



Strangers  
*and* Friends  
*at the*  
Welcome Table

Contemporary Christianities  
*in the*  
American South

JAMES HUDNUT-BEUMLER

# CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITIES

IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

PART III

# SIX CLASSES

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Hospitality &  
Hurricane Katrina  
Responses

Rock of Ages Cleft  
for Me: Southern  
Traditions  
Revisited

Brand New Start:  
Southern Religious  
Innovations

Southern  
Christianities in  
Harmony and  
Conflict



# BRAND NEW START: FOUR TOPICS

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Megachurches and  
the Reinvention  
of Southern  
Church Life

The Changing  
Face of the  
Catholic South

Christian  
Homeschoolers

Southern,  
Christian, and Gay



# CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOLERS



- “Our oldest was 12, and though he initially attended a good Christian school, the Lord began to impress on us that we needed to start homeschooling. As we prayed about this option, it became clear that this was what the Lord wanted. But the decision to homeschool was not made because of superior education in our case but for the purpose of discipleship.” David and Leslie Nunnery
- Large Families-Be Fruitful and Multiply
- Biblical Complementarity-Mom stays home
- Distrust of “Government Schools”
- Teaching Young Earth Creationism
- A differentially white movement, featuring parents whose own parents had them in “Christian” academies



NOT JOHN HOLT'S  
UNSCHOOLING, BUT JUST  
THE OPPOSITE-  
PROVIDING CHILDREN  
WITH THEIR GOD-GIVEN  
TEACHERS.

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# ABOVE RUBIES

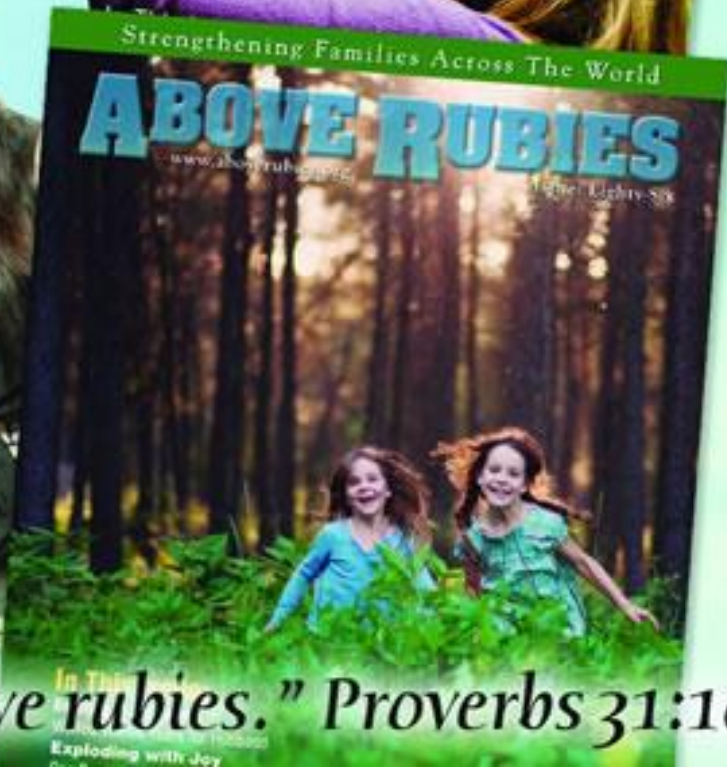
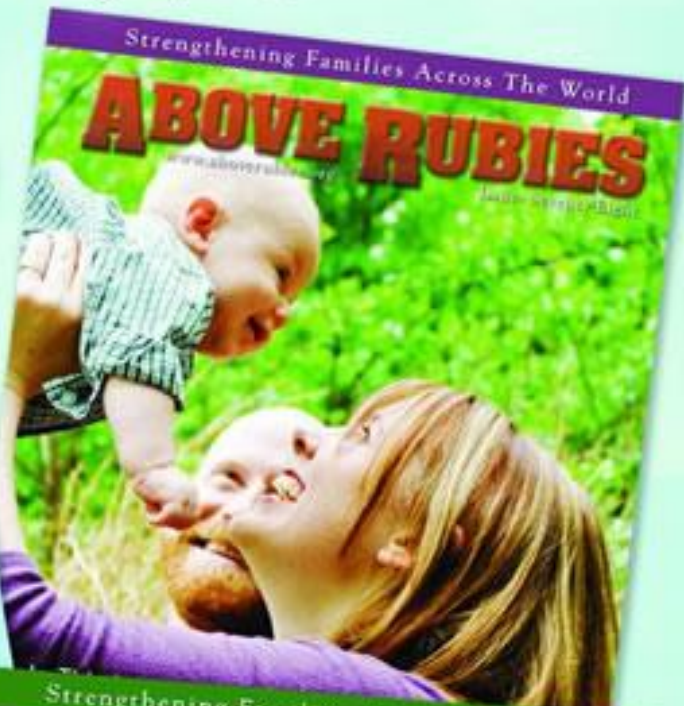
*is the Magazine for You!*

