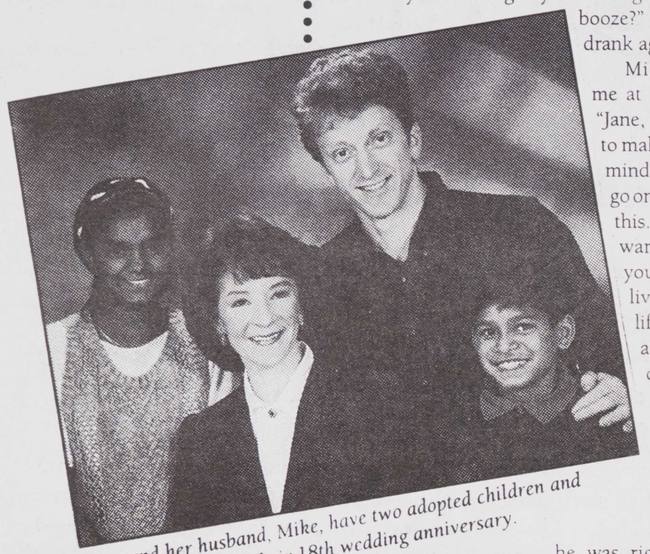
two children.

One day, she left me a love note on the kitchen table. But Mike returned earlier than expected and found the note. It brought him to his knees, and he cried out to God. The Lord confronted him: "How can I heal your marriage if you won't give up the booze?" He never drank again.



Jane and her husband, Mike, have two adopted children and recently celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary.

Mike called me at the office. "Jane, you need to make up your mind. You can't go on living like this. But let me warn you. If you decide to live the gay life, I will not allow our children to be raised in that kind of environment."

I knew he was right. I was faced with making the most difficult decision of my life: choosing between the man I married—for whom I had no desire—and the woman whom I felt I could not live without. I had to choose between the gay community where I felt support and acceptance, and the church—which seemed so cold and detached.

I was in despair, the conflict unbearable. I contemplated suicide. "Lord Jesus," I cried, "I have made a mess of my life. Please help me!" The next day, Mike visited a Bible bookshop and found a book about gays who had changed. I read it in one sitting. I called a phone number in the back and got information about Exodus.

"I realized that lesbian love was a counterfeit. It didn't satisfy the deepest parts of me."

A month later—in June 1989—I drove to Pennsylvania for my first Exodus conference. With both my husband and lesbian lover back in Maine, I wondered, *Will I find the answers I'm looking for?*

At the conference, I saw a love for Jesus I'd never seen before. These "former homosexuals" knew the depths of God's forgiveness and truly knew how to worship Him. As a five-year-old little girl I had begun a relationship with God. Now, at the conference, hope began to well up inside that I could experience a renewed intimacy with Jesus.

I learned the truth about homosexuality. The Apostle Paul said those involved in homosexuality would "not inherit the kingdom of God." Then he made the amazing statement, "And that is what some of you *were*" (1 Cor. 6:9–11). Change was possible. It no longer mattered what secular "research" revealed. Jesus said I could be set free!

I also realized that we perceive God based on the kinds of relationships we've had as a child. I had been violated physically, emotionally and sexually by men. Therefore I assumed that God, who reveals Himself as masculine, could not be trusted. Jesus said to me, "I can heal those hurts, but you have to give up your lesbian relationship."

I panicked. "But Lord, you don't understand! It's the best love I've ever known and I don't want to give it up." But God was calling me to a "radical obedience." With an act of my will, I made the decision to end the lesbian relationship. Still I wondered, *Can God fill the emptiness within me, that longing to be loved?*

During a prayer time at the conference, I saw a picture with the "eyes of my heart." I was three years old, standing a few feet away from Jesus. His arms were outstretched, His eyes radiating love. Then He picked me up and held me. At that moment, the love of Jesus came pouring into my heart to overflowing.

I realized lesbian love was a counterfeit. It had never filled and never satisfied the deepest parts of my heart. But I had found a Man I could trust, someone whose love truly fills and satisfies. In my heart, I closed the door once and for all to homosexuality. When I came home, Mike couldn't believe the change and asked me what happened.

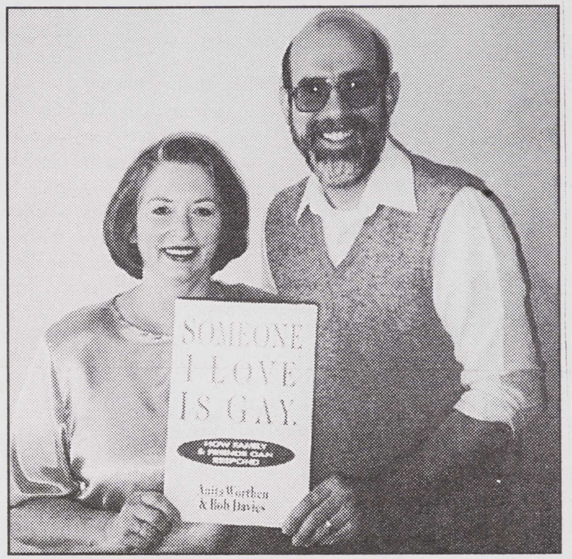
I told him I'd found the truth at the Exodus conference. "I have fallen in love with another man," I told him, "and His name is Jesus." Mike was excited. There was hope for our marriage after all! I broke off the lesbian relationship, never returned to the gay bar, and avoided my gay friends. It was tough being cut off from my emotional "lifeline." Giving up the sexual part was easy compared to the agony of working through the emotional dependency with my former lover. It took months to grieve the loss of that relationship.

