



# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History

Compiled September 2009



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# History of Evergreen International

Compiled September 2009

## INTRODUCTION

The full history of Evergreen International would be a multi-volume set of stories of courage, faith, and service. It would tell the stories of many men and women who learned to apply gospel principles to the everyday challenges of life. This is merely a brief historical account of key events that have transpired with the organization.

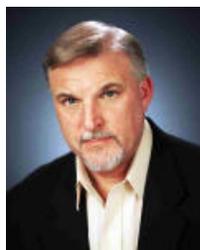
## THE BEGINNING: 1989

Evergreen was founded 20 years ago. If you measure that time in terms of the growth of individuals, it was an eternity ago. But in many ways, it was just yesterday.

In the summer of 1989 in Salt Lake City, eleven LDS men who struggled with same-sex attraction came together and on July 12 formed a support group. They believed that homosexual behavior was not in keeping with the gospel of Christ. They were not satisfied with either of the two choices that presented themselves: (1) setting aside their spiritual beliefs by accepting a gay identity or (2) suppressing their sexual feelings. As they searched for answers, they were intrigued by the early success of Frank Worthen and other Christians who had formed "ex-gay" support groups. They read the few books available at that time that suggested that homosexuality could be overcome by discovering and resolving the underlying causes. In 1989, there were basically these three books: *Homosexuality: A New Christian Ethic* by Elizabeth Moberly, *Homosexuality & Hope* by Gerard van den Aardweg, and *You Don't Have to be Gay* by Jeff Konrad.

## 1990

By January, 1990, a couple of dozen men were meeting in the basement of a business in Salt Lake City.



Joe Dallas

In May 1990, the small group, named the Evergreen Foundation, boldly sponsored a conference to publicly attest to their belief and hope. They brought in two out-of-town

speakers: Joe Dallas (the director of New Creations) and Jeff Konrad (the author of *You Don't Have to be Gay*). On Friday, May 4th, they held a full-day conference in the Marriott Hotel for themselves and the few therapists who worked with them on developing healthy male identities. Saturday was a half-day seminar at the Bryant Intermediate School for men, spouses, parents, and Church leaders. For Saturday night, they advertised a free public lecture at the business lecture hall on the University of Utah campus. The conference enraged local gay groups who quickly spoke up in the media.

That Sunday morning, Jeff Konrad appeared on the television show Take2 with Rod Decker. Articles appeared in local newspapers—in fact, full-page articles. These stories were picked up by the Associated Press and UPI and were published in newspapers throughout the United States and in other countries. Some of the men in their group were invited to appear on local television and radio programs, some were invited to the Phil Donahue Show, and Jeff Konrad appeared on Larry King Live on CNN. This prompted heated public debate over the possibility of growth out of same-sex attraction. It also inspired interest by those who felt the truth of the principles they were talking about.

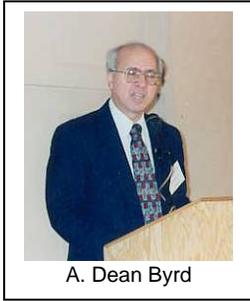
The week after the conference, they divided the 40 men who were attending into four chapters: Salt Lake, Salt Lake South, Utah County, and Davis County North. They later structured Evergreen with a beginning level named *Crossroad*, an intermediate level named *Steps*, and an advanced level called *The Highway*. The annual conferences continued and the chapters continued to grow. They published a *Participant's Introduction and Guide* and a *Chapter Leadership Handbook* with policies and guidelines on how to run the chapters. Chapters were also formed for spouses and for family and friends of those struggling.

## 1992



Joe Nicolosi

The second annual conference was held May 8-9, 1992 at the Bryant Intermediate School in Salt Lake City. The theme was "Christ at the Center of the Change Process." Keynote



A. Dean Byrd

speakers were Steven Cramer (author), Dr. Joseph Nicolosi (author and therapist), and A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D. (psychologist, professor, author).

Two and a half years after it began, it was decided to formalize the organization.

On November 12, 1992, Evergreen International, Inc. was incorporated in the State of Utah as a non-profit organization. The three who signed the incorporating documents issued a written statement that reflects the spiritual insight of these early pioneers. They were pioneers because they were truly plowing unknown ground. The following are a few excerpts from that statement.

"Having set forth our names publicly in the incorporating documents of the organization, we wish to state our hopes, vision, and expectations for the organization for the consideration of those others who work within it. We consider our work in Evergreen to be the most important contribution we have made to society in our lives thus far..."

"We believe that the scope and progress of our work is not just of interest to us and a few other men, but is a matter of importance to God and is part of His plan to offer repentance and a fullness of joy to all His children. The Board of Trustees must always remember that we have been placed in a world overflowing with need; that we have been given agency and the opportunity to act; [and] that the power is in us to bring to pass much righteousness..."

