

NARRATOR: The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[BED CREAKING]

[THEME MUSIC]

(SINGING) After hours, after hours.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends.

Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common-- we are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are.

Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello, Houston and College Station and Sarasota, Florida, and the world. This is *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. And it's, let's see, the May 12 edition. I'm Jimmy Carper.

SARAH Happy Mother's Day, everybody.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Indeed, it is.

SARAH Happy Mother's Day.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: To my right is Sarah DePalma.

SARAH Hey there, Houston. How the hell are you?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey. I have a special listener who's listening in from Sarasota, Florida tonight.

SARAH And we have the author of the book listening into us in Oakland, California tonight. And if you're listening in to us

DEPALMA: on the internet from somewhere other than Houston, it was about 85 degrees today and humid. And we hope if you're living in Minnesota or North Dakota or someplace colder, we just mean you're good and jealous.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Before we get into a whole lot, I want to talk about the music that you heard in the beginning. We always play interesting music before the opening act. And that last-- let's see. The first one you heard was local boy, Devon, with-- let me open it up and take a look at it. It's my favorite song off of his EP-- "I Could not Ask for More." And the second one is interesting and I've got some dirt.

SARAH Oh, good. Gossip we need.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. That song was featured in the *Queer as Folk* series. And it was called "High School Confidential," written and performed by Carole Pope. Now, you say, who the hell is Carole Pope? Well, she used to be one half of a group called Rough Trade, she and some guy. I never knew who-- and I bought the album because there was something about her.

And as it turns out, it seems as though that she is a former lover of Dusty Springfield.

SARAH Of Dusty, OK. Now, we're giving away her age because we know who Dusty Springfield is. And half our audience

DEPALMA: is going to who the hell is that?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, they know Dusty Springfield. They've heard Dusty on this show before and "Brand New Me," all that kind of--

SARAH Oh, yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. But Dusty was deep, deep, deep into the closet.

SARAH I thought of you the other day because they had the Tammy Wynette story on.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

SARAH And I thought, oh, I could tape this for Jimmy.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: I love Tammy, yes, yes, yes. So just a little dirt there. Something to tell your kids.

SARAH And the kids would go, why would I care?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: This is the second Saturday of the month. That means that we've got transgenders in the first half, and we've got Latinos in the second.

SARAH And Latino transgenders and transgender Latinos and Latinos who are not transgender, and every--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: We got it all, folks.

SARAH We got the whole slate or whatever it is. This is the show. And if it fits out there, it's probably been on the air here

DEPALMA: at least once. I do want to say hello to the gay Aggies at Texas A&M.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

SARAH There was an excellent article in *OutSmart* about-- and now it was in-- that wasn't *OutSmart*. It was in the--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: It was in the whatever.

SARAH Yeah. But anyway, a great article about the Aggies in Texas A&M and the troubles that they are still having at

DEPALMA: Texas A&M, being gay and being an Aggie.

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely.

SARAH And of course, I know all about that, firsthand. So good luck to you. I wanted to let you know that I did see it in

DEPALMA: the [INAUDIBLE]. And keep trying and keep doing what you're doing.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH Before we get into talking about marathon, let me talk about the guest real quick.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. That's right. This is membership drive, folks.

SARAH Yep.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: We are counting on your support for *After Hours*. And KPFT we'll be talking about that in just a second. But--

SARAH But I did want to introduce our guest tonight. Our guest, his name is Dr. Rembert Truluck.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Wait a minute. Let's try that again.

SARAH R-E-M-B-E-R-T. I get trouble with his name too. Rembert Truluck.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SARAH He is a minister. He's affiliated with Metropolitan Community Churches. Recently, has decided to start becoming

DEPALMA: active in Soulforce, which is the--

JIMMY CARPER: The Mel White.

SARAH The Mel White group, right?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. And Mel White being, now he's-- Mel White, before he came out of the closet, he was a ghostwriter for people like Jerry Falwell.

