

Opinion**The Ted Haggard Case**

Ed Note: As this issue was going to press, the tragic story of Ted Haggard had just unfolded. Haggard, president of the 30 million member National Association of Evangelicals and founder and pastor of one of the country's most celebrated megachurches, had stepped down after confessing to "sexual immorality," purchasing illegal drugs, and calling himself "a deceiver and a liar." He had been exposed by a male prostitute who said he was troubled by the hypocrisy of Haggard's efforts to ban same-sex marriage while at the same time regularly contacting him.

A number of EEWC members began an email discussion about this incident and wondered if perhaps sharing some of these thoughts might generate further discussion. We invite you to write to Christian Feminism Today to share your comments. Some comments may be posted on eewc.com.

From Anne Eggebroten

Thank you to Georgan Johnson-Coffey, incoming EEWC coordinator, for inviting EEWC members to make a supportive statement in response to Ted Haggard's confession.

Georgan takes her own response from Psalm 139:14 (KJV): "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" and from Genesis 1:26-27.

I would like to call all Bible-believing Christians to reflect on these Scriptures and try to believe them fully. Prayerfully consider your neighbor who is attracted to someone of his or her own gender. Understand that God made and loves this person. Read a recent book on this subject.* Authors Letha Dawson Scanzoni, David Myers (social psychologist), and Jack Rogers (former moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA) believe that long-term, faithful same-sex partners can be blessed by God and give glory to God.

A word of comfort to those involved in prostitution or drug use: God loves me where I am. I can confess and be healed. My life is not over. Jesus healed lepers, who were repulsive in the first century; darkness is not dark to our God.

Let us share good news—we all bear God's shining image—and reach out to those who would despair and even take their own lives.

*David Myers and Letha Dawson Scanzoni, *What God Has Joined Together: The Christian Case for Gay Marriage* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2005); Jack Rogers, *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church* (Westminster John Knox, 2006).