They also offered the following dedicatory prayer:

Oh God, our Eternal Father, in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, we approach thee in prayer to acknowledge thy work, give thanks for thy blessings, and petition thine intervention with regard to this work.

Having now legally established an organization to carry forth the good news of repentance and healing from homosexuality, we dedicate this corporation, which we have called Evergreen International, to thee for the furtherance of thy work.

We dedicate every aspect of this organization and work. We dedicate the meetings, the activities, the publications, the conferences, all of our communications and community outreach, all of the financial and human resources, the work of each chapter and the Board of Trustees. All of these

things and all of the future works of this corporation we dedicate to thee, without reservation, for the furtherance of thy work.

We give thee thanks for being blessed above all generations by living in a time of great knowledge. We thank thee that the knowledge of reparative therapy for homosexuality has come to each of us. We thank thee individually for the extent to which we have allowed these principles to heal us and cleanse us. We thank thee for the intelligence, research, and revelation, and for the diligence and sacrifice of those who have pioneered this cause and brought it forth. We pray that thou wilt shower forth blessings upon their heads for their good works. We thank thee also for those who have supported us in our individual healing.

Most of all, we thank thee for having been blessed to know joy through serving others. We thank thee for our callings to serve on this Board.

Father, we acknowledge thy influence in the creation of this organization and its development over time to the point of its legal incorporation. We acknowledge thy influence in the gathering together of the men and women who have possessed the skills necessary to bring it forth, and we acknowledge thee as the source of our knowledge concerning how to go about this work.

We recognize that we live in the dispensation of the fullness of times, and we recognize that the work of Evergreen is part of the full flowering of the gospel, which has been spoken of by modern prophets.

We commit ourselves to do thy work. We commit to always seek to know thy will through thy spirit.

We now unitedly ask thee to open every necessary door for this organization as soon as we are ready to receive each advancement and blessing. We ask thee to provide human and financial resources without delay as soon as we are ready for them. We ask thee to fill our minds with inspiration that each one serving here might know how to proceed with his assignment. Increase our capacity to serve. We call upon thee to provide revelation on all significant matters of concern to this organization.

We petition thee on behalf of our brothers and sisters who struggle with homosexuality, to open the heavens and send down angels to minister to those who desire to repent. Whisper to their minds and suggest in their hearts knowledge of what they must do. Fill their souls with courage and strength to face evil darkness and tear it from their lives.

We plead with thee to comfort and reassure those whose hearts are ready to faint, those in whom the light of Christ is nearly extinguished, and

those whose lives have been devastated or lost through a course of error. And bless all of the loved ones who mourn and suffer because of this evil.

As the fullness of this work begins, we dedicate all our efforts to thee and defer to thee alone all glory and gratitude. Let this work go forward without impedance and without delay from this moment, in the name of Jesus Christ, whose atonement alone makes this work possible, Amen.

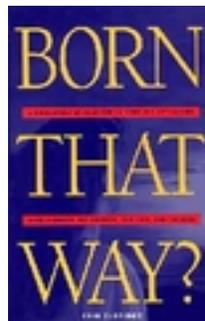
## 1993

The third annual conference was held May 14-15, 1993 at the Bryant Middle School in Salt Lake City, Utah. The theme was "Desires in Conflict" and the keynote speaker was Joe Dallas (author, lecturer, and Founder of Genesis Counseling).

In 1993, the Association of Mormon Counselors and Psychotherapists held a conference about same-sex attraction and published the talks in their journal. This was the most comprehensive collection of LDS information about same-sex attraction published up to that time, and it was sold at Deseret Book for years.

## 1994

In 1994, the first LDS book about same-sex attraction was published: *Born That Way?* by Erin Eldridge. (Deseret Book Company, Salt Lake City, UT, 1994). This described her personal struggle with same-sex feelings and how she overcame them through the power of Jesus Christ and by applying gospel principles.



On January 22, 1994, Dr. Joseph Nicolosi spoke at an Evergreen fireside. The next day, Dr. Nicolosi spoke at a public meeting at Brigham Young University, sponsored by the Departments of Educational Psychology and Clinical Psychology. Later in the day, he spoke at the University of Utah Olpin Student Union Ballroom (sponsored by the Historical Study Group).

On February 20, 1994, there was another Evergreen fireside with various speakers at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

In February 1994, there were 14 Evergreen chapters (10 for men, 1 for spouses, and 3 for friends & family). Two of the men's chapters were international (in Canada and Australia).

April 24, 1994 was another Evergreen fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center, with speaker Tim Rymel, director of Outreach Ministries for Love in Action.



Jeffrey W. Robinson

On July 17, 1994, Jeff Robinson spoke at an Evergreen fireside.

