

Subject: Update

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From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

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Conversation: Update

AT 88 YO, LAGUNA WOODS WOMAN "COMES OUT"

After spending 44 years with her life partner, a Laguna Woods woman finds the courage to go public with their relationship.

Excerpt:

To the outside world, they were roommates – keeping separate bedrooms for appearances.

To each other, Barr and Mary Frances Piercey were the loves of each other's lives.

They felt incredibly grateful to have found each other, and incredibly lucky to have spent more than four decades together.

Barr and Piercey also felt that theirs was "the love that dare not speak its name."

Both grew up at a time when people didn't talk openly about their sexual orientation. "Coming out" as a lesbian just didn't happen back then, Barr said.

So she and Piercey never talked about their relationship – and no one asked.

Read the rest of this delightful article at http://www.ocreger.com/ocreger/homepage/abox/article_1837112.php

(Thanks Bev!)

LISTEN TO "PRIDE DAY 2007 SERMON" BY BUD BARIL

The Church of St. John The Evangelist in Ottawa, ON, has granted permission to post

this wonderful sermon on the ChristianGays.com website in the "**Articles**". It has a message for every one of us. It will touch your heart.

I invite you all to listen to Bud at http://christiangays.com/articles/pride_sermon_2007.mp3

(Thanks Bev!)

NATIONAL "COMING OUT" DAY 2007 – Oct 11 – Kits Now Available (USA)

The theme for National Coming Out Day 2007 will be ***Talk About It***, continuing the slogan and branding that the national program has been building since 2005.

National Coming Out Day is a time to celebrate openness and honesty – whether you came out 20 minutes ago, or 20 years ago – this is a time for all Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight supportive people to ***Talk About It*** with friends, family and coworkers.

Coming Out Day Kits include:

- Resource Guides to Coming Out
- Straight Guides to GLBT Americans
- Transgender Coming Out Guides
- Poster, Balloons and HRC Stickers
- And everything else you'll need to celebrate living openly!

To order your kit, please visit: <http://www.hrc.org/comingoutkits>

This year will also mark an important hallmark as National Coming Out Day, falls on the 20th anniversary of the 1987 Gay and Lesbian March on Washington, and the unfurling of the AIDS Quilt on the National Mall. The very first National Coming Out Day was celebrated a year to the day later as a way of continuing the spirit of openness, honesty and visibility that the March and the AIDS Quilt presentation inspired.

LIVE IN THE UK? WANT A CAREER CHANGE? Here is your chance to work for

the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (LGCM)

Interested in promoting human rights and a positive attitude to sexuality from a faith perspective?

This could be the job for you.

Applications are invited from today for the new post of Assistant Chief Executive. The successful candidate will be the first to be considered for the post of Chief Executive, once the current post-holder Richard Kirker steps down on 31 August 2008 after 30 years at the helm.

Full details are available now at <http://www.lgcm.org.uk/jobs/>

STRAIGHT FOR EQUALITY PLEDGE – PLEASE SIGN AND PASS IT ON

As a straight ally committed to supporting and advocating for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) people, I will:

Come out.

I will acknowledge and work on any uncertainties I may have in "coming out" as a straight ally, and, as I grow in confidence, I'll increasingly let my family, friends, and colleagues know that I support equality for GLBT people.

Speak up.

Whenever I have an opportunity, I'll say something supportive of GLBT people, whether I'm responding to a homophobic joke or remark, commenting positively about a current event, or making the case for equality in a discussion.

Join in.

I will review the many recommended actions provided through **Straight for Equality** that will help me create change in big and small ways and incorporate those with which I am comfortable into my growth as a straight ally to help move equality forward.

Ready to sign? Click here to go to the Straight for Equality website now, then click "Take the Pledge"! <http://www.straightforequality.org/>

(Thanks Allen!)

GLBTIQ NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS - September 1 - 30

September 1: Actress **Lily Tomlin**, 1939

September 5: Rocker **Freddy Mercury**, 1946

September 7: Ice skater **Rudy Galindo**, 1969

September 10: Scandalous **Pope Julius III**, 1487

September 11: Novelist **D. H. Lawrence**, 1885

September 14: Canadian gay rights activist **Jim Egan**, 1921; Literary and social critic **Kate Millett**, 1934

September 15: Novelist **Ann Bannon**, 1932

September 17: Actor **Roddy McDowall**, 1928

September 18: Actress **Greta Garbo**, 1905

September 19: **Henry III, King of France**, 1551; Beatles manager **Brian Epstein**, 1934

September 22: Punk-influenced guitarist and singer **Joan Jett**, 1960

September 23: Singer and songwriter **Ani DiFranco**, 1970

September 26: **Louis XIII, King of France**, 1601; Anglo-American poet **T.S. Eliot**, 1888

September 30: Writer **Truman Capote**, 1924; singer **Johnny Mathis**, 1935

(from gltq.com)

DAILY DEVOTIONS

For those who do not know about it, Stan (christianfirst82) sends out devotions for us every day Mon – Fri.

