

# Design Delusion

God's Direction for Gender Identity

By Andrew Comiskey



*'Gender infinity' is a myth—humanity actually possesses two natures: male and female... 'Biological sex is clear, binary, and stable... and cannot be altered by surgery or social conditioning.'*

**'THE PLANS of the Lord stand firm forever, the design of His heart through all generations.'** Psalm 33: 11

Over the last hundred years, we have challenged age-old ideas about what it means to be male and female. We have explored the range of capabilities both genders possess; we have questioned whether the male/female unit is the best or only fit for sexual love and family life. Now we proceed onto the next frontier: whether male or female exists, or should exist at all. Perhaps gender is a man-made construct that can be reconstructed according to each person's idea of who he or she chooses to be.

A reporter wonders: 'If same-sex marriage was yesterday's battle to redefine gender roles and privileges, and transgender rights today, we may just be on the cusp of the most transformational stage yet—overcoming the division of the entire human race into male and female.'

Sound crazy? So did 'gay marriage' twenty years ago. A recent article entitled 'A New Generation Overthrows Gender' charts the rise

of persons who now claim to be 'gender fluid'—identifying as male or female when they choose—and 'non-binary', which means they prefer identifying as neither gender. The persons featured in the article were young (12-20-years), bright yet unformed, creative, unchallenged, and given huge latitude to define themselves according to categories that did not exist 3 years ago.

Of them a Berkeley-based child psychologist gushed: 'We're seeing a new gender revolution...it's creating gender infinity.' While Facebook now includes over 50 (and growing) gender options for its subscribers to choose from, National Geographic kicked off 2017 with a special edition entitled 'Gender Revolution', which featured a cover boy dressed like a girl saying: 'The best thing about being a girl is that I don't have to pretend to be a boy.' Confused, and confusing. Our culture is now in a full blown identity crisis fueled by the lie that gender limits human freedom rather than liberates it. Gone are the days when reasonable

# *God can handle our gender laments—offering to Him the hurt and self-rejection and dreams of escaping the hard task of gender reconciliation.*

adults helped young ones make peace with their biological sex.

In this ‘revolution’, adult voices are strangely mute. Instead, activists employ the same techniques used effectively to morph same-sex attraction into one’s birthright and destiny. National Geographic put out a gender study guide for parents and teachers full of pithy lies like ‘research tells us neither gender identity nor sexual orientation can change, yet people continue to hope that it can through shaming, conversion therapy, etc.’ (The truth: the best research shows that most kids who adopt the trappings of the opposite gender grow out of it.)

These ‘experts’ urge parents to attend to their children ‘who as young as three years old’ identify their own gender expansiveness; that means, when a child shows signs of identifying as the other gender, the parent is urged to bless it as an ‘expansive’ gender destiny, rather than helping the child sort out real conflicts.

The real clincher? The guide insists the urge for a child to

forsake his or her biological sex is not ‘contagious.’ Are you kidding? Overthrowing gender is in the air, it is the music we listen to, the shows we watch on TV, the values engendered by efforts like this misbegotten gender ‘guide.’ Everyone now has a transgender relative. Forsaking one’s gender has become a cultural craze, a fad that flows from the lie of ‘gay marriage.’ The drive to transcend gender picks up speed as our moral brakes disintegrate; our confused kids bear the imprint, and are now encouraged to lead their families into escalating chaos.

Let’s get down to facts. ‘Gender infinity’ is a myth—humanity actually possesses two natures: male and female. That is obvious. Drs. Mayer and McHugh, while acknowledging a minute % of persons who possess genetic anomalies related to gender, write: ‘Biological sex is clear, binary, and stable, reflecting an underlying reality that is not contradicted by atypical sex behaviors and cannot be altered by surgery or social conditioning.’

First and foremost, Scripture and Church tradition is utterly clear: gender is essential in defining what it means for every human being to bear the divine image (CCC #2331-2336; Gen 1:26, 27; 1 Cor 11: 11, 12). Gender matters; humanity’s distinction from the rest of creation has to do with reconciliation to the fact of our biological gender, and our need for the other gender. Pope Francis writes: ‘Man has a nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will. Man is not merely self-creating freedom. Man does not create himself. He is intellect and will, but he is also nature, and his will is rightly

ordered if he respects his nature, listens to it, and accepts himself for who he is, as one who did not create himself. In this way and in no other, is human freedom fulfilled.’