Evergreen's fourth annual conference was August 12-13, 1994 at Utah Valley State College in Orem, Utah. The theme was "Grace and Works: Confronting

Homosexuality Through Practical Strategies and Alliance with Christ." The four key presenters were Dr. William Consiglio (therapist, author), Mike Haley (friend of Jeff Konrad, the "Mike" in the book *You Don't Have to be Gay*), Peter LaBarbera (editor of The Lambada Report), and Tim Rymel (director of Outreach Ministries for Love in Action).

At the conference, a master business plan was presented, which included plans for a paid executive director and secretary. For four years up to that time, one valiant man had answered the phone, retrieved the mail, and filled book orders from a back room at his place of business. In September, a gracious donor contributed funds to cover the salary of a part-time Executive Director for one year. David Pruden was hired in December and began work in January.

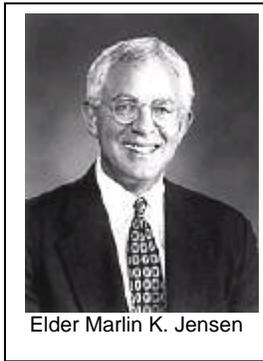
## 1995

The fifth annual conference was held September 8-9, 1995, at the Salt Lake Community College, Redwood Campus, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The theme was "Personal Renewal: Invoking Christ's Power One Step at a Time." There were about 160 in attendance. Key presenters included Joe Dallas (author, lecturer, and Founder of Genesis Counseling), his wife Renee Dallas, Starla Allen (therapist), and Anita Worthen (mother of a son with SSA and pioneer in this work).

## 1996

On March 31, 1996, Evergreen held a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center and invited President David Christensen to speak. He was the President of the Utah Salt Lake City Mission and former director of the University of Utah Institute of Religion.

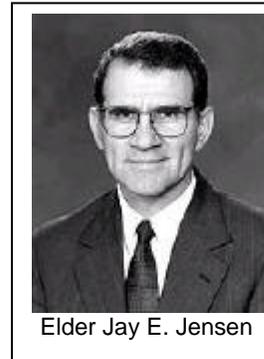
On June 30, 1996, Evergreen held another fireside with testimonies at the Salt Lake Stake Center.



Elder Marlin K. Jensen

The sixth annual conference was held September 13-14, 1996, at the Salt Lake Community College Redwood Campus, Salt Lake City, Utah. About 250 were in attendance. The theme was "Strength and Struggle." Elder Marlin K. Jensen gave the General Authority address.

On February 23, 1997, Todd Olson (therapist) gave a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.



Elder Jay E. Jensen

On June 15, 1997, Erin Eldridge, author of the book *Born that Way?* spoke at a fireside.

Evergreen's seventh annual conference was held September 12-13, 1997, at the Salt Lake Community College Redwood Campus in Salt Lake City, Utah. The theme was "Jesus Said unto

him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)." Key presenters were Jeffrey W. Robinson (therapist) and Joy and Gary Lundberg (authors). The general authority address was given by Elder Jay E. Jensen. The fireside speaker was artist Greg Olsen. About 300 people attended the conference.

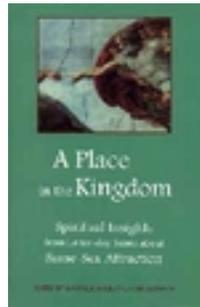
On November 23, 1997, Richard G. Wilkins (J. Ruben Clark Law School at BYU) spoke at a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

On December 1997, there was a fireside at Southern Utah University (350 attended).

## 1997

In 1997, four more LDS books were published:

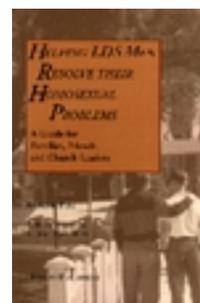
*A Place in the Kingdom: Spiritual Insights from Latter-day Saints about Same-Sex Attraction*, edited by Garrick and Ginger Hyde. This book is a collection of life-story essays of men and women struggling with same-sex attraction, as well as spouses and parents. It provides both hope and perspective.



*Resolving Homosexual Problems: A Guide for LDS Men*, by Jason Park. This book explains same-sex attractions from a Latter-day Saint perspective and gives practical suggestions on how to resolve your homosexual problems.



*Helping LDS Men Resolve their Homosexual Problems: A Guide for Family, Friends, and Church Leaders* by Jason Park. This book explains same-sex attractions in a Latter-day Saint context and suggests how to help a man who is struggling to resolve his homosexual problems.



*Understanding Male Homosexual Problems: An Introduction for Latter-day Saints* by Jason Park. This 50-page booklet gives a brief overview of the causes, challenges, and solutions to homosexual problems from a Latter-day Saint perspective.



## 1998



In 1998, after several years of development, Evergreen published the *Evergreen Workbook for Men*.

In 1998, the first group for female strugglers was begun in conjunction with LDS Social Services. Six to eight women met weekly for ten months. And the following year (1999), Evergreen began concentrating efforts on developing programs and resources to help women strugglers.

