

From Gay to Joyous

Author Christopher Yuan journeyed out of a pit into the arms of God

By [Marvin Olasky](#)

Issue: "[The Battle for Africa](#)," Feb. 8, 2014

Posted Jan. 24, 2014



Given the same-sex marriage juggernaut's political and judicial success last year, we can expect on Valentine's Day this year to hear early and often how great it is to be gay. Christopher Yuan, who was a homosexual and a drug dealer, has a different story that led to two sentences: prison and HIV positive status. God brought him and his parents to Christ, and Yuan went to the Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton College, gaining in 2007 an M.A. in biblical exegesis. Now pursuing a doctorate of ministry, he came to Patrick Henry College to answer questions about an outstanding book he and his mother co-authored, *Out of a Far Country* (WaterBrook Multnomah, 2013).

Why does the subtitle of your book describe it as *A Gay Son's Journey to God* rather than *A Gay Son's Journey Out of Homosexuality*? We wanted to write not simply a story about a gay son, but a story about God—and God not just bringing me to Himself, but my mother and father also coming to Christ as well.

Did you become a gay son because of nature, nurture, or both? People say, "There's some evidence of a biological component to the development of sexuality," and then jump to the conclusion, "Therefore people are born gay." The accurate answer isn't so much nature or nurture, but nature and nurture. Biblical anthropology tells us we all are born with predispositions toward certain sins, whether gossiping, lying, cheating, sexual addiction, whatever it might be.

What effect did your exposure to pornography at age 9 have on you? It's difficult to say whether that was a causative agent, but it was a catalyst. It awoke things in me that shouldn't have been awoken.

What other environmental factors may have added to your predisposition? I was born in the Chicago area, at a time in the suburbs when there were not many Asians. I was bullied for being Asian and was not good at sports, so I was called *gay*, *fag*, *sissy*, and began to ask myself, "Who am I?"

Who are you? As I came to God, I realized who I am in Christ and realized that any identity, any label, should not be before my main identity in Christ.

Your excellent book tells the story of how you learned that—but also how your mother learned that. I came out of the closet in my early 20s, and it devastated my mom. She and my father weren't Christians, and she thought an ultimatum could bring me to my senses. She said, "You must either choose the family or choose this." I left home. Then I got involved in drugs and started selling drugs in Louisville, Ky.

What happened to your parents as you did this? My parents were about to get a divorce after being married for close to 30 years. My mother bought a one-way Amtrak ticket to Louisville: She was going to say goodbye to me, then end her life. But someone gave her a little pamphlet that she read on the train. It explained how we're all sinners, and yet in spite of our sins, the God of the universe still loves us. She realized God could still love her and she could still love her gay son.

She visited you in Louisville. She said she loved me. I thought she was a little crazy. But she ...

To read this article in its entirety, go to:

http://www.worldmag.com/2014/01/from_gay_to_joyous