

LETTERS

[Each month, our office receives hundreds of cries for help. This letter is just one example. The writer gave us permission to reprint portions of his letter.]

To Whom It May Concern:

Please send me some information on your group. I am 17 years old and have had two partners in the last year.

Right after I turned 16, I called a gay bar in my area. I told the person who answered that I was gay and needed a friend. He met with me at a near-by restaurant. In the parking lot I had my first homosexual experience. I felt guilty after we were through; however, the holding and the feeling that I was loved and accepted felt great. Soon he was telling me that he loved me but only as a friend. We met a couple of times after that, and just talked. But he called our relationship off when things started going well with his boyfriend.

I gave in to temptation again when a friend of mine told me he was bisexual. It was only a one-time thing that did not last very long. But it's something I am still regretting.

I think I know some factors that encouraged my homosexual desires. I was sexually abused in elementary school by some older kids during recess a couple of times. In middle school, I was called "faggot" when I didn't even know what being gay was all about. Also, the fact that my father used to throw things at me and call me a wimp might have something to do with it.

I don't know what I did to deserve this. My parents do not know about this and since I still live with them, please respond to my friend's house. Please try to help me.

Sincerely, "Jude"

RESOURCES

• Two separate tape sets from the recent "Here's Hope Seminar" are available from Resurrection Life Ministries, PO Box 95205, Atlanta, GA 30347. (1) Joe Dallas on overcoming homosexuality. (2) Ulf Lidman on topics related to HIV/AIDS. Sets are \$23.00 each (includes postage and handling). Details: 404/636-5924.

• *Sexual Healing: God's Plan for the Sanctification of Our Lives* by David Kyle Foster, director of Mastering Life Ministries (applicant; Nashville). This 312-page "reference manual for ministering to those who are trapped in sexual sin and brokenness" covers homosexuality, child sex abuse, sexual addiction, pornography, masturbation, voyeurism, and exhibitionism. An outstanding resource for individual or group study. Credit card orders by phone: 1-800-705-0020; or send \$25.00 to Mastering Life Ministries, PO Box 110072, Nashville, TN 37222.

• Two new booklets on homosexuality have been recently published:

The Gay Debate by Stanton L. Jones (InterVarsity Press, 1994) is a reprint of a cover story which appeared in *Christianity Today* magazine. An excellent overview which includes a discussion of the Scriptures and how we should respond.

The Facts on Homosexuality by John Ankerberg & John Weldon (Harvest House, 1994) refutes scientific "evidence" that homosexuality is inborn and cannot be changed. It also refutes pro-gay theology. Both these booklets are excellent (and both of them recommend Exodus International to readers!). Copies can be ordered at any Christian bookstore. •

BOOK REVIEWS

New Novel: Great Reading!

Unforgiven Sins by Joe Dallas (Harvest House, 1995)

Reading Joe's new novel is like eating your favorite dessert: Halfway through, it's so good that you wish it would last longer! This blockbuster mystery is massively entertaining—and packed with so many lessons about homosexuality that readers can't help but examine their attitudes on the subject before the final page is turned.

The main character is Greg Bishop, a Christian counselor who enters a whirlwind of controversy when he decides to open an "ex-gay" ministry in Orange, Calif. Greg discovers that the man leading the gay community into battle is actually his best friend from childhood. To make matters worse, this man turned toward gay activism years ago after being beaten up one night on a gay beach by some redneck university students. The gay-bashers were none other than Greg and his college buddies.

Joe Dallas, a former president of Exodus International, has done a masterful job on this book, his first novel. One warning: Don't expect to get much sleep after you've read a couple of chapters—it's hard to put down! —Bob Davies

Conquering Past Regrets

If Only by David Seamands (Victor, 1995).

This book is powerful medicine for the "if only..." syndrome. Many Christians are caught in the trap of comparing their past with someone else's. This book provides practical help in breaking out of that defeating pattern. Seamands, a best-selling author, is also a member of the Exodus board of reference. —B.D.

PRAYER POINTS

• speed & accuracy as Kevin processes hundreds of Exodus conference registrations

• inspiration as Bob writes an article this month for A New Man, the official magazine for Promise Keepers (for Sept./Oct. issue)

• safety for our fundraising consultant, Don Otis, as he flies to San Rafael this month for a one-day planning/strategy meeting with the Exodus staff

• God's love upon Greg Louganis, the former Olympic diver who has AIDS (several folks sent him Exodus-related materials last month)