An excerpt from Alan Conant's testimony...

"I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications...Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful...I was brought low, and He helped me..." - Psalm 116

I do not remember a time in my life when I did not struggle with homosexual feelings. Even before I was old enough to know much about sexuality, there were within me longings to be a girl instead of a boy.

I grew up in a small New England town. Things at home were passive, with very little communication around real issues. My parents separated when I was ten and divorced when I turned twelve. After that time, which was very traumatic for me, almost all openness stopped. I turned more and more inward into my own world of pain and loneliness. It was there that sexual fantasies and patterns began to develop which would take me away from the harshness of my outer world. My childhood years were also marked with frequent assaults on my personhood and gender identity, both verbally and physically. Life became a battle zone of trying to avoid these attacks.

I received Jesus Christ as my Savior at an early age in Sunday School. As time went on, however,there were few strong Christian role models to pattern my life after. I pretty much followed my own ideas, bringing myself up by observing peers and phony role models on TV.

My need for acceptance and love continued to grow more erotic and intense. I almost constantly longed for a stronger man to hold me in his arms. I developed strong crushes on the other guys and male teachers in my high school and later in college.

Partly to feel accepted by the "in crowd" and partly to numb the inner pain, I began developing a heavy drinking problem and using drugs occasionally. During all of this I never told anyone what I was struggling with, again for fear of being rejected. On the outside I was keeping up a front as a bright student and good boy. But on the inside I was living in intense confusion, fear and constant isolation.

Half way through college I had the privilege of going to Israel. It was on that trip that my faith in Christ was reborn. I began to seek Jesus in a new and deeper way. My attraction toward men continued though. The battle in my mind and soul would at times almost make me crazy. I knew what the Bible said about homosexual sin. I wanted to be a Christian with all my heart, but I couldn't ignore the strong homosexual and transexual tendency within me. I was definately in bondage to it.

After college, I met a man through work who took an interest in me. He later disclosed that he was gay. We eventually fell into sexual sin together and had an

eight year relationship. At the very start I knew that I was turning my back on God, but the desire to finally fulfill my secret longings my own way was so powerful that I gave in. My faith was not mature. My focus was almost entirely away from God and toward the gay relationship. There were days when this new life seemed fulfilling, but it grew increasingly clear over the years that it was an barren way of life. The homosexual lifestyle wasn't working out the way I had pictured it would. I was becoming hopeless, sick and depressed.

Through the rebellion, confusion and darkness I began crying out to God again. I know now that He was gently calling me back, dirty and afraid though I was. I left the gay community and my former partner and began attending a local Church. Again, the Holy Spirit started sending the Light of Christ into my dry and needy heart.

During these 'desert years', God also arranged for me to adopt my niece and nephew due to my sisters illness. Single parenting is another way the Lord challenges me to be totally dependent upon Him in all things.

In 1992 I started meeting weekly with a Pastoral Counselor. It was a vital part of my healing to be discipled and reminded of my true identity in Christ. Then, in 1994 the Lord led me to Amazing Grace Ministries. I remember being overwhelmed with thanksgiving that God had raised up a movement called Exodus and that I was not going to have to go through the process of overcoming my struggles alone.

I now firmly believe there is hope for those who desire change. Only Jesus can fulfill our deepest needs and heal us within. I have repented of my sins and turned to Him for cleansing, forgiveness and acceptance. With His help I have closed the door on that old way of life, being made "a new creation in Christ". My part is to remain obedient out of love, and Abide in His presence daily.

It is an honor to serve as Interim Director of Amazing Grace Ministries and to share with others the truths of Jesus Christ that sets us free. Great is His Faithfulness!

***Amazing Grace Ministries** is a non-denominational Christian ministry which helps those who are struggling with homosexuality. We minister the love and transforming power of Jesus Christ to men and women who desire freedom from the homosexual identity and lifestyle. We are a referral ministry of **Exodus International, North America.** All contributions to Amazing Grace Ministries are 100% tax deductible.*