Let’s bridge biological gender with gender identity. We are born either male or female then develop gender identity, a ‘self’ founded on our biological gender which involves the moral and psychological formation of the man or woman we grow up to become. Biology provides the base, and our early life experiences, especially family-of-origin, give form to our emerging gender selves, as do the wider social and cultural forces that influence us. The implications are obvious. Gender identity development—that process of integrating the value of our gendered selves—is subject to distortion in a sinful world.

I need not give gory detail to what it means to live ‘east of Eden.’ Kids suffer most from adult sexual addiction and abuse, divorce and single parent homes, lack of confirming parental attention, and especially the connections kids make on the Internet, which feature immoral solutions to their searching, unformed lives. Most kids ‘come out’ as ‘gay’, ‘gender-fluid’ and ‘non-binary’ online, not to their parents or youth pastor. So we have two contributing factors to the gender mess we are in: destabilizing forces in home-life and a culture led by a host of cultural forces (clinical, legal, educational, media) that direct children to create false selves based on disordered, unfulfilled desires.

We no longer make the connection between distressing factors in a child’s life and disruption in his or her gender integration. We now understand bullying, but we interpret wrongfully the sensitive



boy as 'gay' and the boyish girl as 'trans' rather than helping them integrate the value of his and her gender self. We fail to intervene when our preteens are running with persons already confirmed in the 'LGBT' reality; we watch helplessly as our children lose the essential tenets of their faith to an alien agenda unhinged from reality.

How so? At the core of 'gender identity politics' is the unreality that human beings can create their own gender destiny, that the highest good we can accord each person is his or her freedom to construct a gender 'self' based on what (s)he feels. That undermines God as Creator by declaring: 'I created myself and so I can define myself.' Not so. We were born according to the will of God as either male or female; we must answer to God regarding our gendered selves. When we bypass our Father as the basis for our son-ship or daughter-hood, and construct 'selves' that seem right to us, we pollute sacred ground. We commit idolatry.

God can handle our gender laments—offering to Him the hurt and self-rejection and dreams of

escaping the hard task of gender reconciliation. But He resists our rebellion. We raise ourselves over Him when we decide to work out our identities without Him. When we go solo to fix the gender 'mistake' He made, we endanger ourselves and those we love (Rom 1: 16-32).

All of creation falls into disrepair. We must know this: sins against our gendered selves are never victim-less. Every effort to create and publicize an alternate self is an evangelical move. This becomes the new 'good news'; we convert others according to a godless, uncreative image of self. Darkened in our imaginations, we impart darkness to the world.

Children, the most vulnerable among us, are subject to this darkness today. As I listen to the stories of young men and women who have teetered on the edge of 'gay'-identification or gender reassignment, I am aware that they began to nurture these other 'selves' early on with the help of Internet porn and chat rooms, childhood sex play and adult abuse, and glamorous media depictions of 'coming out.' Jim became Jena, Karen became Kirk in their imaginations long before declaring this alternate self publicly.

At work in their imaginations is a dark power which fosters illusory selves. Alive to illusion, vulnerable youth die to their God and to their true selves—humanity made in His image. Satan is targeting the creative power of a generation; he wants them fractured, childless, struck down in their prime. Leanne Payne understood this years ago when she wrote: 'Sin has to do with rebelliously demanding to experience what is not—what God did not create and can never look upon, much less bless...Satan hates all that is created: all of Nature, the very matter that makes up our world, our minds, and bodies. The satanic aim is to twist, defile and destroy us—spirit, soul, body. To achieve his aim, he uses that which is spun from our illusory, bent selves and worlds.'

We cry out for persons under the sway of the devil. We do so with renewed urgency for persons being lost to this delusion and for persons who contribute to their delusion by advocating for LGBT selves. We do so in the Spirit of the One who not only created us but Who also redeems us (Col 1: 15-20). Jesus alone has power to reclaim our true selves and direct us onto the path of gender reconciliation. Spiritual awakening that results in resuming the journey—let this be our prayer, O God, for ourselves and for those we love most.

"When we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son...that we might receive the full rights of sons and daughters. Because you are now sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter..." (Gal 4: 3-7) **DSM**





# Seven C's for Loving the Confused

**Conversion:** The realization that a loved one has assumed a false identity invites you to go deeper in Jesus; it may well become more about your conversion than his or hers. Perhaps it challenges your current 'standing' in Christ. All you may be able to do is fall face down and grieve over your sins and the sins woven deeply into our culture. The two are related. You are woven into the fabric of an idolatrous culture; He invites you to repent unto Himself as the way ahead for your integrity of faith and humanity.

