

## Statement: Newsweek Article (2 May 2014) 'Ex-Ex-Gay Pride'

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Core Issues Trust is aware of a Newsweek article published last week entitled ['Ex-Ex-Gay Pride'](#). The article focuses on the life of John Paulk a former employee of Focus on the Family involved in the now defunct 'Exodus International'. The article claims that homosexuality is fixed and unchangeable and reflects Paulk's belief that his years of working to help individuals move away from homosexuality were damaging to himself and to others.

We affirm the work and witness of his faithful former wife Anne Paulk, in her role as leader of Restored Hope Network. Working with more than 40% of ministries formerly under Exodus International, Restored Hope Network carries the torch set aside last year by Exodus International's final leader, Alan Chambers.

Homosexual patterning, especially in one who has identified and practised as a gay man, is a deeply entrenched sexual response template. This may cause such individuals, and those who observe emerging preference for homosexual practice, to conclude that homosexuality is hardwired and cannot therefore be modified. In this Newsweek article, individuals renouncing a former gay identity and lifestyle for marriage commitments who then return to homosexual behaviours are doing the inevitable. But rather than being an indication of 'authenticity' and 'integrity', such behaviour has more in common with sexual addiction.

"John Paulk has chosen to live his life in a way that is different from those who are unwilling to allow themselves to act on their homosexual tendencies and who recognise that such practices are inconsistent with Christian commitment. The fact that John was unable to break his addiction or to manage or reduce such behaviours and feelings does not mean that others will not, or cannot achieve where he has failed", said Dr Mike Davidson of Core Issues Trust.

The politicisation of sexuality in the western world and the determination by mental health bodies to refuse to develop interventions to assist individuals with unwanted same-sex attractions will mean that those who genuinely wish to reduce such feelings will be 'pathologised' as being abnormal in their desire - seeking something unnatural or unattainable. But none of us is a victim – overcoming homosexual practice is a choice" he said.

We look forward to welcoming Anne Paulk on June 11-15<sup>th</sup> in the UK along with New Testament scholar, Robert Gagnon and President of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, Dr Christopher Rosik. The conference ['Debunking the Myths: Same-sex Attractions, Science and The Gospel'](#) will look closely, *inter alia*, at the issues this article raises, from the scientific, theological and practical perspectives.

The conference website for those interested in these events is available at: <http://www.debunkingthemyths.com/>.

Further information  
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