SARAH We've had him on the show before.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, we have.

SARAH Yeah, we've had Mel White on the show. And Dr. Truluck's book is called *Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse*.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

SARAH OK. So I hear everybody reaching to turn off their radios right now.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: No, wait.

SARAH Just hang on. Hang on. You don't really think we would have a right wing bigot on this show. I mean, give us a

DEPALMA: little credit. Dr. Truluck-- the point of this book is exactly the opposite of that. And that is it's to counter all of the negative, miserable, rotten things that you have heard religious organizations say about us, that are just utterly and absolutely untrue.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH He is a very gentle man, a very educated man. And I think you'll find this interview very interesting. So that even

DEPALMA: if you're like me and you are a non-believer in religion-- I'd draw a distinction between being spiritual and being religious, I think you'll find this to be a very interesting and uplifting interview. So you really should stick around and listen to this. We'll probably run it as close to 12:30.

JIMMY CARPER: OK

SARAH And now then, let's talk about marathon.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Let's talk about it. Membership drive-- you know KPFT. KPFT is listener-sponsored. We have no commercials ever, ever. The only thing you're going to hear that's not part of programming, maybe, a promo for somebody else's show.

SARAH That's right.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Let you know what else is on the station. That's the extent of it. And because we want to have diverse programming and you're not going to get this show on any other station.

SARAH One of the reasons I wanted to do this show tonight was because if you listen to the radio dial, we have religious

DEPALMA: stations on the right of us. We have religious stations to the left of us.

JIMMY CARPER: We're surrounded.

SARAH We are surrounded by them. And I felt like we should have a breath of fresh air in the middle somewhere. But if

DEPALMA: KPFT is gone, voices like that are also gone.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. That's right. And we've been enjoying increased listenership in the past three or four years. This show has really enjoyed that benefit. As a matter of fact, we are probably the most listened to show on the station at midnight.

SARAH The money has gone for very basic things. We now have a ceiling that does not leak.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SARAH We have the air conditioner that air conditions.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: And for the first time in the history of this station, and the station has been around since 1970, we have carpet.

SARAH We have carpet. We have a tower that we can actually be heard now.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yep.

SARAH We get letters from people in little bitty towns that we never heard of now that we can go back and say, where is

DEPALMA: this place? So we are being heard by a much larger audience than ever before. The point is that your money goes to real-- sometimes, you send money and you think oh, yeah, they're going to Cancun on this. Not around here.

JIMMY CARPER: No, honey. No, no, no, no. Not going to happen. And also, we're heard around the world now.

SARAH Well, via the internet.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

SARAH And since we started talking about that on the net, well, I've begun getting emails from all over the place, which

DEPALMA: is really cool. I mean, we're actually being listened to in New Zealand and places like that, which is great. And I'm always envious because I say to them, I write back and say, you realize that you're light years ahead of us in New Zealand, right?

JIMMY CARPER: They are.

SARAH We will have to run for ages to catch up to where you are right now.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: They've got transgendered people in governments and almost all levels of government. It's incredible.

SARAH In Australia as well. I mean, Australia has just come a-- I mean--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: As a matter of fact, there's some-- right here. The top twins. Two women middle aged women, who sing-- they're entertainers, lesbians, and they're on National TV in New Zealand.

SARAH I think that's interesting, lesbian twins.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes.

SARAH Boy, Freud would have a good time with that.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, gosh. It's not all that rare in twins, actually.

SARAH Really?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH Well, that's a whole different show, but--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's certainly is.

SARAH Yeah, We need them on the show.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Anyway, we've been talking about all kinds of things, except for the number to call and pledge your support--

SARAH That's right.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: --which is 713-526-5738, 526-KPFT. Let's hear it again, Melanie.

MELANIE: Has my mic on?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

MELANIE: Hey, check it out.

SARAH Your mic is on, sweetie.

