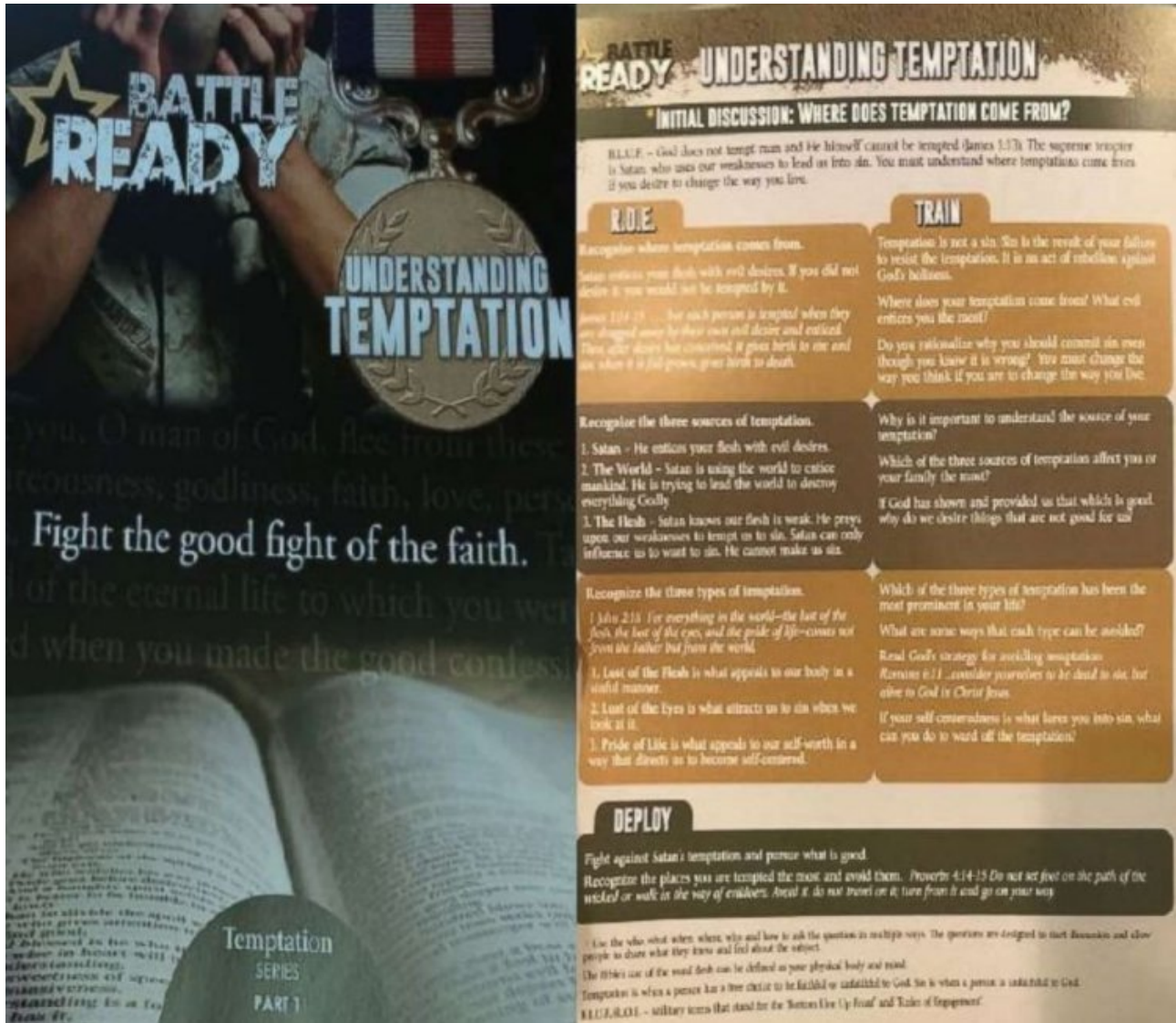


Gay couple sues Vistaprint for sending them 'religious pamphlets not wedding programmes'

metro.co.uk/2018/01/18/gay-couple-sues-vistaprint-sending-religious-pamphlets-not-wedding-programmes-7238584/

Tanveer Mann Thursday 18 Jan 2018 8:24 am



A gay couple is suing printing company Vistaprint after they allegedly received discriminatory flyers instead of their wedding programmes.

Stephen Heasley and Andrew Borg, from Australia, had ordered colourful blue and yellow programs, which had arrived the night before their wedding in Butler County, Pennsylvania.

But when they went to open the package, they were shocked to find about 80 flyers titled 'Understanding Temptation: Fight the good fight of faith',

On the flyers were a number of statements which the couple claim were purposefully meant to threaten them because they were gay.

One of the statements said: 'The supreme tempter is Satan who uses our weaknesses to lead us into sin. You must understand where temptations come from if you desire to change the way you live.'

The couple allege that employees intended to discriminate against them by choosing not to give them the same service they would do for a straight couple (Picture: Rex)

The couple say employees of the Massachusetts company intended to discriminate against them by choosing not to give them the same service they would do for a straight couple, ABC News reports.

They say they paid Vistaprint \$79.49 for 100 copies of their programmes, but were forced to print their own just before their wedding, at an extra cost to them.

As they had already paid Vistaprint, they allege the company was in breach of contract.

In a letter to customers, Trynka Shinemad and Robert Keane, the CEOs of Vistaprint and Cimpress – Vistaprint's founder and owner -, said: 'On January 16th, we learned that a same sex couple who were married in Pennsylvania in September of last year ordered 100 custom wedding programs from Vistaprint and instead, received pamphlets that they felt were hurtful.

'To know that any customer could feel treated in such a way, especially during a time that should be filled with joy, is extremely disheartening.

'We have never been more disappointed to let a customer down.'

They added that the Vistaprint orders sent to the couple were meant to be for a different customer and said they have reached out to them to apologise.

In a statement seen by WCVB, Borg and Heasley reportedly said: 'Our goal is to hold Vistaprint accountable for the harm they have caused, to give a voice to others who may have been similarly victimized, to help prevent this from happening to someone else and to send a message that there will be consequences for acts of hate perpetrated against others.'

They are currently seeking unspecified damages as a result of economic, mental and emotional distress.