

Wellspring

April 2007 – May 2007 Isaiah 58.6

All things are possible with God

[A publication of Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.]



Was I Born Homosexual?

By Bob Van Domelen

April 1993

[Continuing to celebrate our 20th Anniversary as a ministry, I am reprinting this 1993 lead article, an article that was reprinted in a number of other publications.]

Back in my school days, I remember enjoying science classes -- especially the experiments I got to do that were meant to prove a point. Under careful supervision, I walked through the required steps given me by the instructor and more often than not met the expected results with a small degree of satisfaction. I did wonder sometimes, however, what the teacher would say if my results proved different from those pre-determined. My grades clearly told me that science was not an area of consideration in my vocational choice, but that simple question I raised still causes me to think.

Since the decision in late 1973 to remove homosexuality from the *Manual of Psychiatric Disorders*, there have been several studies done to prove homosexuality a result of genetics. There aren't many people who collect such studies and compare the results. As a matter of fact, most of us wouldn't know of the studies at all were it not for the media announcements. Unless an individual is personally interested, such articles are usually "skimmed over" and only highlights such as the heading or largely printed boxed text are retained.

Most of us miss sentences such as "Biology is clearly not destiny, and this shouldn't be taken to mean that you're automatically homosexual." Or "Social conditioning still may be very important." Or in a more recent article, "The fact that not all the identical twins were gay indicates that environment also plays a role." We miss these sentences or assign less importance to them because they are far less newsworthy. What I find most interesting is the fact that percentages listed are never even close to 100 percent. The study of identical female twins where one was gay showed that in 48% of the cases the other twin was also gay. Yet in this same article I read "if female homosexuality has a genetic basis, many of the second twins should also be gay."

I have been told that statisticians use a bell curve in projecting their findings to a national scale. Even if the study were numerically accurate, my elementary understanding of genetics tells me that it is difficult to ignore environmental conditioning when the resulting percent is

less than 50. Yet we are being encouraged to agree with the concept that these results are *proving* a genetic link.

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of all these studies is the burden they lay on the shoulders of someone seeking freedom from homosexuality. How long will it be before people such as me are told that the true illness lies in not accepting the reality of this situation, the proof of my innate homosexual condition? Will future scientific studies demand that editions of the Bible expunge any trace of anti-homosexual attitude? Will those of us seeking freedom from homosexuality hear God admit that there are some things He just can't change?

These questions might elicit a sense of anger that I should even ask them. But there will be others who not only agree with the above series of questions but might state that I don't go far enough. It isn't a matter of whose study proves what. Homosexuality is not MY choice for healthy living and I don't believe I was born that way. In 1985, I finally surrendered the battle I was waging with my own efforts and strategies and accepted the love Jesus held out to me. At first I believed that I was being affirmed as a homosexual because I heard no condemnation or threats. His love is infinitely more encouraging than that. Time and a daily commitment to walk a path leading to the Lord gradually brought me to understand that homosexuality was not what God wanted for me.

Some would limit God in what He can or cannot do. Some would rather rely on a percentage to verify what they do with their lives. Those who believe in God and in the Word might face serious opposition to what they believe, as science "perfects" its testing methods for human behavior. Those of us who believe in freedom from homosexuality are still in the minority -- even within church communities. But I pray that I will always walk with Him because God is far more than a percentage.

Comment: Fourteen years have passed since I wrote "Was I Born Homosexual?" and my feelings remain much the same. One thing that is different today from 1993 is the number of churches that have distanced themselves from individuals who do not embrace a gay identity and who instead seek affirmation in their decision. The issue is not one of condemning one group or another; the issue is placing God's word over societal trends in thinking.