DEPALMA:

MELANIE: Oh, wow.

JIMMY CARPER: We've got two others here in the studio. Melanie and Beth.

MELANIE: Yeah, you've always surprised me like that.

JIMMY CARPER: Ta-da.

MELANIE: There was something out there.

JIMMY CARPER: She was doing some smart ass thing--

MELANIE: Oh, Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: --over there, so I thought--

MELANIE: Well, I've heard it like so many times.

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

MELANIE: For those who spell better than you can remember numbers, it's 713-JAM with a J-A-M, KPFT.

SARAH KPFT, keep pushing for transgenders.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. Keep pledging.

SARAH Keep pledging for transgenders, that's even better.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Big Roy is in the lobby, ready to take your pledge. And I know he wants to hear from you. You call him every week with all kinds of information and--

SARAH And interesting calls.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: --interesting tidbits.

SARAH Sober or otherwise.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: He loves it. He loves it and he wants to hear you now this week.

SARAH Melanie has some important news. She's got something exciting happen.

DEPALMA:

MELANIE: Oh, yeah. We're going to announce that all over the radio.

JIMMY CARPER: Of course.

MELANIE: OK, well, I was fortunate to be able to go down and get my name and gender legally changed on my identification. So all official.

JIMMY CARPER: Happy birthday.

SARAH Happy birthday. She's official now.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: She's official.

MELANIE: Yeah, I'm official or--

JIMMY CARPER: Melanie Ingrid Black.

MELANIE: Yeah. My business cards just have my initials on them.

SARAH And Melanie is also a new parent.

DEPALMA:

MELANIE: Well, not exactly. There's a new baby in the household, but I had nothing physically to do with it other than driving down to the hospital.

SARAH Well, OK.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: And driving many months prior too.

SARAH Yeah. Back and forth.

DEPALMA:

MELANIE: Back and forth, back and forth.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MELANIE: But yeah, we have Ethan James Langley in our household now.

SARAH And Melanie hasn't had a lick of sleep since.

DEPALMA:

MELANIE: I don't get any before that, but--

SARAH And of course--

DEPALMA:

MELANIE: That's a loaded statement.

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding.

SARAH And also, in the studio with us is the one and only, Beth Richard.

DEPALMA:

BETH Beth Richard, that's me.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey. Hi, Beth.

BETH How are you doing there?

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Great.

BETH Oh, that's good.

RICHARDS:

SARAH You want to make a pitch for KPFT or keep pledging funds.

DEPALMA:

BETH Keep pledging funds for transgenders.

RICHARDS:

SARAH Keep pledging funds today. That's right.

DEPALMA:

BETH Yes, indeed, folks. Now, I don't know. I'm sitting here and it's chilly and I'm getting goosebumps. And it's like, it occurs to me that my God, there's air conditioning in here.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that works.

BETH It actually works. So your pledges are very much appreciated. They're doing something. They're actually making a difference.

JIMMY CARPER: And the equipment runs a whole lot better.

BETH When's the last time we had a fire in here anyway? I mean, jeez, it's been a long time.

RICHARDS:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BETH I know it happened. And I know it happened. It was like what?

RICHARDS:

SARAH And that hasn't happen for two or three weeks, I think.

DEPALMA:

BETH No, it's been like what? Five years ago, was it?

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: How long ago was that?

SARAH I'll tell you how basic the repairs are around here. I am just grateful that we have a toilet that will flush.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. It's brand new too.

BETH Yeah. I think it's really great. You've got everything fixed up. I mean, anywhere now, I mean, there's no fires in the studio here. They're all reserved for Han-Net. Yeah. So really, I mean, 526-KPFT, 713-526-5738.

And if you were in prison and your normally listen to Ray Hill, you can send the money to us. We'll pass it to Ray, eventually.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

BETH If we don't, we'll see you in prison. As good as it's getting around here, I mean, there's still plenty to do. I'm looking at the wires hanging out of the ceiling that are running around.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, this is community radio.

