

Subject: Update

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Conversation: Update

NEW "PERSONAL STORY" OF SCOTT WILLIAMSON

Some of you may have read some of the Personal Stories of Reconciliation of our members at <http://christiangays.com/stories.shtml>.

"Out & About Newspaper" did a story on our own Scott Williamson last month and we have been granted permission to reprint it on the website.

Please check out this story of our dear Scott at <http://christiangays.com/stories/williamson1.shtml>

NEW "PERSONAL STORY" OF JACK GAFFLES

While Scott's story is contemporary, Jack recalls growing up as a gay boy.

I believe this is a story that all gay men will relate to. Jack analyzes the effects of growing up gay in a homophobic world, and discloses his deepest fears that began at the age of five.

Read Jack's story at <http://christiangays.com/stories/gaffles.shtml>

NEW TRANS LINKS - "CATHARTHISONLINE" & "LAURA'S PLAYGROUND"

The professional counselors and forums at Catharsisonline.net have the special expertise to address the needs of the following individuals:

- Those in the Transgender/Transsexual Community, whether in conflict about their identity or decision, in active transition, requiring counseling for the transition process, or adjusting to your trans-man or -woman life.

- Those in the Transvestite Community, whether gay or straight - helping you accept your choices and desires and what they mean.
- Those in the Down-Low Community - helping to open up to the feelings you have about whether you are GLB or T, why you choose to live on the Down Low/In the Closet, how to accept yourself - and how to share with your loved ones if you choose to do so.
- Those in the Military, living ANY sexually alternate life style.
- Those in the openly Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual or Transgender Community who may wish to receive anonymous counseling and support for any life decisions, whether it be choice of partner, issues of family and children, family issues, specific situations with family members, divorce or separation, travel, religious worship, among other issues.
- Those living any other sexually alternative Life Style .
- AND - Any family member, spouse, parent, significant other, friend, co-worker or loved one of someone you know or suspect may be living with, or struggling with a sexually alternative life style. We know there is little support for you and we are determined to provide anonymous counseling and support for you. We want you to be able to share your feelings, misgivings, guilt, resentment, and any other feeling, to learn how to cope, how to support and accept. We are here to explain these alternative life style and why they are chosen and why they are often hidden.

Visit CatharsisOnline.net for more information about the organization.

Visit Laura's Playground - A Transsexual Transgendered Crossdressers Support Site including trans forums, chat and member pages, research and surveys you can participate in - in association with CatharsisOnline.

*Links to these websites can be found on the **Trans/Intersex Info** page at <http://christiangays.com/trans.shtml>*

NEW INMATE

We have a new male inmate from Ohio who is seeking penpals/friendship, hopefully from someone who is a poet, artist or musician – someone who will write moderate to

long letters to him. If you are this person, please read about Dustin at <http://christiangays.com/personals/prison.shtml>

We also have many, many women who need support – anyone who will just write occasionally to let them know that someone cares. If you can help out with this ministry, please check out the **Prison Ministry** page at <http://christiangays.com/personals/prison.shtml>

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION FOR "CHRISTIANITY AND HOMOSEXUALITY RECONCILED"

Dr Joseph Pearson has generously given us a free download of his book "*Christianity and Homosexuality Reconciled*". He has now included a PowerPoint Presentation to accompany the book to facilitate group discussion for those who are reading and studying his book.

Please check it out on the **Articles** pages at <http://christiangays.com/articles/pearson2.shtml>

GAY MORMONS SEEK MEETING WITH NEW LEADER

Excerpt:

SALT LAKE CITY - A group of gay Mormons is seeking an unprecedented meeting with the new church president and his counselors, hoping to begin a conversation and find ways to address the concerns of its members.

Affirmation, with more than 2,000 gay, lesbian and transgender members, is not recognized by the church, which at one time labeled homosexuality as a problem that required help.

"Although there are many areas of hurt and disagreement that have separated us, there are many more areas on which we can find agreement, and in doing so, become a blessing in the lives of many of the Saints, both straight and gay," the group wrote in its invitation to Thomas S. Monson last week.

Read the whole article at <http://blog.beliefnet.com/news/2008/02/gay-mormons-seek->

meeting-with.php

(Thanks Peter!)

BOLD: Bold Old(er) Lesbians & Dykes 4th Annual West Coast Conference - Sept 4 – 7, 2008 – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

BOLD is a North American lesbian experience/gathering of lesbians & dykes 50 years and older AND younger friends, lovers, partners, from across Canada and the US.

