

Subject: Update

Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2005 11:30 PM

From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

To: CG Newsletter <CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com>

Conversation: Update

Well here I am in Toronto visiting some of my children and grandchildren and enjoying myself immensely on my holidays! I'm finally getting caught up with my email and am able to even throw together a Newsletter for you.

To update you from the Personal Newsletter I sent on Boxing Day, the minor catastrophes are still plaguing my daughter Erin and son-in-law Stuart. They arrived back home in Odessa today and their car, once again, is dead, and my mechanic is on holidays until Jan 2. Ughhh! Well the blessing this time is that while I am in Toronto, they can use my car. God is good! ;-)

Note: I had not realized until a few years ago that many countries do not celebrate Boxing Day, and those who do, more likely than not, do not know the origins of the holiday. If you'd like to read about Dec 26 - what we Canucks refer to as Boxing Day, please go to <http://www.snopes.com/holidays/christmas/boxing.asp>

TOTALLY UNRELATED TO ANYTHING GAY OR CHRISTIAN – Origins of NORAD tracking Santa

I had the distinct pleasure of enjoying my grandson Clinton on Christmas Eve listening to the NORAD reports of Santa's whereabouts on the radio. I haven't listened to them since my children were small so it was great fun to be reminded of it again. My daughter Erin looked into the origins of how it got started and I thought I'd share it with you.

Back in 1955 a Sears store in Colorado placed an ad for a special hotline that kids could call to talk to Santa. There was only one small problem: they misprinted the phone number. Instead of the Sears hotline, the kids were calling Col. Harry Shoup, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Air Defense Command.

Instead of being irritated, Col. Shoup decided to run with it. He had his people check the radar for Santa's location and let the kids know where Santa was on his journey Southward.

CONAD and it's successor NORAD have tracked Santa's flight ever since, and even

provide him with a fighter escort through North American airspace. On Christmas eve, kids can call the NORAD Santa hotline or email NORAD to get the latest Santa update.

It's a little late for this year, but perhaps you might want to make a note of this website for next Christmas if you have little ones in the house.

<http://www.noradsanta.org/en/default.php>

GOOD LINK TO VISIT – Pope Joan

The story of Pope Joan, who was said to have lived in the ninth century and was thought to have been a woman who lived as a man in order to rise in the Church hierarchy to become Pope John VIII, captured the imaginations of Europeans for hundreds of years.

Read about it at http://www.glbtc.com/social-sciences/pope_joan.html

NEW ARTICLE – Purpose Driven Lies

Another terrific article by Wayne Besen. Definitely worth a read.

Excerpt:

When some evangelical Christians express their unique brand of "love", it is usually time to run in the other direction. They seem to think that love is insulting people with a saccharine smile and patronizing them with phony compassion. (I just had this experience last week at school.) May I suggest we buy these evangelical Christians dictionaries for Christmas so they can understand the true meaning of the word?

Exhibit A is Pastor Rick Warren, author of the best selling book The Purpose Driven Life. On World AIDS Day, he and his wife convened a conference of 1,700 evangelical pastors to urge them to minister to people with AIDS.

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For a moment, let's forget that homosexuality occurs in nature, and is therefore natural. Let's forget that gay people have existed since oxygen. Let's forget that

same-sex behavior is quite common in the animal kingdom. Let's forget that gay people are in every known society, no matter the strictures placed on them. Let's also forget the avalanche of new science that points to biological origins for sexual orientation.

What we will focus on is the impact of Warren's ignorant statement and how it is a catalyst for spreading HIV. Indeed, Warren is not part of the solution, but part of the problem.

To read the whole article, please go to <http://www.christiangays.com/articles/besen9.shtml>

FAMOUS GLBT BIRTHDAYS - Dec 15 - Dec 31

December 16: playwright, actor, and songwriter Sir Noël Coward, 1899; anthropologist Margaret Mead, 1901

December 27: Actress Marlene Dietrich, 1901

December 30: Nobel Prize-winning novelist and poet Rudyard Kipling, 1865

NEW ARTICLE - Stereotypes & Militancy

This is a short article by our own CG.com family member Jack, who provides me with many of the resources that get posted in these Newsletters.

Excerpt:

The lifestyle we have "chosen" as gay men, has been assailed on all sides, and those who are our severest critics are militant in how they view us.

As a Canadian, I am richly blessed to have the choice to marry my partner (which is being threatened by one of the political parties in our forthcoming federal election). What I hear from chatting with others in various locales - most particularly the United States, is that we are at risk, and having read of the vicious attacks and murders of gay men, I sense it is long past the time we took a more proactive role in informing others

that there is more to our lifestyle than sex. Those who continue to be flamboyant, and seek casual sex, are more to be pitied than laughed at.