BETH So believe me, we're not done. Anything that you could possibly see to send our way would get used in a very useful way.

SARAH I always like-- I like to tell people, if you remember the radio studio in Northern Exposure--

DEPALMA:

BETH Yeah.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: That's us.

SARAH Yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's pretty much us.

BETH I got this decorating technique. It was like tech modern or something like that.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: No, but seriously,

BETH Burlap walls and--

RICHARDS:

MELANIE: Art taco or something.

JIMMY CARPER: Chris, who does the news here with Big Roy, once figured out that of all of the radio stations in Houston, he figured out that there's about 5,000 hours per week of radio time.

MELANIE: That's probably very much true.

JIMMY CARPER: And out of 5,000 hours, there is exactly hours of queer radio.

MELANIE: And exactly 100% of that is on--

JIMMY CARPER: This station.

MELANIE: --this station.

SARAH It was an excellent article in *The Triangle* about that by Patricia Nell Warren, talking about how this way out may

DEPALMA: go out of business because of lack of funding. The gay community not supporting its own programming.

JIMMY CARPER: They're in serious financial trouble.

SARAH Yeah. And I want to point that out too, although, I don't think we're in any financial trouble right at this moment,

DEPALMA: supporting queer radio, that's really important. What I said earlier, I said it jokingly, but I was completely serious. And that is that we are surrounded on the dial by right wing religious stations.

And we really are the voice of freedom around here. And I mean, in truth, I mean, that's-- and if you think that's important, then you ought to contribute money toward it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SARAH And especially, if you're gay or lesbian or transgendered or bisexual or whatever, there is very little gay

DEPALMA: programming available to you, especially in this part of Texas.

MELANIE: Especially now that we're on the internet in-- oh, I don't know, places like, what's the name of that town, in Falls City, Nebraska.

BETH There'd be a lot more enlightenment in more than just Houston when this kind of thing gets out in the world.

RICHARDS:

SARAH There are only five openly transgender radio hosts in the country, and three of them are associated with this

DEPALMA: show. OK, I mean--

JIMMY CARPER: That's sad.

SARAH And that's sad--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's really sad.

SARAH --but it tells you something. And again--

DEPALMA:

MELANIE: I thought we dropped down to four. Didn't Massachusetts closed down?

SARAH Well, Massachusetts closed down, but they now have one in Minneapolis.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

MELANIE: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SARAH So folks--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: And then we've had transgender programming here for over seven years.

SARAH That's right. That's right. So it's 526-KPFT, 526-5738.

DEPALMA:

BETH 713-526--

RICHARDS:

SARAH And I know that we've got these premiums. We've got coffee mugs and bumper stickers. But let's face it. You're

DEPALMA: not pledging to \$60 or whatever it is to get a coffee mug. If you're going to pledge, you're going to pledge because you believe in this. And da da da da da, we accept credit card.

JIMMY CARPER: Ta-da. We sure do.

MELANIE: Not to mention the direct deposit thing. What do they call? Electronic funds transfer.

JIMMY CARPER: EFT, yeah.

MELANIE: EFT, that's really a good way to do things.

JIMMY CARPER: Love that, yeah.

MELANIE: They don't even bug you. It's just, you tell them when to do it and they do it.

JIMMY CARPER: And just once a month, they take \$5 out of your--

SARAH And they call it the sustaining memberships, right?

DEPALMA:

MELANIE: Yeah, EFT, electronically funding the transgender show.

BETH There you go.

RICHARDS:

SARAH Hey, we're doing good at this.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, let me give you a little sample of what you've come to love this show for. This is one of the most requested pieces that we have ever done on the air, and people just love it. I don't think you can get it very many other places, just here. And part of your money is going for stuff like this. Are you ready?

MELANIE: Go for it.