On January 18, 1998, Evergreen held a fireside in Columbus, Ohio.

On March 1, 1998, they held a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center. Rod W. Jeppson (bishop and author of *Turn Yourselves and Live*) was the speaker.

On March 28, 1998, Jeff Robinson offered a full-day workshop at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

Evergreen held its eighth annual conference August 21-22, 1998, at the Wyndham Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. Erin Eldridge (author of *Born That Way?*)



Bishop Keith McMullin

and Steven Cramer (author of several LDS books, including *Putting on the Whole Armor of God*) were the key presenters. Bishop Keith McMullin gave the general authority address.

By November 1998, it was determined that Evergreen could no longer directly supervise its

chapters and instead encouraged support groups to be developed and supported locally. they provided suggestions on how to organize and run support groups and established minimum criteria a group had to comply with to maintain an affiliate support group status, meaning that the group is on Evergreen's list and they refer people to it.

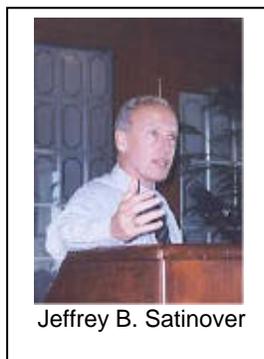
December 5, 1998 was a Super Saturday at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

## 1999

Evergreen opened its first dedicated office on February 1, 1999 at 211 East 300 South in Salt Lake City. The office was manned by volunteers working under the direction of David Pruden. The office had a walk-in bookstore, provided meeting space for a variety of group activities and training meetings, and increased their ability to meet the growing number of requests for educational materials and information. A year later (2000), Evergreen had the funds to hire one paid office staff. In February 2005, the office was moved to its present location at the Crane Building at 307 West 200 South.

In 1999, an official Evergreen logo was developed.

**EVERGREEN**  
INTERNATIONAL



Jeffrey B. Satinover

On July 10, 1999 Niel and Briar Whitehead and Alan Gundry held workshops.

Evergreen held its ninth annual conference September 19-10, 1999 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City,



David Pruden (Executive Director), Elder Cecil O. Samuelson (speaker), Elder H. Burke Peterson (Evergreen Board of Trustees)

Utah. The theme was "In all they ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct they paths (Proverbs 3:6)." The key presenter was Jeffrey B. Satinover, M.D. (author, therapist, NARTH board, and fellow at Yale). The



Ardeth G. Kapp

general authority address was given by Elder Cecil O. Samuelson. Ardeth G. Kapp (author and former Young Women General President) spoke at the closing fireside.

On November 5-6, 1999, Evergreen hosted the annual NARTH conference in Salt Lake City.

## 2000

On January 23, 2000, President David Christensen gave a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

On February 19, 2000 Scott and Kae Andersen (authors of the book *Homosexuality: Symptoms and Free Agency*) gave a workshop for men and couples.

In six years (from Feb 1994 to March 2000), the number of growth and accountability groups had doubled—from 14 to 28 (23 men's, including Australia and England; 4 friends/family; and 1 women's).

On April 16, 2000, Evergreen provided training for all the bishops and stake presidents at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

In May 2000, Evergreen participated in a national press conference at the American Psychological Association Convention, along with Courage, Exodus, Jonah, Focus on the Family, and NARTH

Evergreen held its tenth annual conference September 15-16, 2000 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City, Utah, attended by about 400 people. The theme was "For I am the Lord that healeth thee (Exodus 15:26)." The key presenter was Richard Cohen (former struggler, therapist, and author of



Elder Alexander B. Morrison

*Coming Out Straight*). The general authority address was given by Elder Alexander B. Morrison. Robert J. Millet (Dean of Religious Education at BYU) spoke at the closing fireside.

## 2001

On March 18, 2001 Tim Taggart (former mission president and stake president) spoke at an Evergreen Fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

The eleventh annual conference was attended by 350 people, September 14-15, 2001, at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City, Utah. A. Dean Byrd, Ph.D. (psychologist, professor, author) and Diane Eller-Boyko (therapist) were the keynote speakers. Sharon Green Larsen (Young Women General Presidency) gave the general authority address (see "God's Love"). George Durrant (former president of the Missionary Training Center, seminary teacher, author) spoke at the closing fireside.



A. Dean Byrd



Sharon Green Larsen

On October 14, 2001, Evergreen held a training meeting at BYU-Idaho for priesthood and Relief Society leaders.

## 2002

On January 13, 2002, Dr. John L. Lund (noted author and speaker) gave a fireside at the Murray Stake Center.

On March 8, 2002, the Center for the Study of Gender-Affirmative Therapy (GAT Center) held a clinical training day for 125 therapists at the Wyndham Hotel in Salt Lake City.

On March 17, 2002, Janet Mein (artist, speaker) gave a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

On May 18, 2002, Evergreen held a mini-conference in Portland, Oregon.

