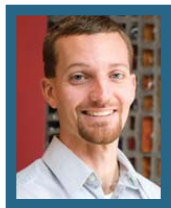




## Why a Residential Program?

by Tommy Corman, Executive Director



When someone is faced with a life-dominating sin like sexual addiction or homosexuality, there can be many avenues for healing. Many have tried support groups, one-on-one counseling, Bible studies, weekend retreats and a myriad of other valuable options. But there is another solution, frequently overlooked yet among the most effective sources of help available. There are many reasons why residential programs like *The Source* at LIA are beneficial and can offer stability for someone struggling with sexual and relational sin.

First, residential programs completely remove the struggling person from their environment for a season, allowing them the time and reflection to identify the deep emotional wounds they are carrying. In this separation from the culture—or “fast from culture” as we like to call it—the struggler is freed from several key distractions of daily life. Media, for one, has a great influence in our lives that many do not realize until they allow themselves the freedom to turn media off. In *The Source* program, there are no televisions playing, no magazines to be read, no iPods to listen to and no phones to play with. Thanks to this uncluttered atmosphere, our clients can hear God’s voice much more clearly.

Messages containing the world’s distorted take on sexual ethics are also a source of significant distraction for those struggling with sexual and relational sin. For example, same-sex attracted people are bombarded with the idea that the only way they can be truly happy is to adopt a gay identity. This is despite mounting evidence that same-sex attraction is symptomatic of many underlying emotional problems which can often be traced to childhood trauma (including sexual abuse),<sup>1</sup> and that such issues can be successfully resolved with God’s help and that of his Body on earth. Similarly, those struggling with heterosexual temptation hear the message that pre- or extra-marital sex is free for the taking and is a glamorous, exciting and deeply fulfilling lifestyle. This idea, too, is contradicted by the shattered lives and families of those who have embraced it. These and other harmful messages from the world are filtered out of the “background noise” during *The Source* program.

One of the primary benefits of seeking residential help is learning how to form healthy relationships, whether through improving interactions with current friends and family or in developing healthy new connections. Many people have dependencies on others or feel they have to please others to be at peace. With empathy and patience, we encourage our clients to focus on pleasing God rather than man. This principle is easy to preach, but can be very difficult to practice. In *The Source* program our clients have a sort of built-in “relationship laboratory” in which they can learn how to connect with others in a healthy way, make their voices heard when they need to speak up about something, and gather tools for managing conflict—all skills which they will continue to use for the rest of their lives!

But perhaps the greatest benefit of residential support is in receiving help to face difficult realities head-on: the reality of the spiritual dimension of our struggle with sin, the reality of the human condition with and without Christ’s intervention, and the reality of the blackness of our own hearts. With all the scientific knowledge our culture has amassed, it is telling how we still seem unable to stop certain behaviors. The reason for this is, of course,

<sup>1</sup> See such studies as *Homosexuality and American Public Life*, ed. by Christopher Wolfe (Dallas, Tex.: Spence Publishing Company, 1999) and Jones, Stanton L. and Mark A. Yarhouse, *Ex-Gays?: A Longitudinal Study of Religiously Mediated Change in Sexual Orientation* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2007).

(continued on reverse)

## *The Back Page:* **Why a Residential Program?, cont.**

our sinful nature. Recognizing our predilection to sin does not negate our responsibility, but it does help us understand our struggles and points us to the right person for help: Jesus Christ. Jesus himself summed up our condition in Matthew 12:34 when he said, “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” This truth is not simply an abstract concept. It is clear that we will outwardly express what we believe, value and understand to be true; and it is equally clear that many people believe in their own self-sufficiency and do not understand their true need for Christ’s redemption. This is why so many struggle to accept Christ’s difficult teachings about who we really are. To come to Christ is first to admit complete defeat. When I admit that I am powerless to fix myself on my own strength, and that by myself, my best efforts succeed only in making a mess of myself and everyone around me, then I am ready for God to take me on a journey of healing and recovery.

In *The Source* program we take a holistic approach to each client’s problems. God has created us as complex beings with bodies, minds, spirits, and emotions. Therefore, we are careful to minister in a way that explores and addresses the physical, mental, and emotional, as well as the spiritual and sexual aspects of each person’s brokenness. Many of our clients have neglected one or more of these areas in the past, only to find that the solutions they tried were only partial ones. In *The Source* program they stand before the Lord as whole men and women for perhaps the first time in their lives, experiencing the freedom and the safe environment they need to practice their new way of life.

### *Pass the Word*

If you have been moved in reading this and know of a family member or friend who needs *The Source* program at Love In Action, please pass this newsletter on to them. I often hear from former clients after they return home from LIA, and many have reported a discouraging trend. Their friends or family members say they knew of LIA and the person’s struggle years ago but were scared to say anything. One client told me he felt neglected to learn that someone knew he was living in sin and had a solution for him, but was unwilling to push through insecurity and offer needed information. I bring this up not to lay a guilt trip on anyone, but simply to underscore that if you know someone in need of Love In Action’s ministry, now is the time to share with them about *The Source* program. Please let us know how we can join you in praying for your struggling friend or loved one. Together, we can ask the Lord to open up an opportunity for you to broach the subject, and give you the right words at the right time.

### *Support a Residential Client*

On a related note, if you would consider sponsoring a *Source* client, we would be most grateful. The fees for the 28-day and 3-month programs are \$3,000 and \$6,000, respectively. These fees do not cover even half of our operating budget, and yet there are many potential clients who call us and say, “I really need your ministry but I can’t come up with all the fees.” In many cases, a sponsorship of even \$500 can help a man or woman in this situation to enter the program. Your tax-deductible gift is used to cover the fees associated with a specific client who qualifies for financial assistance through our application process. As their program progresses, we ask the client to write you a confidential letter informing you how this gift has impacted their life. You will read stories of success and God’s awe-inspiring transformative power at work in the human heart. If you would be willing and able to support client scholarships, please call or write me for more information.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
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	7/8-10, 8/12-14	1:00 pm
Within Reach Support Group	LIA Campus	Tuesdays, call to enroll	7:00 pm
Love Won Out Conference	Rockford, IL	September 25, 2010	8:00 am

*To make a donation, please call 901.751.2468 or donate online at [www.loveinaction.org](http://www.loveinaction.org).*