It took several years for Mike to work through his anger at having been betrayed, and to begin trusting me again. Healing from sexual brokenness has been an ongoing process—developing deeper intimacy with Christ, being vulnerable with my husband and others.

God used Exodus in a powerful way to change my life, save my marriage, and get me back on track with Himself. I will always be grateful to God for His work of restoration in my life. •

▶▶ *NEWS*

New Book for Families & Friends



Anita Worthen and Bob Davies hold a "mock-up" of the cover for their new book, SOMEONE I LOVE IS GAY.

DOWNERS GROVE, IL—This month, InterVarsity Press is releasing a book for parents, spouses and friends of someone dealing with homosexuality. *SOMEONE I LOVE IS GAY: How Family & Friends Can Respond* by Anita Worthen and Bob Davies is "a practical, hope-filled guide to dealing with this family crisis," Bob says.

"Anita and I are really excited about this new release," he said. "Each year hundreds of parents and other family members contact us for help. I am glad that finally we have a book designed specifically for their needs. This book answers the first 100 questions that people ask us when they call in a panic!"

The book begins with several testimonies, including Anita's (her son is gay), then describes the overwhelming anguish that many families experience. Other chapters discuss such issues as dealing with guilt—especially difficult for parents, disclosure ("Whom can I tell?") and relinquishment ("What does it really mean to 'let go'?")

Later chapters are geared toward a specific audience: parents' issues, spouses' concerns, a chapter for those involved in a romantic relationship (dating or engaged), and another entitled, "When a Friend Says, 'I'm Gay'."

InterVarsity Press has sent manuscripts to several dozen Christian magazines for review purposes. Anita and Bob will be appearing at the annual Christian Bookseller's Convention in Anaheim during mid-July, handing out autographed copies to bookstore owners from across the country.

"This book is the fulfillment of a long-time dream of mine," Anita says. "I have seen the need for this book for many years. We have seen the Lord's hand on this project right from the beginning."

For your donation of $15.00 or more this month, we'll send you a copy of this exciting book. Check the appropriate box on the enclosed response card. •

"Ex-gay" Witness Impacts Methodists

DENVER—The witness of two former homosexuals had a significant impact on a major discussion of homosexuality at the United Methodist (U.M.) General Conference, held in Denver April 16–26.

Ron Dennis, a founding member of the Exodus board in 1976, and Donna René Hopkins of *New Creation Ministries* (Fresno) gave testimony to their exit out of homosexuality to both the media and numerous conference delegates. Carol Gulley and Exodus board chair Mary Heathman (*Where Grace Abounds*, Denver) also spoke at a press conference to the reality of hope and change for those involved in homosexuality.

Donna gave her testimony to the evangelical caucus, "Good News," with 230 people present. At the end, the audience gave her a standing ovation.

Ron and Donna are both part of Transforming Congregations, an "ex-gay" movement within the U.M. church and other mainline denominations.

The Affirmation (pro-gay) caucus members were out in full force, according to a Transforming Congregations press release. Fifteen bishops issued a statement during the conference in support of homosexual behavior and ordination of gays. But when a vote was taken on revising the current prohibition against homosexuality in the Social Principles, 60% of the delegates voted to retain the prohibition.

"That was a miracle," said Exodus board member Bud Searcy, another active member of Transforming Congregations. "Donna and Ron were the only two ex-gays at the Conference, but you would have thought an army of them were present. Affirmation and the pro-gay constituency were off balance the entire conference because of their presence." •

▶▶ *CALENDAR*

NOTE: Events marked by a (*) are sponsored by an Exodus referral ministry.

* *June 15/Richmond, VA.* "Homosexuality: Addressing Your Questions." *Set Free*, 804/358-8150.

• *July 22-27/Vancouver, BC, Canada.* "Living Waters" Training. Details: Wellspring Ministries, 604/732-5577.

• *Aug. 8-11/Philadelphia.* Eighth annual "Courage" (Roman Catholic) conference. Speakers include Andy Comiskey. Details: 212/421-0426.

• *Aug. 17/Houston.* "How to Minister Freedom from Homosexuality." *Christian Coalition for Reconciliation*, 713/465-7045.

• *Aug. 23-24/Portland, OR.* "Healing the Homosexual," with Andy Comiskey. *The Portland Fellowship*, 503/235-6364.

• *Aug. 24/San Rafael, CA.* "Family and Friends Day," a one-day seminar for those with a gay loved one. New Hope Ministries, 415/453-6475.

• *Sept.-Oct./Mill Valley, CA.* AIDS Ministry Training Series. Sep. 13-14, Introduction to HIV/AIDS Ministry; Sep. 27-28, How to Develop an In-Church or Parachurch Ministry; Oct. 11-12, Care for AIDS Caregivers and Forum on Living Well with HIV. Speakers include numerous Exodus leaders. Details: Golden Gate Seminary Continuing Education, 415/388-8080 ext. 203.