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*“Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies.” Proverbs 31:10*



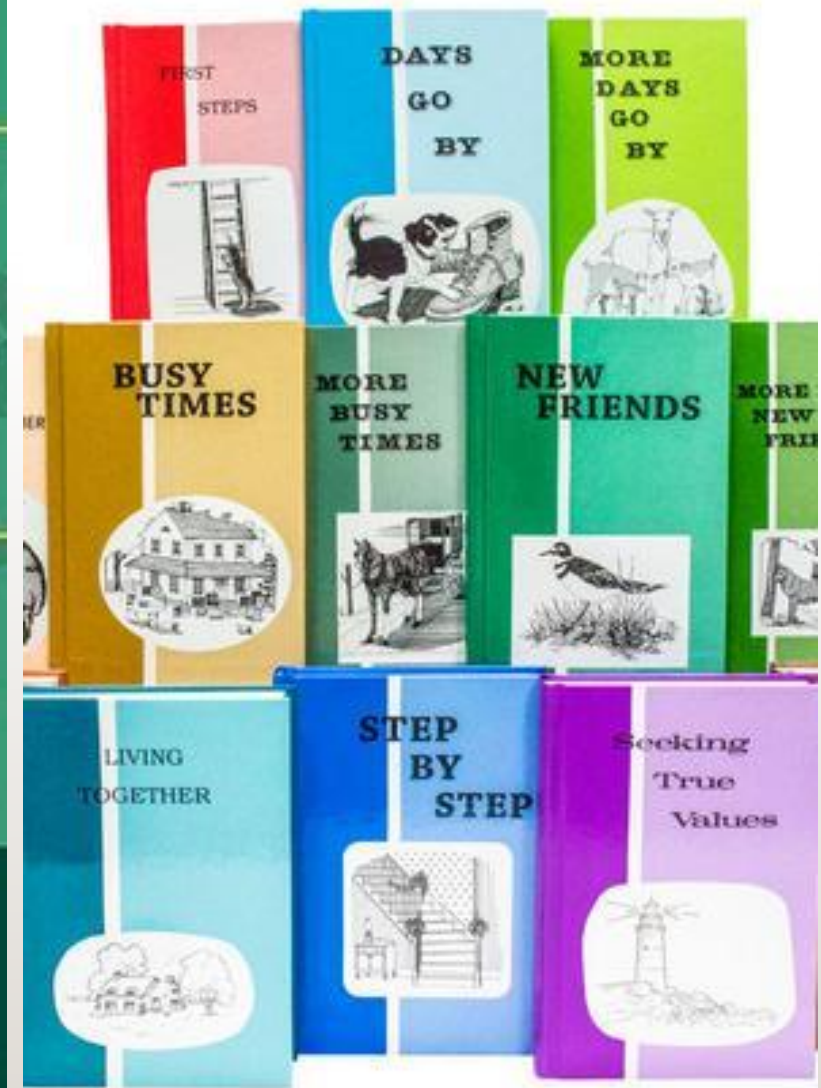


# CAT & DOG THEOLOGY

RETHINKING OUR RELATIONSHIP  
WITH OUR MASTER:  
LIVING PASSIONATELY FOR THE  
GLORY OF GOD



Bob Sjogren & Gerald Robison



Formed

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6



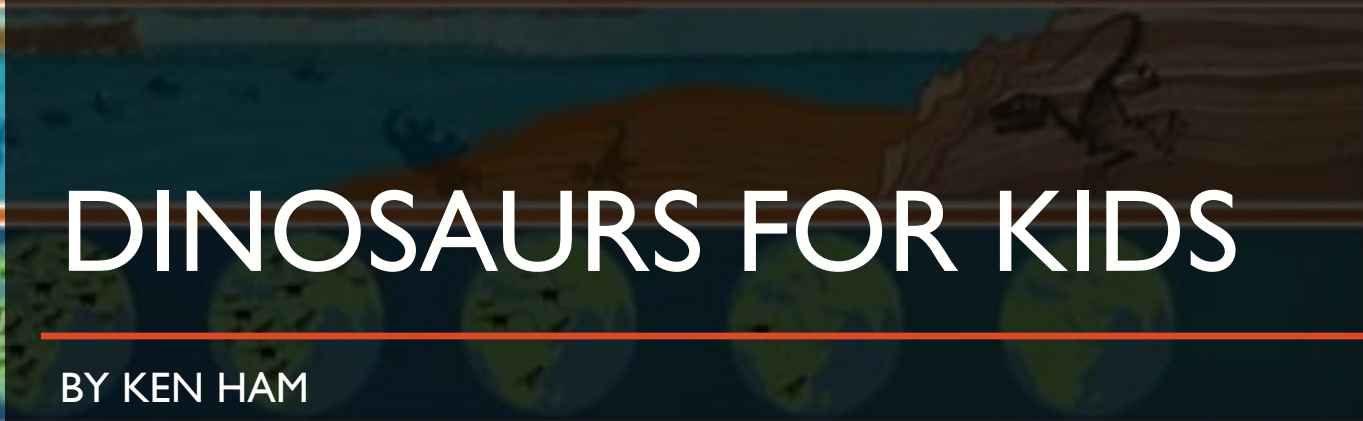
Fearless



Fallen



Flood



Faded



Found



Fiction





**Gay-Affirming  
Congregations in Southern  
States**

**SOUTHERN,  
CHRISTIAN,  
AND GAY**

State	Total Number of Congregations	Gay-affirming Congregations	Percentage of Gay-Affirming Congregations
North Carolina	15,737	185	1.18
Florida	15,611	225	1.44
Georgia	12,292	122	0.99
Tennessee	11,542	87	0.75
Alabama	10,514	48	0.46
Virginia	10,088	168	1.67
South Carolina	8,051	41	0.51
Kentucky	7,745	65	0.84
Mississippi	6,765	18	0.27
Arkansas	6,697	29	0.43
Louisiana	5,841	37	0.63
West Virginia	4,413	25	0.63
for comparison:			
Vermont	854	63	7.38

