



THE NEWSLETTER OF PRODIGAL MINISTRIES

DECEMBER 2015

Reaching Out

Christ—at the Core of Our Ministry

Throughout our 29 years, Prodigal Ministries has emphasized that we are a **Christ-centered** counseling and support ministry. **Gospel-centered.**

But why do we say that? What do we mean by that?

Yes, we provide one-to-one professional counseling, mentoring and support groups. And yes, our unique outreach is

to persons experiencing same-gender attraction, gender dysphoria and other issues surrounding sexuality. But our goal and our mission is to see these precious individuals establish and/or

grow in their relationship to Christ and in their understanding of His design for their sexuality and gender as revealed in Scripture. That is what we mean when we say, "Christ-centered."

Our clients understand that, and, perhaps, say it better. Here are a few of the testimonial letters recently received from a few of the courageous men, women and youth coming to Prodigal Ministries seeking purity and wholeness in Him. We hope that you will receive encouragement from these letters along with us, and that along with us you will give all the glory to our gracious God, Whose ways are so far beyond our understanding.

RHONDA

"I came to Prodigal struggling with same-gender attraction and conflicted within, bringing with me a lifetime of buried wounds, guilt, and shame related

to my sexual attraction and behaviors, as well as fear and insecurity related to my feminine identity. Connecting with others was painful, especially other women. I longed for emotional and spiritual health and wholeness.

"Prodigal helped me in many ways. Above all, I have so appreciated the compassion and caring of the staff, who walked with me in this journey of healing and redemption. Faithfully, empowered by the Spirit of God, they have led me to Christ through prayer, counsel, the Word, worship, curriculum, and resources. I also am grateful for my fellow strugglers and overcomers—the men and women of my Prodigal support group. That group is for me and all of us a safe place, a place where we can address our issues openly and honestly while receiving the love, encouragement and support that we need on our journey toward healing and wholeness in Him."

TOM

Tom is a middle-aged man who had struggled with same-gender attraction since the age of sixteen. During college he married a wonderful Christian woman and together they gave birth to two children. But he continually and silently struggled with attraction to men. When his wife discovered that he had been viewing pornography online and even contacting male prostitutes, she prepared to seek divorce. Only then did Tom seek Christian counseling.

Writes Tom:

I began attending Taking Back Ground, a group

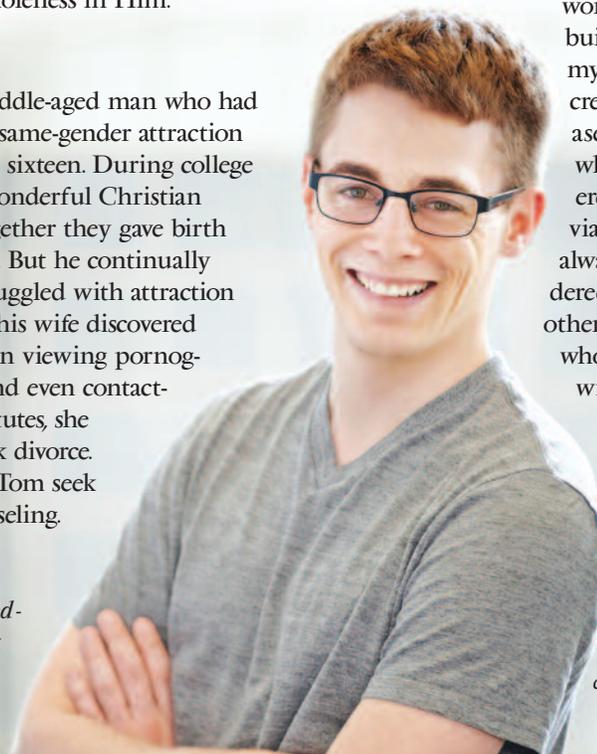
at Prodigal for men who struggle with same-gender attraction. At last, real inner healing began. What was so immediately transforming about the TBG meetings was that I was completely accepted—as I was—and that I learned that I was not alone in my struggling. Through open, honest communication with lots of support and accountability, my life began to change for the better. Now I am able to experience healthy relationships with other men without fantasizing about sex with them. Through a common bond of surrender to Christ, we are able to hold each other up and to enjoy a freedom that only can be experienced through obedience to Him.

JOSEPH

Prior to coming to Prodigal, my life was one of isolation. For years I had struggled with feelings of homosexuality. Though never called to a gay lifestyle, I certainly knew that I was not attracted to women. To cope, I built walls around my sexual self and created a guarded, asexual identity, which I considered the only viable solution. I always had wondered if there were other men out there who could identify with my struggles.

At Prodigal I learned that there was an alternative to a life of isolation. They helped me under-

continued on back



stand that I am not defined by my struggle... that I am still able to be the man that God intended me to be. I learned that same-gender attraction was not a sentence or a judgment, but rather, part of my own brokenness, which can only be managed through surrender to Christ. Through one-to-one counseling with Jerry and group sessions, Prodigal has provided the support that I needed to find Biblical answers to those perplexing questions surrounding my identity.

Walking through Prodigal's door and into my first group session was the turning point for me. How amazing and freeing it was to share with people who understood my struggles. Simply stated, Prodigal Ministries has been the vehicle through which God answered my lifelong prayers and brought me to wholeness in Christ. Thank you, Prodigal, for your patient ministry to me!

CONNOR

Heavily involved in the gay lifestyle and scene, Connor was an adamant non-believer in Christ when he came to Prodigal. He had been pressured into coming to Prodigal for counseling and did so only reluctantly, admitting later that he "lied" in his sessions in order to escape Prodigal.

But the seeds planted at Prodigal bore fruit, and today Connor is a believer and a Christ follower, striving to live a life of purity for Christ and in His strength.

Recently, he wrote to Jerry:

As I have grown in the Lord over these past two years, I appreciate more and more the ministry work that you are doing. Your boldness, love and wisdom in counseling those struggling with same-gender attraction is a great example of being the hands of Christ, furthering His work until He returns. Thank you so much for your patience with me and truly trusting in the Lord to save me and not in your own ability.

ROBERT

"I had cheated on my wife. My children, rightly so, had turned their back on me. I was near the brink of despair, emotionally, and wanted to jump.

"The staff of Prodigal Ministries stuck with me. They guided me away from the brink, challenging me and reminding me

that in Christ's view I had worth and value. The process has been challenging, but the results so worth it. A closer walk with Christ... reconciliation and restoration with my wife... and healing relationships with my children. They held me accountable to Biblical truth and to a plan of accountability with other men.

TERESA

"It had been almost 10 years since I had begun to struggle with same-gender attraction. Ten years of trying to break free. Ten years of torment and discouragement. Then a friend challenged me to find a support group. And at her insistence, I found myself on Prodigal's Web site and soon became a member of Prodigal's first women's support group.

"How freeing it was to learn that I was not alone in my struggle... to learn that other Christian women were experiencing the same torment. What a joy it was to have other women friends praying for me and holding me accountable. Unlike some of those friends, my feelings of same-gender attraction have never gone away. But I now live in joy as my friends

and I together seek to live lives of holiness and obedience in His strength. I would never have known what it meant to be a true follower of Jesus were it not for my Prodigal experience." 



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