This is a great way to start your day. If you are not receiving them and you'd like to start getting them, please subscribe at <http://christiangays.com/subscribe.shtml#devotions>

We are blessed to have a new author, Michael, who has now submitted a couple of wonderful devotions for us. Here is one from Tuesday.

His Perfect Will

*Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is~
His good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:2 (NIV)*

Think back to your childhood days. Do you remember how you wanted to be like everyone, have everything, and do everything? When we see children doing this, we laugh and say, "They're just being a kid." We might think it to be cute at the time, but when that behavior is not grown out of in adulthood, we begin to have problems. Sadly, some adults are still stuck in that mentality.

The world today is all about the "more" factor. Each game system, computer, car and house; everything now has to have "more" to even be considered for our attention. We live in a world of debt because we believe that we need more when all we really need is God. Do we really think He will provide us with less than we need? Where is our faith and trust? Conforming to the world and making other things more important than God only hinders our relationship with Him.

It's as if you're sitting down to have an important conversation with someone. As you sit down, you reach over and turn on your stereo system with the volume turned up all the way. You still see the other person, but they do not have your full attention because of the loud distraction; you definitely cannot understand each other. That's how it is when we are trying to live the Christian life. We need to have God as our top

priority and have the worldly distractions out of the way and "turned down". It is during those times of appropriate priorities and focus on God that we can know His perfect will for our lives.

Dear Loving, Holy God, we come before You praying that You would help us shed our worldliness and strive to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, allowing Your holiness to shine through our lives. We want to know You more, love You more, need You more. Only by this do we have any hope of being able to focus on the path that You have set for us. Please forgive us of our imperfections and guide us to Your perfect will. Amen!

Today's devotion humbly and prayerfully submitted by:
Michael Bussey (Ashton) revmichaelashton@yahoo.com
If you are interested in becoming a member of the ChristianGays.com Devotions team, please contact Stan at christianfirst82@yahoo.com.

LABRYS – more info



It is my (magik eagle) understanding that the LABRYS originated 10,000 years ago with the beginnings of agriculture, which was created by women. Held by the handle, and swung back and forth, this tool was used for harvesting wheat and grains. Wheat was not a natural grain, but was created by these first women agriculturists who spliced together various grasses.

With the creation of agriculture came the development of stable settlements, culture and ritual. The procession preceding the harvest was led by carriers of this tool which was held in the upright position where it resembles an axe. The labrys was later represented as a weapon of the Amazons, a tribe of women warriors.

This symbol remains relevant and very obvious here in Greece, where I have been living the past six years. It is especially prevalent in Crete, where a large number of ancient settlements have been excavated, ranging from the Neolithic (6000 BC) to the Minoan (2600–1000 BC). The best preserved are from the Minoan age, and continue to reflect the labrys both as a tool and a symbol in paintings, pottery and sculpture. Today in Greece the labrys continues to be sold as jewelry and sculpture to both tourists and residents alike.

~ magik eagle, Athens, Greece - from "Lesbian Connection Sept/Oct 2007 issue

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – Let them know you care!

Take a second and fill out an ecard to a hospitalized vet. It takes a second and a vet who may not get any visitors will get a printed copy of your card! It is a great easy way to pass on the blessings of liberty!

http://www.pva.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ECRD_homepage

(Thanks Scott!)

WORLD CLOCK

Just an interesting website that you might want to check out. It shows world population, births, deaths, species extinct, cars produced, etc, in a dynamic format.

<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.htm>

WHEN YOUR HUT'S ON FIRE

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He

prayed feverishly for God to rescue him.

Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and in anger he cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him!

"How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers.

"We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

The Moral of This Story: It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart because God is at work in our lives.... even in the midst of our pain and suffering.

Remember! The next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground; it just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

(Thanks Sharon!)

