



LIA Looks Ahead in the New Year:

Exciting new changes set for 2009

by **Tommy Corman**, Acting Director



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV).

The new year is always an exciting time. This year at Love In Action, we are particularly excited about our new residential and four-day clients starting the program in January, and about a brand new group meeting we are offering: the Friday night *Open Meeting*.

When I think about new clients starting *The Source* residential or the *4-Day Intensive* programs, I get excited because I know that with each person who walks through the door, there are fresh opportunities to see God at work in the human heart. Nothing motivates me more than seeing our clients connect with God's love for them and respond to his call on their lives. I love watching God take one of our clients from the place of apprehension, hopelessness, and despair that normally characterizes them when they arrive here to a place of security, peace, and hope, sometimes almost overnight. You can actually see it in the faces and demeanors of our clients as God lifts their heads, dries their tears, and lovingly starts to take them down a new path. With new clients coming in, this is the perfect time to give to the Love In Action Scholarship Fund. In giving to the LIA Scholarship Fund you partner in this valuable work of restoration. Your dollars are translated into the practical reality of equipping our clients to be transformed through the love of Jesus Christ. "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels over one sinner who repents." (*Luke 15:10 ISV*) As brothers and sisters in Christ, can we have any greater joy—especially at this time of year?

In addition to our incoming clients, we are also excited about our brand new *Open Meeting*. Instead of the first Tuesday of each month, our new *Open Meeting* will be held every Friday. For many of our clients, Friday nights are a time when they can struggle with wanting to gravitate toward old, unhealthy behaviors that are incompatible with their new life. Friday night should be a happy time, a time to relax with friends and family and share the good things in life: food, music, entertainment, all the things that God has put on earth to enrich our lives. And God, in his wisdom and providence, has given us a five-day work week, allowing us the leisure time to enjoy these things in a way that only a handful of countries in the world can boast. And yet, like so many other things that were intended for our good, the world has perverted the concept of "enjoying the weekend." Drugs, alcohol, inappropriate sex, and other damaging and addictive behaviors all get in the way of our ability to enjoy good things. Our goal at Friday night *Open Meetings* will be to enjoy what God has given us in a healthy way. Together we will share testimonies and celebrate the things God is doing in our lives; we will share good food and drink good coffee; we will listen to beautiful music and hear readings from great literature, and even watch short drama presentations. We will learn together about the beauty of God's creation and marvel at the intricate ways in which he has constructed the universe. Through an engaging series of guest speakers, performers, and stimulating interactive discussions, we will focus on just how much there is in this world to thank God for. Too often in the process of recovery from sexual and relational sin, we get too focused on our "negative recovery," that is, simply not doing bad things. We can easily lose sight of our "positive recovery," which is actively pursuing and enjoying good things! In C.S. Lewis's book *The Great Divorce*, all of Hell and all the forces of evil are so small that they would fit into a space tinier than the head of a pin. On the other hand, the rest of an unimaginably expansive universe is filled with God's goodness, glory, and wonderful new creation. At *Open Meeting*, we will try to act as though we really believed that. Thanks to God's generous bounty, life is like a candy store of rich, wonderful experiences. So please join us each Friday as we walk the aisles together and worship Him!

FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN MEETING: JANUARY 9

The first *Open Meeting* will be held on Friday, January 9 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., with refreshments to follow. For more information on our programs, please visit us online at www.loveinaction.org. Watch for our **new website**, appearing soon!

Looking to God for my Approval

by Tyelar Williams

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10; ESV).



I've just completed my 28-day *Source* program, and my life has been changed. Before Love In Action, I spent years living the homosexual lifestyle. I was constantly searching to fill a void that the world could not fill. Finally, I hit rock bottom and felt like my life meant nothing. There was no one who truly loved me. Like the prodigal son in the parable, I realized that there was something better than the scraps before me. I ran back to my Father who embraced me with open arms. However, I was still afraid that I would fall again without further help.

After some searching, I found LIA online and reached for the help I so desperately needed. I submitted my application and prayed that this program would provide the needed help. Boy, did God come through for me! My 28 Days at LIA have been life-altering. I learned quickly that *The Source* was not a program focused on homosexuality. Rather, the focus of the program is my relationship with God. Of course, I did learn the reasons why I ended up down the wrong path, but more importantly, I learned to keep God as my number-one priority and look to Him for approval rather than man. I realize now that I've sought the approval of others over God. At LIA, I've learned to first seek God. Finding contentment in Him leaves no room for the worldly pursuits that have consumed my life.

As a special note to LIA's donors, I would like to say that I cannot imagine a more godly organization worthy of contributing to. I thank you so much for your support and assure you that your contribution could not be used for a better purpose. LIA is changing lives for the better. It is bringing men and women closer to God.

Thank you so much for your support and may God bless you!

Tyelar Williams

Please Pray with Us

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working (James 5:16b ESV).

Praise the Lord for his ongoing provision for Love In Action.

Pray for the 12 LIA program graduates from November and December, that God will give them strength and joy as they start a new life.

Pray for January's incoming clients, that God will prepare their hearts to receive what he has for them here.

Pray for wisdom for the staff in 2009 as they develop new programs to reach strugglers in the Memphis community. In particular, pray for our new Friday night Open Meeting, that God will use it to touch and encourage many people.

Pray that God will provide to make up for LIA's ongoing budget deficit.

FAMILY FREEDOM DATES

The *Family Freedom Intensive* workshop will be held at LIA on the following dates in 2009:

February 10-13

April 7-10

June 9-12

July 7-10

August 4-7

October 13-16

November 17-20

Please call for more details:

800.201.4129

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Location	Date	Time
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	February 10-13	1:00 pm
<i>Within Reach</i> Support Group	LIA Campus	Tuesdays, call to enroll	7:00 pm
Open Meeting	LIA Campus	Fridays from Jan. 9	7:00 pm
Love Won Out Conferences	Central Church of God - Charlotte, NC	February 21, 2009	8:00 am

To make a donation, please call 800.201.4129 or donate online at www.loveinaction.org.