

Subject: Update

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From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

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VIDEO PRESENTATION – "45 LIFE LESSONS"

With beautiful music and photography - go to the **Comfort** page at <http://christiangays.com/comfort.shtml>

(Thanks Scev!)

VIDEO PRESENTATION – "SILENT MONKS SINGING HALLELUIAH"

Enjoy!

<http://christiangays.com/christmas.shtml>

(Thanks Sharon!)

NEW ON THE WEBSITE – VIDEO SERMON AT MCC TORONTO - "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN"

Some of you will remember Rev Deana Dudley from a few years ago when her beloved partner Anne was fighting her losing battle with cancer. Many of you prayed for months for Anne and Deana as we watched these two beautiful women presenting a true image of Christ in the most difficult of times. We followed Anne's decline to the end, while they braved the fight with their indomitable sense of humour, and we mourned with Deana over her terrible loss.

Life has gone on for Deana and she continues to be a living example of the Christ. She is a most brilliant woman with a gift for (among many other things)

preaching.

I was blessed to hear her preach on Nov 22. The title of her sermon was "**Stairway to Heaven**" but I remember it as "**The Pluckers and The Planters**". It fit in so well with our "**Think We're Wrong?**" page that I asked Deana if I could use it on the website. She graciously agreed, and when I approached MCC Toronto, they were incredibly helpful. Mark Warren even edited the video from the whole service to just the sermon, which was a huge time-saver for me. I am so grateful for all of their help with this.

So, if you wish to see an inspirational, humour-filled sermon, please go to <http://christiangays.com/articles/deana.shtml>

SURVEY – SAME-SEX PARENTING

The University of Memphis' GLBT Research Team is conducting a GLBT-affirmative study on Same-Sex Parenting, and we are hoping you will be interested in helping us recruit participants.

The purpose of this study is to learn about the experiences of same-sex parents in relationship to legal parenting rights. We believe this research is important in advocating for parents to be fully recognized in their family role and to not be discriminated against in family concerns.

Participants must be 18 years or older, currently be in a relationship with the same-sex partner with whom they have planned and created a family, and have at least one child under the age of 18 living in their home. The study should take approximately 20 minutes to complete online and meets human subjects approval by our university Institutional Review Board (E10-43).

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jVp53YOXI6tNs1dgubIk_2bg_3d_3d

If you wish to see our past work, please read about our research on the effects of anti-GLBT amendments on GLBT individuals and their families, which is available on the American Psychological Association's website at <http://www.apa.org/releases/glbst-stress-1108.html>.

An overview of our research areas can be found on our school webpage at <http://>

www.memphis.edu/cepr/glbtr-research.htm.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting our advocacy for same-sex parents and their families.

Sharon G. Horne, Ph.D. & Heidi Levitt, Ph.D.,
Directors GLBT Research Team Counseling,
Educational Psychology & Research
The University of Memphis
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EVENT – CALL-OUT FOR TRANS CONFERENCE

Bodies of Dissent: Transform

March 12-14th, Peterborough, ON

Transmission, the organizers of last year's Bodies of Dissent: TransAccess conference, invite trans and gender variant communities, individuals and allies to submit proposals for workshops and presentations of various forms for the upcoming Trans conference. Bodies of Dissent: TransForm will be focused on developing strategies and networks to change individuals, communities, organizations and systems. We are issuing a call to action to unite to build communities of empowerment and change.

Please send a proposal outlining the nature of your workshop, presentation or creative project specifying the topic or focus, as well as any materials and/or accommodations required. Workshops, presentation, films and creative projects will be happening during March 12th and 13th, accompanied by performances in the evenings. Interested performers are also encouraged to contact us.

E-mail bodiesofdissent@gmail.com with Proposals, Ideas, Questions

**** Proposals are due Monday, January 18th ****

ANNOUNCEMENT – SOULFORCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

Soulforce, Inc. is an 11-year old national civil rights organization. Our mission is to end religionbased discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning people. Our method is persistent, non-violent resistance, with a commitment to the strategies and principles employed by Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. (*for more details please visit our web site at: www.soulforce.org*)

Our core values are strong and we are welcoming to people of all colors, faiths, orientations and identities. The organization has just completed a process of identifying its Strategic Plan Objectives. Programs implementing the objectives are underway. The most prominent of which is the Equality Ride, led by a strong group of young adult staff members. The ride will take off for the fourth time in March 2010.