NUMBERS – The Beauty of Math

$$1 \times 8 + 1 = 9$$

$$12 \times 8 + 2 = 98$$

$$123 \times 8 + 3 = 987$$

$$1234 \times 8 + 4 = 9876$$

$$12345 \times 8 + 5 = 98765$$

$$123456 \times 8 + 6 = 987654$$

$$1234567 \times 8 + 7 = 9876543$$

$$12345678 \times 8 + 8 = 98765432$$

$$123456789 \times 8 + 9 = 987654321$$

$$\begin{aligned}
1 \times 9 + 2 &= 11 \\
12 \times 9 + 3 &= 111 \\
123 \times 9 + 4 &= 1111 \\
1234 \times 9 + 5 &= 11111 \\
12345 \times 9 + 6 &= 111111 \\
123456 \times 9 + 7 &= 1111111 \\
1234567 \times 9 + 8 &= 11111111 \\
12345678 \times 9 + 9 &= 111111111 \\
123456789 \times 9 + 10 &= 1111111111
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
9 \times 9 + 7 &= 88 \\
98 \times 9 + 6 &= 888 \\
987 \times 9 + 5 &= 8888 \\
9876 \times 9 + 4 &= 88888 \\
98765 \times 9 + 3 &= 888888 \\
987654 \times 9 + 2 &= 8888888 \\
9876543 \times 9 + 1 &= 88888888 \\
98765432 \times 9 + 0 &= 888888888
\end{aligned}$$

Brilliant, isn't it?
And look at this symmetry:

$$\begin{aligned}
1 \times 1 &= 1 \\
11 \times 11 &= 121 \\
111 \times 111 &= 12321 \\
1111 \times 1111 &= 1234321 \\
11111 \times 11111 &= 123454321 \\
111111 \times 111111 &= 12345654321 \\
1111111 \times 1111111 &= 1234567654321 \\
11111111 \times 11111111 &= 123456787654321 \\
111111111 \times 111111111 &= 12345678987654321
\end{aligned}$$

Now, take a look at this...

101%

From a strictly mathematical viewpoint:

What Equals 100%? What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?

We have all been in situations where someone wants you to GIVE OVER 100%.

How about ACHIEVING 101%?

What equals 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help answer these questions:

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26.

If:

*****H-A-R-D-W-O-R- K*** = 8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98%**

And:

*****K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E*** = 11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96%**

But:

*****A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E*** = 1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100%**

THEN, look how far the love of God will take you:

*****L-O-V-E-O-F-G-O-D***** = 12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = **101%**

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While **Hard Work** and **Knowledge** will get you close,
And **Attitude** will get you there,
It's the **Love of God** that will put you over the top!

(Thanks Jack!)

AH RELIGIONS – SO MUCH IS LOST IN THE TRANSLATION!

Several centuries ago, the Pope decreed that Italy's Jews had to convert to Catholicism or leave Italy.

There was a huge outcry from the Jewish community, so the Pope offered a deal.

He would have a religious debate with the leader of Jewish community.

If the Jews won, they could stay in Italy.

If the Pope won, they would have to leave or convert.

The Jewish people met and picked an aged, but wise, Rabbi Moshe to represent them in the debate. However, as Moshe spoke no Italian and the Pope spoke no Yiddish, it was to be a "silent" debate.

On the chosen day, the Pope and Rabbi Moshe sat opposite each other.

The Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers. Rabbi Moshe looked back and raised one finger.

Next ... The Pope waved his finger around his head. Rabbi Moshe pointed to the ground

where he sat.

The Pope then brought out a communion wafer and a chalice of wine. Rabbi Moshe pulled out an apple.

With that, the Pope stood up and declared that he was beaten: Rabbi Moshe was too clever and that the Jews could stay in Italy.

Later, the Cardinals met with the Pope, asking what had happened.

The Pope said, "First, I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up one finger to remind me that there is still only one God common to both our beliefs.

Then, I waved my finger around my head to show him that God was all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground to show that God is also right here with us.

I pulled out the wine and wafer to show that God absolves us of all our sins. He pulled out an apple to remind me of the original sin.

He had me beaten at my every move and I could not continue."

Meanwhile...the Jewish community was gathered around Rabbi Moshe.

"How did you win the debate?" they asked.

"I haven't a clue," said Moshe.

"First he said to me that we had three days to get out of Italy, so I gave him the finger!

Then he tells me that the whole country would be cleared of Jews and I said to him we're staying right here."

"And then what?" asked a woman.

"Who knows? " said Moshe, "He took out his lunch, so I took out mine."

(Thanks Sharon!)

God bless,

Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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Gay by God. Proud by choice!



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

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