Please read the whole article at <http://www.christiangays.com/articles/militancy.shtml>

THE TOMB of NIANKHKHNUM and KHNUMHOTEP - may be the first recorded male couple in history:

In 1964 in the ancient necropolis of Saqqara, Egyptian archaeologist Ahmed Moussa discovered a series of tombs with rock-cut passages in the escarpment facing the causeway that lead to the pyramid of Unas.

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He was impressed with its unique scenes of two men in intimate embrace, something he had never seen before in all the Saqqara tombs.

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It was revealed that this unique tomb had been built for two men to cohabit and that both shared identical titles in the palace of King Niuserre of the Fifth Dynasty: "OVERSEER OF THE MANICURISTS IN THE PALACE OF THE KING."

Visit the website at http://www.egyptology.com/niankhkhnum_khnumhotep/

NEW DEVOTION ADDED – A Lesson In Grace

Another excellent devotion with a great message!

Excerpt:

"This unhealthy relationship I had with my dad became apparent while I was in seminary. I was studying Ephesians 2:8-9. In this scripture it talks about grace from God being freely given, we could not earn God's grace, it was already there. What a revelation, here I was, withholding grace from dad. Any love that I had given to him had to be earned. What a self-righteous charlatan I had become."

Please read this Devotion on the Bulletin Boards at <http://www.christiangays.com/invboard/>
Scroll to the bottom category called "Mary's Favourite Devotions" -> CoH Devotion for Monday, December 19, 2005 "A Lesson In Grace"

A little late but

A POSTAL PATRON GOES TO THE POST OFFICE TO BUY STAMPS FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS

The patron says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps? The clerk says, "What denomination?"

The woman says, "God help us, has it come to this? Give me 6 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran & 22 Baptist."

FEAR

False **E**vents **A**ppear **R**eal

WEBSITE PROMOTION

Today I'd like to promote two websites, both created by the same person, Justin Cannon. Justin is an amazing, prolific young man. In addition to these websites, he has published many downloadable resources. TruthSetsFree.net is definitely a site worth visiting.

Justin's other website, GayHarmony.net is a GLBT dating website. Justin knows that ChristianGays.com is also going to be implementing a dating website and we both believe that there is lots of room for both of us. Justin says, "There are lots of straight dating sites out there, so let's have lots of dating websites too." Please help Justin's dating site to become a big success by signing up with your profile if you're looking for a mate.

Please go to the ChristianGays.com home page at <http://www.christiangays.com/> and

click on GayHarmony.net & TruthSetsFree.net

They are the top two ads in the right column.

WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, "What does love mean?"

The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss" Emily - age 8

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate," Nikka - age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday." Noelle - age

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." Tommy - age 6

"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore." Cindy - age 8

"My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." Clare - age 6

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken." Elaine-age 5

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford." Chris - age 7

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." Mary Ann - age 4

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." Lauren - age 4

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you." (what an image) Karen - age 7

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross." Mark - age 6

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." Jessica - age 8

And the final one -- Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry"

When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen

rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.

-- Henri Nouwen, Out of Solitude

GOTTA LOVE MAGIC - JOKE

A woman was out golfing one day when she hit the ball into the woods.

She went into the woods to look for it and found a frog in a trap.

The frog said to her, "If you release me from this trap, I will grant you three wishes."

The woman freed the frog, and the frog said, "Thank you, but I failed to mention that there was a condition to your wishes. Whatever you wish for, your husband will get ten times ten!"

The woman said, "That's okay."

For her first wish, she wanted to be the most beautiful woman in the world.

The frog warned her, "You do realize that this wish will also make your husband the most handsome man in the world, an Adonis whom women will flock to".

The woman replied, "That's okay, because I will be the most beautiful woman and he will have eyes only for me." So, KAZAM - she's the most beautiful woman in the world!

For her second wish, she wanted to be the richest woman in the world.

The frog said, "That will make your husband the richest man in the world, and he will be ten times richer than you."

The woman said, "That's okay, because what's mine is his and what's his is mine."

So, KAZAM - she's the richest woman in the world!

The frog then inquired about her third wish, and she answered, "I'd like a mild heart attack."

Moral of the story: Women are clever. Don't mess with them.

Attention female readers: This is the end of the joke for you. Stop here and continue feeling good.

Male readers: Please scroll down.

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God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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Canada

Gay by God. Proud by choice!

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

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