KIRK (ON RECORDING): Space, a final frontier. Specimen gathering mission on planet alpha 177.

RECORDING:

Mr. Spock is much stronger than the ordinary human being. Aroused, his great physical strength could kill. But it's a risk I'll have to take. Something bothering you Mr. Spock?

SPOCK (ON RECORDING): May I say that I have not thoroughly enjoyed serving with humans. I find their illogic and foolish emotions a constant irritant.

KIRK (ON RECORDING): Unlike you, we humans are full of unpredictable emotions-- love, tenderness.

RECORDING:

SPOCK (ON RECORDING): Yes. Yes. If I seem insensitive to what you're going through, captain, understand, it's the way I am. Don't be afraid. Here's my hand. All of you are beautiful. More beautiful than any dream of beauty I've ever known.

KIRK (ON RECORDING): What is your point, Mr. Spock?

RECORDING:

SPOCK (ON I love you. I can love you.

RECORDING):

KIRK (ON Kiss me. Are you out of your mind?

RECORDING):

SPOCK (ON The prospect appeared quite attractive to you, a moment ago.

RECORDING):

KIRK (ON You don't really want to hurt me, do you? Put that thing away.

RECORDING):

SPOCK (ON No, I don't think so.

RECORDING):

KIRK (ON No. I can't-- It's painless and quick.

RECORDING):

SPOCK (ON Entry made by second officer Spock.

RECORDING):

KIRK (ON It's possible he might have hit the wrong entry point.

RECORDING):

SPOCK (ON Yes. Very well, captain.

RECORDING):

KIRK (ON Try again.

RECORDING):

SPOCK (ON If it pleases you.

RECORDING):

KIRK (ON What are you waiting for? Hurry.

RECORDING):

MAN (ON If you'll excuse the intrusion, captain.

RECORDING):

KIRK (ON Bury the hatchet.

RECORDING):

SPOCK (ON RECORDING): An appropriate choice of terms, captain. I won't fight you anymore.

KIRK (ON RECORDING): Oh, I feel so weak. I'll be glad this is over.

SPOCK (ON RECORDING): I'm behaving disgracefully.

KIRK (ON RECORDING): Believe me, Mr. Spock, it was painful in more ways than one. I [INAUDIBLE]. Captain's log supplement. I've seen a part of myself no man should ever see. I don't know why I have not been infected. Thank you, Mr. Spock.

JIMMY CARPER: See what I mean? I mean, that's just part of the reason that you listen to this show.

SARAH I still say my favorite ad was the chainsaws and the cats.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That was scary.

MELANIE: Oh, no.

JIMMY CARPER: I remember those.

SARAH The ad was something along the lines of if you don't contribute, the cats get it. And you hear the sound of the chainsaw on the background.

BETH Well, that's kind of frightening now that there's a transgender group called Cats.

RICHARDS:

SARAH And people were calling us and they weren't contributing any money. They were just furious. You didn't harm

DEPALMA: those cats, did you?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. So we didn't repeat those. Anyway--

SARAH But that was one of my favorites.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: So you have an interview.

SARAH Yes.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, first of all, we still want people to give us a call at 713-526-5738, 526-KPFT.

SARAH And you can even send in the money while the interview is on.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SARAH OK.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: The phone still work.

SARAH Yeah, that's right.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: We can take your credit card number and it takes 90 seconds.

SARAH OK, so now we're going to go from Spock and Kirk, and being substantial to-- this is-- we were just talking about

DEPALMA: being diverse radio. Oh, my God. Are we dippers?

JIMMY CARPER: Are we ever?

SARAH OK, so we are going to go from that to this interview with Dr. Truluck. Now once again, I want to say, please, I

DEPALMA: know that there are a lot of people in the community that if you say the word religion, they don't walk, they dive for cover. We wouldn't do that to you. This is not KSPJ here, OK.

