

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XV

May 21, 2006

No. 21

## If You Were President...

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**P**ut yourself in the place of a president. What decisions would you make? No, not as the President of the United States, but acting as president of a college or university run by members of the church of Christ.

Dr. Royce Money, Abilene Christian University's president recently agreed to receive on campus a group called *Soulforce*. This group is on a mission to advocate lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality. “*After careful consideration and discussions about who we are as a university, we decided the best way to affirm our core Christian values would be to treat Soulforce as Christ would – to have peaceful, patient dialogue about these issues while respectfully and clearly articulating why we believe as we do,*” said Dr. Royce Money, ACU president.

Soulforce's professed goal “*is freed lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless nonviolent resistance*” ([www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org)). ACU was targeted as one of the 19- school 51-day bus tour stops

for their young “ambassadors” to expound their message of: “*Learn from history, end religion-based discrimination.*” They see their bus tour patterned after the 1960's Freedom Rides, promoting equality among races. Their concept is clear: to discriminate against homosexuality based upon the teachings of the Bible is the same as discriminating against a person based upon the skin color with which one is born.

When the ambassadors from Soulforce departed the bus, “*they were met with hugs and animated conversations*” according to a report from Dr. Jack Reese, Dean of College of Biblical Studies. “*We didn't talk a lot about texts, but we did some.*” Jake, a member of Soulforce, responded in the discussion with, “*I know you think we are sinners.*” The report revealed, “*We tried to correct him. 'We are all sinners, Jake. It is not the "being" gay that anyone was attempting to correct, much less condemn.'* Jake understood that most of us distinguished between sexual identity, and sexual behavior.” How does a specific sexual orientation deserve no condemnation, nor necessity to change when acting upon the same orientation

is “*against nature*” (*Romans 1:26*)? Do homosexual “*vile passions*” cease to be “*vile*” if kept as a belief or inclination and not acted upon?

Soulforce had an emotional experience in the welcoming company of ACU. Tears were running down the faces of the ambassadors for Soulforce, not from conviction of sin, but because they “*were treated as human beings.*” The faculty impressed one ambassador for homosexuality because “*rather than condemning us, you listened...I am touched because you received us like Jesus.*” Would Jesus listen to people advocating equality for what God considers as “*an abomination*” without responding with condemnation? Ask the money changers who saw Jesus' zeal for God up close (*Lev. 18:22, John 2:16-17*).

Dr. Money believes ACU “*planted seeds,*” and “*prays other universities along the route will water*”. Dr. Money, the moment they “*water*” with God's word that demands change from the homosexual passions and deeds (*I Cor. 6:9-11*), they will be called *bigots*. You accomplished making Sin feel comfortable in your presence, a seed not worth planting.