



**hope**  
for  
**wholeness**

**Equipping the Church, Truth's First Equipping Event — Coming in March**

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**Who do you know that may need help from Truth Ministry? Give them this newsletter or tell them about our ministry.**

Recently, my son and I took a trip to Georgia to display Truth Ministry and Hope For Wholeness at a Baptist youth conference. I wrote a blog about this experience and have posted a portion of it in this newsletter. I would encourage you to follow my blog and sign up to get our e-newsletter, so you don't miss things that are going on in between these monthly newsletters.

As my son and I got to the conference and set up our display, we didn't notice the rainbow flag flying outside the conference center that we noticed on the last day. I have no idea what this was about, but since the rainbow has become a symbol for gay pride, it seemed odd that it was prominently displayed.

One of the things I promote to our participants or clients is the church. The church should be the place that people establish relationships, get Biblical teaching, confess, and find restoration. To the teens I work with, I encourage them to join youth groups and speak to their youth pastors. I even encourage them to reach out to godly friends and share their struggle with this issue. I have had several do just this and, though they were reluctant on the basis of fear of rejection, they were able to receive a warm and welcome reception from the ones they've shared with.

However, at this youth convention, I was sad to see shock and very immature responses on these youths' faces. I'm sure that there were struggling teens in attendance, based solely on statistics, however it wasn't a safe environment for making oneself vulnerable. I hope that some of those teens will be able to remember our website address and will contact us for help. Sadly though, we did not have youth leaders or pastors come by and engage with us. We had two or three people come by and get materials, but they didn't know what to say or ask. Many also got material while we were not there--really more material disappeared in our absence than we gave away.

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**Why Am I Here? By McKrae Game**

[www.mckraegame.com](http://www.mckraegame.com)

It had seemed like a good idea to display at this event, as we get so many contacts from teens and their parents. It seemed to be going well, while setting up the display as usual, until the youth and the youth leaders showed up. The looks of shock and humor were blatantly obvious as they streamed by our booth.

I took my son with me to keep me company on the four-hour drive and two-night stay. I knew he would like a trip with his dad, and I could make it fun for us. We would enjoy each other's company, and he had helped me work a display on such a trip to the Southern Baptist convention about five years earlier. We had a similar response from many pastors that year, as one woman gave our brochure back to him once she read the display.

A few stopped and got information, but didn't know what to say or ask. However, speaking with people and helping people was why we were there. My son thought it was odd that I wasn't bringing videos to sell only to give away. I wanted to be there to help youth and youth pastors. One young man said, "I never knew there was such a ministry or that there were people who didn't want to be that way." I found that to be a sad sign of the times. Nevertheless, during our stay I did not have one meaningful conversation helping anyone.

The first night, after manning the booth all day, I was depressed. "Why am I here?!" I kept telling myself that maybe a struggling teen will see the website and contact us later. Maybe they'll see hope, when they had no hope before. That's what I was holding onto and that's still my hope, as I'm back home wondering what the purpose of that trip was. It wasn't free, I had to pay three hundred dollars to display, plus the cost of the hotel rooms, meals, and gas, not to mention almost taking three days in the middle of my holiday break.



## Equipping the Church, Truth's First Equipping Event

It is sad that many in the church are very immature about the subject. When I have the opportunity to speak at a church or school, I am highlighted as the expert. I can communicate a message of freedom and educate on the subject. People line up to speak with me.

The world has taken this subject and run with it. The liberal church has made, or is making, homosexuality normal and acceptable. Many churches are faced with splitting from their mainline denomination over this issue. A person who is caught up in this battle told me just yesterday that their church says the Bible is just a guide for us. The media is fully indoctrinating our young people - and I'm including our church youth.

In addition to this, most conservative churches are not only ignorant on the subject but are also immaturely turning a blind eye in judgment. Our young people and adults are struggling, but the church doesn't understand the issue enough to understand that there ARE members in their congregation that are struggling with homosexual thoughts and feelings.

An article\* I was reading just this morning by Christy McFerren, addressed this so well,

It is my belief that while the Church has long been correct in regarding homosexual behavior a sin from a biblical viewpoint, she has rarely done the necessary relational work to love without condition, understand the unique struggles and bring reconciliation with Christ to people who deal with same-sex attraction.

