

Subject: Update

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From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

To: "CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com" <CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com>, CG1 <ChristianGays1@yahoogroups.com>

Conversation: Update

TORONTO PRIDE PARADE

Fact: Toronto's Pride Parade draws about one million people to the city and generates about \$100 million for the local economy!

SOLDIERS MARCH IN TORONTO GAY PRIDE PARADE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Set up booth in gay village for recruitment drive



Members of the Canadian Forces were permitted to march in uniform for the first time during Toronto's

Gay Pride parade on Sunday.

For the first time, members of Canada's Armed Forces represented the military in Toronto's annual Gay Pride parade, held Sunday.

Lt. Steven Churm, one of 10 soldiers from across the country who marched in uniform, said their presence sends a message that the Canadian military is inclusive and an equal-opportunity employer.

"The message to the public is that the Canadian Forces is an employer of choice. We have employment opportunities that people can pursue, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation," he told CBC News.

"For our own members, they can be proud of what they're doing and also be proud of who they are."

To mark its place in the festivities, the Canadian Forces set up an information booth in an area of the city where thousands of people gathered for the start of the parade.

The parade is the main event for Canada's largest gay pride celebration and marks the end of a week of festivities that organizers say attracted about one million people.

Source: CBCnews.ca <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2008/06/29/gay-pride.html>

NEW ON THE WEBSITE - "TODAY'S GAY NEWS"

On the right side of the Home Page you will now be able to read the **Top 10 Headlines of the Day** (with links to the articles you may wish to read) regarding gay and lesbian issues. Stay up to date with what's happening in the GLBTIQ world. These headlines change as they happen so it's always current!

Please check it out at <http://christiangays.com/>

You may wish to bookmark ChristianGays.com and make it your Home Page for your browser.

NEW ARTICLE - "AM I A WITNESS LIKE STEPHEN?"

This is a Cathedral of Hope Devotional for June 26, 2008.

Excerpt:

It isn't what we say, or even what we do, that elicits such anger from homophobic people. It is who we are that threatens all their preconceived ideas about how life is supposed to be. We disturb their fixed ideas about what it means to be a woman or what it means to be a man.

.....

Our very existence challenges who they are and what they believe.

*Read the whole **Article** at <http://christiangays.com/articles/piazza1.shtml>*

NEW ARTICLE - "STOP ARGUING ABOUT THE BIBLE AND HOMOSEXUALITY"

Excerpt:

Gays and lesbians will never "win" the argument over what the Bible says or does not say about homosexuality. The good news is: we don't have to.

It will not be arguments over the Bible that will ultimately secure the civil rights of gays and lesbians. Sure, those arguments are being made and they can be loud and raucous, but the Bible is not the "other side" of the issue of homosexuality. Just like in the days of slavery, it has been made out to be the "other side" of the issue because those who oppose homosexuality can seem to find a vast ammunition dump of verses to use in the battle over gay and lesbian rights. They load their Bibles and use them to shoot down any arguments against biblical authority on this subject.

*Read the whole **Article** at <http://christiangays.com/articles/chellew1.shtml>*

(Thanks Jerry!)

NEW DVD DOCUMENTARY - "ALMOST MYSELF"

Reflections on Mending & Transcending Gender
82 min.

A Documentary Film

After finding a most unusual web site that was seeking funds to help reverse a sex change, award-winning filmmaker Tom Murray set out on a fascinating cross country journey to explore just a small part of the vastly diverse Transgender community. The filmmaker, in trying to define the film and what he learned in making it, said that it could be described as "Transgender 101 by and for a non-transgender person."

What happens with a young Gay man, struggling not only with his sexuality but also gender, decides to have surgery to become a female, and later in life decides to return to being a Gay man again? Can someone live their life full time as a female, but still have a penis? What's life like for a former male college football player, finally living her life as the woman she was always meant to be?

These are just some of the stories told in the fascinating, poignant, informative and some may say controversial documentary ALMOST MYSELF. The film focuses primarily on women who are white and older, yet were identified as male at birth. The stories include journeys of boyhood to womanhood and the struggles of mending and transcending gender.

*To purchase the film, please visit the **Store** at http://christiangays.com/store/product_info.php?cPath=70&products_id=309*

NEW TIDBIT

Since the definition of "sin" is "missing the mark", then missing out on who God created you to be is the greatest sin of all." ~ Pastor Chuck Smith Jr.