May 19, 2002: Rod Jeppsen (author of Turn Yourself and Live) gave a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

Evergreen held its twelfth annual conference September 13-14, 2002 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City, Utah. About 430 attended. Key presenters were Alan P. Medinger (former executive director of Exodus and founder of



Elder Bruce D. Porter

Regeneration Ministries), his wife Willa Medinger (expert on spouse issues), and Starla Allen (therapist). Elder Bruce D. Porter gave the general authority address. Michael S. Wilcox, Ph.D. (institute instructor, author) gave the closing fireside.

## 2003

In the three years from March 2000 to January 2003, the number of growth and accountability groups had almost doubled again. There were 47 affiliate groups: 36 groups for men (including 6 international), 2 for women, 1 for spouses, and 8 for friends and family. There were also two Internet groups: one for affiliate group leaders and another for Spanish speakers, which has nearly 50 members from many countries. The Spanish Internet group began in 2000.

On January 13, 2003, Dr. John Lund gave a fireside.

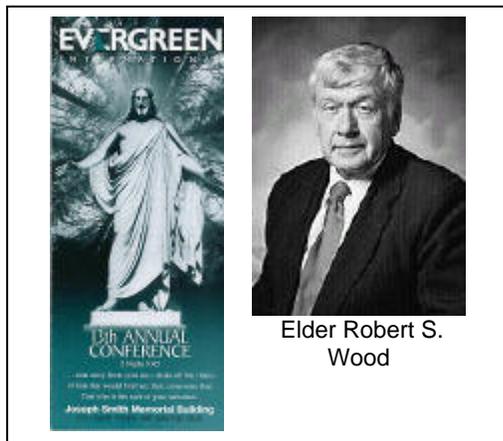
On February 9, 2003, Dr. Bernell L. Christensen (therapist, seminary and institute instructor) gave a fireside.

On March 17, 2003, Dr. A. Dean Byrd (psychologist, professor, author) gave a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

September 21, 2003 was a training meeting for priesthood leaders at BYU-Provo.

On November 23, 2003, Evergreen hosted the annual NARTH Conference in Salt Lake City.

Evergreen's thirteenth annual conference was held September 12-13, 2003, at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City, Utah. Janelle M. Hallman, MA, LPC (counselor, professor, and Executive Director of Desert Hope Ministries) and Randy Thomas (Ministry and Media Relations Manager of Exodus North America) were the key presenters. Elder Robert S. Wood gave the general authority address. Lloyd D. Newell (narrator of Music and the Spoken Word) gave the closing fireside.



Elder Robert S. Wood

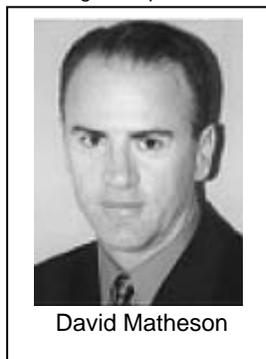
## 2004

February 21, 2004 was a regional training meeting in St. George, Utah for about 200 individuals.

On March 21, 2004, Colleen C. and Philip A. Harrison gave a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

On April 25, 2004 Elder L. Lionel Kendrick (emeritus general authority and Trustee of Evergreen International) gave a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

A mini-conference was held in San Diego, CA. Training was provided for 9 therapists and 130-140 priesthood leaders.



David Matheson

Evergreen's fourteenth annual conference was held September 17-18, 2004, at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City,

Utah. Elder Merrill J. Bateman gave the general authority address, "The Physical Body and the Power of the Atonement." Keynote speakers were Erin Eldridge (author of *Born That Way?*) and David Matheson (see "Four Principles of Growth." Wendy Watson gave the closing fireside, "The Holy Ghost: Don't Struggle with Same-Sex Attraction without His Companionship."



Shirley Cox, Trustee  
Elder Merrill J. Bateman, Keynote Speaker  
Julie Haws, Trustee

October 23, 2004 was a two-hour training session in Spanish for Church leaders, sponsored by the Salt Lake Rose Park Stake. About 50 attended.

On December 4, 2004, the Salt Lake Rose Park Stake sponsored four hours of workshops in Spanish for individuals, Church leaders, families, and spouses. About 25 attended.

## 2005

On January 9, 2005 Rod Jeppsen (author of *Turn Yourself and Live*) gave a fireside at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

On February 19, 2005, Evergreen held a mini-conference in Southern Utah, sponsored by the Snow Canyon Stake.

February 25-26, 2005 was a mini-conference in Rexburg, Idaho.

April 10, 2005 was a fireside with Dr. Michael Wilcox (author), at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

April 28-29, 2005, at BYU Women's Conference, training sessions were given on same-sex attraction (300 attended).