The organization was founded by the Rev. Dr. Mel White in 1998. The organization grew under his leadership until 2006, when Mel retired from fulltime leadership and moved into a role as “founder”. A new, part-time Executive Director position was approved. Jeff Lutes was hired for that role and served Soulforce well for nearly four years. In June 2009 the Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director position to expand to full time. Jeff has stepped back to have more time to pursue his private counseling practice and to spend more time with his family. In the interim, Bill Carpenter, the Soulforce Director of National Actions, has agreed to lead the organization. Bill remains heavily involved in the Equality Ride as well.

The Interim Executive Director will serve until May 2010. The full-time Executive Director position will be officially posted and applications accepted by the Board of Directors on the schedule shown below. Please watch for more details and share this announcement with people who may have a sincere interest in serving as Soulforce's Executive Director.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE:

Formal request for submission of Executive Director Applications will be posted January 2010

Applications will be accepted through mid-February 2010

Reviews, interviews, vetting and selection throughout March 2010

New Executive Director to begin April 15, 2010

McCormack & Associates, well-known diversity search consultants, have been selected to manage the recruitment process for the new Soulforce Executive Director. McCormack is the nation's first gay-owned retained search practice, and is a Certified LGBT Business Enterprise by the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The firm is based in Los Angeles, California. Since 1993, McCormack has filled over 200 CEO, COO and board level searches for LGBT, HIV/AIDS, health care, education and social justice organizations nationally. The firm was named one of the Top 50 executive recruiting firms by independent industry publication Executive Recruiter News.

All correspondence about this position should be addressed to search@mccormackassociates.com.

Soulforce is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or any other basis of discrimination prohibited by law.

EVENT – "JAMFEST" - FRIDAY JAN 15, SAN ANTONIO, TX

Benefits "**We Are Alive**" - A Charity For All Severe Illnesses - <http://wearealive.org/>

Josephine Theatre, 339 W. Josephine St, San Antonio,

\$20 At the Door, \$15 In Advance, \$15 Military/Seniors

Call Ticket Office 210-734-4646, Cash Bar

Live Entertainment by Laura Marie, Y.O.U., Dyrt Band, Hollow, Burning Nopal

CHANGING SOON - MUSIC ON THE WEBSITE

This is your last chance to hear our wonderful Christmas music by Christian gay and lesbian musicians. I will be changing the playlist after Christmas.

I've turned off the autoplay so you'll have to click the triangle in the Music Player at the very top of the page to listen.

Enjoy!

INSPIRATION - THE 7-UP'S

1. Wake Up !!

Decide to have a good day.

'This is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.' Psalms 118:24

2. Dress Up !!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

'The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.' I Samuel 16:7

3. Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.

'He who guards his lips guards his soul.' Proverbs 13:3

4. Stand Up!!

. . . for what you believe in.

Stand for something or you will fall for anything.

'Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good...'
Galatians 6:9-10

5. Look Up !!
.. to the Lord.

'I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me'. Philippians 4:13

6. Reach Up !!
.. for something higher.

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.' Proverbs 3:5-6

7. Lift Up !!
.. your Prayers..

'Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.' Philippians 4:6

A POSITIVE THOUGHT

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring, and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.

He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem, not to mention that Friday at Calvary!

Face it, He's crazy about you!

And remember **God answers Knee-Mail!**

(Thanks Anne!)

LIFE LESSON - FOR THE CAKE

Sometimes we wonder, 'What did I do to deserve this?' or 'Why did God have to do this to me?' Here is a wonderful explanation!

A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, 'Absolutely Mom, I love your cake.'

'Here, have some cooking oil,' her Mother offers.

'Yuck' says her daughter.

'How about a couple raw eggs?'

'Gross, Mom!'

'Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?'

'Mom, those are all yucky!'

To which the mother replies: 'Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake! '

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

"All things work together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purposes." Rom 8:28

(Thanks Scév!)

May the blessings of this Christmas season exceed your dreams, and may your New Year be exactly what God planned for you.

Love,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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Gay by God. Proud by choice!



**Want to meet more gay Christians? Please join us on our List Serve (social group).
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Please check out our ALL FREE Dating Service at <http://christiangays.com/osdate/> <<http://christiangays.com/osdate/>>

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Please go to the Donations page at <http://christiangays.com/donations.shtml> <<http://christiangays.com/donations.shtml>> for information.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please write to mary@christiangays.com

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