

Institute for Sexuality Studies Newsletter - Fall 2008

Dear graduate

For some time I have thought of putting together a newsletter and finally I put words to the page. I felt it important to stay connected with those of you who have so richly honored us with your presence, sharing and insights these past years. I found myself reflecting that while I try to teach the importance of relationships, intimacy and genuine connection with others that I often fail myself in truly practicing what I preach. Relationships don't just happen without hard work, commitment and a genuine desire to reach out to others. It does take effort, time, and a commitment to keep nourishing relationships.

This first newsletter is my initial attempt to stay more connected with you and my hope and prayer is that you will find it meaningful for yourself in your own continued growth and ministry with others. I have been deeply touched by your presence with us and would like to hear from you when you can just how you continue to grow in your personal and professional lives through a deeper appreciation of this gift of human sexuality.

Reflection:

1. **Growth in our Sexual/Spiritual lives begins with deepening awareness, acceptance, and forgiveness of self.**

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.”

-Leo Tolstoy

One of the greatest obstacles to personal growth in sexual/spiritual integration is our own capacity for self-deception and resistance to growth. I can see myself as more than I am or less than I am. Sexual/spiritual growth allows for honest awareness of my strengths but also my weaknesses and limitations both as gifts from God. Our sexuality reminds us that we are both graced and wounded in our relational journeys. The more we open up to our embodied selves in a real and honest way, the more truly free we become.

News Bulletin:

Plans are underway to be in Australia for a series of talks in late July & early August of 2009, and I will follow with more details as they become available and plans are underway for ISS graduate reunion and time of recollection.

I hope that this newsletter has helped to bring us a little closer and I would love to hear from you when you can email or write. As graduates, you will always be a part of the Institute for Sexuality Studies (ISS) and let us know if we can be of service to you in the future.

Please remember to check out our website at www.issmclone.com and let others who you feel might be interested know of our programs at ISS. We want to continue this important ministry in the church and need your help. Word of mouth from former participants continues to be our best advertising and resource so thank you all so much for your support.

Gratefully,

Kevin

Dr. Kevin P. McClone, M.Div. Psy.D. Director Institute for Sexuality Studies