

The governmental representative's answer to this severe mental health crisis is to introduce The Pride in Mental Health Bill to provide more resources to address the issue. It *seems* compassionate.

Author Merrit Malloy wrote: "Compromise is simply changing the question to fit the answer."

The promotion and encouragement of the LGBTQI+ lifestyle has created a mental health epidemic with destructive consequences. The findings of the United States Center for Disease Control are clear. The facts state the severity of the situation. If we truly are compassionate and genuinely care for the welfare of our children, wouldn't we want to address the core issue, rather than encourage a lifestyle under the guise of affirming the person, which in essence is perpetuating the problem.

So rather than honestly asking the question, "Is the promotion of this way of life creating severe mental issues?" Just change the question to fit the desired answer. The assumed answer is that the LGBTQI+ lifestyle is natural, normal and good. Even though there are clear non-biased statistics that state there is lower school performance, higher rates of substance abuse, poorer mental health, and significantly higher suicide rates among LGBTQI+ children. (CDC)

There is a way that *seems* right, but it is destructive. A tide of unrestrained indoctrination is pushing children down this destructive path. In the name of tolerance, government promotes it. Teachers encourage children to choose their pronouns and reintroduce themselves to their classmates with new names. Parents take them to therapists or doctors, nearly all of whom practice so-called 'affirmative care—'. The progressive "church" blesses the lifestyle. "Unfortunately, many professionals now view health care—including mental health care—primarily as a means of "fulfilling patients' desires, whatever those are. This modern vision of medicine and medical professionals gets it wrong. Professionals ought to profess their purposes and ideals they serve. Healing is the central core of medicine; to heal, to make whole, is the doctor's primary business." (Leon Kass, Professor Emeritus-University of Chicago)

Dr. Paul McHugh, Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University of Medicine explains: "Transgendered men do not become women, nor do transgendered women become men. All become feminized men or masculinized women, counterfeits or impersonators of the sex with which they "identify." In that lies their problematic future. When the tumult and shouting dies, it proves not easy nor wise to live in a counterfeit sexual garb. The most thorough follow-up of sex-reassigned people-extending over 30 years and conducted in Sweden, where the culture is strongly supportive of the transgendered—documents their lifelong mental unrest. Ten to 15 years after surgical reassignment, the suicide rate of those who had undergone sex-reassignment surgery rose 20 times that of comparable peers."

You can overhaul the exterior of a person, but you can't rework the internal wiring. There is a sexual schematic, a default setting. Each person was designed with one of two functions in sexual reproduction. It defines us as male or female. No one can ultimately change their inner code. Women have XX chromosomes. Men have XY chromosomes. It is the way the person is born. The human being is wired to function according to their coding. People can attempt to make adjustments and reassign their orientation. One can never change their internal code. It is ordained and sealed in one's DNA. What a deceptive and destructive lie is being touted and embraced by much of our culture!

Abigail Shrier author of *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters* says: "Teen girls susceptible to this social contagion are the same high-anxiety, depressive girls who struggle socially in adolescence and tend to hate their bodies. Add to that a school environment where you can achieve status and popularity by declaring trans-identity. I've spoken to families at top girls' schools who attest that 15, 20, or in one case, 30 percent of the girls in their daughter's seventh grade class, identify as trans. Furthermore, Abigail says, "It's biology, not bigotry."

The moral standards of God reflect His deep love for every person He created. They are meant to give us parameters to experience the best version of ourselves and Abundant Life.

Platte City, MO 64079  
PO Box 588

*Grace Covenant International*

Grace Covenant International

# Works of Grace

GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL

June 2023

*Simply,  
Offering Life!*



It was Saturday and these boys awaited the activities to begin at Bread of Life (Pan de Vida) our GCI ministry in the Dominican Republic. Activities ranged from art, dance, sports, self-defense, and English classes.

Tyler and Callie Franca, our new Directors of DR Missions greeted parents and encouraged Bread of Life staff. They also led most of the activities. Connie Elder helped to serve lunch to the children.



This is the main street of the barrio where most of the Bread of Life children live. It is poor-poor, with very unsanitary conditions. The Francas are engaging these families.



GCI Ministry Director Dallas and Connie Elder, visited Tyler, Callie and Franca-family in the DR in April. This was our first post-Covid visit. Our objective was to encourage the Francas, assess current ministry and discern the vision going forward. Covid and it's aftereffects on travel, limited the number of mission teams and some of the activities. The work of DR Missions and Bread of Life continued as the Francas courageously stayed onsite and served.

