

Subject: newsletter Second update today! Sorry!

Date: Monday, August 15, 2005 3:53 PM

From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

Reply-To: mary@christiangays.com

To: "newsletter@christiangays.com" <newsletter@christiangays.com>, "chat@christiangays.com" <chat@christiangays.com>

Conversation: newsletter Second update today! Sorry!

This letter is going out to both lists. Please delete the copy if you receive a duplicate. My apologies that it is coming on the heels of another newsletter I sent earlier today, but it's important and I didn't want to wait.

AOL PROBLEMS

Our server continues to have problems getting our letters to those of you who have AOL addresses. We now know the problem and it is supposed to be rectified, but as of this morning it was not. However, sometimes these things take a few days to propagate, so we are hopeful. Say a prayer. ;-)

If you have any contacts with an AOL email address that should be receiving these newsletters or chat reminders, could you please forward this letter to them so that they will know that I indeed have been responding to their personal emails. They are just not getting through to them, but hopefully things will be cleared up soon.

I had no idea that there was a problem, but apparently AOL subscribers have not received my letters for literally years. It just came to my attention while I was on holidays in July and we have been trying to fix it since then. My apologies to those who thought that I was ignoring you. I so wasn't. ;-(

INVITATION TO CHAT

Our chat rooms have suffered at the hands of a man who we can only believe is mentally disturbed. Leenc was banned for repeated sexually explicit conversation and has now stated that "God had laid upon his heart the need to destroy the CG.com Chat Rooms, as it is a deception carried on by devils... Jan and I "

Lee has been banned from entering the chat rooms, but he has your email addresses and has been writing to many of you. I know this because you have been forwarding his letters, many of which accuse Jan and I of taking on your identities as men to trap

him, as in following example:

Rest assured (insert name of one of our men chatters to whom he sent this letter), that this letter will be the last contact we ever have together as friends, Mary or Jan, whichever you are, that doesn't mount to a hill of beans to me right now. I've finally figured out, through God's grace and informing me, that you probably aren't a real person anyhow. You've been simply fooling around again in the chat room, as I've long, long, suspected that you are doing. Heehehehe the joke is on you now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This letter goes on in great length, as do so many of his others, interchanging the recipient's name with Mary/Jan, indicating that he thinks he was writing to one of us, even though he is sending the letters to the men on the chat memberlist.

Lee is obviously terribly delusional. I don't even have time to chat as "admin", let alone go in as someone else to spy on the conversation. That's why we are blessed to have moderators.

So if Lee is writing to you, I suggest that you may wish to block his emails. Many have tried unsuccessfully to counsel him. He needs professional counselling. He has done much damage to our chat rooms, and ultimately he may even destroy them as he has set out to do.

ChristianGays.com is God's website. I am merely the Administrator, and I personally do not have an investment in whether or not the chat rooms survive. If God has another plan, then that's the direction we'll take, but I would like to mention that Jan has put many hours into this ministry and I know that many of you have been blessed by her efforts. She is discouraged right now, and that breaks my heart after all of her hard work to create a welcoming place for all of you, but ultimately these are God's chat rooms and they will either survive or they will die, and I leave that entirely up to God. May His will be done!

If you wish for them to keep going, or if you are led to help rebuild the chat rooms, please drop Jan a line at jan@christiangays.com and ask how you can help.

Tonight is regular chat night at 8 pm and 10 pm EDT but the chat rooms are open 24/7. If you would like to join us, please let us know you'll be there by signing up on the Calendar at <http://christiangays.com/weekly.php> The Calendar will convert the times posted to your own time zone.

Hope to see lots of you there tonight! If you've never tried chatting and are a little shy, the instructions are on the main chat page and everyone will be glad to help you along.

I suspect that God is going to make the chat rooms bigger and better as a result of this, but that's just a feeling on my part and not a revelation or anything. :-) I just know

that God does work mighty miracles out of adversity, and if the Chat rooms are to be part of this ministry, then God will arrange it.

CANCER SURVIVORS' MOVIE

This movie has been put together by Roger and Kathy Cawthon of *The Cancer Crusade*. They are both cancer survivors.

