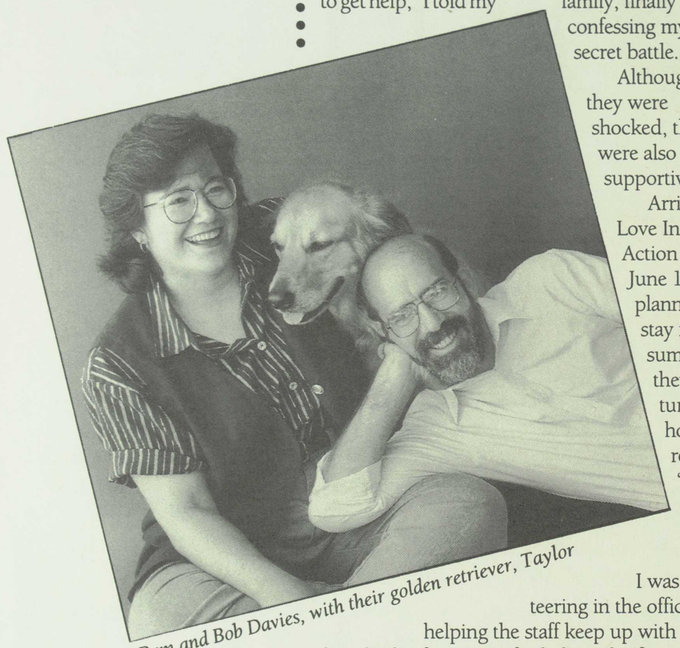
want with my life."

I had read about Love In Action, one of the Exodus ministries which was then located near San Francisco. I wrote their office, asking if I could visit. "I feel God is calling me to California to get help," I told my family, finally confessing my secret battle.



Pam and Bob Davies, with their golden retriever, Taylor

Although they were shocked, they were also very supportive.

Arriving at Love In Action in June 1979, I planned to stay for the summer, then return home to resume "normal" life. Soon, I was volunteering in the office, helping the staff keep up with hundreds of inquiries for help and information.

That summer I made some startling discoveries. I realized that, because of my own sexual struggles, I could give meaningful support to fellow Christians facing similar battles. And because I had never fallen into homosexual behavior, I could offer valuable insights on perseverance and spiritual warfare.

"Marriage is God's greatest gift to me, apart from His salvation."

My initial summer's commitment grew to six months, then one year. Before long, I realized that my life had taken a permanent turn. I began editing the ministry's monthly newsletter, writing new literature, and speaking at seminars.

God continued to work in my own life. Much to my surprise, I discovered that homosexuality was not my "real" problem. The illicit same-sex desires were only an outward symptom of deeper emotional wounds that needed healing. Through Love In Action's support group, I was able to openly confess such struggles as insecurity, fear, and envy of other men.

Because I had never "acted out" my homosexual feelings with other men, there were some struggles to resist the allure of the unknown. I heard many stories of other people's involvement in sin. Quite frankly, some of their immoral adventures sounded like fun. I had to resist thoughts like, *You got tired of so much impersonal sex? I wish I could say the same thing. Then I'd be ready to give it up!*

Then God opened my eyes to see the tremendous devastation that sin had brought into these men's lives. Unknown to all of us, some of them were already infected with the HIV virus.

The unconditional love of my church was crucial to my growth—especially support from "straight" men. The men at Church of the Open Door weren't afraid to show their acceptance by a smile or warm hug. All my life I had felt so inferior to other men. But through same-sex affirmation, I slowly began to feel more like "one of the guys."

After five years at Love In Action, I began growing restless, sensing that God had something more for me. But what?

On October 11, 1984, I awoke with a start. The bed-side alarm clock read 3:07 a.m. I sensed God speaking to me about marriage. Later that week, I sought counsel from my pastor and Frank Worthen, the director of Love In Action. They encouraged me to pursue God's call. In my mind was a particular woman in my church with whom I ministered in our worship team.

We began dating and almost immediately sensed God leading us together. One special confirmation: Pam told me that she had been praying for the man who would become her future husband since September 1978—the *same month* six years before that God had spoken to me about coming to Love In Action!

The verse we selected for the front of our wedding invitation was Isaiah 25:1—"O Lord ... you have worked wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness."

This year, Pam and I are celebrating our tenth wedding anniversary. God has continually used my wife to bring further healing and affirmation into my life.

Our marriage is very special; my relationship with Pam has been God's greatest gift to me, apart from His salvation.

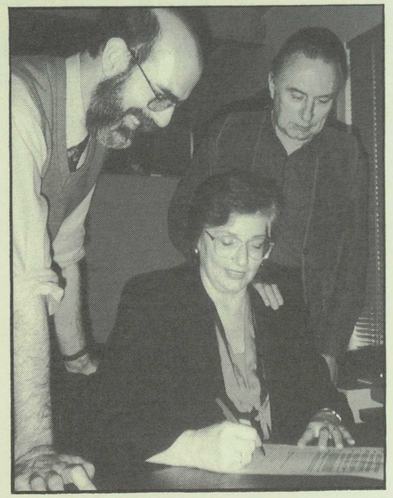
Of course, I'm still growing. Whether it's facing the roots of my homosexual past or some other challenge in my spiritual walk, I know that my growth will continue for a lifetime.