WE have FERRON (yes!) We have a boat cruise! We have a women's marketplace, so you can spend your lesbian/dyke \$\$'s on woman-made products. We have a booking at the Coast Plaza – comfortable and accessible.... and where your dog is welcome! We have an exciting and new lineup of workshops, surprise guests, and social events.

Watch their website for updates: <http://www.soundsandfuries.com/bold>

CLOWN FISH CAN ALTER THEIR GENDER AS THEIR SOCIAL STATUS RISES - "FINDING NEMO"

Clownfish are all born as males! When they are adults, the largest and the most dominant fish of the group will undergo a sex change and become a female. The second largest usually becomes the breeding male, while all the other fish remain juveniles and gender-neutral. If the breeding female disappears, the breeding male will change to a female, and so on.

GAY MARRIAGE FOR CUBA?

Mariela Castro, (daughter of Raul Castro, Cuba's likely new leader after his ailing brother Fidel Castro bowed out on Tuesday), is a sexologist who has defended the rights of transsexuals, and is pushing legislation to allow gay marriage in Cuba.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN CHAT

We have a wonderful chat room with about 300 people who have registered to use it, but we desperately need volunteers to meet and greet people when they come in. People come, find nobody there and leave. Then someone else comes in, finds nobody there and leaves too. They might only have missed each other by a few minutes. We need some people who will be the "glue" to get things going.

No special skills are required. You just need to meet people and let them know that they are not alone.

If you can volunteer to be in the chat room on **Wed or Sat nights** on a fairly regular basis, at **9:30 pm ET (that's 6:30 pm PT)** or **Thur at 9:30 pm London, England time (4:30 pm ET)**, please let me know. I'd sure appreciate the help.

NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS, February 1 - 28

February 2: psychologist **Havelock Ellis**, 1859

February 3: Writer **Gertrude Stein**, 1874; Actor **Nathan Lane**, 1956

February 6: English Renaissance playwright **Christopher Marlowe**, 1564; **Anne, Queen of England**, 1665

February 7: Women's music pioneer **Margie Adam**, 1949; Olympic swimmer and gay activist **Mark Tewksbury**, 1968

February 8: Actor **James Dean**, 1931

February 9: Novelist and poet **Alice Walker**, 1944

February 11: Congresswoman **Tammy Baldwin**, 1962

February 15: Suffragist and feminist leader **Susan B. Anthony**, 1820; musician and activist **Cris Williamson**, 1947

February 17: Australian actor **Barry Humphries**, 1934 (Dame Edna)

February 21: Educator and Congresswoman **Barbara Jordan**, 1936; entertainment executive **David Geffen**, 1943

February 22: Founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides **Lord Robert Baden-Powell**, 1857; poet **Edna Saint Vincent Millay**, 1892

February 23: Composer **George Frideric Handel**, 1685

February 28: Film director **Vincente Minnelli**, 1913

(from glbtq.com)

ORIGINS

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race come about?"

The Mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve, they had children and so all mankind was made."

A few days later she asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys and we developed from them."

The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me that the human race was created by God and Papa says we developed from monkeys?"

The Mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about the origin of my side of the family, and your father told you about his side."

(Thanks James!)

THERE'S SOFTBALL IN HEAVEN

Two 90-year-old women, Rose and Barb, had been friends all of their lives. When it was clear that Rose was dying, Barb visited her every day. One day Barb said, "Rose, we both loved playing women's softball all our lives, and we played in all through High School. Please do me one favor: When you get to Heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's women's softball there."

Rose looked up at Barb from her deathbed, "Barb, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favor for you." Shortly after that, Rose passed on.

At midnight a couple of nights later, Barb was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, "Barb, Barb."

"Who is it?" asked Barb, sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?"

"Barb -- it's me, Rose."

"You're not Rose. Rose just died."

"I'm telling you, it's me, Rose," insisted the voice.

"Rose! Where are you?"

"In Heaven," replied Rose. "I have some really good news and a little bad news."

"Tell me the good news first," said Barb.

"The good news," Rose said, "is that there's Softball in Heaven. Better yet, all of our old buddies who died before us are here, too. Better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always springtime, and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play softball all we want, and we never get tired."

"That's fantastic," said Barb.. "It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?"

"You're pitching Tuesday."

WE ALL NEED A TREE

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse and after he had just finished a rough first day on the job, a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence.

On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss. Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

"Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning I pick them up again."

"Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

Life may not be the party we hoped for but while we are here we might as well dance.

We all Need a Tree!

(Thanks James!)

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!
<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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