MELANIE: The reason they dive for cover because they've been abused.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SARAH Yeah, and of course, and I certainly have myself, and so I identified with this book a lot. So we're going to go

DEPALMA: directly to the interview. The book is called *Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse*, and this is with Dr. Truluck.

[AUDIO PLAYBACK]

SARAH Well, Dr. Truluck, welcome to *After Hours*.

**DEPALMA (ON
RECORDING):**

TRULUCK (ON Thank you very much.

RECORDING):

SARAH If you could, I'd like to start with a little bit. Let's ask about your background. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

**DEPALMA (ON
RECORDING):**

TRULUCK (ON Well, I grew up in South Carolina in a Southern Baptist Church, felt called to the Ministry, went to Furman

RECORDING): University, went for the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, where I earned three graduate degrees, including a Doctorate Theology degree. And got the doctorate in 1968, which meant that I went on then to become pastor of South Main Street Baptist church In Greenwood South Carolina.

At the same time, I began to write Sunday school lessons for adults for the Southern Baptist Convention. Did that for about six years, seven years. And then became pastor of some other churches, became professor of religion in the Baptist College of Charleston, South Carolina from 1973 to 1981.

And then they discovered that I was gay. I was outed by someone who knew I was gay. And I resigned from the college, went to Atlanta, Georgia and became involved with the Metropolitan Community Church, at that point, in Atlanta, began to do Bible teaching and preaching and writing for the gay community.

And I served as pastor of Golde Gate MCC in San Francisco for several years, and then the MCC in Nashville, Tennessee. And in 1998, came back to South Carolina to look after my parents. My mother now is 89 years old and we'll be celebrating her 90th birthday in August. She's been very supportive to me and I'm very grateful for that.

Then I came back out to Oakland, California in 1996 and began a website called Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse, which is the URL, that is my name www.truluck.com, T-R-U-L-U-C-K. And then that was turned into a book, *Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse*. It was published by a Chi Rho Press near Washington, DC. It's also a part of the MCC work, and published it in January of 2000.

And it's now in its second printing. And I'm very happy with the response I've received from this. Just this week, I got letters from people in South Africa and Hong Kong, both who were using the book for a small group study and support.

So that's just a little bit of my background. You may want to ask other things. But these are the things that-- this is information we put on the back of the book to describe me.

SARAH Well, I just wanted the audience to know that as we go into this discussion, that you're really qualified to be **DEPALMA (ON RECORDING):** talking about this. Be surrounded, as we are, by religious stations on either side of the dial, I thought it would be a good thing to bring a breath of fresh air between those two stations on the dial.

Let's talk a little bit about the title of the book. It is called *Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse*. What do you mean by Bible abuse?

TRULUCK (ON RECORDING): So basically, the book is a response to the abusive use of the Bible against gays, lesbians, bisexual, transgender people, and everybody else that's been oppressed and alienated by religion. I grew up in the South, and of course, Texas as part of this environment also.

And right now, in this country, there is a great deal of reassessing and ferment and confusion and conflict in all the religious groups. And a lot of it centers in the attitude and treatment of gay and lesbian people. And by far, the basic source of homophobia, their fear of homosexuality and abusive attitudes and actions up to physical violence against gay is primarily based in religion.

And the religion that is so anti-gay is primarily based in the misuse of the Bible. One of the things I have to deal with, at great length in my book and the website, is just what is the Bible.

Texas Baptist Convention has recently withdrawn all money support from the seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention because of the way that the Southern Baptist Convention has interpreted the Bible to reject women, as well as rejecting gays and lesbians, and to teach a lot of things that many, many Baptists don't agree with.

In fact, I saw, just this week, where two of the professors at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, have been requested to resign because they would not sign a statement that they believe women could not be called into the Ministry, which the Southern Baptist Convention has taken a position on them.

So this is not something that just people like myself and other gay and lesbian people that are in the spiritual community are concerned about. Even within this denomination of Southern Baptists and many others says a great deal of conflict and confusion over these issues.

