

Subject: Update

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Conversation: Update

NEW ARTICLE - "Some Simple Facts About The Bible And Homosexuality" by Rev Bruce W. Lowe

Most of you will be familiar with Rev Bruce's intensive "**Letter to Louise**". In this new article, he has condensed the points to a brief explanation of the "clobber verses" used against us, and then goes on to give supporting arguments as to why gays and lesbians should be included into all aspects of the church and society. **This article is a "must-read" for everyone.**

I have included it on the "**Education**" page at <http://christiangays.com/education.shtml> and the "**Think We're Wrong?**" page at <http://christiangays.com/wrong.shtml>

Please go to <http://christiangays.com/articles/lowe2.shtml>

CURVE MAGAZINE DID A FEATURE ON MARSHA STEVENS-PINO

For any who don't know Marsha, she is known as the "Mother of Contemporary Christian Music" because of her song "Come To The Water" (aka "For Those Tears I Died") which she wrote as a 16 yo. The song was translated into 12 languages and was included in many hymnals. Later, she came "out" and eventually formed **BALM Ministries** (Born Again Lesbian Music).

Marsha has been my dear friend for many years, and is the reason that **ChristianGays.com** exists. Initially I was just going to be her Canadian distributor of her music, but oh my, how things grew from that! ;-)

If you'd like to read the Curve article on Marsha, please go to <http://www.curvemag.com/Detailed/733.html>

The author is a member of MCC of Paducah (Kentucky).

GREAT NEWS FOR ONE OF OUR FAMILY THAT HAS ENORMOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

From Fr. Jack Gaffles:

My meeting last week with the hierarchy of the Sydney (Australia) Archdiocese was very blessed. Without going into too much detail, I was honored, and formally re-admitted into the ranks of active Roman Catholic clergy in Sydney, despite my open declaration that I am a homosexual man.

It is of enormous comfort to me that I am, once again, entitled to use the appellation: Father Jack!

Furthermore, the archdiocese also agreed to my wish that, upon my death, whoever is Cardinal Archbishop of Sydney at the time will celebrate a Requiem Mass for me in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. This will be final acknowledgment that, while I am an openly gay man, I am also a dignified minister of the Catholic Church in Australia.

I freely chose, however, not to pursue any parish appointment due to ill-health, which has dogged me for some ten years now.

Still, it was a happy and significant breakthrough in respect of relations between the Australian Catholic Church and openly gay clergy.

I was also assured that a paper, which I shall soon begin writing about the need for reconciliation between homosexual and heterosexual Catholics, will be received kindly by the rest of the clergy in Australia.

The Holy Spirit was definitely at work in Sydney last week!

"All existing things are dear to thee and thou hatest nobody whom thou hath created...why else would thou have made him (...or her)?" Wisdom Ch 11, Vs 24.

So, love and blessings to you all!
JACK

OPEN LETTER FROM BISHOP GENE ROBINSON

Excerpt:

Many of you have been writing to me, in the aftermath of General Convention, to ask what I am thinking, now that the Convention has called upon the Church to deny consent to the consecration of partnered people as bishops. Frankly, like all of you, my thinking is all over the map. But here is where I am, only a few days later.

Read the whole letter at <http://christiangays.com/articles/robinson.shtml>

(Thanks Jack!)

SERMON PREACHED AT INTEGRITY EUCHARIST GENERAL CONVENTION – by Bishop V. Gene Robinson

Excerpt:

This is not the time to talk of legislation, of strategy and advocacy. This is the time to listen to our hearts, to come to this table praying that we be delivered from coming "for solace only, and not for strength, for pardon only, and not for renewal." It's a time to remember - with humility and resolve - that no matter how much is being asked of us by this Convention, God always asks us for even more.

.....

THINK of the things you and I believe and think today that we could not have imagined years ago! We used not to be outraged at black folk being made to drink from separate water fountains, women not being deputies to this General Convention nor priests standing at God's altar, differently-abled folk not able to get into our churches. Our change in thinking didn't come as a result of our own work, but the work of God's Spirit, blowing through us like wind, calling us away from our narrow thinking and more nearly into the mind and heart of Christ.

Read this excellent sermon at <http://christiangays.com/articles/robinson.shtml>

(Thanks Bev!)

