

Subject: Update

Date: Wednesday, April 16, 2008 8:33 PM

From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

To: "CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com" <CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com>

Conversation: Update

DATING SERVICE

For those who are subscribed to our FREE **Dating Service**, please add **mary@ChristianGays.com** to your list of Contacts to assure that you get all the Fraud Alerts and other mail that I might be sending to you.

AOL is notorious for classifying our letters as spam and not allowing them to get through to you. Yahoo and Hotmail sometimes do it too. If you have my address in your Address Book, this is less likely (although not impossible) to happen. Thanks!

*For those who haven't checked out the **Dating Service** yet, you can find it at <http://christiangays.com/osdate/>*

SOULFORCE IS SEEKING FAMILIES IN THE WASHINGTON, DC METRO AREA, ESPECIALLY FAMILIES OF COLOUR

Soulforce, the National Black Justice Coalition, COLAGE and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches are proud to present . . .

"The American Family Outing " Diverse families from around the country create meaningful dialogue about faith, family, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people with Bishop Harry Jackson, Jr. & **Hope Christian Church May 23-25* in Beltsville, Maryland** (near Washington, D.C.)

An "American Family Outing" is taking shape in the spring of 2008 so families can talk with mega-church leaders and congregation members to share the message that justice for LGBT people is compatible with Christian teaching. Pot lucks, picnics and soulful talk are the order of the day as Soulforce, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), and COLAGE invite churches to talk-the-talk so everyone is free to walk-the-walk.

Same-gender couples with or without children, supportive straight couples and families, single-parent families, and single individuals who want to participate with a member of their extended family, are invited to join this historic dialogue with the leaders and families at Hope Christian Church. Since Hope Christian Church is a multicultural congregation, we are especially seeking couples and families of color for this event.

Between Mother's Day and Father's Day, 2008, we will also seek peaceful dialogue with **Rev. Joel Osteen** and Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas; **Bishop T.D. Jakes** and The Potter's House in Dallas, Texas; **Bishop Eddie Long** and New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia; **Rev. Bill Hybels** and Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois; and **Dr. Rick Warren** and Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California.

As plans develop for a meeting with this church, the schedule may shift slightly to necessitate arrival on Saturday instead of Friday, and/or departure on Monday rather than Sunday. Details to be announced to those couples/families who apply online.

For more information on how your family can apply, visit us at <http://www.soulforce.org>

All interested families must:

1. Apply online at <http://www.soulforce.org>
2. Attend a brief training in nonviolence during the same weekend, but prior to, our meeting with the families and leaders at Hope Christian Church.
3. At the training, sign the Soulforce Pledge to Nonviolence and commit to following that pledge during our visit to Hope Christian Church.

FROM OUR "STANDING IN THE GAP" NEWSLETTER

CAIRO, Egypt - An Egyptian court convicted five men Wednesday on charges of homosexual behavior and sentenced them to three years in prison, officials said.

Full Story: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080409/ap_on_re_mi_ea/egypt_hiv_trial

Write: Secretary of State Rice

<http://contact-us.state.gov/cgi-bin/state.cfg/php/enduser/ask.php?>

[p_sid=ap7EvW*i&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPSZwX3NvcnRfYnk9JnBfZ3JpZHNvcnQ9JnBfcm93X2NudD0xMTEmcF9wcm9kcz0mcF9jYXRzPSZwX3B2PSZwX2N2PSZwX3NIYXJjaF90eXBIPWFuc3dlcnMuc2VhcmNoX25sJnBfcGFnZT0x](http://contact-us.state.gov/cgi-bin/state.cfg/php/enduser/ask.php?p_sid=ap7EvW*i&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPSZwX3NvcnRfYnk9JnBfZ3JpZHNvcnQ9JnBfcm93X2NudD0xMTEmcF9wcm9kcz0mcF9jYXRzPSZwX3B2PSZwX2N2PSZwX3NIYXJjaF90eXBIPWFuc3dlcnMuc2VhcmNoX25sJnBfcGFnZT0x)

Write: Canada Foreign Minister

http://www.international.gc.ca/common/contact_us-en.asp?subject=Other&form=1

*If you are not receiving our "**Standing in the Gap**" Activism Newsletter and would like to start getting it, please subscribe at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CGgap/>*

DEFINITIONS

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between a person who is **Intersex** and one who is **Transgender**? Do you know what **Genderqueer** or **Two-Spirited** is?

Check our Definitions page at <http://christiangays.com/articles/definitions.shtml>

LINKS

Most of you will know that we have hundreds of links listed on ChristianGays.com to useful resources. They can be found at <http://christiangays.com/links.shtml> - categorized into two main sections of *Gay Secular Websites* and *Gay Christian Websites*. They are further categorized within each of these main sections into Denominational Support, Music Websites, Political, Social, Travel, Affirming Churches, etc.

I would like to ask you a favour. If you know of any websites that would benefit from having ChristianGays.com as one of their links, would you please check first to see if they are already linked to us, and if they are not, would you request that they add a link with (or without) the following description.

ChristianGays.com affirms homosexuality as a valid alternative lifestyle supported by enlightened ACCURATE interpretation of the Bible. We are a community of GLBTIQ Christians (and a few other faiths) from 18 - 93 who would love to welcome you as part of "the family". 5,000 pages of Resources, Education, Free Dating Service, Chat Room, List Serve, Prison Ministry, Blogging, Books & Music For Sale and much more . . .