Broken Yoke Ministries is a nonprofit 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. While there is no charge for this newsletter, it can only be published if there are funds available to make that possible. Send your donations to:

Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc
PO Box 361
Waukesha, WI 53187-0361



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.
- For those frustrated in their search for support, that they trust God to bring them an individual, a group, or an organization (church or otherwise) willing to walk alongside them on their journey.
- For Exodus and its member ministries, that the voice of freedom and change truly becomes a revolution of hope.
- For the church, that it may be more of an open door to those seeking freedom, not a wall of discouragement and confusion.
- For those suffering with HIV or AIDS, that they see God's loving presence in their daily lives, especially in the hearts of those here on earth who serve them.
- For our teens, that they not be overwhelmed by the "born that way" message and instead actively question those who preach such a message.
- For Bob, that his daily walk reflects God's loving and healing strength in his ministry and in his personal life.
- For Broken Yoke Ministries, that its ongoing financial needs will be met through the generosity and prayer support of the readers of this newsletter.

Reflections

I started attending Broken Yoke's support group meetings in 1989, making the weekly 60-mile one-way trip to Madison to hear founder Bill Windel teach and encourage. Looking back, I think just walking into a room where others shared the same goal as I made the trips more than worthwhile. I wasn't alone.

Bill's message was never "Broken Yoke is going to change you." It was always "God will bring you healing as you trust Him with your life." Most of us in the group then wanted to see a parade of success stories—men and women who reached the goal we had decided for ourselves.

Wisconsin Ministry Locations

Broken Yoke

P.O. Box 361
 Waukesha, WI 53187-0361
 262-896-0841 (answering machine)
 Bob@brokenyoke.org

Meetings:

Support Group (weekly)
 Tuesday, 7:00PM

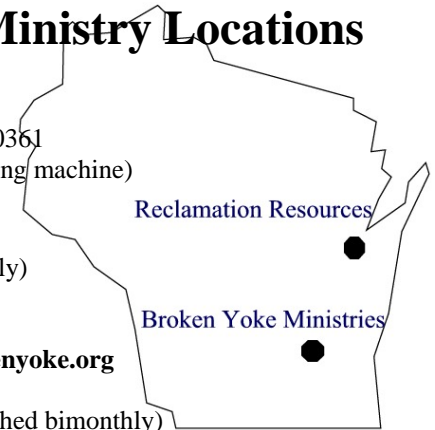
Website:

<http://www.brokenyoke.org>

Newsletter:

Wellspring (published bimonthly)

Note: This newsletter and some back issues are available in pdf format on our website. If you don't have Adobe Acrobat Reader, there are links that allow you to download that program free.



Redeemed Ministries

A support system for women
 Support Group (bi-weekly)
 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:00PM
 Call 414-607-1935 for info

Reclamation Resources

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



Help Us Celebrate 20 years of service!

**Anniversary Barbeque Picnic
 June 23, 2007
 (See page 3 for more information)**

(Reflections)

But that was not to be and some, I think, stopped attending for that reason. Those who continued attending believed that change didn't mean we'd awake the next morning ready for marriage or lusting after the opposite sex. We were learning that it was not God's idea that our memories would be erased. Instead, our minds were being awakened to the potential within us for healthy, God-centered choices.

At one point, Broken Yoke had branch groups in four cities. Today there are two city sites remaining, one of them led by our good friends at Reclamation Resources in the Fox Valley. We lost two sites for lack of someone able to lead meetings on a weekly basis—not for lack of need in those cities.

The response from most churches supportive of our efforts tend to be more of the slap-on-the-back, "Good job" kind of affirmation rather than "How can we help?" type. Unfortunately, many pastors find themselves having to defend that support in their own denominations because of pastors convinced of the "born that way, you don't have to change" argument.

Twenty years of meeting weekly is a lot of meetings. As one who has attended most of them, I can guarantee you that the experience has been worth it. I am certainly a better man today for that effort. It is one day at a time, but then, but then so is healing change. □

Revolution

Exodus Freedom Conference 2007

As the Exodus office gears up for the 2007 Freedom Conference, we are excited about what God has in store for this coming year! After all, God hasn't let us down yet as He continues to show up in powerful ways every year.