SARAH Well, we had a minister on the show, I guess, about a year and a half ago. And he had told us that the only thing **DEPALMA (ON** the Bible discussed less than homosexuality was transgenders or transsexualism. How can these verses be used **RECORDING):** in the way that they are as weapons against us?

TRULUCK (ON Well, the problem is very clear when the Bible says many things often contradictory about many things. And so **RECORDING):** for people to claim that the Bible is an absolutely word for word, word of God is just ludicrous. It doesn't follow from the evidence that that's even possible.

The Bible is almost like a dictionary, where you can take the words and make them say anything you want them to. And this has been one of the problems. One problem with that about the condemnation of gay people from the Bible is the fact that there is no word for homosexual in the Old or New Testament, Greek, or Hebrew.

There is no word for sex in the Bible. That is not a concept that was made into a word. Of course, there was sex. Of course, there was this homosexuality, but there's no word for it. The word sex is a Latin word, sexualis. And if you look in a Bible concordance, which list all the words in the Old and the New Testament, you'll never find the word sex because it just isn't in there.

We live in a culture, of course, that is so sexually-oriented that whenever anything comes up, people are able to give a sexual slant to it. One thing that's happened in Bible studies has been reading sex into many passages that did not really contain it in the original.

The Hebrew of the Old Testament is a very, very limited simple language. It has only about a 30,000 word vocabulary. And there is no past, present and future, just something that's in process or something that's completed.

The New Testament Greek, however, is overly complex, over 250,000 words vocabulary in many, many forms of the verb that we don't even have in English. Translating any of these languages into another language is very difficult, if not, impossible. And there's always differences.

But how can people say that the Bible, literally, word for word, is the word of God when you go to any big religion bookstore and you've got about 35 different translations, widely disagreeing with each other on many things? So you've got a confused picture there.

The problem with using the Bible against anybody is that people read their own prejudices and their own point of view into it and interpret it that way. So that's where that comes from. And that's why I took the title, *Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse*, because the abusive use of the Bible seems to be the basis for a great view of the religious rejection and condemnation of gay people.

SARAH One of the things I like about going to the Metropolitan Community Church, whether it's in Houston or elsewhere, is I'm always struck. I love to watch the differences in the couples that come forward. And I love to see the number of children that are involved in these churches.

What exactly is it in the Bible that they're complaining about? How can they look at this and see evil, coming out of the Bible?

TRULUCK (ON RECORDING): Well, the way that this is done is to take six passages of scripture, and basically six. They're called the clobber passages, three in the Old Testament, three in the New Testament. And they are talking about-- in the Old Testament-- and I think that the Leviticus passages and the passage in Romans are talking about idolatrous religious practices that involve sexuality and sexual acts in the ancient world.

The others are simply incorrectly translated. There is no word for homosexual or homosexuality in Greek. So to use that word to translate a passage, as is done in 1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10 is just incorrect. That's not what the word means.

And same thing is true in the most famous one of the passages. There's Genesis 19, verse 5, which says bring these men out that we may know them. And the word "know" is translated as often as have sex with, but that's not what the word means.

I've given a detailed analysis of this in my website and in the book. And it's something that's hard to answer in just a few minutes on a conversation. This is one of the problems that we face in dealing with this. There's so much misinformation and ignorance that exists within the religious environment. That correcting it takes a lot longer than people are willing to sit down and listen.

That's why my book is in the format of providing material for an ongoing discussion group, a dialogue session. So people can read this material, think about it, talk about it, and make some change in their attitude.

The Southern Baptists are peculiar people, not that there's anything bad about them, they're just different. And they're the largest denomination in the United States that's outside of Roman Catholic. They're about 16 million Southern Baptists.

And the way that this change took place for Southern Baptists for about 20 years ago, they began to change from being a denomination, committed completely to local church autonomy, separation of church and state, and the authority of the individual in their own religious and spiritual life, which is called the priesthood of believers.