In 2005, Evergreen developed five major messages to help focus in communicating with the public:

1. God loves all his children regardless of their circumstances and wants to help them.
2. Same-sex attraction is one of life's many challenges.
  - To fulfill their eternal destiny, everyone must overcome tests and opposition in life.
  - While same-sex attraction may be a considerable trial to those who experience it, the discomfort and pain is not dissimilar to that experienced by others with different kinds of trials.
3. People can overcome homosexual behavior and diminish same-sex attractions.
  - Regardless of their challenges, everyone can control thoughts and actions. they also have a remarkable ability to develop patterns of behavior and self-perception that are consistent with their personal beliefs and values.
  - Through His own suffering, Jesus Christ knows how to help and guide them in times of need and healing. He can "blot out [our] transgressions according to the power of his deliverance" (see Alma 7:12-13).
  - Some difficulties require them to "be patient in long-suffering and afflictions" that they might gain strength and capacity and be instruments for God (see Alma 17:11).
4. God expects them to be chaste and reserve sexual activity to the bonds of marriage between a man and a woman.
  - Following this commandment provides them with protection and is necessary for mortal and eternal progression.
5. You are not alone! Help is available for those who experience same-sex attraction.
  - You can love and support someone who struggles with same-sex attraction and at the same time stay true to the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - Evergreen provides valuable resources for those seeking to live LDS values.

Evergreen's fifteenth annual conference was held September 15-17, 2005 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City, Utah. September 15<sup>th</sup> was a training and education day for leaders and advisors of affiliate growth and accountability groups. Elder James O. Mason gave the general authority address, "The Worth of a Soul is Great." Keynote speakers were Sterling G. Ellsworth, Ph.D. (counseling psychologist



Elder James O. Mason



Sterling G. Ellsworth

and author of *Getting to Know the Real You and How I Got This Way and What To Do About It*) and Michael J. Merchant (President of the ANASAZI Foundation), who also gave the closing fireside.



Michael J. Merchant

On October 15-16, 2005, Evergreen provided training for therapists at the AMCAP conference in the Washington, D.C. area. A fireside for Church leaders was also held.

October 21-22, 2005 was a mini-conference in Idaho Falls at the Eagle Rock Stake Center, 2020 South Charlotte Drive, Idaho Falls, ID. On Friday evening, was a leadership training meeting at 7 pm. On Saturday, there were workshops from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

## 2006

Firesides: January 15, 2006, Lili Anderson, at the Salt Lake Stake Center and March 26, 2006, John Davis, at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

The 16th Annual Conference was held September 15-16, 2006 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, Salt Lake City. The keynote speaker was Alan Chambers, President of Exodus International. The



Elder Rex D. Pinegar

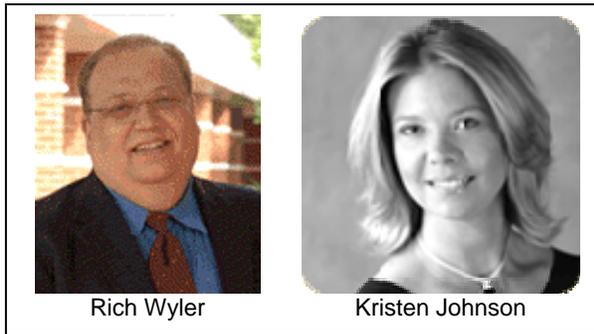


Alan Chambers

General Authority speaker was Elder Rex D. Pinegar. Kenneth Cope was the fireside speaker .

A fireside was held on November 19, 2006. Dr. Neil Whitehead spoke at the Salt Lake Stake Center. Dr. Whitehead is a world renowned expert on genetic and biological science and research related to same-sex attraction. He is the author of *My Genes Made Me Do It*. While in the United States, he presented professional papers at the annual NARTH Conference and provided training for LDS Family Services in Salt Lake City. See [www.mygenes.co.nz](http://www.mygenes.co.nz).

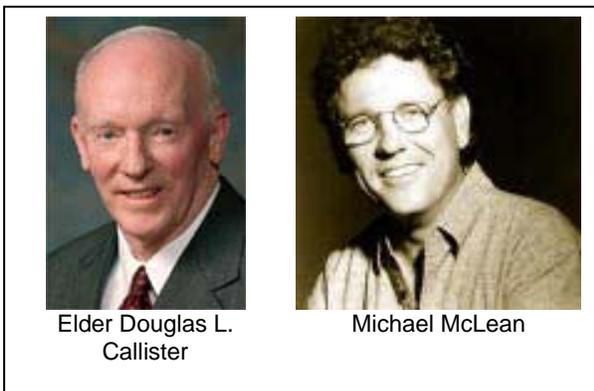
## 2007



Rich Wyler

Kristen Johnson

Evergreen's 17th Annual Conference was held September 21-22, 2007 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. Keynote speakers were Rich Wyler of [peoplecanchange.com](http://peoplecanchange.com) and Kristen Johnson of One by One. The General Authority speaker was Elder Douglas L. Callister. The fireside speaker was Michael McLean.



