

# Wellspring

April—May 2006     Isaiah 58.6  
**All things are possible with God!**  
[A publication of Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc.]



## Whatever It Takes?

By Bob Van Domelen

*<sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no changing or shadow of turning.* (James 1.17)

Right at this moment, my joy is deep indeed. I, a father, have become a grandfather to a precious bundle of God's love. Allowed into the room just minutes after her birth, I began capturing with my camera special moments, memorable expressions.

One scene in particular stands out in my memory. Held in her mother's arms, she is lovingly being wrapped in the love of her father and mother's gentle gaze.

What, one might ask, has this to do with homosexuality or lesbianism, and my answer would be "Everything!" As this child lay there, her mom and dad saw their first child, their daughter, a young girl ready to explore the world, a young woman ready to expand her horizons, and even a mother who would one day hold a child of her own. All these images occurred in the space of moments.

This little one will be loved, encouraged, challenged, and honored. She will know who she is and she won't need to find herself in someone else. Best of all, she will love the Lord and will know beyond doubt that the Lord loves her. These things will happen because her parents and all who love her are making a commitment to that end.

Life is about personal identity, about knowing that we are each a unique creation with the capability of touching the world and leaving our mark on the world with that same uniqueness. This identity does not demand that we become inventors, scholars, artists, or known worldwide. It does demand, however, that we be true to the identity we began life with—an identity nurtured by those who loved us.

I think homosexuality is a distortion of that identity. No girl woke one morning with the thought "Maybe today I'll see what it's like to be a lesbian" and no boy decided "Today is my day to celebrate being gay." Those who have embraced the gay lifestyle state that being "born that way" took away their choice in the matter. They will be among the first to say, "Well, I didn't *choose* to be gay." Unfortunately, people will nod in sympathy and offer words of support and affirmation for this lifestyle that others "didn't choose."

### Every good and perfect gift

The fact that none of us goes through life with that incredible identity completely intact or without any sign of wear and tear should not alter our thinking. Life is not about accepting something simply because "that's the way it is." Such logic would have prevented the space program from

ever landing on the moon, much less hearing "One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind." The first Ford automobiles would have remained the standard by which all future cars would be built in both concept and design. These are, however, things created outside of ourselves yet they bear the stamp of our creativity and ingenuity.

*<sup>13</sup>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.<sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* (Psalm 139.13-14) Those who believe God has no part in the process of birth will reject these words, relying instead on the idea that it is we and not God who are in control.

I can only guess at what my granddaughter will look like in five, ten, or twenty years. I can only speculate on what goals or dreams she will accomplish. I call her beautiful because that's how I see her. Another grandpa might say his granddaughter is prettier than mine and I would bear no resentment. We both see beauty and we will stand on every imaginable sideline cheering these gifts from God in everything they do.

### With whom there is no changing

Some Christians want to believe that God loves us more if we never sin; more if we sell all we own and give it to the poor; or more if we stand tall as heterosexuals. I think my own attitudes were shaped as a child by parents, teachers, and adults in general who did believe that it was possible to be less loved by God.

That kind of thinking made a lot of sense considering the fact that such was the case when I ran afoul of parents, teachers, and adults by failing them in some way or another. There was a coolness, no, a feeling of not being loved that followed my failings. Eventually I did whatever I could to avoid that from happening, but some failures are habit-forming and I had my share of those.

One day I read James 1.17 (the opening verse) and realized that no matter what I did, God didn't change; God didn't stop loving me. What a revelation! What a reconnection!

I must admit that it was tempting to believe that whatever I was doing was just what I was doing—it didn't matter to God because God loved me no matter what. I even started to consider the idea that my same-gender attractions were just "the way I was" and God still loved me. There was no reason to change because it made sense to think that maybe God created me that way. That kind of thinking didn't last, though, because I kept coming up

against God's word. Although God never said anything about same-gender attractions being sin, there is sufficient evidence in His word that same-sex behavior is wrong.

Jesus loved the disciples yet He did not allow them to believe that there was nothing in them that didn't need change. He challenged them to reject the world view of loving one's neighbor. He told them, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16.24) That certainly doesn't sound simple to me, nor does it sound like Jesus accepted the argument "It's just the way I am" from any of his followers.

It is about identity—our identity in God. In Matthew 6.48, Jesus says, "In a word, you must be made perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect." Our identity is to be made perfect and that is no easy task. There is also a trap that could easily be fallen into here.

This being made perfect is not about earning our way into heaven. It's about surrendering ourselves to God's will. It's about obedience—saying yes to God and no to self when our choice might not line up with God's word. It's about recognizing that we meet others every day that are meant to encourage us, challenge us, and support. Why? Because God knows we need cheerleaders, motivators, and supporters, just like God knows little babies need grandpas and grandmas.

The struggle can be intense for anyone with same-gender attractions. Some days the message they hear to "Celebrate Gay" could sound very attractive, certainly less hassle than saying no to self. They need churches willing to do whatever it takes, not churches who bless sinful behavior or churches who excommunicate because the struggle remains a struggle.

I am excited for my granddaughter just as I am excited for my grown children. And you know what? I am excited for me and for you! I am excited to be a part of the battle we call living in the Lord. We are children of God and that is an identity that should bring all of us great joy! □



Check out the Exodus International website in the weeks to come for more information.

[www.exodus.to](http://www.exodus.to)

Exodus encourages the church *not to remain silent*. Even with continued attack on Exodus and the church at large, we stand firm on God's word and His truth. Jesus called us to, "Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in Heaven. We are intimately linked in this harvest work."