# PIONEERS

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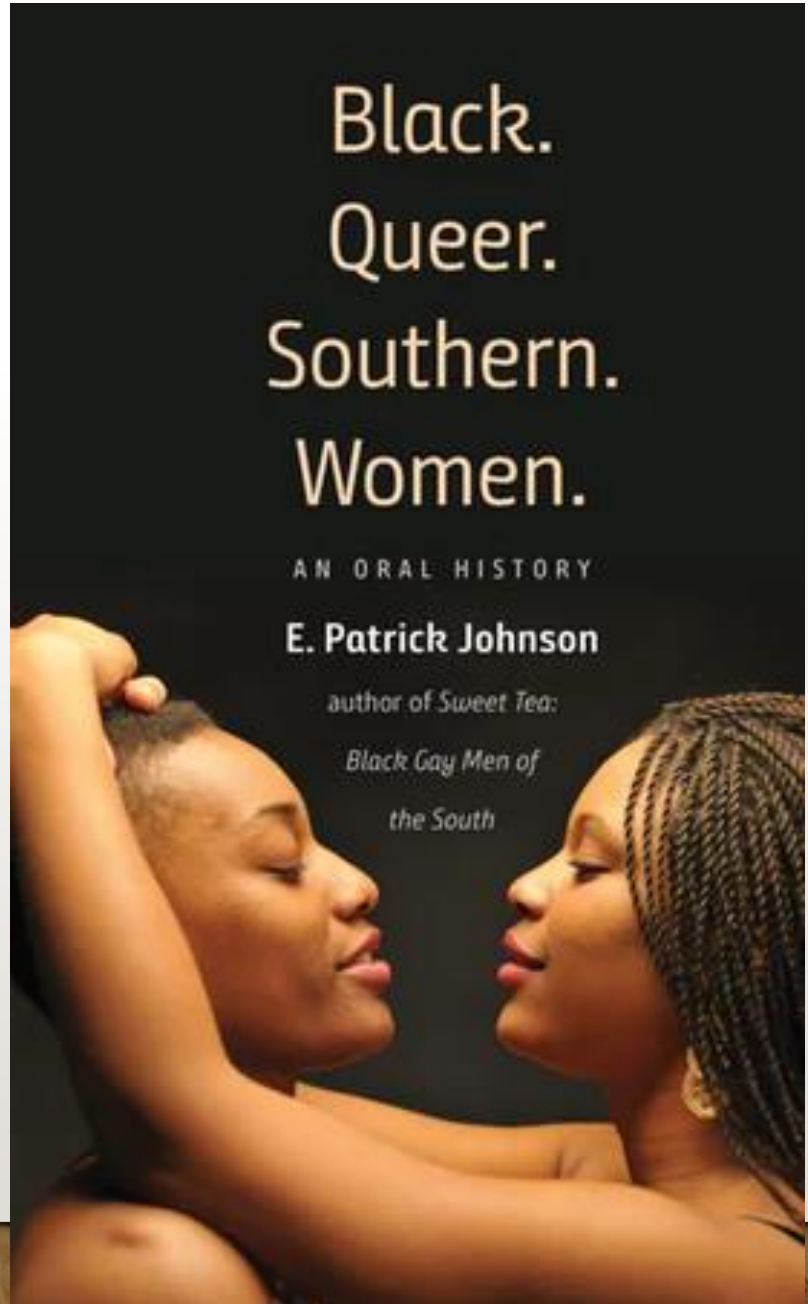
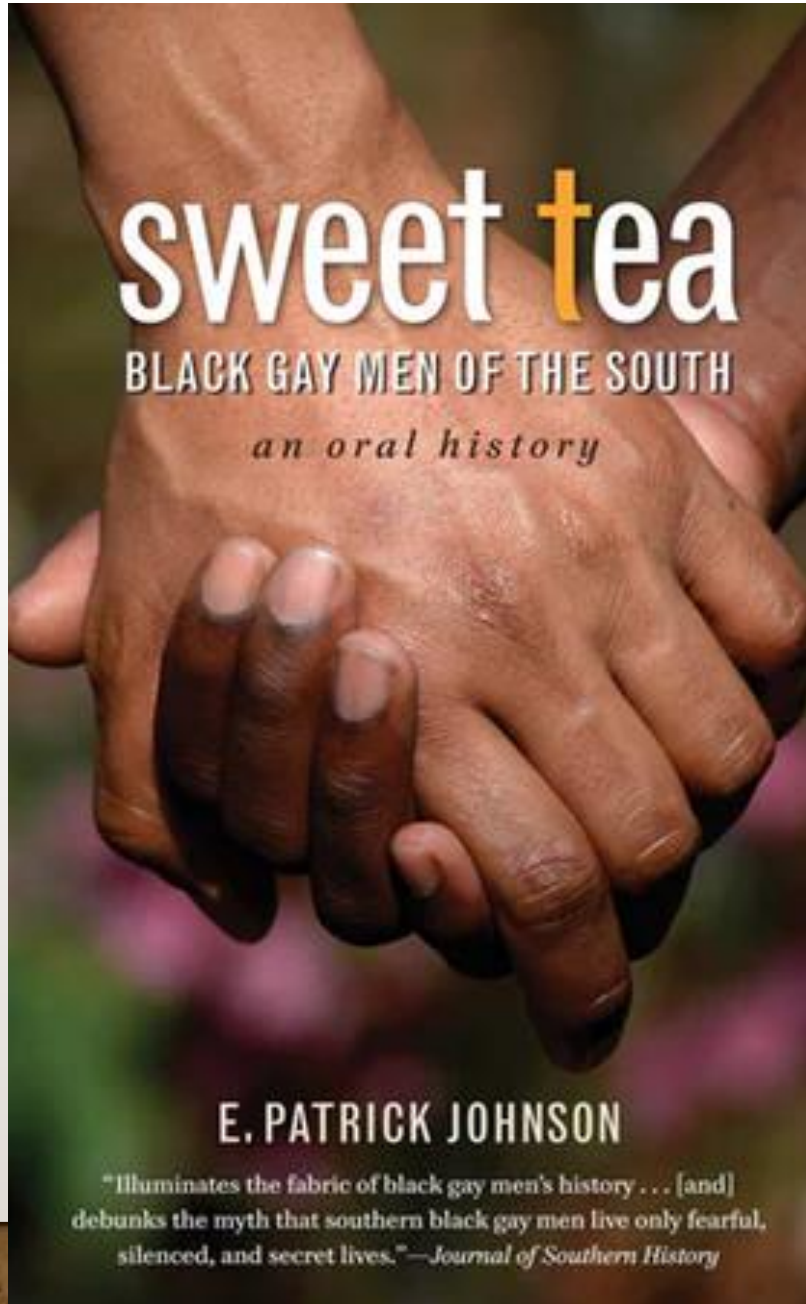