Elder Douglas L.  
Callister

Michael McLean

Evergreen sponsored a Gender Wholeness Seminar on May 12, 2007, where David Matheson, therapist, speaker, and trainer, presented a seminar on gender wholeness, his new theoretical construct for understanding and overcoming same-sex attraction.

A fireside was held April 29, 2007 by David Matheson at the Salt Lake Stake Center.

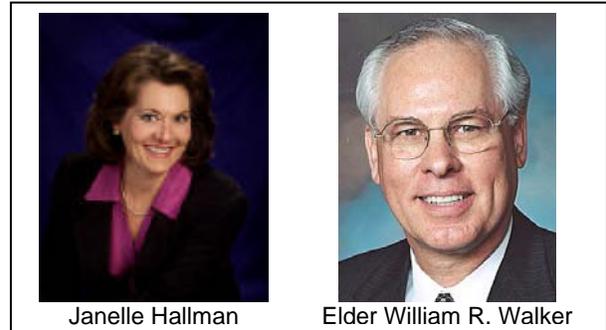
## 2008

Evergreen's 18th Annual Conference was held September 19-20, 2008 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. The keynote speaker was Janelle Hallman. The General Authority speaker was Elder William R.

Walker. The fireside was by Michael Dowdle.



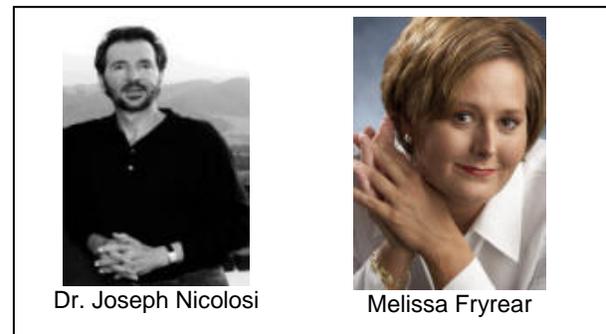
Michael Dowdle



Janelle Hallman

Elder William R. Walker

## 2009



Dr. Joseph Nicolosi

Melissa Fryrear

Evergreen's 19th Annual Conference was held September 18-19, 2009 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, Salt Lake City, Utah. The keynote speakers were Dr. Joseph Nicolosi and Melissa Fryrear. The General Authority speaker was Elder Bruce C. Hafen. The fireside was by Steven Kapp Perry and Johanne Frechette Perry.



Bruce C. Hafen



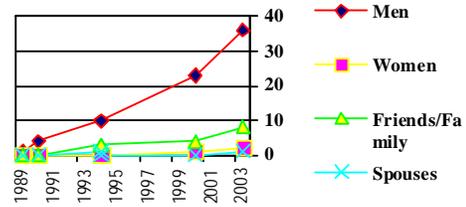
## EVERGREEN PRIORITIES

In June 2000, the Board of Trustees sharpened the focus of the organization by identifying three priorities: (1) be a referral service, (2) develop resources, and (3) provide education.

### 1. Referral service

- Evergreen maintains a network of therapists and affiliate groups to whom we refer people for help. Evergreen has the world's largest database of this kind, with information on hundreds of therapists, LDS Family Services agencies, support groups, and other organizations that can help.
- Evergreen provides phone support. In our 20 years, Evergreen has answered about 48,000 phone calls.
- We nurture and support growth and accountability groups. That one group in 1989 grew to four in a year. And four years later, there were 14. Six years later, the 14 had doubled to 28. Three years later, the number had almost doubled again to 47. There were 36 groups for men (including 6 international), 2 for women, 1 for spouses, and 8 for friends and family. they also have two Internet groups: one for affiliate group leaders and another for Spanish speakers, which has 75 members from nearly 20 countries. On November 9, 2004, the Board of Trustees decided to begin referring to the affiliate support groups as growth and accountability groups, to emphasize the correct role of these groups. Today, these groups are being transitioned to local oversight by priesthood leaders and LDS Family Services agencies.

### Evergreen Growth and Accountability Groups



- The first Evergreen Web site began in October 1996 as a few simple pages on AOL. In the year 2000, a much larger Web site was created under the name [www.evergreen-intl.org](http://www.evergreen-intl.org), including an online bookstore. In 2003, Evergreen completed a major enhancement of the Web site and acquired the domain name [www.evergreeninternational.org](http://www.evergreeninternational.org). The new site has all the current Evergreen publications, scores of testimonies and life stories, current and past events, newsletters, links to many resources, and hundreds of pages of resources for men, women, families, Church leaders, support groups, and therapists. Since its inception, the site has been visited over 1 million times, and over 3.6 million pages have been viewed.
- In conjunction with the Web site, a Web version of the Evergreen logo was created for the online bookstore.