NEW ARTICLE - A Message Of Hope From The Anglican Church of Canada - by The Most Reverend Andrew S Hutchison, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

I love facts, especially about my beloved country of Canada, so the first excerpt is:

A word about Canada for those who may not know us. Next to Russia, the largest land mass on the planet comprises 10 million square kilometres and the Diocese of the Arctic is 2.5 million square kilometres in and of itself, clearly the largest diocese in the world.

The country includes six time zones from east to west and our church is divided into four geographical provinces, each with a metropolitan archbishop. There are some 2,500-3,000 parishes across the land and we are organised into 30 dioceses and our bonds, of course, with this country have been very close over the years.

You may find the first half of this article a little dry, but stick with it. The last half is wonderful!

Excerpt:

'I have so much more to teach you, but you cannot bear it now. When the Holy Spirit comes, he will lead you into all the truth And show you things that are to come'

So since the earliest days of the Church, the Spirit has continued to teach the Church, and to empower it for witness to the Gospel in a changing world. Once, we accepted slavery, concluding from the Old Testament that people of colour were clearly the sons and daughters of Ham, destined to be hewers of wood and carriers of water. And did not Jesus himself say: "Slaves, obey your masters"? But the Spirit had more to teach us, and that which we once justified from Scripture, we now repudiate.

Read this article in full at <http://christiangays.com/articles/hutchison.shtml>

(Thanks Bev!)

BIBLE TRANSLATION ERRORS

Last night, I remembered an incident from many years ago that I thought might help to explain the errors of translation in the Bible. I have added this to the long version of my article **Bible Translation Errors**.

My sister-in-law's first language is French and when we first met she spoke very little English, but even with her limited English, it was much better than my limited French, and so we conversed, mainly in English.

I remember very vividly going to a restaurant for breakfast and she ordered a "difficult" egg. Neither the waitress, nor any of us at the table, could figure out what she wanted. After a while, she was able to explain that what she wanted was a "hard-boiled" egg.

At that time, her understanding of the word "hard" was "difficult" but as you can see, it was not the correct word for the situation, even though "hard" does indeed mean "difficult".

Unless the culture and nuances of language were known to the translators, errors in interpretation of Scripture could easily be made. Research is continually adding to our NEW knowledge of biblical times. It is important that we use the latest information available to us as we seek to understand the accuracy of Scripture.

If you wish to read the whole article, it will be found at <http://www.christiangays.com/articles/translation.shtml>

*The shorter/newer version for **BACK** magazine is at http://www.christiangays.com/articles/translation_short.shtml*

There are actually a lot of differences between the two articles so you may wish to read both.

A LITTLE HUMOUR

My church welcomes ALL denominations, but really prefers tens and twenties!

Noah had unloaded the Ark and commanded each pair of animals to "Go forth and multiply". But when he checked to see if the ark was empty, he found two little snakes huddled in a dark corner. He spoke to the snakes and said, "Little snakes, little snakes, didn't you hear my command to go forth and multiply?" To which the snakes answered, "We can't, we're adders."

FAMOUS GLBT BIRTHDAYS – JULY 1 – 14

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 (“They gave me a medal for killing a man, and a discharge for loving one.”)

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; pianist Van Cliburn, 1934

(From gltq.com)

DID JESUS SPEAK HEBREW OR ARAMAIC? - Some answers from Ask.com

Question: Jesus was an ancient Jewish man. The language of the ancient Jews was Hebrew, wasn't it? When and how was Hebrew gone and when was Aramaic spoken there?

Answer: At that time and for centuries before, Hebrew was primarily a religious language, with the common language Aramaic. (Herman Rubin)

Answer: To oversimplify, Aramaic supplanted Hebrew after the Assyrians, Babylonians, and then Persians came to empire. These empires used Aramaic as the official language in the region. Knowledge of Hebrew was no longer widespread in Jesus's day; Aramaic and Greek were much more widely used. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark in particular become easier of interpretation when it's understood that Jesus spoke Aramaic. (Christopher Green)

Question: Jesus was an ancient Jewish man. The language of the ancient Jews was Hebrew, wasn't it?

Answer: Not in Jesus' time. (M. Ranjit Mathews)

Question: When and how was Hebrew gone and when was Aramaic spoken there?

