

Subject: newsletter Update

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2005 6:38 PM

From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

Reply-To: mary@christiangays.com

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

Conversation: newsletter Update

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this! If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it. If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this ... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

"When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"

(Thanks darling son-in-law/webmaster Jeff!)

PRAYER FOR NEW ORLEANS

From Roger:

According to the weather reports, it is my understanding that it is 100 degrees in New Orleans right now and water is pouring in. The people of New Orleans need our prayers for strength, endurance and safety.

Please stop for a moment and say a prayer for New Orleans.

"Lord, hold the people of New Orleans in Your loving hands. Protect them in their time of need, and bring an end to their suffering. Bless them and their families. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

(Thanks Roger!)

MORE RESOURCES TO HELP OUR GLBT VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Metropolitan Community Church - <http://www.mcccchurch.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&CONTENTID=796&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm>

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force - <http://www.thetaskforce.org/aboutus/HurricaneRelief.cfm>

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition - http://www.nyacyouth.org/nyac/katrina_info.html

Canadians may want to contact Toronto Radical Faeries - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TorontoRadicalFaeries/message/415>

And for those who wish to provide help for the animals left behind or injured, please contact Noah's Wish at <http://www.noahswish.org/>

(Thanks Jack, George & Deb!)

FAST BIBLE FACTS

The letters of Paul include some of the oldest writings in the New Testament. The dates of his earliest letters most likely fall in the period A.D. 50 – 60 and were written before

the Gospels, Acts, and other New Testament writings.

Who was the oldest man that ever lived?

Methuselah who lived to be 969 years old (Genesis 5:27).

Which book in the Bible does not mention the word "God?"

The book of Esther.

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

Excerpts:

The Vulgate offers the following account of the ministry of John (Matthew 3:1-2)

In those days, John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying: "Do penance, for the kingdom of the heavens is close to hand."

Few of the late medieval readers of this text could miss the implications of what was being said, given the highly developed theory and practice of penance of the era. John seemed to be demanding that they "do penance" - that is to say, to find a priest, confess their sins, and carry out any acts of penance this priest might require of them. The Vulgate version of the passage suggested that John's words were firmly connected to the penitential system of the Church, so that this network of penitence was sanctioned by Holy Writ.

Erasmus would have none of this. The Greek original could not possibly mean "do penance." The most natural translation was "repent" - a demand for an inward change of mind and heart. What might, therefore, be taken as an endorsement of the Church's complex and somewhat cumbersome mechanics of penance was thus converted, at a stroke, into a simple demand for a personal change of heart. It was subjective change that was required of converts. The involvement of the institution of the Church was no longer necessitated - or even implied - by the passage. Repentance was now a private matter of the individual before God.

The first two chapters of Luke's gospel narrate the events linked with the birth of Jesus Christ. One of those events is what Christians often refer to as the "annunciation" -

that is, the message of the angel Gabriel, delivered to Mary, that she was to bear a child who would be the savior of the world. The Vulgate translation of the opening section of this account reads like this (Luke 1:28)

And the angel went in, and said to her: "Hail, O one that is full of grace! The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!"

Erasmus was scathing about this translation. The words of the angel could not possibly be translated as "Hail, O one that is full of grace!" Perhaps it could be rendered as "Hail, O one that has found grace!" or "Hail, O favored one!" The implication of the passage was that Mary had found God's favor – not that she could bestow that favor on others.

The angelic words we have just noted (in Latin: *ave gratia plena!*) were often interpreted in the Middle Ages as meaning that Mary was like a reservoir, full of God's grace. She could, therefore, be a source of God's grace to those who needed it, and who could access this grace through prayer to her.

.....

The importance of these points for existing English versions of the Bible must be noted. The famous Wycliffite versions of the gospels, for example, were not translations from the original Greek, but from the Latin of the Vulgate. The Wycliffite versions thus reproduced the translation mistakes of the Vulgate, more or less faithfully, in English. While the resulting text had the undoubted advantage of being an English translation, it nevertheless had the severe disadvantage of being an *inaccurate* English translation.

Next installment – Henry VIII and the English Reformation

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. -- *St. Augustine*

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

Mary Pearson
Box 340
Odessa, ON
K0H 2H0
Canada
613-386-5711

Gay by God. Proud by choice!

If you have any questions or concerns, please write to Jan at jan@christiangays.com

ChristianGays.com does not send unsolicited email. All email addresses, including AOL, are obtained solely through Registration on the Mailing List page using an opt-in Majordomo automated mailing list management application.

Chat Reminders will usually be sent 2 – 4 times per week.
Newsletters will usually be sent from 1 – 3 times per week.

You can always unsubscribe from this Mailing List by going to the Mailing List page at <http://www.christiangays.com/email2.php>

Tick the appropriate box for the Newsletter and/or Chat. Enter your email address, select “Unsubscribe” and click “Submit” - but remember, we will miss you. :-)