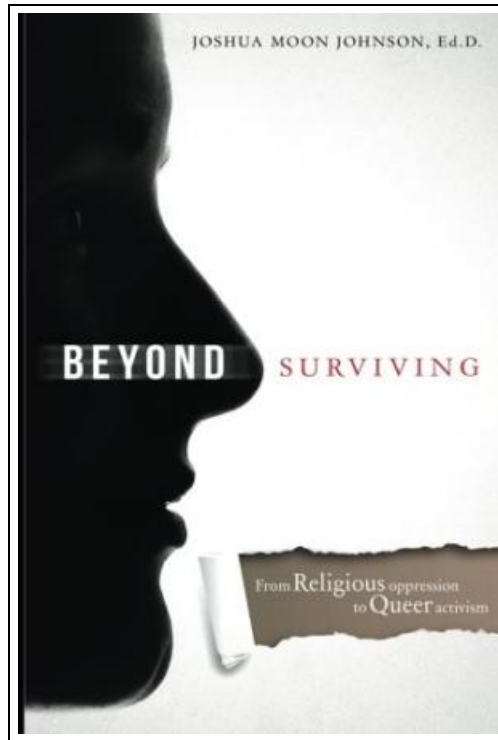


## Beyond Surviving: From Religious Oppression to Queer Activism



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Createspace, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.This book vividly brings voice to the stories of Christian students in same-sex relationships as they encountered oppression, adolescence, first-love, and then a passion for social justice. Each of the students had early experiences related to family, religious, and educational socialization, which framed the ways in which they experienced their same-sex relationships as high school and college students. Although there were many positive outcomes of being in a same-sex relationship as a youth, all of the participants described internal and external conflicts that they had to manage and overcome. These stories are filled with attempts of suicide, physical and verbal abuse, isolation, loneliness, depression, and hospitalizations; moreover, they are also filled with triumph, self-realizations, community building, and the development of powerful queer leaders. These students turned their oppressive experiences into fuel for queer activism. Each student's story is unique, heart breaking, and charged with unrelenting perseverance. The conflicts described related to seeking family support, having to hide relationships, seeking community acceptance, deconstructing socialization, and doubting the morality of the relationship. Readers will quickly be captivated by the students' vulnerability, hope, and passion to help others. Tyler forgiving his mom after she violently attacked him and institutionalized will bring tears of sadness and hope. Donald's decision to not take his life in order to be an example for his nephew demonstrates his selfless commitment to serving others. He Jooni's persistence in finding a church community that does not condemn her will allow readers to understand the complications of finding a religious community. Mark's story brings light to the challenges people face as they attempt to figure out how their African-American heritage, Christian religion, and sexuality...

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