If you are looking for help out of your struggle; if you are a parent, family member, or friend affected by homosexuality; if you are a pastor or Christian leader wanting to be equipped to respond to homosexuality – **this conference is for you!**

This week will be informational, but will also be a week of hearing stories and encouraging one another as we focus on our relationship with our Godly Father. As it says in *The Message*, He promises, "Keep company with me and **you'll learn to live freely and lightly.**" As over-comers, our eyes and ears have been opened.



## Our Prayer Corner

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

- For all who struggle with same-gender attractions, that their identity in God is reinforced each and every day by those around them.
- For our churches, that they will do whatever it takes to seek out resources to help those with same-gender attractions and share those resources freely in the Name of the Lord.
- For all ministries worldwide offering support to those seeking freedom from inappropriate same sex behavior, that they feel the strength of the prayer support we offer them.
- For Exodus International, that its presence and visibility will be recognized as a much needed balance to those who only support a pro-gay position.
- For the board of Broken Yoke Ministries, that it continues to grow in enthusiasm and ideas to bring this ministry into the lives of the churches it seeks to serve.
- 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 financial needs will be met through the generosity and prayer support of the readers of this newsletter.
- Finally, for all who feel they have no choice but to live as gay or lesbian, that they wake each morning seeking to serve the Lord in all things. God will move all of us into His loving arms if we surrender our will to Him.

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. It currently costs approximately \$600 per *Wellspring* edition. If you cannot support us financially, pray for us and encourage others to do so. Send your donations to:

**Broken Yoke Ministries, Inc  
PO Box 361**

**Waukesha, WI 53187-0361**

**PS A substantial number of our readers are incarcerated and unable to offer financial support. Please consider a donation on their behalf.**

*All things are possible with God!*

## MANY THANKS

Recently, Broken Yoke Ministries received a donation from Ann and Warren to cover the cost of publishing an edition of our newsletter. Another donation was also received for the same purpose from Kevin. Generosity of this magnitude is overwhelming and their partnership is a real blessing.

While I am at it, this ministry is so very blessed by a number of people who contribute funds on a monthly basis to the support needed for basic operations (phone, office supplies, etc). One inmate sends a donation of \$1.35 (his tithe) from his monthly wages; several others send stamps to help me continue the letter writing ministry to those in confinement. On occasion, larger donations have been received that make possible projects not normally considered as day-to-day expenses. All are, I feel, God's way of reminding me that He is in control of this ministry.

If you are already supporting BY through your finances, God bless you! If you are not, please consider doing that. Help us stand in the gap. Help BY remain a faithful witness of God's healing presence.

## 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.*

Reclamation Resources

Broken Yoke Ministries

### Redeemed Ministries

A support system for women  
Support Group (bi-weekly)  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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>

**Most change is good. So we hope that the choice of this new font style will make it easier for you to read and enjoy *Wellspring*. Let us know what you think!**

## A Random Thought or Two

At a recent BY meeting, I tossed out something to the group to mull over that actually brought me to thinking as well.

We had been talking about the issue of no opposite gender sexual attraction as being one of the frustrations faced by group members. This is not an uncommon ingredient in the struggle and in fact is often commonly used as justification for a gay identity.

What if, I offered the group, we would change the wording a bit. Instead of focusing on opposite sex attraction, we would focus on opposite gender attraction. Instead of basing future relationships on the degree of sexual arousal produced, we would focus on the very things that make us different and therefore ultimately more compatible in the long run.

My comments here have no scientific foundation—at least none that I know of—and they certainly could be considered short-sighted by many. My guess, however, is that while God always intended the sexual union between a man and a woman to be an expression of the love they shared for one another, our culture has elevated this positive chemistry mix to a much higher level. In fact, the life span of some Hollywood marriages is in direct proportion to the sexual interest level the couple is able to maintain.

While sexual compatibility will undoubtedly enhance a marital union, it is but one element. I fear some who struggle with same-gender attractions might reject *all* possibility of such an attraction developing. In other words, if there is no instant sexual mix, why bother with any serious opposite gender relationships.

I believe that most homosexuality is a case of arrested sexual development. I also believe that individuals do not sexually emerge at the same time—late bloomers as my mother used to say—yet boys who are late are being taught that they will never arrive; girls are taught Mr. Right is just around the corner.

Dealing with the opposite gender is adventure filled with expectation, high hopes wading through the fear of possible failure. It's interesting that the process of interacting with the opposite gender is often referred to as the dating game when it is certainly anything but for many.



## REGENERATION BOOKS

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I refer to this resource center for good reason. If you are looking for excellent resources, this is the place!

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**Dated Material**

## ***A Little Humor***

**(I used this one in 2002—but it's still good in 2006)**



This duck walks into a convenience store and asks the clerk, "Do you have any grapes?" The clerk says no, and the duck leaves. The next day, the duck returns and asks, "Do you have any grapes?" The clerk again says no, and the duck leaves. The day after that, the duck walks in the store again and asks "Do you have any grapes?" The clerk screams at the duck, "You've come in here the past two days and asked if we had any grapes. I told you no every time that we don't have any grapes! I swear if you come back in here again, and ask for grapes, I'll nail your webbed feet to the floor!!" The duck left, and returned the next day. This time he asked, "Do you have any nails?" The clerk replied, "No," and the duck said, "Good! Got any grapes?"