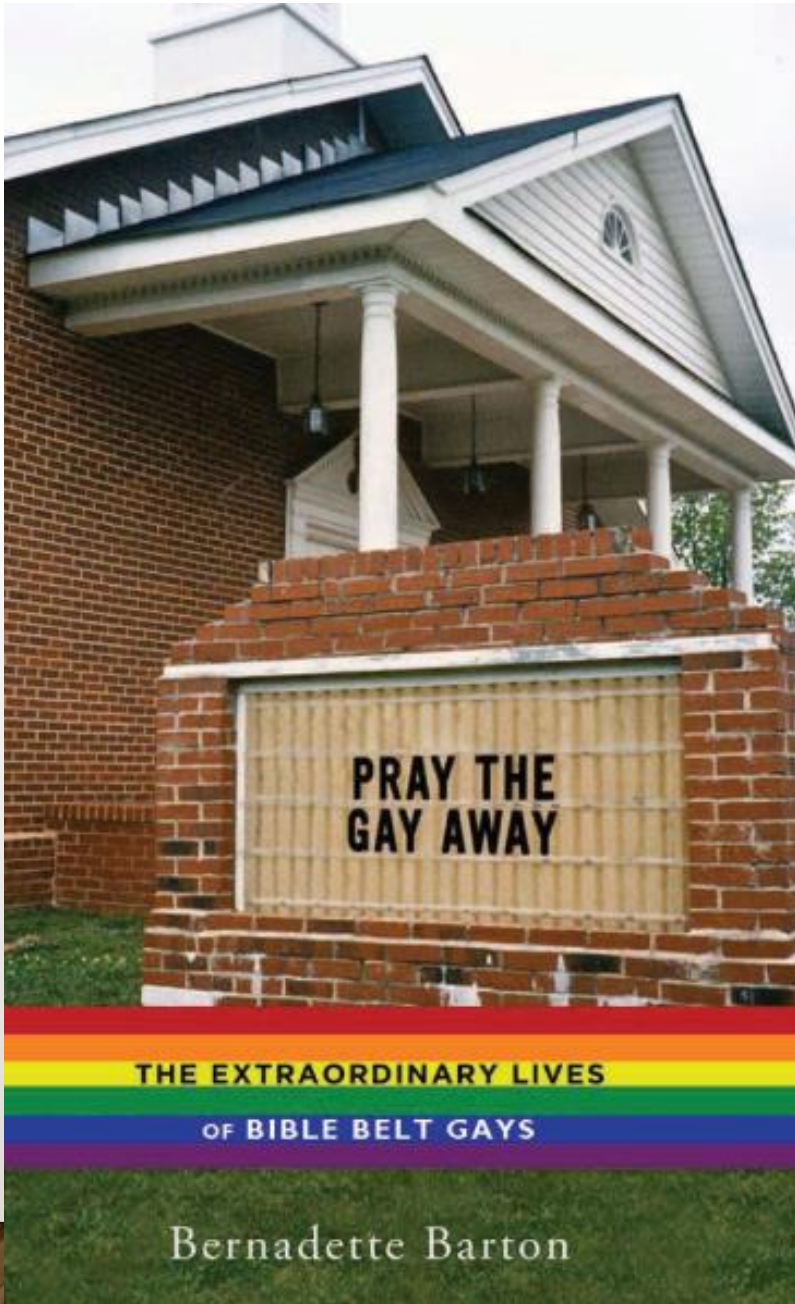
**Rev. George Augustine Hyde**