*To read more **Tidbits**, go to <http://christiangays.com/tidbits.shtml>*

NOTABLE GLBTIQ BIRTHDAYS - July 1 - 31

July 1: French writer **George Sand**, 1804; Anglo-American actor **Charles Laughton**, 1899; actor **Farley Granger**, 1925

July 6: Soldier and activist Leonard **Matlovich**, 1943

July 7: Director **George Cukor**, 1899

July 11: Movie idol **Tab Hunter**, 1931; designer **Giorgio Armani**, 1934

July 12: American writer **Henry David Thoreau**, 1817; agronomist and educator **George Washington Carver**, 1864; pianist **Van Cliburn**, 1934

July 21: Writer **Ernest Hemingway**, 1899

July 22: Indigo Girl **Emily Saliers**, 1963; singer and songwriter **Rufus Wainwright**, 1973

July 23: Novelist **Lisa Alther**, 1944

July 24: Activist on behalf of her disabled lover **Karen Thompson**, 1947

July 27: Religious leader **Troy Perry**, 1940

July 28: Poet and activist **Judy Grahn**, 1940; novelist and playwright **Sarah Schulman**, 1958

July 29: Diplomat **Dag Hammarskjöld**, 1905

(from gltq.com)

BOOK REVIEW - "GAY CHRISTIAN 101"

In his powerful new book, Independent Baptist minister Rick Brentlinger persuasively

argues that on the issue of homosexuality, the church has it wrong. In crisp, readable language, Brentlinger lays out the case from culture, history, linguistics and scripture, for full acceptance in church and society, of gay and lesbian people.

Gay Christian 101 presents fascinating historical proof that our ancient Jewish and Christian ancestors did not view the Biblical texts as universal indictments of homosexuality.

Many who were once cast out - women, people of color, divorced and remarried people - are leaders in the modern church. ***Gay Christian 101*** argues that the trajectory of Biblical truth also supports full inclusion of GLBT believers in the spiritual life of the church.

Brentlinger makes his case by quoting BC references to Sodom, by paying careful attention to the context of the clobber passages and by noting how ancient Jewish believers understood those passages and giving the quotes. In the chapter dealing with the Levitical Holiness Code, eighteen variant interpretations are offered.

A particularly interesting, ground-breaking section is the Gay Analogy chapter. Taking up a challenge from anti-gay author Dr. Robert Gagnon, that any Biblical analogy for homosexual relationships must closely correspond in particular details (including life-long sexual activity), Brentlinger presents five new, scriptural, gay analogies which strongly support full inclusion of gay and lesbian Christians in the modern church.

In the New Testament section of ***Gay Christian 101***, a strong historical case is made that eunuchs in ancient times included gay men and lesbians and that Jesus pointed out this fact to His disciples when He specifically excluded eunuchs from participating in Adam and Eve style marriage in Matthew 19:3-12.

In another chapter, particular attention is paid to the story of the gay Centurion, his meeting with Jesus and Jesus' declaration that the faith of the Centurion exceeds any faith Jesus observed in Israel.

The arguments for a limited interpretation of Romans 1:26-27 vs. the traditional view that this passage condemns all homosexual practice, are compelling. Besides listing 15 variant interpretations of the Romans passage, Brentlinger demonstrates from history and scripture, that the traditional view of Romans is simply wrong.

Many modern scholars are absolutely convinced that I Cor 6:9 and I Tim 1:10, use the Greek word *arsenokoites* to condemn all homosexual practice. They frequently use Greek lexicons to support that viewpoint. Brentlinger goes beyond Greek lexicons to the ancient sources cited in the lexicons and lists the first 56 historical uses of *arsenokoites* to prove that no ancient use of *arsenokoites* condemns all homosexual practice. In fact, no ancient use of *arsenokoites* ever referred to two men of equal

status in a committed, faithful, noncultic relationship.

What many traditionalists find irritating about this book is that Brentlinger cites the written opinions of conservative, evangelical heterosexual scholars to support the points he makes throughout ***Gay Christian 101***.

Gay Christian 101 is a fascinating conversation about history, theology and God's truth about gay people. If you are gay or lesbian or have a loved one who is, this book will help you reconcile the gospel truth that one can be both gay and a Bible believing Christian.

Gay Christian101 is essential reading for everyone concerned with the future of a church torn by the homosexual debate.

*You may buy the book from the **CG.com Store** at http://christiangays.com/store/product_info.php?cPath=31_48&products_id=298 or directly from Rick's Website by clicking on the Banner Ad under the Navigation Links for ***Gay Christian 101****

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

I've posted this many times before but I always get something out of it each time I read it, so here it is again for you.

John is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, 'If I were any better, I would be twins!'

He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, John was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up and asked him, 'I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?'

He replied, 'Each morning I wake up and say to myself, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or ... you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood.'

Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or...I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it.

Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or... I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life.

'Yeah, right, it's not that easy,' I protested.

'Yes, it is,' he said. 'Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people affect your mood.

You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live your life.'

I reflected on what he said. Soon after, I left the Tower Industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that he was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a communications tower. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, he was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back.

I saw him about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, 'If I were any better, I'd be twins... Wanna see my scars?'

I declined to see his wounds, but I did ask him what had gone through his mind as the accident took place.

'The first thing that went through my mind was the well-being of my soon-to-be born daughter,' he replied. 'Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or...I could choose to die. I chose to live.'

'Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?' I asked.

He continued, '..the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man'. I knew I needed to take action.'

'What did you do?' I asked.

'Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me,' said John. 'She asked if I

was allergic to anything.

'Yes, I replied.' The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Gravity'.'

Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead.'

He lived, thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude... I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully.

Attitude, after all, is everything. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.' Matthew 6:34.

After all today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

(Thanks James!)

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

Mary Pearson
1225 Northgate Cres
Oshawa, ON
L1G 7C4
Canada

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