**Compunction:** This involves the uneasiness or anxiety you may feel for wronging others or causing them pain. It may have to do with brokenness before God for failing to be true to your faith in a culture that now celebrates over 50 gender 'identities.' Have you been complicit in allowing friends and/or children to grow distant as you proceeded on with your own life? You may also need to grieve how you have not stood for truth in the public square: run away contraception, no-fault divorce, rampant porn use, 'gay marriage' are all predecessors to today's gender meltdown.

**Compassion:** Jesus hears your cries for mercy. He never fails in His love for you and always responds with deep compassion when you cry out to Him with a broken and contrite spirit. All He is after is your heart. He wants to give you His heart, His compassion, and is intent on using everything, including a loved one's delusion, to bring you into Reality. Compassion is His way of doing so. He wants to make you compassionate like He is.

**Clarity:** With tear-washed eyes, you can behold with clarity your beloved confused one. You possess true vision: he or she possesses a gender of God's design that the

Creator always upholds. So can you. Your sight summons what is mighty in him and lovely in her whether or not they believe it or even want it. Given the lousy self-definitions one can adopt in our day, you can hold fast to the fact that in Christ, according to one's baptism and confirmation, our beloved one is either a son or a daughter of the Heavenly Father and need not be tossed around by lies (Gal. 4:3-7).

**Constancy:** In prayer and in care, keep knocking and seeking the Lord to make known to the beloved His tender, almighty love; at the same time, choose to keep the door open to the beloved. You can seek to be a point of loving continuity in his or her life, the welcome of a home on earth for this weary wanderer. You can set good boundaries when necessary but always with a prayerful, caring spirit that wants only the best for your loved one.

**Communication:** Prayerful ones who speak more to God than to the beloved are primed to be led by the Spirit when it comes to what and how much to say. Each confused soul is different but most can be irrationally defensive when it comes to considering his or her delusion. So you can walk and talk in the Spirit concerning the beloved; trust God for brief moments of clarity where compassion and truth meet and you are able to convey your heart's desire for his or her best.

**Consider:** The patience of God towards you in all your wanderings and pride and bad relationships and bad religion, how He simply loved you and waited until you were ready to hear Him (1Tim 1: 15, 16). When you broke and bowed down and cried out for mercy, He gave Himself to you freely and fully. He had mercy on you. Wait in patient expectation that He will lead your loved one to repentance and the gift of His almighty mercy. **DSM**



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# Transformation of Transgender

*Linda Seiler's Story*

FROM MY EARLIEST MEMORY, I felt like a boy trapped inside a girl's body. It wasn't a fleeting thought; it was an obsession to have male genitalia. My parents had no idea I was dealing with transgender issues. They thought it was just a tomboy phase that I would eventually outgrow.

When I was 9, I heard about sex-change operations and concluded that was the answer to my dilemma. I decided that as soon as I was old enough and had enough money, I would change my name to David, get a sex change, and live happily ever after.

At 11, when all the other girls were experimenting with makeup and wanting to date boys, I wanted nothing to do with that. I hated my body and the signs of femininity that were beginning to surface. I was deeply jealous of the boys around me whose voices were changing, and I desperately wanted that for myself. I became depressed and suicidal. Around the same time, I also discovered, to my horror, that I was exclusively attracted to women. I didn't want those attractions—I desperately wanted to fit in with 'normal' kids. Yet it made sense that if I was a heterosexual man trapped in a woman's body that I should be attracted to women. I just needed to hold out long enough until I could

get the sex change and then my life would make sense.

Around age 13, I started thinking through the ramifications of my decision. No one knew my secret, and I was too ashamed to tell anyone. I feared how my family would respond if I had a sex change. Would they reject me? What would the neighbors think?

I decided I had two options: I could run away, have the sex change, and never see my family again. Or, I could forego the operation—which would mean a continual loneliness and suicidal despair—but at least I'd still have my family. I chose the latter because I knew my family loved me, and they were all that I had. I decided from that point forward that I had better try to look more like a girl so no one would ever know my secret.

It became increasingly difficult not to act on my attractions in high school. I thought that perhaps dating boys and experimenting sexually with them would "awaken" something in me that had been dormant. But all it did was intensify my jealousy—I wanted to be the man with a woman.