Answer: Before the Assyrian conquest in 7xx BCE, primarily Hebrew was spoken. After Kurush (Cyrus) resettled Jews in Israel in 5xx BCE, primarily Aramaic was spoken.

History of Aramaic <http://www.peshitta.org/initial/aramaic.html>

.... In fact, a large part of the Hebrew and Arabic languages is borrowed from Aramaic, including the Alphabet. The modern Hebrew (square) script is called "Ashuri", "Ashuri" is the Hebrew name for Assyrian

The first known inscriptions of Aramaic date to the late tenth or early ninth century B.C. In a phenomenal wave of expansion, Aramaic spread over Palestine and Syria and large tracts of Asia and Egypt, replacing many languages, including Akkadian and Hebrew. For about one thousand years it served as the official and written language of the Near East, officially beginning with the conquests of the Assyrian Empire, which had adopted Aramaic as its official language, replacing Akkadian.

During the later Chaldean (Neo-Babylonian) and Persian conquests, Aramaic had become the international medium of exchange. Despite Hellenistic influences, especially in the cities, that followed the conquests of Alexander the Great of Macedonia, Aramaic remained the vernacular of the conquered peoples in the Holy Land, Syria, Mesopotamia and the adjacent countries. It ceded only to Arabic in the ninth century A.D., two full centuries after the Islamic conquests of Damascus in 633, and Jerusalem in 635.

Aramaic had been adopted by the deported Israelites of Transjordan, exiled from Bashan and Gilead in 732 B.C. by Tiglath-Pileser III, the tribes of the Northern Kingdom by Sargon II who took Samaria in 721, and the two tribes of the Southern Kingdom of Judah who were taken into captivity to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 587. Hence, the Jews who returned from the Babylonian Captivity brought Aramaic back with them to the Holy Land, and this continued to be their native tongue throughout the lifetime of Eshoo Mshikha (**Jesus Christ**). (M. Ranjit Mathews)

A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart.

DONATIONS

I have been overwhelmed by your generosity of Donations and wish to thank each of you who have contributed so generously to the ChristianGays.com ministry. You have

no idea how much it is appreciated!!!! We have received donations from Australia, Japan and Norway in addition to the US and Canada!

I have written to ask each of you for permission to put your names on the website on the **Donations** page. A few have not yet responded and so I have left them as Anonymous for now until I am granted permission. Some of you have requested to be Anonymous.

To all who have sent a donation, I want very much to send you a CD of your choice from the Music section of the Store. Most have responded with your choice, but if you are a donor and have not, please check out the Music at <http://www.christiangays.com/store/> and let me know which CD you'd like. Don't forget to send me your postal address.

Thank you again so very much!

For any who are interested, you may view the list of Donations at <http://www.christiangays.com/donations.shtml>

JEWISH GROUPS IN PALESTINE – cont'd

SAMARITANS

Another group mentioned a few times in the New Testament are the Samaritans. The ancestors of the Samaritans came from the ten Israelite tribes that rebelled against King Solomon's son Rehoboam and formed a separate kingdom known as Israel, or the northern kingdom. They had their own temple on Mount Gerizim near Shechem, and their own priests. They followed the laws about the Sabbath in a very strict way, and they said that their holy Mount Gerizim was more important than Mount Zion, where the temple in Jerusalem was located. The Jewish people did not like the Samaritans and believed they were not really part of God's chosen people. The writers of the Gospels, however, record that Jesus reached out to them (Luke 17: 11-19; John 4:3-9), and used one as a positive example when explaining to an expert in the Law of Moses what it means to have compassion and be a neighbor (Luke 10: 25-37).

Jesus faced this complicated situation as he tried to preach his message of good news. When he defended the poor and reached out to accept people such as tax collectors, Samaritans, and prostitutes, he offended the local religious leaders. The arguments described by the New Testament writers are mainly between different groups who have different ideas about who can or cannot be part of God's people. The Romans controlled Palestine but were not very interested in getting involved in these local arguments,

unless they led to rebellion against Roman authority.

From The Learning Bible (Contemporary English Version) page 1713

Never frown, even when you are sad, because you never know who is falling in love with your smile.

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

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Gay by God. Proud by choice!

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