Please note that we are NOT "Christian Gays" or "christiangays" or "gay Christians". We are very specifically "ChristianGays.com"

By having us listed with other websites, we can assure that we will remain at the top of

the Search Engines so that others can find us. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated! Many thanks to those of you who will help me. The more links we have from other websites, the better!

NEW LINK ADDED

I've just added a new link for the **Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding Sexual Orientation** – Your Rights and Responsibilities

- * What Protection Exists Under the Human Rights Code?
- * When is it Harassment?
- * When is it Discrimination?
- * Harassment Can Lead to Violence
- * Policy on Discrimination and Harassment because of Gender Identity

You will find this link at http://christiangays.com/links/secular_political.shtml

SEARCH BOX ON CHRISTIANGAYS.COM

Sometimes people read things on the website and then want to find it later but can't remember where it was. Please remember that there is a **SEARCH box** under the Navigation links on every page of the website. Just put in a few keywords, click the "**Search CG.com**" button and you'll find all the pages that contain those keywords.

NEW ARTICLE – "A MEDITATION OF GOOD FRIDAY" – by Scott Williamson

Scott wrote a great meditation for the List Serve on Good Friday. I think it is a message of hope for everyday so I asked him if I could put it on the website.

It makes short comments of each of Jesus' final words on the cross.

You can read it at <http://christiangays.com/articles/williamson2.shtml>

(Thanks Scott!)

DAILY DEVOTIONS

If any of you would like to subscribe to receive **Daily Devotions from the Cathedral of Hope**, you can do so from this link.

<https://www.cathedralofhope.com/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=375&srcid=206>

EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON – AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Sometimes people come into your life and you know right away that they were meant to be there... to serve some sort of purpose, teach you a lesson or help figure out who you are or who you want to become. You never know who these people may be but you lock eyes with them, you know that very moment that they will affect your life in some profound way.

And sometimes things happen to you at the time that may seem horrible, painful and unfair, but in reflection you realize that without overcoming those obstacles you would never realize your potential, strength, will power or heart.

Everything happens for a reason. Nothing happens by chance or by means of luck. Illness, love, lost moments of true greatness and sheer stupidity all occur to test limits of your soul.

Without these small tests, life would be like a smoothly paved, straight, flat road to nowhere safe and comfortable but dull and utterly pointless.

The people you meet affect your life. The successes and downfalls that you experience can create whom you are, and the bad experiences can be learned from. In fact they are probably the most poignant and important ones. If someone hurts you, betrays you or breaks your heart, forgive them because they have helped you learn about trust and the importance of being cautious to whom you open your heart.

If someone loves you, love them back unconditionally, not only because they love you, but also because they are teaching you to love and open your heart and eyes to little things.

Make every day count. Appreciate everything that you possibly can, for you may never experience it again.

Talk to people whom you have never talked to before, and actually listen. Let yourself fall in love, break free and set your sights high. Hold your head up because you have every right to.

Tell yourself you are a great individual and believe in yourself, for if you don't believe in yourself, no one else will believe in you. Create your own life and then go out and live it.

"If you take your eyes off your goals, all you see is obstacles."

~Author Unknown~ Submitted by: Harry Updegraff, Jr.

(Thanks Jack!)

VICTORY – Author Unknown

I refused to be discouraged
To be sad, or to cry;

I refuse to be downhearted,
and here's the reason why...

I have a God who's mighty,
Who's sovereign and supreme;

I have a God who loves me,
and I am on His team.

He is all wise and powerful,
Jesus is His name;

Though everything is changeable,
My God remains the same.

My God knows all that's happening;
Beginning to the end,

His presence is my comfort,
He is my dearest friend.

When sickness comes to weaken me,
To bring my head down low,

I call upon my mighty God;
Into His arms I go.

When circumstances threaten
to rob me from my peace;

He draws me close unto His breast,
Where all my strivings cease.

And when my heart melts within me,
and weakness takes control;

He gathers me into His arms,
He soothes my heart and soul.

The great "I AM" is with me,
My life is in His hand,

The "Son of God" is my hope,
It's in His strength I stand.

I refuse to be defeated,
My eyes are on my God;

He has promised to be with me,
as through this life I trod.

I'm looking past all my circumstances,
To Heaven's throne above;

My prayers have reached the heart of God,
I'm resting in His love.

I give God thanks in everything,

My eyes are on His face;

The battle's His, the victory is mine;
He'll help me win the race.

(Thanks Jack!)

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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Canada

Gay by God. Proud by choice!

**Want to meet more gay Christians? Please join us on our List Serve (social group).
Subscribe from the Subscribe to CG.com page at <http://christiangays.com/subscribe.shtml>**

**If you believe in this ministry, any Donation would be most gratefully appreciated.
Please go to the Donations page at <http://christiangays.com/donations.shtml> for
information.**

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

ChristianGays.com does not send unsolicited email. All email addresses, including AOL, are obtained solely through Registration on the Subscribe page or Chat registration using an opt-in automated Mailing List management application through Yahoo.com.

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

HOW TO UNSUBSCRIBE

Click on the appropriate Unsubscribe link below which will bring up a letter. If the link doesn't work, just copy and paste the address into a new letter.

No need to type anything. Just hit "Send" and you will automatically be removed from the email address from which you are sending - but remember, we will miss you. :-)

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HIV AIDS Support - CGhiv-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com