

In December 2004, Soulforce wrote a letter to James Dobson. We did not get a response. We then contacted Dobson through a mutual friend, and again, asked him to meet with us, hear our concerns and work toward a resolution. In February, we received word that Dr. Dobson had refused our request. Therefore, we decided to write Jim Daly, the new President and CEO of Focus on the Family. The following letter was faxed and mailed on March 9, 2005.

March 9, 2005

Dear Mr. Daly,

It is with hope in our hearts that we congratulate you on your new appointment as the President and CEO of Focus on the Family.

Soulforce, an interfaith organization, works toward freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless nonviolent resistance (www.soulforce.org). We are people of faith who love God and cherish our families just like you. We honor our nation and we seek a loving society that protects children, that is inclusive and tolerant, and that seeks liberty and justice for all.

For many years we have been deeply troubled and concerned about the false and damaging things that Dr. Dobson and Focus on the Family have been saying about us. We are not asking Dr. Dobson to change his deeply held religious beliefs. In fact, we assume that your beliefs are similar to Dr. Dobson's. We do ask, however, that you closely examine the way in which Dr. Dobson and Focus on the Family misuse social science research, taken out of context, and make public comments that play on people's fears. In doing so, Dr. Dobson routinely breaks the commandment to not bear false witness against thy neighbor (Matthew 19:18-19.). We have written, faxed, and called; asking him to simply meet with a few us. Despite scripture's call for those who disagree to love one another, Dr. Dobson has ignored or refused each request to hear our concerns and seek an honest resolution.

Since Dr. Dobson has refused to even hear us, we are planning to hold a family picnic and rally at 12:30 pm on Sunday, May 1, 2005. The picnic will include speakers and singers to celebrate all types of families and will be held on Explorer Drive near the entrance to Focus on the Family. At 8pm that evening, the dynamic and spirit-filled voices of Jason & deMarco will be in concert at Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st Street.

We are writing to ask that you prayerfully consider meeting with us as an ambassador of good-will from Focus on the Family. Imagine what God might do if we are all totally honest and lovingly frank. We invite you to join us at the rally, go to dinner with us and then be our honored guest at the concert that evening at 8pm. Perhaps in this fellowship we can come to a better understanding of the other's concerns. We will also be in town on Monday, May 2nd and would welcome an invitation to meet with you in your office.

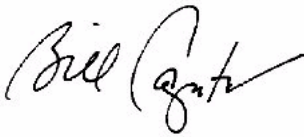
Would you open your heart to the strangers from across the nation who will be joining us in Colorado Springs?

Our simple request for hospitality is made in the confidence that God will use May 1-2 to teach us all new truths. Let's make history together. Let's cross the ever-widening gap between us and show the churches of this country that we can end the war of words over homosexuality and lovingly seek truth together. In the meantime, let's get on with the job for which we were created: "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God, (Micah 6:8)."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Lutes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Lutes, Soulforce Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Carpenter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Carpenter, Soulforce Board of Directors