

AFTER CALL

BAGONG PAGASA

COURAGE

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present



It's

Complicated

A Conference on Understanding
Sex, Gender, Transexuality &
Homosexuality

September 10, 2011
Philippine Heart Center
MAB Hall
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Conference secretariat:
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The "politically correct" would have you accept three major myths:

Myth # 1: Homosexuality is normal and biologically determined

The truth... There is no scientific research indicating a biological or genetic cause for homosexuality. Biological factors may play a role in the predisposition to homosexuality. However, this is true of many other psychological conditions. Research suggests that social and psychological factors are strongly influential. Examples include problems in early family relationships, sexual seduction, and sense of inadequacy with same-sex peers, with resulting disturbance in gender identity. Society can also influence a sexually questioning youth when it encourages gay self-labeling.

Myth # 2: Homosexuals cannot change, and if they try, they will suffer great emotional distress and become suicidal. Therefore, treatment to change homosexuality must be stopped.

The truth... Psychotherapists around the world who treat homosexuals report that significant numbers of their clients have experienced substantial healing. Change has come through psychological therapy, spirituality, and ex-gay support groups. Whether leading married or committed celibate lives, may report that their homosexual feelings have diminished greatly, and do not trouble them as much as they had in the past. The keys to change are desire, persistence, and a willingness to investigate the conscious and unconscious conflicts from which the condition originated. Change comes slowly, usually over several years. Clients learn how to meet their needs for same-sex nurturance and affirmation without eroticizing the relationship. As they grow into their heterosexual potential, men and women typically experience a fuller and more expansive sense of themselves as male or female. If some homosexuals do not wish to change, that is their choice, yet it is profoundly sad that gay rights activists struggle against the right-to-treatment for other homosexuals who yearn for freedom from their attractions.

Myth # 3: We must teach our children that homosexuality is as normal and healthy as heterosexuality. Teenagers should be encouraged to celebrate their same-sex attractions.

The truth... Scientific research supports age-old cultural norms that homosexuality is not a healthy, natural alternative to heterosexuality. Research shows that gay teens are especially vulnerable to substance abuse and early, high-risk sexual behavior. It does far more harm than good to tell a teenager that his attractions toward members of the same sex are normal and desirable. Teens in this position need understanding and counseling, not push in the direction of a potentially deadly lifestyle. A 1992 study in Pediatrics found that 25.9% of 12-year-olds are uncertain if they are gay or straight. The teen years are critical to the question of self-labeling, so the facts must be presented in our schools in a fair and balanced manner.

On Behalf of Those Who Seek Change



Our Speaker: Dr. Melvin W. Wong, Ph.D.

Dr. Melvin Wong is a licensed clinical psychologist based in California USA for more than 20 years. He has taught graduate counseling courses in US, Canada and Hongkong and has been a professional staff of psychiatric and mental health programs of numerous hospitals in California. His affiliations include American Psychological Association (APA), Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), among others. He has also recently written a book entitled "Raising Gender Healthy Kids" published in 2008 by Armour Publications in Singapore.

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A Conference on Understanding Sex, Gender,
Transsexuality & Homosexuality

About the Seminar

The whole day conference aims to promote awareness about homosexuality, prevention and change; educate and equip participants on how to handle people having unwanted same sex attractions and help practitioners address counseling concerns and develop indigenous methods towards working with those seeking for change.

Conference Topics

Gender identity

The basics of homosexuality, transsexuality, & sexual abuse

Diagnosis and prevention issues

What teachers, parents, & churches can do

Counseling unwanted gender issues

Basic principles, dos and don'ts

The seminar is ideal for guidance counselors, psychotherapists, psychologists, educators, church workers and NGOs who deal with communities, families and people living with HIV & AIDS.



September 10, 2011
8:00am to 5:00pm
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MAB Hall
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Quezon City

RSVP: Yes • No • Maybe

Registration Information

" You may send more than one representative to the conference.

Accomplish the attached form and send it to the conference secretariat by email (info@bagongpagasa.org) or by fax (02-8864441).

Registration fee is P1,000 per participant. The fee is inclusive of lunch and handouts.

Payments can be made through bank deposit at any **BPI Family Bank**, ACCOUNT NAME **Bagong Pagasa Charitable Foundation Inc.** ACCOUNT NUMBER **6731-0698-81.**

Please notify us through email (info@bagongpagasa.org) or telephone (**02-8864441; 0927-5788373**) once deposit is made so we could confirm your slot.

About the Organizing Groups

Aftercall

is an ecumenical support community for people with same sex attraction (SSA) who are called together to follow the path of chaste friendship, brotherhood and apostolic community life.
(aftercall.webs.com)

Bagong Pagasa

ministers to people with unwanted same sex attraction through support group meetings and counseling
(www.bagongpagasa.org)

Courage Philippines

is an apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church that provides spiritual support for men and women with same-sex attractions who desire to develop lives of interior chastity in union with Christ.
(couragephilippines.blogspot.com)

Ichthus Community

is an anonymous, home-grown, Catholic ministry with a strong ecumenical spirit for people who want to and are willing to get out of the homosexual condition and lifestyle.
(ichthus-community.blogspot.com)