[www.evergreeninternational.org](http://www.evergreeninternational.org)

### 2. Resources

- Evergreen publishes newsletters and sends news alerts and information by e-mail.
- We maintain a library at the headquarters office. In 2002, the library was merged with a personal donation, and it was named the Charles W. Socarides Library, a collection of nearly 500 books, articles, research papers, and audiovisual materials. In 2007, the library was renamed the John and Vera Eccles Library in recognition of their long-time support.
- Over the past 20 years, Evergreen has provided over 12,000 information packets to interested individuals and Church leaders and sold over 25,000 books and other materials.
- In 1998, Evergreen published a Workbook for Men, and in 2009, a Workbook for Women.

- We also encourage independent writing in magazines and books and have helped authors get nine books and booklets published.

### 3. Education

- We have held 19 annual conferences, with total attendance exceeding 6,500. They have included major addresses by 14 general authorities, numerous world-renowned speakers, and hundreds of workshops.
- Every year, Evergreen holds numerous firesides and training meetings.
- We maintain close relations with the Church. The Evergreen Board of Trustees always includes one or more emeritus General Authorities, and they continue to meet every year with Area Presidencies and other Church leaders. Upon request, they provide training to stake and ward leaders. Over the 15 years, they have trained nearly 12,000 Church leaders.
- Evergreen maintains close relationships with other religious and professional organizations, such as Exodus International, Courage, Jonah, and NARTH.
- We encourage therapist training and development and have directly trained hundreds of therapists. In September 2001, Evergreen announced the establishment of a Center for the Study of Gender-Affirmative Therapy as a subsidiary of Evergreen International, Inc. The center focused on research, education for counselors and therapists, and public relations. In March, the GAT Center held an all-day clinical training conference attended by more than 100 professional therapists and counselors. On April 23, 2003, the Evergreen Board of Trustees discontinued the Center for the Study of Gender-Affirmative Therapy.

## INTERNATIONAL

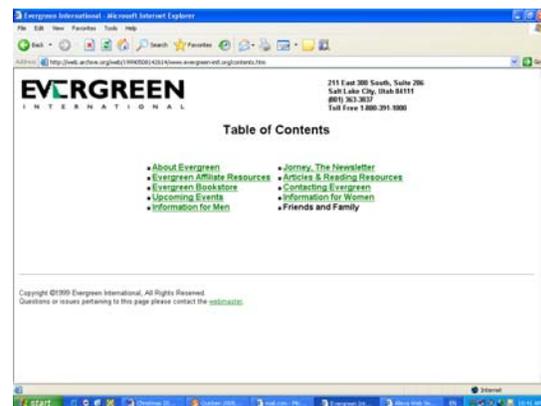
When Evergreen added the word "International" to the name of the organization when it incorporated in 1992, it represented a dream and a belief that assisting those with same-sex attraction issues would someday reach beyond the western states to help individuals throughout the world. In the year 2000, the three books by an LDS author on same-sex attraction were published in Spanish. In 2002-3, other materials and parts of the Evergreen Web site were translated into Spanish, Portuguese, German, French, and other

languages. Evergreen leaders have met personally with Area Presidencies, stake and ward leaders, and therapists throughout Latin America, Europe, and the Pacific Islands. Scores of Evergreen participants regularly communicate with one another in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and German. And since the year 2000, the Evergreen conferences have attracted participants from outside the United States.

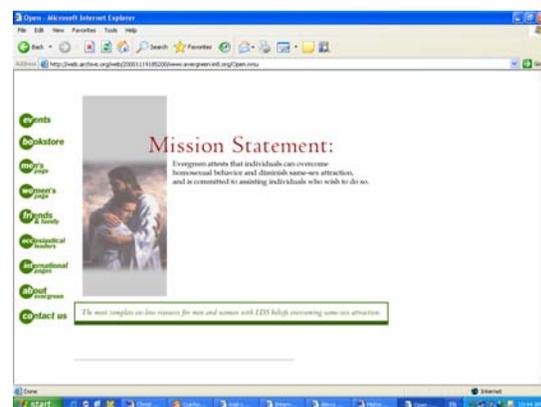
Evergreen has sponsored an online support group in Spanish since 2000. It now has nearly 100 members from over 20 countries. A physical Spanish support group met every other week in Salt Lake City from mid 2004 to mid 2005. LDS Family Services offices have opened in several new countries and provide support to people who experience same-sex attraction.

## EVERGREEN WEB SITE HISTORY

Evergreen Web site on January 25, 1999:



March 9, 2001:



March 21, 2003:



December 16, 2005:



Redesign in May 2009:





Headquarters Office:  
307 West 200 South, Suite 4006  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Phones:  
(801) 363-EVER  
(800) 391-1000

Web Site: [www.evergreeninternational.org](http://www.evergreeninternational.org)

E-mail Address: [info@evergreeninternational.org](mailto:info@evergreeninternational.org)

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