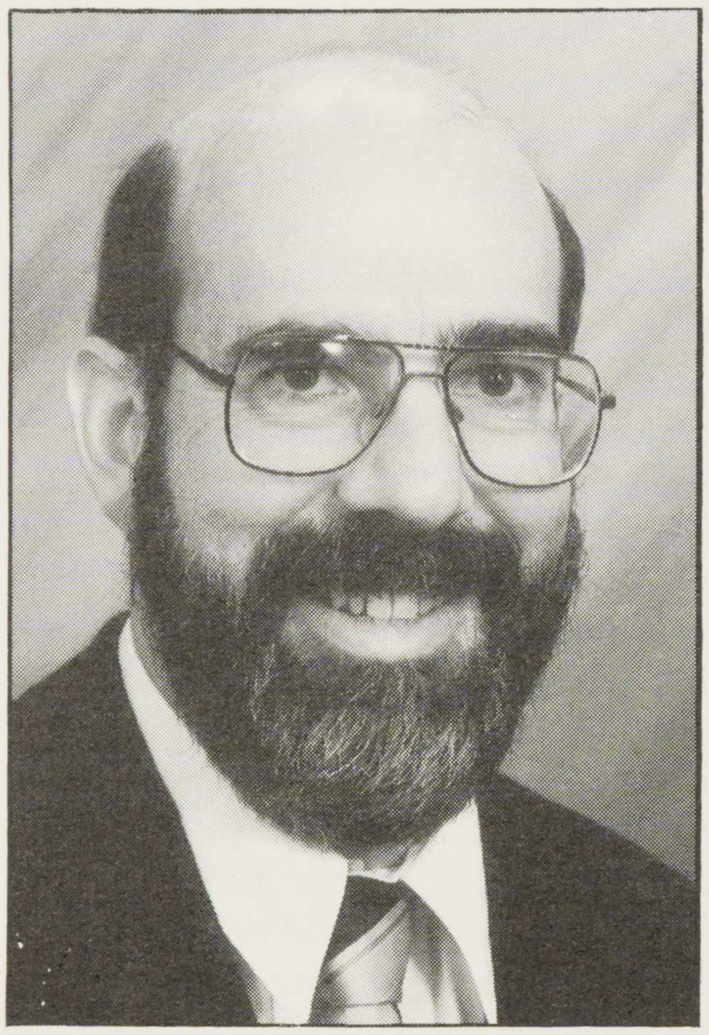
EXODUS INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

Freedom from Homosexuality Through the Power of Jesus Christ

Sample Issue

My Secret Battle

By Bob Davies



Bob Davies is executive director of Exodus International–North America, a position he has held for the past ten years.

Years of church attendance and a Bible School diploma could not protect me from the war raging inside.

The attic room was hot and stuffy, but the pounding of my heart wasn't due to the temperature. I was reading a small paperback for teens on the "facts of life," and the contents of chapter 10 filled my 14-year-old mind with dread.

"Do you have attractions to members of your own sex?" the book asked, then described the symptoms of something called "homosexuality."

All these symptoms apply to me, I thought. *I must be homosexual.* Horrified, I immediately made two decisions: I would never tell anyone about my discovery. And I would pray—desperately—that somehow I could "outgrow" these feelings. Prayer, daily Bible reading and weekly Sunday School attendance were ingrained habits. So how could I have *this* problem?

Rather than seeking help, I hid my fears, withdrew from everyone, and eventually quit going to church. Why bother, when God seemed irrelevant to my deepest needs?

In my late teens, while a freshman at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, I checked out books on homosexuality, and learned of the large gay subculture in many North American cities. Curious, I began visiting adult bookstores and reading homosexual magazines to feed my illicit desires. Only guilt and fear kept me from pursuing sexual relationships with other men.

After two years of college, I renewed my commitment to Christ and spent three wonderful years at Prairie Bible College in Alberta, Canada, graduating in June 1974. Then I attended a Youth With A Mission training school in Germany. After the six-month program, one morning as I was praying about my future, I "saw" myself back home, handing out tracts in front of Vancouver's largest gay bar. My heart sank. "No way," I moaned inwardly. "I'll do *anything*—except that!"

Then, in September 1978, I heard a testimony that changed my life. A speaker at church shared his story of years of overseas ministry and many people won to Christ.

"God," my heart whispered, "I want my life to count for You—just like that man's." Then came God's challenge: "Are you willing to pay the price?" I knew God wanted me to fully surrender my confused sexual identity to Him. Despite years of church attendance, a Bible college diploma, and overseas missions experience, I still struggled with wrong same-sex desires. And they were getting worse.

For the next 24 hours I hardly ate or slept, wrestling with the Lord like Jacob (see Genesis 32). Finally, too exhausted to fight anymore, I surrendered. "God, you win. Do whatever you