



Client Story:

Getting to Know my True Father

by Paul Poulin



For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." (Romans 8:15 NIV).

I came to Love In Action completely wounded from a life of sexual and relational brokenness. When I left three months later, my destructive patterns had been broken. My father was an angry alcoholic and was physically and verbally abusive. Left unprotected, I was sexually abused for several years by a man who lived close by. By the time I entered my preteen years, I was having homosexual attractions, although I never acted on them. Afraid of ridicule, I did not confide in anyone else about the abuse or my deep feelings of shame. At school I was called names

and picked on, which only confirmed my false thinking that I was worthless. In high school I started using drugs and drinking to cover up my deeply-rooted self hatred, and for a while it worked: I had some fun and felt acceptance from the people I partied with.

As a little boy I attended church with my mother, where a seed was planted in my soul as I listened to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On November 4, 2004, I accepted Jesus into my heart as my Lord and Savior. As I read my Bible, I began to see who I was in Christ. In a miraculous month and a half I was able to overcome my alcohol and drug addiction. I read in James 5:16, "Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed." (NIV) I knew that God did not want me to carry the burden of this brokenness on my own anymore. Confiding in other Christians was a scary thing to do, but help came when a man referred me to Exodus International. Through Exodus I found a local ministry, Free Indeed, where I met Aaron Shorey and began to counsel with him. After Aaron, I developed friendships with other Christian men, through which I began to realize the depth of my struggle with emotional dependency. My dysfunctional pattern of relating caused these friendships to fail, and my disappointment and rejection resulted in deep depression. Aaron referred me to Love In Action and paid for my first 28 days. Then, thanks to a scholarship from an anonymous donor I was invited to extend my program for an additional three months. This allowed me valuable time in which to discover my true identity in Jesus Christ. At Love In Action I realized that God does not call me homosexual, and that just having a homosexual thought does not define me as a person or affect God's unconditional love for me. What matters is what I do with that thought.

On New Years Eve of 2007 I met Jessica. We developed a healthy bond of friendship and soon realized we were in love. With the tools and Biblical truths I learned at Love In Action, Jessica and I have built an honest, open, and selfless relationship. On August of 2008 I proposed in New York City at the top of the Empire State Building, and in February of this year Jessica and I will be married. With God's help I will be a godly husband to my wife, and the kind of engaged and loving father that I never had.

The only male figures I had in my life as a child were an alcoholic father and a sexual abuser, but now thanks to what I learned at Love In Action, I am no longer looking for a father. Every day I thank my true father... my Heavenly Father. He took my broken life and brought healing, restoration, and a desire to live. Because of the power of the cross I have been on an incredible journey over the last four years and a huge part of that journey was the time I spent at Love In Action. *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6, NIV)

COMING SOON: FAMILY FREEDOM INTENSIVE, Feb. 10-13 & Apr. 21-24

How do we defend righteousness in the home while interacting with teens and adult children in healthy respect? These issues are addressed in our *Family Freedom Intensive* workshop, which is especially designed for moms, dads and extended family to learn new and better ways of communication with a loved one trapped in sexual or relational sin. Four days focus on practical life changing tools, breakout groups, testimony and discussion. All this takes place at the LIA campus on Feb. 10-13 and Apr. 21-24. For questions or to register call our admissions coordinator Josh Tyra at (901) 751-2468.

"We have so much hope now, where we had none before." —*Family Freedom* mom, 2008

A Word from the Director

by **Tommy Corman**, Acting Director



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” (2 Corinthians 1: 3,4 NIV)

After counseling for ten years in group and individual settings, my own faith has been formed and challenged, bringing me into daily submission to God. I believe I speak for all our counselors at Love In Action when I say that we as a ministry are grateful for our clients and for the opportunity to grow as we speak spiritual truths into the lives of those who are hungry for God’s word. We see spiritual battles won and strongholds overcome through the power of a living God, who works in the lives of the individuals

and families in our programs.

It Never Starts With Us

A voice on the other end of the phone calls for Josh Tyra, our Admissions Coordinator. Parents call concerned for a loved one, and pastors call on behalf of families they are counseling. Although healing through prayer can be instant, it is no less a miracle when healing comes with hard work. Christians often have the godly discernment to know that what is needed is a process of confession and restoration, with a courageous commitment to examine past hurts. LIA programs provide a safe environment for this process while teaching new life skills and valuable tools.

Counselors call us as well, and when I think of this my mind goes instantly to Aaron Shorey who, over the years, has referred many clients our way. In 2007 Aaron referred Paul (see our front-page client story) to *The Source* residential program at LIA, and then, as he has done for others who couldn’t afford the expense, Aaron generously paid Paul’s program fees. When an extension was needed, one of our donors—in this case a former client—precipitously made a generous donation to our scholarship fund, allowing Paul additional time to work on life issues as he grew in his faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Our donors and the valuable partnerships and relationships that we form with them make this ministry possible. You can share with others the Love In Action story and continue to support LIA through your prayers, financial gifts, and service. When you give to Love In Action, you partner in this glorious, life-changing process of healing through the power of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions about giving to Love In Action please call our Development Director, Bob Watson at (901) 751-2468.

Here are some tangible donation requests for any who live within the ministry area.

- Cardio equipment in good, workable condition (not broken or in need of parts)
- Non-perishable food items
- Paper goods, plates, Kleenex, paper towels etc.

You may not be aware that you can make a financial gift to LIA in honor of a special person in your life or in memory of a loved one who is now in heaven. Designated gifts to a program or purpose are always welcomed and appreciated. To find out any immediate needs, call our Development Director Bob Watson.

SPECIAL THANKS

- Thank you to Douglas and Pastor Rachel Johnston for a generous year-end gift to the LIA scholarship fund.
- An gift was made in honor of LIA Acting Director Tommy Corman.
- Thank you to all of you who donate to the general fund. Without you we would not be standing in the gap for those who suffer.

OPEN MEETING

Do you live within driving distance of Love In Action? Join us for *Open Meeting*, a weekly gathering to celebrate God’s goodness through worship, testimonies, and fellowship. We meet every Friday from 7-8 pm, sharing light refreshments afterwards. *Open Meeting* is a great place to learn more about the ministry of Love In Action. Please call for more details: 901.751.2468

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Time
Source Residential Move-In Dates	LIA Campus	Call to Schedule	1:00 pm
4-Day Intensive	LIA Campus	Call to Schedule	9:00 am
Family Freedom Intensive	LIA Campus	Feb. 10-13, Apr. 21-24	1:00 pm
<i>Within Reach</i> Support Group	LIA Campus	Tuesdays, call to enroll	7:00 pm
Open Meeting	LIA Campus	Fridays	7:00 pm
Love Won Out Conferences	Central Church of God - Charlotte, NC	February 21, 2009	8:00 am

To make a donation, please call 800.201.4129 or donate online at www.loveinaction.org.