American Holy Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic Eastern Church, 1957



**Rev. Troy Perry**

Metropolitan Community Church, 1968



# REV. ED SANDERS AND THE WHOSOEVER CHURCH

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## INCLUSIVE

*Embracing, Welcoming, Accepting*

**We practice radical inclusion by offering everyone the experience of unconditional love.**

**Embracing:** We openly embrace relationships with all people.

**Welcoming:** We gladly welcome WHOSOEVER: Come one, Come all.

**Accepting:** We lovingly accept all people.

- <sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” **Matthew 9:10-13**



# REV. GREG BULLARD AT COVENANT OF THE CROSS

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- Faith doesn't make everything okay; faith makes it possible to get through anything.
- You are not the sin you committed.
- Speaking the truth in love matters.
- God is about making you a better person. If it's just about getting saved, you might as well get shot so you can go to heaven—but God is about making you a better person through sanctification in this world. Be changed by the renewing of your mind .



OLIVIERO SOTOMAYOR

# MATTHEW VINES ON RELIGIOUS REACTIONS

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“We feel the loss, hurt and sorrow of those whose loved ones have been injured and killed in Orlando, Florida. We extend our sympathy and our prayers and ask God to comfort them in their sorrow, fill the void in their lives, and give them the peace of God. We also lift our prayers for those who have been injured, believing that God will heal and restore them, physically, emotionally and spiritually.”

But not all LGBT Christians heard good news in some of those well-meaning messages.

Matthew Vines, author of “God and the Gay Christian,” noted in [an op-ed for TIME Magazine](#) that nearly 50 percent of LGBT Americans are Christians, like himself. For them, Sunday mornings are a reminder that they are not accepted in many pews - that many traditional churches view homosexuality as incompatible with Christian beliefs.

“The core problem is that so many Christians still talk about the LGBT community like they’re not a part of the church and like they’re not part of the same family. That’s the core problem: They use ‘othering’ language that presupposes that Christians and LGBT people are separate, mutually exclusive groups,”

