

Our History



Founder Bill Henson surrendered his life to Jesus Christ in 1995. He started receiving invitations to share his life story in 2000. After several years of speaking at universities, churches and conferences, Bill founded FOTOS Ministries in 2005.

As Bill recalls, The more I shared my story, the more I encountered pastors and evangelicals who sincerely wanted to minister Christ's love to homosexuals...they simply did not know how to go about it. So I felt there was a gap in which much education was needed and that was a 'calling' of sorts. But it was not until I shared my story at a liberal arts college in 2003 - amid much protesting - that I realized the need to give the evangelical church an honest and authentic voice to convey the true message of the Gospel directly from the church to those in the homosexual community. I saw the expectation that Christians would deliver a hateful message - and I knew in my heart with great confidence that the true Gospel message would touch even the hearts of those who have felt so judged by the church. Soon thereafter, I began meeting many parents of homosexual children in our evangelical churches who were getting unhelpful advice and left feeling abandoned. That was when I really felt a deeper 'call' to start this ministry.

It is the love of Jesus Christ that touches our souls. Our vision at FOTOS Ministries is to share this love with homosexuals and their families. We offer the same love to all homosexuals - to those content in living out their homosexual identity and to those who desire healing.

FOTOS is founded upon the principle that evangelical Christianity has not ministered as Christ would minister to the homosexual community. It's time for us to try a new approach...it's time for us to *Fish On The Other Side*. And that's what FOTOS stands for: it's an acronym for *Fish On The Other Side*.

FOTOS is based upon a story told in John 21:1-14. Peter, James and John fish all night long and don't catch a single fish. Early the next morning, a Man from shore calls out, 'Cast your net on the right side of the boat'. Instead of questioning him or persisting to do it their own way, they comply and fish on the other side. Their nets are immediately filled!

This story captures a profound truth - *Do it our own way and we can expect to be ineffective. But do it the Lord's way and HE will be effective in and through us.* Jesus taught this lesson right before He ascended to Heaven...He knew they would need it. And He knew we would need it today - to remember that His way is the only way to people's hearts.

Founder Bill Henson says, *We as Christians have ignored homosexuals, politically fought against their activists and preached against their behavior...but we have done little to directly touch and minister to the homosexual community and their families in our churches. The FOTOS Vision is to listen to the distant echo of the One calling from an ancient shoreline...*

Beyond culture wars and church walls, Christ is calling...

Fish On The Other Side