This is in contrast to the way the Church gracefully handles many other issues, and my heart is to offer insight to leaders so they, in turn, can offer hope to those in their churches who will hide in isolation with their struggle until it's safe to confess it.

Before I go farther, one thing needs to be said loud and clear about this issue—to both sides of the debate: Not everyone who struggles with same-sex attraction wants to embrace a homosexual identity. There are many in the Church who are "in the closet" but don't want to "come out" in the traditional meaning of the phrase.

They seek vitally necessary connection with the Church, acceptance as brothers and sisters in Christ, and affirmation of their value regardless of the outcome of their fight.

Many who struggle with same-sex attraction are Christians, and already understand it is relationship with God that validates salvation—not the success or failure of any of our attempts to mature into His likeness. It's just taking a while for the Church to catch up to this understanding when it comes to homosexuality.

## Reach 2013 Church Equipping Event

Coming in March

*Learn how to effectively witness and minister to those affected by homosexuality at this exciting event.*

Register online at [www.truthministry.org](http://www.truthministry.org)

Speakers to include McKrae Game, Tony Moore, Meleah Allard and More. This event is for Pastors, Youth Leaders, and anyone involved in church leadership or wanting to learn more.

Regular Registration: \$50 (with Spouse: \$80)

Five or More Registrations: \$40 (must call in); Student rate: \$25.00

Box lunch will be sold separately morning of event: \$10

Location and Schedule TBA / Half Scholarships available by request

**For more information call our office at  
864-583-7606**

Because we've taken the comfortable position of neglect for so long, we do not have deep, well-constructed responses to this issue when it becomes a reality in our lives. Therefore, for the many whose same-sex attraction is unwanted, there is an extreme shortage of environments where they feel comfortable discussing their struggle.

With every passing battle in the culture war, God is calling the Church out of our indifference.

He is calling us out of our simplified stances against homosexuality, which currently primarily express themselves through political viewpoints, satirical sidebars about "Adam and Steve" in sermons or "speaking the truth in love" with no real intent to invest in a person after the truth is spoken. These things are not helpful, and what we've been doing so far is only costing us relationship with the people Jesus asked us to love. We are not increasing the Kingdom.

There is good news in this. Every realization of inadequacy is an opportunity for growth.

Truth Ministry is here to help. Many have stepped up to the plate and are standing with Truth Ministry financially and in prayer, many are seeking out this ministry for help, and many attended our recent conference. It is now time for us to reach out to the church and help those who want to alter their current path, and chart a new course to reach out with love and compassion to those that are affected by this subject.

You do not want to miss this event! You will also want to invite anyone in leadership in a church to attend with you. You may be a family member, or even a struggler - it doesn't matter who you are - you will benefit by this training event.

**\*Homosexuality and the Church: Is There a Better Way? by Christy McFerren at [www.churchleaders.com](http://www.churchleaders.com). See our website under Resources/Related articles for the full article.**



## Why Am I Here?

[www.mckraegame.com](http://www.mckraegame.com)

Realizing I was struggling with depression, I sent a text to my wife and several friends asking for prayer and telling a brief synopsis. I also went to the gym to run. I ran a fast 5k. Seth lost the room key, so I had to go covered in sweat to the front desk through the mass of kids; fun times. The next day wasn't any better, but my attitude was different. I had my time with the Lord reading His Word and a devotional early while Seth slept. I was determined it was going to be a good day.

I decided to pack it in about two hours early. Everyone had seen our display over and over, as we were in the heart of their activities. Seth had been good, being patient, so I decided to reward him with a trip to ice skate in downtown Atlanta. He had asked for that and for dinner at Hard Rock Cafe. I told him as we drove back that I wasn't sure why we went on that trip but if anything it was good time alone with him.



It reminds me that often we don't understand life's circumstances. Still, our hope is in the Lord and His ability to take our efforts and infuse them with His power and grace. It's true of all our efforts at Truth Ministry; apart from the Lord's help they are nothing.

**You can read McKrae's blog regularly. Just visit [www.mckraegame.com](http://www.mckraegame.com) and sign up to receive notices when new releases are published.**