I became a Christian my junior year in high school and thought when I woke up the next morning that all my desires would go away. When they didn't, I realized I was

in a dilemma, as I soon discovered nobody talked about those things in church. I lived a double life, appearing to be a Christian who had it all together on the outside, but behind closed doors, I was an absolute sex addict, enslaved to compulsive masturbation and pornography, driven by a sexual fetish involving urinals, and emotionally enmeshed with nearly every woman who invested in me.

My senior year in college, I couldn't take it anymore and confessed to my campus pastor. I was afraid he would reject me, but he responded with compassion, noting the courage it must have taken to share the secret I had harbored for over 21 years. He said my confession didn't change his opinion of me and that he was committed to getting me the help I needed. I'm so glad he demonstrated compassion without compromising the truth. That was the beginning of what was to be an eleven-year journey of transformation.

The healing process wasn't easy. I would be full of faith one day and down in the dumps the next. I eventually acted on my sexual desires with another woman from church because the thirst in my soul was so great. I thought that would fulfill me, but it left me emptier than ever. I'm grateful for the believers who,

despite my instability, stood by my side for over a decade and loved me into wholeness through redemptive relationships and inner healing prayer.

Over time, I realized that my desire to bond with attractive, spiritual women was nothing more than an attempt to complete my own femininity, which I saw lacking in myself. I had never identified with my own gender due to emotional wounds from childhood. I honestly believed it was inferior to be a woman and that only males were made in the image of God—Eve was just an afterthought created to meet all of Adam's needs. Women were second-class citizens in my mind.

Through Spirit-led inner healing prayer, Jesus spoke to my deepest wounds, replaced lies with His truth, and showed me the value of being a woman made in God's image. I forgave those who rejected me and who reinforced the lie that it was not good to be the girl God created me to be. Although I saw myself as a victim, the Lord showed me that I also had to repent for my own wrong responses to those who had rejected me. As a result of confessing my sin in the light, forgiving those who had hurt me, and repenting of my own wrong reactions, the enemy lost the ground he had to hold me in bondage.

That freed me to experience the nurturing, compassionate love of God in a way that satisfied the deep thirst in my feminine soul. As

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Jesus satisfied my deepest longings, the longings to be a man and to be made complete by women fell away. I continued to walk out my healing in the ensuing year and discovered desire for men. It was thrilling yet awkward to go through emotional puberty in my mid-thirties!

Don't believe the lie that people are born transgender and that we must affirm transgender identities and sex reassignment surgery. No amount of rearranging the skin on your body cuts deep enough to heal the wounds in your heart. Transformation happens when we align ourselves with God's Word, allow Him to heal our heart, and cooperate with His Spirit to conform us to the image of Christ. **DSM**

*Linda is an ordained Assemblies of God minister and currently serves as the director of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at Purdue University.*



# Living Nicoletta into Being

*Rafaella M.*

MY YOUNG-ADULT COUSIN Nicoletta, who introduces herself as Nick, recently came to live with me and my family. She is wounded in her identity; her parents, who were troubled teens when Nicolette was born, were not up to the task of raising her and created a traumatic, neglectful home.

It has become increasingly painful and difficult for me to be around

her as she has over the past several years chosen to identify with her disordered sexual attraction and considers herself transgendered.

I have an actual aversion to my pretty little cousin, who now shaves her head and dresses in a man-ish way, including men's underwear. Trying to blot out her femininity has done violence to her very nature and identity as a woman and indeed the

image of God in her. I experience Nicoletta's self-rejection and distortion of her appearance as abrasive and an 'in your face' provocation that repels me rather than invites me into relationship.

Although I have two decades of formation and involvement in the healing ministry, I often find myself drawing upon things



I have learned recently through the Living Waters training.

One Living Waters teaching that I refer back to often is the excellent illustration of the stages of development of gender identity. When we suffer some kind of trauma or lack at some stage of our development, our wounds can hold us back from developing fully along a natural continuum in line with our biological sex. This can result in an arrested development but also in essence a malformed development of our gender identity.

When Nicoletta acts out in a particular way, I step back to see what the underlying wound is that she might be operating from so I can prayerfully consider the best way to respond and fill that need.

I understand that she desperately needs to experience the goodness of her being, that she is loved and accepted for who she is. Of course who she is and who she thinks she is are two different sexes! So with every opportunity, I try to affirm her in all that is good, beautiful and true about her. I am careful too in my wording, as to not give her an unclear or false message.

For example, Nicoletta loves clothes (hello, she's a girl!) and experiments with putting together different colors and styles, albeit with an attempt to appear masculine. I realize she missed this way of relating with her mom that would help her to be at home with herself and learn how to express herself through fashion and how she presents herself.