For over 30 years, Exodus has personally experienced and witnessed the **revolution** of thousands of lives being **radically, completely, and forever changed** through the Freedom conferences. For many, it is the first time ever truly experiencing what Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

In 2006, we witnessed great things happen at the Freedom Conference as leaders and conference attendees were encouraged to "Live Out Loud." We are a true testament of God's grace and faithfulness. Our stories give hope to others. For years, Exodus has proclaimed Jesus' words in Matthew 19:26: "...with God all things are possible." We stand as proof that redemption, restoration, and freedom is possible for anyone who seeks and trusts that God will do what man says is impossible.

At the 2006 Freedom Conference, it was impossible to ignore God's stirring. We sensed God preparing us for a new direction and place He is taking all of us, as the church. **A revolution is coming!** Isaiah 42:9, the Lord declares, "See, the **former things** have taken place, and **new things** I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you." (NIV)

In Psalms 25:4, David prays, "Show me how you work, God; school me in your ways" (The Message). Just like David, we are seeking guidance and direction from our Great Teacher in **revolutionizing** the Church, the culture, and people's lives through the work of this ministry. It is unimaginable what He has in store for us and what we get to be a part of. Will you join us? God is raising up **revolutionaries!** Maintaining the status quo and compromising biblical truth can no longer be an option. Lives are at stake here!

Exodus is committed to joining God's army in living out counter-cultured lives and proclaiming His counter-culture message. We will continue to be used by God in being a voice of His created intent, in transforming lives, and radically changing our world.

Radically Change Your World! Are you frustrated, overwhelmed, and desperate for a new plan in winning this battle with homosexuality? You may be right on the edge of everything you've never been or seen before. The Freedom Conference is a safe place to experience God in a whole new way. You will discover true grace, forgiveness, redemption, restoration, and life. God promises to meet you exactly where you are at, even if you just need a refreshing week of encouragement. Discover the destiny He has for your life!

Radically Change Your World! Do you have a son, daughter, brother, sister, mom, dad, spouse, other family member, or friend who is struggling with or has embraced homosexuality? The Freedom Conference is the perfect opportunity for you to find the answers, encouragement, and support you are looking for.

Radically Change Your World! We can't do this alone. Pastors, youth pastors, church leaders, counselors, teachers, we need you! Become a **revolutionary** by joining us. Exodus is committed to mobilizing the body of Christ to minister God's grace and truth to a world impacted by homosexuality. The 2007 conference will be packed with teachings and resources to help you become more effective in ministering to those struggling with or affected by homosexuality, equipping others to do the same, and reaching the gay community with God's grace and truth. The harvest is great, but the workers are few!

Regardless of your reason for attending the 2007 Freedom Conference, a revolution awaits you! We look forward to seeing you in June!



David Fountain
Exodus International

If you are unable to register online for the conference, write us at:

Exodus International
PO Box 540119
Orlando, FL 32854



Join us in our Celebration!

Potluck Barbeque
Saturday, June 23
2:00PM

*We'll furnish the meat and drinks
You bring something to pass*

Where: Grace Church
4800 S Calhoun Rd, New Berlin WI

Rain or shine, we will gather to celebrate and enjoy good food and fellowship. After all, it isn't every day a ministry gets to say, "Hey, we're 20 years old!"

RSVP by calling 262-896-0841 or emailing
Bob@BrokenYoke.org

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Waukesha, WI 53187-0361

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Dated Material

A Little Humor

A local business was looking for office help. They put a sign in the window, stating the following: "HELP WANTED. Must be able to type, must be good with a computer, and must be bilingual. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer." A short time afterwards, a dog trotted up to the window, saw the sign, and went inside. The office manager looked at the dog and was surprised, to say the least. However, the dog looked determined, so he led him into the office. Inside, the manager said "I can't hire you. The sign says you have to be able to type and be good with a computer." The dog jumped down, went to the typewriter and typed out a perfect letter. The dog then went to the computer and clicked the mouse to open the company's database. Amazed, the manager sighed and said "I realize that you are a very intelligent dog and have some interesting abilities. However, I still can't give you the job. You have to be bilingual." The dog looked at the manager calmly and said, "Meow!"