Now things are getting back to normal. This summer they are hosting a full slate of mission teams and interns. Connie and I walked with the Francas down this street. We prayed, visited homes, talked to children and parents. Nurse Callie was asked to check on a sick person. They prayed for healing. The Bread of Life ministry moves on. Faithfully, daily meals are served; meaningful life skills are offered; and the true Bread of Life, Jesus, is freely given and received.

## Hannah Has Landed!



From left to right: Hannah Hoose, Staci, Connie and Dallas Elder with Kira and Matt Mitchell (plus Jasper).

Hannah Hoose landed in the Dominican Republic on June 5 to take her place on our DR Missions Team. Licensed as a GCI minister in March, she raised her support and now serves fulltime as a missionary. The Elders were vacationing in Florida near Hannah's family at the end of May. They had the opportunity to have dinner in her parents home and pray with Hannah and her parents a week prior to her travel to the DR. Prayer paves the way for ministry. Hannah is positioned well for her start. She will be a big help to the Francas.



See the missionary, Hannah Hoose, on the job for Jesus, clutched by two Bread of Life kids.

## Shade Tree Sanctuary

The Well is one of our churches located in Waterford, CA. In May, Dallas Elder met with the leadership. He had the opportunity to share the Word with this portion of their congregation. The place was Max and Carolynn Viss' almond farm, tended by son-in-law Tommy and daughter Anna. It provided a poignant setting to teach about the "Parable of the Sower." God is stirring at The Well for renewed vitality and commitment to the work of God. We are grateful for their shepherds: Heather, Kristi and Ed Rapinchuk with Max and Carolynn Viss and their congregation.



## Pastor Sonte Update



God has been using Pastor Sonte and his team to evangelize and plant churches in numerous places in Togo. He is a strong ministry leader. Currently, he is enrolled in English classes in Ghana which Missionaries, Rob and Lori Mangus helped to set up. They have also hosted him at their home at times during his stay in Ghana. He will be an even greater asset in our ministry family.



## Plan Now! GCI World Conference 2024 April 23-26

Our GCI World Conference will be held at Coral Costa Caribe Resort-Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic. We have our World Conference every four years. Due to Covid, we were not able to have it in 2020. This is a time that we host ministry leaders from our churches and mission works in other nations to connect for encouragement in a relaxing location. Everyone is welcome. This is an all-inclusive resort that our DR Mission uses. They have clean, updated rooms, and a beautiful location on the beach. They have nice amenities and conference space for us. It is 30 minutes from the Santo Domingo airport. We project that the per person cost will be \$85 per night and \$250 for the conference (Includes airport shuttle). As we know people plan for their trips months in advance, please make your plans for this international Kingdom event. We will begin booking rooms February 1, 2024.



## GCI Midyear Ministry Conference

Our GCI Midyear Ministry Conference will be held August 14-15 at LifePoint Church-Oakdale, CA. The conference begins Monday evening at 7pm. It will continue through the day on Tuesday and conclude with the evening service Tuesday night. Only the GCI Executive Board will meet on Wednesday. We will have our conference schedule available by mid-July.

### GRACE COVENANT INTERNATIONAL

PO BOX 588 PLATTE CITY, MO 64079  
Phone: (816) 431-6217  
Email: GC@GraCov.com  
Website: www.GraCov.com



## A Way that "Seems" Right

By Dallas Elder

Walt Heyer shares his experience on his website: *Sex Change Regret*. "Hormones, surgery, regret: I identified as a transgender woman for 8 years. In April of 1983, I had "gender reassignment" surgery. At first I was giddy for the fresh start. But hormones and "sex change" genital surgery couldn't solve the underlying issues driving my dysphoria. I returned to identifying as male more than 30 years ago. I learned the truth: Hormones and surgery may alter appearances, but nothing changes the immutable fact of your sex. I met a wonderful woman who didn't care about the changes to my body, and we've been married for over 25 years. Now we help others whose lives have been derailed by sex change."

There are two Proverbs that say the same thing: "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." (PR 14:12 16:25-NIV) The Message translation minces no words: "There's a way of life that looks harmless enough; look again—it leads straight to hell." In other words, there is a way of life that seems good, but it is ultimately self-destructive.

A Midwestern Legislator introduced a bill to provide more funding in support of Pride Month to help at-risk LGBTQI+ youth. She states this on her website: "A Center for Disease Control (CDC) survey of American teenagers recently found that LGBTQI+ students report significantly worse mental health than other students. Also, nearly half of gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens said they considered committing suicide in the last year."

According to a 2019 CDC study, these kids experienced poorer school performance, higher rates of substance abuse, poorer mental health, and higher rates of suicidal thoughts than non-LGBTQI+ youth.

Continued next page >>>



Our IGNITE Ministry Conference will September 20-23 in Platte City, MO. It is a great time to get encouraged and equipped for effective ministry.