I don't simply comment in a general way that she looks 'great' as that might falsely confirm her in her confusion. Rather I compliment with specifics, say, on the wonderful detailed stitching or pretty color

that makes her complexion glow. Those are all things that affirm her feminine heart that loves beauty and wants to feel attractive but doesn't overtly say "I am affirming the feminine in you." Yet I am imparting reality to her and building her up in her feminine nature.

Nicoletta's off-putting looks are also a form of self-defense. I understand that this is really a cry for closeness, for healthy touch and affection that she missed out on and needs desperately. She has recently started 'dating' someone which made me realize that she is seeking and getting physical affection from this girl. Seeing the child in her longing to be held, I take every opportunity to hug and snuggle her.

I believe that God will multiply these meager loaves that I lovingly offer with the help of His grace and the grace-filled Living Waters teaching. May these offerings bring about Nicoletta's healing and transformation!

While our culture is generating more and more confusion on the question of gender, Desert Stream is bringing help, healing and hope – to people like me to help people like Nicoletta, so that she will mature and take full possession of herself as a woman.

But Nicoletta is just one of a growing number of young adults who are suffering from gender identity confusion. Your investment in Desert Stream helps ensure that this life-saving ministry will go out and reach the suffering who long to be healed. Only Desert Stream/Living Waters is equipping the church to provide the kind of in-depth pastoral care that someone like Nicoletta needs. Your support is making a way for the saving the gender integrity of many lives. **DSM**



*When we suffer some kind of trauma or lack at some stage of our development, our wounds can hold us back from developing fully... This can result in ... a malformed development of our gender identity.*





## *Don't have anything to do*

*with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:23-26*



# Five Steps to Staying Free from Gender Delusion

*By Daniel Delgado*

## **1-CHOOSING TO FOLLOW JESUS**

I'm convinced that Jesus is my only hope for freedom and integration. I experience life when I pursue Him. I remember witnessing many of my friends who were 'transgendered' and dying all around me. I could smell the spirit of death and I didn't want to die. I wanted to live. I experience hope, joy, and peace when I follow Jesus. I don't experience life without Jesus. It is a discipline to follow Jesus. It is not easy to follow Jesus. He is worth it.

## **2-WISE COUNSEL THROUGH THE CHURCH**

I found the wise counsel of the Lord through His members. The Father loves me in the places where I experience my disintegration. He uses other people to encourage me and lovingly challenge me. I have found it helpful when others encourage me to be a good offering to others and to own the ways that I'm not being a good gift. I do not experience freedom by disputing or hiding when God wants to address something in my life. I need His help to stand in my "Yes" when it comes to embracing His plan for my life as a man. I'm learning to love and treasure His counsel when it comes to growing in manhood.

## **3-THE GIFT OF HEALING**

Jesus is the healer. He used the Living Waters program to help me recognize the trauma I experienced in my life. Living Waters was a safe, consistent, and powerful place for me to get real with my life. The healing power of the Holy Spirit helped me to grieve the years of unexpressed sorrow in light of His love for me. I experienced greater freedom

and healing through listening prayer. I learned how to receive the healing word from others and directly from the Father to me. The Living Waters reality has helped me to mature in my walk with God. It has helped me to partner with the Lord for the healing of others. I enjoy nothing more than offering to others the same help I received.

#### **4-MAKING PEACE WITH MY PAST**

Making peace with my past has not been easy. It is hard work. I had to invite the Lord into the foundational wounding in my life and to accept the losses in my life. I had to forgive and release the people who damaged me. This was especially true in relationship to my family members. This has helped me to see the good in others. I had to forgive people in the church who were not always helpful or kind. In forgiving church wounding, I was free to keep loving the church so I could be healed there. I have to make an ongoing choice to not play the victim or blame others. I don't look for an excuse to be wounded. I look for the opportunity to make peace with God and with others as I make peace with myself and look forward to a happy future.

