

Jana Moffitt



As a Mom of five children, and having already raised three older sons, the differences I noticed in Scott were not lost on me. Occasionally, the possibility of him being gay even popped into my head. Although these thoughts were overwhelming to carry all on my own, I never told another soul about them, except my husband, Mark. Together, we would find private moments to talk about our concerns, and we always wondered if homosexuality might one day be part of our lives.

When Scott was about 13 years old, my daughter came to me distraught one afternoon by what she had found on our family computer. My heart sank when Jessica told me what she had seen, and my fears that homosexuality might be part of our reality, came crashing down on me. I didn't have to wonder who was responsible for what Jess had found on the computer, I immediately knew it was Scott. I told her not to tell a soul what had happened, and she didn't speak a word of it to anyone but my husband and I for almost 8 years!

We immediately went to work to find Scott the best therapist in the city who "specialized" in helping change same sex attractions (SSA). When we told Scott we'd found a counselor who could help, he was terrified that if he even went to this man's office, someone might see him and speculate on why he was there. He was too afraid to go, so my husband and I decided to find a therapist in Provo instead. Provo, Utah was far enough away that the chances of him running into anyone we knew were slim. Scott agreed to go.

Mark and I would go see a therapist ~~too~~ without Scott, to try to understand the therapy and seek answers to our questions. We met with three different Bishops, who offered no real answers or insight and were really no help. These were very difficult years for Mark and me. We couldn't talk to anyone but bishops (for fear the secret would come out) and they often said things like, "you probably know more about this than I do." I couldn't talk to friends, family or anyone and I had no answers and a million questions. I didn't know any other mothers with gay sons. During this time, I had to make up lies to tell my other children to explain why Scott and I were gone so much. We took Scott to therapy for nearly 6 years! The therapy changed nothing and my heart was heavy with sadness.

I couldn't stop thinking about what it was like for him to be taken to therapy for years, in order to try to change his sexual identity. I felt so guilty and regretted deeply making him go. Often times, even the thought of what he'd been through reduced me to tears. I finally called Scott out of the blue one day and apologized to him for taking him to these sessions.

After Scott came out, I felt especially anxious to connect with other parents. Now that I could finally talk about what I'd been going through all these years, I wanted to start talking right away. I searched for support groups and other resources, but was saddened to find very little,

particularly in the Church. Through a friend I was directed to meet Jill Roe. She told me all about the Mama Dragons and that is just what I needed. They have been a tremendous support to me and I am blessed to know these women.

Scott is the bravest person I know. More than anything, I am thankful he is still here on this earth with me. I am grateful he trusts me enough to talk to me about his life, and his relationships. I welcome and embrace his friends, and his boyfriends. Our story is still being written, but I am filled with hope and optimism for his future. I pray he will always know that his family loves him unconditionally. I desire is for him to have all the same things my heterosexual children have. I dream about planning his wedding someday, and holding his children. I am not sure where all of this will lead me on my own personal path of faith and religion, but because of him, I have learned more about God's love for his all of His children. I am a better person today because of all I have been through, and because of what Scott has taught me. I am forever changed, and I like who I have become.

My heart is full of gratitude for the gift of Scott's life. I love him with all that I am.

My name is Jana Moffitt and I love my gay son.