Anyone who has been affected by cancer, either personally or through loved ones, should watch this uplifting movie.

Please view it at <http://www.TheSurvivorMovie.com>

NEW ARTICLE – Voices

A very short but profound poem has been added to the articles at <http://christiangays.com/articles/voices.shtml>

Please read!

(Thanks Bev!)

CLEAN ONE-LINERS

- * Energizer Bunny arrested - charged with battery.
- * A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.
- * Practice safe eating - always use condiments.
- * A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.

- * Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.
- * I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
- * If electricity comes from electrons... does that mean that morality comes from morons?
- * A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- * Corduroy pillows are making headlines.
- * Is a book on voyeurism a peeping tome?
- * Banning the bra was a big flop.
- * Sea captains don't like crew cuts.
- * Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- * A successful diet is the triumph of mind over platter.
- * Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- * A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.
- * Without geometry, life is pointless.
- * When you dream in color, it's a pigment of your imagination.
- * Reading while sunbathing makes you well-red.
- * When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- * Alarms: What an octopus is.
- * Dockyard: A physician's garden.
- * Incongruous: Where bills are passed.
- * Khakis: What you need to start the car in Boston.
- * Pasteurize: Too far to see

(Thanks for this one too Bev!)

IN THE BEGINNING – The Story of the King James Bible (continued)

Excerpts:

The Indulgence Controversy

Popular religion in the late Middle Ages involved a fear of purgatory – a place of purification, through which the medieval Church taught that souls must pass before they could enter into heaven. While there was some disagreement on the fine detail, the basic idea was simple. Before dead souls could enter into the presence of God, their sins needed to be “purged”. This process of purification took some time. The more you sinned, the longer you spent in purgatory. And it was not a nice place to stay.

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One belief was that the living had the option of shortening the time their loved ones spent in purgatory – including the purchase of “indulgences”. An indulgence can be thought of as a piece of paper, issued with the authority of the Church, that promised reduction of the time spent in purgatory. The invention of printing revolutionized the trade in indulgences. They could be printed and sold in the thousands. It was no wonder that printers such as Johannes Gutenberg and William Caxton chose to cash in on these items. The Church, of course, took its cut of the proceeds, and used them for what it regarded as good causes – such as the building of new churches.

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The marketing of these indulgences was subcontracted to professional “pardoners”, who had no hesitation in talking up the benefits offered by their products. The message was fairly straightforward: sin – no problem. Just buy an indulgence, carefully tailored to your needs and your ability to pay, and forget all about it. In fact, why limit this to yourself? How about your dead relatives, now languishing in purgatory? Get them out! Was there ever a better investment? In an age when people knew how to enjoy sin, there was no shortage of clients.

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(Luther thought) . . .The sale of indulgences was offensive and unnecessary. Forgiveness did not need to be purchased, and in any case was not for sale. It was

freely offered to all on account of Christ's death on the cross – and that was the end of the matter.

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Luther . . . Penned a series of scholarly objections to the practice. These Ninety-Five Theses against indulgences were then nailed to the door of the castle church at Wittenberg on the eve of October 31, 1517.

Next installment – Translation and Power: The Reformation and the Vernacular

PERSONAL REQUEST

My darling, eldest daughter Erin (38 on Monday) is facing gastric bypass surgery in Bay City, MI. on Sept 20. She will need to stay within two hours from the hospital for two weeks. As you probably know, we are Canadian, and we don't have any relatives or friends in the area. They have virtually no money for a motel, so whatever they find will need to be very inexpensive since they will be borrowing money to pay for it.

She needs someone to stay with her the whole time in case she needs to be rushed back to the hospital if complications arise, so I expect that my son-in-law Stuart and 9 yo (autistic) grandson Clint will have to accompany her, although Stuart has just started a new job, so I'm not sure how that is going to work out.

I will just be returning to school after being on a sick leave absence of seven months myself, so I will not be able to go with her. This is going to have to be in God's hands to arrange. I would appreciate any prayers about this situation that you might be able to muster, and

If any of you live within two hours of Bay City, MI, could give me a list of cheap accommodations.

Many, many thanks!

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com> <<http://www.ChristianGays.com>>

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