

Subject: Update

Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2006 12:30 PM

From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

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Conversation: Update

CHAT ROOM MINISTRY

From Scott, one of our ministers in the Chat Rooms:

In the last few days while I have been in the room we have had three men come in seeking. We, as administrators, have done our best to make them feel loved. Here is a prayer I sent the other administrators that were in the room those same days. I hope you will ALL join us in this prayer.

God of love, peace and joy, we boldly come before Your holy throne with praise and thanksgiving because You have sent Your Son to purchase us as Your children that we may have a place in Your Kingdom.

We come before You now asking a blessing of wisdom upon Benny, Kelly and Scott, and ALL who minister in the chat rooms. Give us compassion. Let us shine Your light of Love on them. Give us the words to bring them comfort and peace.

We pray for Tony who is struggling to reconcile his sexuality with his love for You. Grant him peace and understanding as he studies Your words. We pray for "stoke guy" and his boy friend as they too struggle to understand that You DO love them for who they are. Grant them the wisdom they seek as they study, and the peace as they decide when, and if to come out. We ask that You grant Pauly the strength and peace he needs as he struggles with the fear of the "what if I am wrong" as he studies Your words. Give him the courage he needs to ask for help. As he said he feared even coming into the ChristianGays.com chat room out of fear that he would be encouraged to believe false things. We pray that the administrators have the wisdom to give him the space that he may find Your love without feeling he was forced to believe by one of us, while at the same time showing him love and compassion.

Thank you for those You have brought to us to minister to. Grant them Your love and peace, and us Your wisdom.

In Jesus Name,
Amen

If you would like to be part of the **Chat Room** ministry, either to minister, or to be ministered to, all are welcome! Regular chat nights are **Wed** and **Sat** at **9:30 pm EST**, and **Thur** for our UK / Euro family at **9:30 pm London, England time** (That's **4:30 pm EST** if you can make it.)

Don't worry if you're unfamiliar with "chatting". We were all new at one time too and we'll be glad to help you through it. It's not difficult and you will find detailed instructions at <http://christiangays.com/chat2.shtml> before you ever go into the chat room.

JAMES DOBSON REBUKED ON VIDEO FOR DISTORTING RESEARCH – by Wayne Besen

Excerpt:

Miami Beach, FLA. - *Truth Wins Out* released an exclusive video today featuring celebrated New York University educational psychologist Carol Gilligan, PhD, who upbraided *Focus on the Family* leader, James C. Dobson, for misrepresenting her research in a guest column he wrote in last week's issue of *Time Magazine*.

Additionally, Angela Phillips, the renowned author of "*The Trouble With Boys*" also sent a pointed letter to Dobson today accusing him of "seriously misrepresenting" her work and asking him to publish her letter "prominently" on *Focus on the Family's* website. Last week, Kyle Pruett, M.D. of the Yale School of Medicine, also expressed concerns that the *Focus on the Family* leader "cherry picked" his work.

"This is a revolt of serious scholars who are revolted by the way James Dobson has unethically incorporated their research to fit his political aims," said *Truth Wins Out's* Executive Director Wayne Besen. "Three researchers have now come forward in just one week to take Dobson to task. The media should finally realize that Dobson lacks the academic integrity and moral authority to talk credibly on family issues."

To read the complete article and view the video, please go to <http://christiangays.com/articles/besen21.shtml>

(Thanks Wayne!)

NEW JERSEY APPROVES GAY CIVIL UNIONS

Excerpt:

TRENTON, New Jersey (Reuters) - New Jersey lawmakers approved same-sex civil unions on Thursday, giving gay and lesbian couples the same rights as married partners without allowing such relationships to be called "marriage."

With the expected signature of Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine in coming days, New Jersey will become the third U.S. state after Vermont and Connecticut to legalize civil unions.

Only Massachusetts has legalized marriage between same-sex partners while other states have domestic partnership laws.

To read the whole article please go to http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=topNews&storyid=2006-12-15T002637Z_01_N14275818_RTRUKOC_0_US-GAY-NEWJERSEY.xml

(Thanks Andrew!)

PASTOR RESIGNS OVER HOMOSEXUALITY

Excerpt:

In a tearful videotaped message Sunday to his congregation, the senior pastor of a thriving evangelical megachurch in south metro Denver confessed to sexual relations with other men and announced he had voluntarily resigned his pulpit.

A month ago, the Rev. Paul Barnes of Grace Chapel in Douglas County preached to his 2,100-member congregation about integrity and grace in the aftermath of the Ted Haggard drugs-and-gay-sex scandal.

Now, the 54-year-old Barnes joins Haggard as a fallen evangelical minister who preached that homosexuality was a sin but grappled with a hidden life.

"I have struggled with homosexuality since I was a 5-year-old boy," Barnes said in the 32-minute video, which church leaders permitted The Denver Post to view. "... I can't tell you the number of nights I have cried myself to sleep, begging God to take this

away."

