



Reaching Out

THE NEWSLETTER OF PRODIGAL MINISTRIES

DECEMBER 2014

Reaching Out Through Social Media

"They are confused and hurting. Searching for answers and for community. Some are ashamed; some are angry. They are the men and women to whom God has called and uniquely equipped us to minister. They are on social media. And we must go there to reach them." - Jerry Armelli

Following several months of prayerful consideration by the board and staff, and meetings with a trusted electronic media consultant, Prodigal Ministries has expanded its electronic media presence by establishing a "facebook" account and launching a blog page.

WHY?

No doubt, some faithful friends will ask that question. Understandably. Specifically, why invest the time and even the small financial resources necessary to launch a "facebook" account and post a blog? Having prayed through those same questions, Prodigal's board and staff wanted to use this newsletter to provide the answers.

Teens and young adults make up the largest and fastest growing population that Prodigal Ministries serves. From



early childhood on this age group has been bombarded with the lies that "traditional" gender roles and distinctions are evil and that gender is fluid... that there is no Creator and thus no plan for our sexuality to which we must adhere...that attempts to change one's sexual "orientation" are unscientific and harmful. Sadly, too many of our churches have avoided these "sensitive" issues. Consequently, when young adults and teens who have grown up in the church are confronted by sexual feelings and attractions that set them apart from their peers, they do not know how to respond or where to go for truthful, Biblical answers.

For these young adults and teens, the primary means of getting information on any subject, as well as of connecting with others, is social media. When they go to social media for help regarding their sexuality and gender issues, what are they most apt to find? More confused people with whom they connect for community and support and/or false information (lies!) intended to draw them deeper into darkness.

We must meet these precious individuals where they are—in social media—and offer them a message of hope plus a genuinely compassionate community where they can find Biblical, Christ-centered help and support.

Throughout the years we have emphasized that Prodigal Ministries' greatest challenge is to increase awareness of our presence among those who so desperately need and long for the message of hope, truth, support and encouragement that God has uniquely equipped and called Prodigal's staff to provide. Our "facebook" account will go a long way toward meeting that challenge, and will do so in a cost-effective, relevant manner.

A BLOG?

Our new blog page is a logical expansion of our existing Web site,

ProdigalMinistries.com. Postings to the blog will be written by Prodigal's own executive director, Jerry Armelli, as well as by other Christian counselors connected with Restored Hope Network, the national network of like-minded, Christian professionals that Prodigal joined earlier this year.

Prodigal's blog will be a valuable resource not only for those struggling



personally with sexuality and gender issues, but also, perhaps even more importantly, for pastors, teachers, parents and friends seeking a better understanding of God's plan for human sexuality and gender and/or how to address distortions of that beautiful plan. It is intended to equip all readers to respond Biblically and compassionately to the misinformation spread through mainstream media.

YOU CAN HELP!

How? First, by "Liking" us on "facebook." You can link to our "facebook" account through our Web site, if you wish. Don't have a "facebook" account?

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from the desk of our chairman

Faith and Stewardship

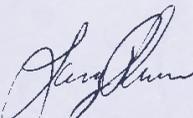
We on the board of Prodigal Ministries always have believed that it is our responsibility to keep you, our faithful prayer partners and supporters, aware of our financial status and needs. Prodigal Ministries continues to operate on an annual budget of less than \$100K. Each member of our staff—executive director Jerry Armelli, our three part-time group leaders and our part-time bookkeeper—know that they have been called to this ministry and serve selflessly. I continue to be amazed and so thankful for their dedication and for their faithful, frugal stewardship of the resources, which God as provided through our donors.

During the past several years we have shared with you that our revenues have failed to cover our expenses, but that we have been able to sustain the ministry thanks to several one-time gifts received during the 2011 and 2012 calendar years. Through October of 2014, without any extraordinary expenses, Prodigal Ministries has experienced a budget deficit of approximately \$8,000, and funds remaining from those one-time gifts are nearly depleted.

Through the Christ-centered, Holy-Spirit inspired counseling, teaching and encouragement of our staff, God continues to bring precious men and women out of bondage to gender confusion and same-gender attraction into a joyful, intimate, and freeing relationship to Christ Jesus. Indeed, during Prodigal's 28-plus years, the desperate need, the opportunities and the glorious outcomes have never been more wondrous or clear.

And so again we ask: Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to use some of the funds that He has entrusted to you to help eliminate Prodigal's deficit and sustain this vital, "Great-Commission" ministry. If He has so called you, please return the commitment card enclosed with this letter as soon as possible.

To Christ be the glory now and forever!



Larry Plum
Chairman of the Board

"...during Prodigal's 28-plus years, the desperate need, the opportunities and the glorious outcomes have never been more wondrous or clear."



Larry Plum
Chairman, Prodigal Ministries



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Social Media

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Tell your kids, grandkids and friends who are on "facebook" to check us out and "Like" us. By doing so you will be helping to greatly increase our exposure to those seeking the help that we are ready to provide, and you will be expanding our network of friends and potential financial supporters.



Secondly, read our blog postings and encourage your friends to do so. Again, one can link to the blog through our Web site, ProdigalMinistries.com. The blog will enable readers to sign up for email notifications of

new postings. By doing so you will be arming yourself and those you direct to the site with the Biblical truth and honest statistical information needed to counter the lies regarding God's beautiful plan for our sexuality and gender to which we all are exposed daily. And in addition, you will be keeping Prodigal Ministries and its financial needs on the hearts and minds of a larger audience.

Let us thank God for allowing mankind to tap into the communication technology that is a part of His amazing creation. May we use that technology faithfully and to His glory. ☞