believe this on a large scale but forget this in the small moments of life. Is not life made up of a series of small moments?

Do we know in every moment that God is good? Any doubt of God's goodness is poison to the mind, even if it is the smallest of doubts. If such a small portion of doubt can cause so many problems, or even keep us from seeking His face, how much greater is a small portion of Faith. Faith is the confessing of trust in the goodness of God in every moment.

Trust says that somehow, someday, there is goodness in what is happening in and around me. Faith in God is a statement that He is good and trustworthy. So instead of focusing on what God might be asking us to set aside or give to Him, we need to focus on the goodness that He desires to bring to us—that goodness being Himself. He is the goodness. Jesus is both God and the door to the goodness of God, to the Father.



### **"The Father's Pursuit of Us" Kent Paris, Featured Speaker**

**North Central Regional  
Conference  
October 29-31  
Green Lake Conference Center**

Kent is founder and director of Nehemiah Ministry (Champagne/Urbana, IL), providing counseling to individuals and families impacted by homosexuality. He is a frequent speaker at churches, youth gatherings, Bible colleges, and conferences and the author of the recently published book *Means of Grace*. Kent has been in ministry since 1972 and is one of the pioneers of Exodus International.

The cost for the weekend is \$185/person and includes registration, meals, and lodging fees. You'll need to register online at [www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org). Just click on the Green Lake Regional in the Upcoming Events box.

Look to BY's website for more information. We look forward to seeing you there. You'll be glad you came!



### *Our Prayer Corner*

*Because we care about one another,  
we pray . . .*

- For all those who struggle with same-gender attractions, that they accept the identity God had in mind for them from the beginning.

The best place we understand this is from our own childhood, actually our baby years. We have a hard time remembering what it was like to be completely dependant on a greater being. Before we were one year old and lying in a crib, we were possibly in the most perfect place of trust. We didn't label. We didn't have a desire or a need to categorize everything around us. We simply lay in the crib, content, looking in wonder and with receptivity at the color and light and texture of the world around us. Our arms were often in a slightly raised position with hands and fingers gently willing to reach upward toward something greater. We were nearly perfectly receptive.

As adults we get sidetracked by what we are or by what we think we are called to be, even in Christ. Our desire to label and be in control often blocks the place of receptivity that Christ is trying to bring us into.

Re-entering into this place of receptivity is very difficult for us. With houses, cars, bills, children, jobs, relationships and even ministries, we become overwhelmed, overburdened and worried creatures that forget the goodness of God. We also forget that He is the only good, and the only thing that can supply all of our needs. We are unable to practice this sort of vulnerability simply because we are too scared to practice it.

One helpful way to unbind the spirit of fear is to embrace vulnerability with Jesus Christ. This is very helpful because He dove into hell and exploded out of it, victor. Now we know how to do the same with Him living in us. In order to enter into this deep place of receptive vulnerability we need to address the following difficult statements that render us helpless and throw us into the arms of the Father.

- We are here. We exist. We exist with free-will. For some that is a wonderful and love-filled idea. For some existence is painful. None of us chooses to exist of our own will. Something beyond us calls us into being.
- We do not decide (though some try) when we leave this present known existence.
- We are not, no matter how much we try, in control of our lives, someone else's life, or situations around us.
- We are incredibly fragile and know this, or pretend to be incredibly strong.
- We desperately need. All the time.

Father God reaches down into our little crib of life and smiles. In order for us to see and interpret His smile we have to see it through His Son Jesus. Jesus Christ dove into hell so that we can dive into the fears of our life and reenter into the goodness of God Father. Jesus Christ restores. Jesus Christ heals. Jesus Christ renews. Jesus Christ brings all of the refreshing needed goodness from the Father back to us.

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## Financial Update

This ministry is not unlike any other ministry in these days of stretching the dollar to make ends meet. But as a friend in ministry recently said, "People don't know there is a need unless they are told."

This ministry *does* have needs that are basic to the services we offer. Office supplies, postage, and printing costs have been rising steadily. We makes cuts where we can and hope those cuts do not impact our ability to reach



## Where Are You, God?

Jill Rennick

Director of Women's Ministry

For those impacted by the issue of homosexuality there has been little hope offered in the not-so-distant past for any help or intervention. Many of us have felt condemned to a life of shame and secrecy. When in recent years our culture has swung from condemning homosexuality to celebrating it, those of us who desire to follow Christ have felt caught in the middle between the church and the culture. It's confusing and painful and if you are like me, you have at times felt very abandoned and alone.

And yet, God has not been silent to the cries of individuals who desire to walk with Him and pursue holiness rather continue to live in brokenness. You are not alone.

In Exodus 3, during Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush, God expresses His heart for His people who become enslaved. In verses 7-8, "The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey..."

I want to draw your attention to three statements God makes:

"I have seen the misery of my people."

"I have heard them crying out."

"I am concerned about their suffering."

You can be confident of this – that **God sees your pain, hears your cries** and is **concerned about your suffering**. He is not distant or indifferent. He is attentive and concerned.

His response is also evident "**so I have come down to rescue them**". The Israelites had known no other home than Egypt. It was very familiar and comfortable but the fact was, they were slaves. It wasn't home and it wasn't the place they were created to live. So it is for us. We have become familiar with unhealthy styles of relating in spite of the pain we feel along the way. We are called to live in the truth of who we are and leave behind the false identity that can never fit. We need to be rescued.

Like the children of Israel, we must come to the place of being tired of our own personal Egypt. From that place we can cry out to God. We can tell Him that we need Him and that we cannot make the changes we need without Him. No matter how messed up you feel, God desires to meet you where you are and He has a plan to rescue you.

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out to those who need and *want* the message that God has us bringing them.

Jill Rennick is currently at a support level of 69% of what she needs for her monthly living expenses. If you feel led to contribute to the ministry for its basic needs or to commit to helping Jill specifically, please contact us. You can also make donations on our website:

[www.brokenyoke.org/donations.html](http://www.brokenyoke.org/donations.html)

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***A Little Humor. . .***

Grandpa was celebrating his 100th birthday and everybody complimented him on how athletic and well-preserved he appeared. "Gentlemen, I will tell you the secret of my success," he cackled. "I have been in the open air day after day for some 75 years now."



The celebrants were impressed and asked how he managed to keep up his rigorous fitness regime. "Well, you see my wife and I were married 75 years ago. On our wedding night, we made a solemn pledge. Whenever we had a fight, the one who was proved wrong would go outside and take a walk."