Read the whole article at http://www.denverpost.com/ci_4817067

(Thanks Scott!)

HELP NEEDED PLEASE

I received the following letter and would appreciate any input that might be useful to these folks:

We are involved in trying to assist the Gay/ Lesbian community in a small eastern Caribbean Island, Anguilla, but because of the hatred of the many churches on the island, who maintain the usual lack of understanding/education on Gay issues, the local GLBT community is completely underground. There is a local Community Foundation willing to help, but they have no suitable contacts. The Government on the island is also strongly anti Gay.

We are hoping that in some way we can begin changing attitudes. The question is how!

Do you know of any Caribbean-based churches who may be better informed, or able to help?

Do you think that changes should begin in the schools, and if so how?

Do you have any other advice?

Thank you very much.
Paula Farmer (Ottawa)

If you have any ideas, please let me know and I'll forward it on to these folks.

VIDEO – "YOUNG, DEVOUT, GAY"

This is a CNN interview with Justin Lee of gaychristians.net. It takes forever to load so just click on the link and work on your email while you wait.

<http://www.cnn.com/video/partners/clickability/index.html?url=/video/us/2006/12/18/callebs.gay.evangelicals.cnn>

(Thanks Stan!)

FAMOUS GLBT BIRTHDAYS - Dec 15 - 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

(from gltq.com)

DIABETES BREAKTHROUGH - Toronto Scientists Cure Disease In Mice

Excerpt:

In a discovery that has stunned even those behind it, scientists at a Toronto hospital say they have proof the body's nervous system helps trigger diabetes, opening the door to a potential near-cure of the disease that affects millions of Canadians.

Diabetic mice became healthy virtually overnight after researchers injected a substance to counteract the effect of malfunctioning pain neurons in the pancreas.

"I couldn't believe it," said Dr. Michael Salter, a pain expert at the Hospital for Sick Children and one of the scientists. "Mice with diabetes suddenly didn't have diabetes any more."

Read the whole article at <http://www.canada.com/nationalpost/news/story.html?id=a042812e-492c-4f07-8245-8a598ab5d1bf&k=63970>

THE ADVENT WREATH

“God will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.” Isaiah 9:1-2

A Word of Hope

The circular Advent wreath reminds us of God, our Creator’s eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end.

The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.

Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Christ, the son.

The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent for the birth of Christ Jesus.

The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world that comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life, and hope. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect the light of God's grace to others.

The third candle symbolizes Joy at the soon Advent of the Christ. The theme of Joy is the focus for the pink candle. It commemorates the Shepherds as the symbol and brings to mind the joy of the proclamation made to them in the fields, and the adoration expressed as they knelt before the Child at the manger.

It never ceases to amaze me why the Holy One could not have chosen "better" people to do God’s work in the world. Yet if God can use them, and reveal God’s self through them in such marvelous ways, it means that the Creator might be able to use me. And it means that I need to be careful that I do not in my own self-righteousness put limits on what God can do with the most unlikely of people in the most unlikely of circumstances. I think that is part of the wonder of the Advent Season.

Light of the world, come to me and let me shine unto humankind. Hallelujah! Amen.

Devotion Author
Billy Green, Volunteer
Church Ministries Team

(from the Cathedral of Hope Daily Devotions. You can sign up to receive them at <https://cathedralofhope.com/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?&pid=375&srcid=206>)

NEW BANNER AD – “HEALTH BENEFITS” - Are You And Your Partner Covered?”

As you know, if your are working and are not married to your spouse (male or female), they are not eligible to get insurance or any benefits. Also if you are gay, at times you cannot put that other person’s name on, because you have to be of the opposite sex. With our company we do not question whether you are gay or straight. We are here to help anyone who wants to save money on Health Benefits. You just pay your membership fee and SAVE!

Our **Health Benefits plan** is **NOT** insurance. It is a **Health Benefits** discounted **fee for service** program.

For example:

Dental Plan (savings of up to 80%)

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Prescription (savings of up to 25% on brand name and up to 50% on generic)

Chiropractic (savings of up to 50% on diagnostic services and up to 30% on all other services)

\$11.95 monthly - Individual

\$19.95 monthly - Household (Related or Unrelated)

Add **\$20** for **registration** fee

Medical Plan (Save **50% or more** on doctor visits, hospital care and visits, lab work, imaging centers, and a full array of ancillary medical services from our network all over 400,000 primary care physicians and specialists)

(Includes **Dental, Vision, Prescription** and **Chiropractic**)

\$49.95 monthly - Individual

\$59.95 monthly - Household (Related or Unrelated)

Add **\$30** for **registration** fee

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SANTA'S REINDEER

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December.

Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring.

Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

(Thanks Dorothy!)

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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Gay by God. Proud by choice!

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

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