DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH METHODS
THE THOMAS PROJECT:
A STUDY OF RELIGIOUSLY-MEDIATED CHANGE IN EXODUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

Research Director: Stanton L. Jones, Ph.D. (630-xxx-xxx)
Thomas Project, address
Research Sponsor: Exodus International

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PURPOSES

"The Thomas Project: A Study of Religiously-Mediated Change in Exodus Group Participants" is a study of the changes that occur to individuals who seek to change their experience of their sexual orientation via Exodus-related ministries. The study involves the administration of several psychological inventories and a number of interview questions. We seek to truthfully understand what happens to people who commit themselves to this ministry, however long that commitment might last. Our goal is to publish our findings truthfully for the examination of the scientific community.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF RESPONSES

The confidentiality and privacy of our research participants will be scrupulously protected as we collate, analyze and publish these findings. No identifying information will be attached to or be a part of the record of this interview or the various inventories that will be administered as part of this study. All information identifying you, and all information linking your identity to your responses to these questions and inventories, will be separately mailed to the Research Director, and will be kept securely in files maintained apart from the interview and inventory information. We are taking every measure to assure that your confidentiality is scrupulously protected.

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROCEDURES

The interview and inventories ask detailed and blunt questions about the most personal aspects of your life, especially your religious life and your sexual life. We are asking those questions that are directly relevant to our research, and your responses will be used for the purposes of scientific research alone. Some persons might feel discomfort, embarrassment, or other negative feelings in response to such unusual questions. You may be asked to describe events, behaviors or experiences that are unpleasant to discuss, hurtful to remember, or highly personal and embarrassing. It is our hope that you will continue to participate even if you have such negative feelings. You have the right to withdraw from the study at any time. You also may choose not to respond to any portions of this interview procedure that you find too upsetting or personal. Again, however, it is our hope that you will continue to participate even if you have such negative feelings.

VOLUNTARY CONSENT AND AGREEMENT FOR THOMAS PROJECT RESEARCH PARTICIPATION

Participant Number_____

I, _____, state that I am over 18 years of age and hereby voluntarily agree to participate in the Thomas Project research study and in related incidental procedures as they have been described to me. The nature and purpose of this research and the possible material or significant benefits and risks have been explained to me so that I understand them.

I am freely agreeing to participation without duress or coercion. I have agreed to participate in consideration of the payment promised and of the expected benefits for me and for others from the knowledge gained from this research study. I understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time I wish without penalty or prejudice, and may stop participating at any time, though I also understand that withdrawing from participation before completion of the interview instrument package will result in forfeiture of the promised payment for my participation. I further understand that I may choose not to respond to any portions of this interview procedure that I find too upsetting or personal.

If I am not satisfied with my participation, I will immediately inform the Research Director. If I want any additional information, have any questions, or have any reservations I may now mention them to the people present or write them in the space below:

Release from Liability. I understand that the research investigator is legally liable for any negligent conduct of this research or for any acts intentionally done to harm me. I also understand that harm may occur in the absence of any clearly negligent or intentionally harmful act. Therefore, in return for being accepted as a research participant, I release the research investigator from all liability and waive all my rights and claims against him (or her) except those claims arising directly from clearly negligent or intentionally harmful acts by him (or her). This release from liability and waiver is made by me for myself, my heirs, and any person who might claim through me or on my behalf. It applies not only to the research investigator but also to his assistants and agents and to the research institution and its employees. It is understood that these persons, as well as the research investigator, remain liable for clearly negligent or intentionally harmful acts.

Consent to Recording. For the purpose of advancing knowledge, I consent to the making and use of audio recordings and a written record of my interview as appropriate for scientific, rehabilitative, or educational purposes. I understand that I shall in no way be identified by name or otherwise, under any circumstances, by virtue of my participation in this study, and that every reasonable effort will be made to preserve my anonymity and to conceal my identity.

Acknowledgement of Potential Limits to the Confidentiality of Responses <*added at Time 3 on*>: In some states a variety of laws require that mental health workers and scientific researchers break confidentiality in a limited number of legally specified situations for the protection of the lives and well-being of yourself and/or vulnerable others. The following represent some of the situations where confidentiality might have to be breached in some states:

a) If you give an indication that there is a significant likelihood that you may attempt to harm yourself;
b) If you report that you intend to harm a specific person;
c) If you report that someone under age 18 is vulnerable to sexual and/or physical abuse or assault in a context in which you are now involved or have been in the past (such as a younger sibling still in residence in your childhood home and at clear risk for assault or abuse, or a relative of yours living in a situation that poses a clear risk for assault or abuse;
d) If you report that there is an elderly person at risk of abuse in the home in which you live now or have lived in the past.

To clarify, if none of these types of situations exist to the best of your knowledge, or if any of these conditions exist but you do not choose to report them to the interviewer, then there will be no grounds for the interviewer reporting anything you share in the course of this interview. As stated earlier in this document, except in the above conditions, all efforts will be made by the research team to protect your confidentiality.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

All matters and issues mentioned above have been discussed to my satisfaction and agreement. My signature indicates that I have read and understood all of the above.

_____ _____
(Signature of the research participant) (Date)

_____
(Signature of the interviewer, who is an authorized agent of the Research Director of the Thomas Project and a Witness to this signing)