But that OK. I know that I can't do it on my own. So I'm looking to Jesus Christ for strength. Through His death for me, the war has already been won. •

OFFICE NEWS

Exodus Director Signs Contract for Second Book

Executive director Bob Davies has signed a contract with Inter-Varsity Press for a second book. He and Anita Worthen, administrator at *New Hope Ministries* in San Rafael, Calif., will be co-authoring the book. Its primary audience will be parents, spouses, family members, and friends dealing with the crisis of a gay loved one.



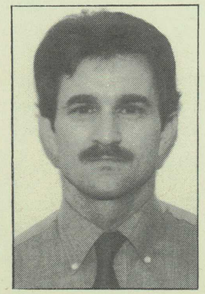
"Sign on the dotted line, please!" Anita Worthen signs her book contract while co-author Bob Davies (l) and her husband, Frank, look on.

The manuscript, tentatively titled *Someone I Love is Gay*, is due at the publishers on September 1. It will be released in the summer of 1996. Bob wrote his first book, *Coming Out of Homosexuality* (IVP, 1993) with Lori Rentzel.

If you are interested in contributing your story for possible use in this second book, please contact Bob at the Exodus office.

Exodus Hires Fundraising/ P.R. Consultant

Don Otis, founder of Creative Resources in Sandpoint, Idaho, is the newest addition to the Exodus team. As of April 1, Don was hired as a consultant to assist the staff and board of Exodus in fundraising and public relations.



"I have been familiar with your work for many years," Don said in his application for the position, which was advertised nationally.

"I believe very passionately in the objectives of Exodus. Your work is clearly the work of the Savior," he said.

Don has over 15 years of experience in non-profit management. Before launching his own consulting agency in 1990, Don served as corporate vice-president for High Adventure Ministries in Simi Valley, Calif., and general manager for Issachar in Lynnwood, Wash.

Don will not be relocating to San Rafael. Rather, he will continue to live in Idaho while providing services to Exodus (he is similarly employed by other agencies around the country).

Don will be making his first visit to our office this month for a special one-day strategy meeting with the Exodus staff.

Welcome aboard, Don! •

ACROSS THE NATION

Portland, Maine. *Amazing Grace Ministries* was one of three ministries chosen by Congress EANE (Evangelistic Association of New England) "for exemplifying EANE's vision for evangelism in the region." A cash award accompanied the special designation.

Los Angeles. Director Andy Comiskey of *Desert Stream Ministries* has worked over the last five years to revise his Living Waters program in order to broaden its scope to include sexual and relational wholeness in Christ. This 20-week program is already in use in almost every region of the world.

Leesburg, VA. A short description of Exodus' purpose and ministry network appeared in the "In America Today" section of the national newsletter of Intercessors For America. In response, our office has received calls and letters from all over North America.

Oklahoma City. Co-directors Jeff and Lezlie Janes of *First Stone Ministries* reported receiving a "hate letter" enclosed with a pro-gay newspaper article, "Alarmed By What's Done In The Name of Jesus." The letter said in part: "Recognize anyone in this article?! You two ought to be ashamed of yourselves ...God will have a special place for your kind."

Jeff quoted from the letter in his response, which was published in the *Daily Oklahoman*, and added, "The article was an attempt to justify homosexual behavior by bending Scripture."

Washington, D.C. *Regeneration* (Baltimore) is helping establish His Life, a new ministry in the D.C. area, with weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings. •

CALENDAR

• *June 25-July 1/San Diego.* 20th annual Exodus North American conference. Theme: "The Journey Out: Celebrating 20 Years." Keynote speaker: Andy Comiskey. For full brochure, contact the Exodus office.

• *July 24–29/Vancouver, B.C.* "Living Waters Training." Details: Wellspring Ministries, Point Grey Community Church. 604/732-5577.

• *July 29/San Francisco.* NARTH [National Assoc. for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality] conference, "Toward a Further Understanding of Homosexuality." Details: Thomas Aquinas Psychological Clinic, 818/789-4440.

• *Aug. 19/Houston.* "How to Minister Freedom from Homosexuality" seminar. Details: Christian Coalition for Reconciliation, 713/465-7045.

• *Sept. 13–16/Wichita.* Fall conference, featuring David Kyle Foster speaking on sexual healing and the process of sexual sanctification. Details: Freedom at Last, phone: 316/946-9671.

• *Nov. 18/Houston.* "How to Minister Freedom from Homosexuality" seminar. Details: Christian Coalition for Reconciliation, 713/465-7045.