But gradually, over a long period of time, they are several years, they began to be a bombardment of the thinking of people about making your religion more legalistic and judgmental or absolute, taking the Bible in equal authority to the authority of the spirit of Jesus. And this, gradually, indoctrinated and conditioned people to think differently.

But what I hope to do, with my website and book, is to gradually help people to think through and change in another direction. I don't think it can happen just with demonstrations and protests and slogans, and so forth. It's got to be done, one by one, individually, as people learn new information and they change the way they see things.

That's hard to do because what we're asking people to do now is that what you've been brought up to believe that homosexuals are an abomination to God and people get scripture at, use it to try to prove that. In order to show that this is not true, It takes a while. And that's one of our problems.

But I think time is on our side because if we keep telling the truth and keep giving accurate information and people see it as credible, acceptable, believable, accurate information, it will gradually bring change.

SARAH As I was listening to you speak, I was reminded of a story many years ago. I'm going to give away my age here, I guess. I was a part of a group of Freedom Riders. And we were in this white church in Smyrna, Georgia. And I remember this minister-- his sermon was on why the Tower of Babel-- why the story of the Tower of Babel justified segregation?

And I never forgot that about how the Bible could be turned and twisted and used to be made to say things that were just insane. I just never could understand that. It's one of the things I like about your book, is it's very well laid out. And it really takes you step by step by step. So if you're like me and you're not a particularly religious person, it's still an easy book to go through.

TRULUCK (ON RECORDING): Well, this one thing just took a while. I've worked on that book for about 11 years before it came to the point that we wanted to publish it. When I was in Atlanta, MCC, the pastor there, for a while, was Chuck Larson, who was pastor of the church in San Francisco at one time too.

And he realized what I was doing and what I had been doing, what I could do. And he said, I want you to start a Bible study for us here at MCC on the Bible as the friend of gays and lesbians. He said, there's a lot there that's very supportive and very helpful, but people overlook it because they're so preoccupied with these verses used against us.

So that was the point of view that I began with on this. So I started doing Bible studies on things that would be helpful to us in dealing with stress, dealing with family pressures, dealing with being outed, of coming out, dealing with people turning against us, and oppression. Oppression and abuse was one of the things Jesus dealt with a great deal.

And so I gradually began to write out these Bible studies that we would study, and then pass them out and we would discuss them. And then with the Golden Gate MCC in San Francisco and did the same thing. Went in [INAUDIBLE] and did the same thing. And I've been to a lot of individual MCC congregations over the country within the last 10 years, and would go through a lot of this material.

So it wasn't until, really, in 1999 that I put all this together in the format that it is now. And I feel pretty good about it because I think that it gives an orderly and systematic look at the main issues, spiritual issues that gays and lesbians face. And it takes a while to make this change because I'm asking people to change the way they see God, the universe, themselves, and other people. And that takes a while.

SARAH Gee and outside of that, there's nothing too tough, is there?

DEPALMA (ON RECORDING):

TRULUCK (ON No, it's very simple, except for trying to change everything.

RECORDING):

SARAH That's all. Well, I have to say the website is very well laid out. It's easy to go through. It's easy to navigate. The

DEPALMA (ON book is very well laid out, and it's a step-by-step process. And you have some history and some connection to the

RECORDING): folks here in Houston, don't you?

TRULUCK (ON Oh, yes. I've been a couple of times to do a lengthy programs in Houston MCC and also to Maranatha Fellowship

RECORDING): MCC. And this past January, I had the opportunity to be in Houston for quite a while. We did workshops, not only for the church, but for pastors of a number of churches who want to do studies on my book in their churches.

And yeah, wonderful turnout for this. And one of the people in the church, Adrian [INAUDIBLE], who is a partner with my good friend, the associate pastor Carolyn Mobley, did videotapes of all the workshops that I did on presentation.