#### **5-LEARNING TO LOVE MY GENDER**

I hated being a man. I had to be honest about it and surrender my self-rejection at the foot of His Cross. I'm a man making peace with being a man. I have healthy relationship with other men and it reminds me that I'm not different than other men. This continues to be a life-giving yet challenging process for me. Living in reality is not always easy for me. I press into the Lord when I'm uncomfortable and Jesus continues to make me whole. Reconciling with my gender helps me to appreciate and respect women in an honorable way. I want to interact with women in a healthy way instead of trying to be a woman. I can agree with God my Creator that He made no mistake in making me a male. My gender is a gift and I want to offer myself well to others. **DSM**

*Daniel is on staff at Desert Stream Ministries. He is on the Aguas Vivas leadership team and assists in many administrative areas for DSM.*

## Upcoming Events

### **Hope 2017 – Restored Hope Network Annual Conference**

*Featuring Ron Citlau, Joe Dallas, Linda Seiler, and Andrew Comiskey*

**June 16th – 17th, 2017 – San Diego California**

*Contact: [info@restoredhopenetwork.org](mailto:info@restoredhopenetwork.org)*

### **Living Waters Training Midwest**

**July 22nd – July 28th, 2017**

**Savior Pastoral Center, Kansas City, Kansas**

*Contact: [lwtraining@desertstream.org](mailto:lwtraining@desertstream.org)*

### **Courage 2017 Annual Conference**

*Featuring many speakers including Andrew and Annette Comiskey*

**July 27th – July 30th, 2017 – Chicago, IL**

*For more information: [www.couragerc.org](http://www.couragerc.org)*

### **Living Waters Training California**

**January 27th – February 2nd, 2018**

**Mt. Crags Camp and Conference Center, Calabasas, California**

*Contact: [lwtraining@desertstream.org](mailto:lwtraining@desertstream.org)*

## **INTERNATIONAL LIVING WATERS TRAININGS**

### **Living Waters Poland**

**May 19th – 26th, 2017**

**Czestochowa, Poland**

*Contact: [afoard@desertstream.org](mailto:afoard@desertstream.org)*

### **Living Waters Philippines**

**June 3rd – 10th, 2017**

**Tagatay City, Philippines**

*Contact: [info@livingwatersphilippines.org](mailto:info@livingwatersphilippines.org)*

### **Aguas Vivas**

**August 11th – 17th, 2017**

**Cordoba, Argentina**

*Contact: [aguasvivas@desertstream.org](mailto:aguasvivas@desertstream.org)*





# Corporate Corner

By Annette Comiskey

“THE BEST LAID PLANS of mice and men often go awry.”

Someone else should be writing Corporate Corner! It was my plan to retire when I was sixty; as I just celebrated my sixty-first birthday, something obviously went wrong!

What went wrong involves the world that impacts you and me every day. When Andy and I started Desert Stream in 1980, I believed we would work ourselves out of a job. Most churches would open their doors to Living Waters and become beacons of light to the sexually and relationally broken –didn’t happen as I had hoped! Instead, more and more Christian leaders and churches are blessing sinful and damaging relationships.

Many of you who attend churches that hold fast to a biblical view of chastity and sexuality feel the pressure to change theology. Or, having been scarred or worn out by holding fast to truth, simply don’t want to deal with gender identity questions at all.

My plans have also been derailed by today’s culture. In my twenties I believed that people would never be comfortable with ‘gay’ wedding announcements or ‘Bruce Jenner becoming Kaitlin’ celebrity culture.

As I witness what the world and worldly church embrace as truth, I simply can’t lay down what God has called me to do.

My soul grieves for each one of you who is impacted by a loved one’s choices concerning his or her sexuality. My heart also breaks for those of you who need help and support to live fully in your God-given identity and can’t find a church with a Living Waters program in your city.

But I also rejoice in your support in helping us train and release new leaders intent on starting new Living Waters groups in over 26 cities in the United States.

I am also encouraged to keep my hand to the plow when I see how your support is allowing Andy and our teams assist Living Waters leaders and groups around the world. Andy has recently been in both China and Poland where Living Waters is being offered in very different expressions of the Bride!

This year we will lead or be a part of six Living Waters trainings in California, Missouri, France, Poland, the Philippines and Argentina. Next year we plan to offer a third training on the American East Coast.

Thank you also for supporting our recently completed new video, which shares the story of a young woman who left a same-sex relationship and came home to the church through Living Waters.

I have traded the words of Robert Burns about my plans for the words of Jeremiah: ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ (Jer. 29:11).

**DSM**



## 2017 Spring Newsletter

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**DESERT STREAM MINISTRIES  
PUBLISHES THE FOLLOWING:**  
Newsletter (Spring and Fall)  
Mid-Year Report (Summer)  
Year-End Report (Winter)

## Mission Statement

Based on the biblical foundations of compassion, integrity, and dependence on God, Desert Stream Ministries proclaims to the world the transforming power of Jesus Christ. We equip the body of Christ to minister healing to the sexually and relationally broken, through healing groups and leadership training for the local church.

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