

**Subject: Update**

**Date:** Thursday, January 8, 2009 2:29 PM

**From:** Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

**To:** CG1 <ChristianGays1@yahoogroups.com>, "CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com" <CGNewsletter@yahoogroups.com>

**Conversation:** Update

**AOL USERS**

AOL is stopping all mail from ChristianGays.com to you so you are not receiving our mail, specifically from the Dating Service, but also any personal letters from me, and any of our Mailing Lists that you may be subscribed to.

We have jumped through all their hoops to get "white-listed" with them, but due to the amount of email we generate, they are still considering our mail to be spam. You may want to complain to AOL explaining that we have a "double-opt-in" subscription process so all our mail is requested mail.

You can try adding **mary@christiangays.com** to your list of contacts. This may or may not help.

You may want to change your existing email address with us, using another mail server, especially those of you who are using the Dating Service and want to be notified when someone contacts you. I am getting so many letters returned to the Dating Service from people who are trying to contact others, and they can't because the person has an AOL email address.

Gmail and Hotmail addresses are web-based and should bypass AOL.

Note: This AOL problem is not specific to ChristianGays.com. I understand that AOL users miss a lot of their mail!

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**NEWS – BUSH SIGNS GAY-RIGHTS LAW**

Excerpt:

Call it a Christmas present for gay and lesbian couples. President Bush signed the Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 (WRERA) two days before Christmas. The new law makes it mandatory for businesses to roll over retirement

benefits to a same-sex partner in the event of the employee's death.

Previously, employers could decline and surviving same-sex partners would have to pay tax on the inheritance of the deceased partner's retirement savings. Legally married heterosexual couples automatically avoid that tax penalty.

*Read the whole article at <http://www.gaypatriot.net/2009/01/05/bush-signs-gay-rights-law/>*

*(Thanks Allen!)*

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## **NEWS - UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATEMENT AFFIRMS RIGHTS FOR ALL**

Excerpt:

(New York, December 18, 2008) - In a powerful victory for the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 66 nations at the UN General Assembly today supported a groundbreaking statement confirming that international human rights protections include sexual orientation and gender identity. It is the first time that a statement condemning rights abuses against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people has been presented in the General Assembly.

The statement drew unprecedented support from five continents, including six African nations. Argentina read the statement before the General Assembly. A cross-regional group of states coordinated the drafting of the statement, also including Brazil, Croatia, France, Gabon, Japan, the Netherlands, and Norway.

*Sadly, the United States was not one of the signatories to the statement.*

*Read the whole article at <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/18/un-general-assembly-statement-affirms-rights-all>*

*(Thanks Vicki!)*

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## **TAKE ACTION – RICK WARREN TO GIVE INVOCATION AT INAUGURATION**

*"I'm opposed to redefinition of a 5,000 year definition of marriage. I'm opposed to having a brother and sister being together and calling that marriage. I'm opposed to an older guy marrying a child and calling that marriage. I'm opposed to one guy having multiple wives and calling that marriage."*

*-- Rick Warren, Pastor of Saddleback Church, December 15, 2008*

**When Pastor Rick Warren was asked to clarify this statement -- if he actually equates same-sex marriage with incest, pedophilia and polygamy -- his answer was direct and unequivocal: "Oh, I do."**

Are you outraged by Rick Warren being invited to give the invocation at President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration?

While President-elect Obama has chosen to ignore the troubling beliefs of the man who will spiritually usher in his presidency, Californians can not ignore Rick Warren and his Saddleback Church followers, based in Orange County.

That's why I'm asking you to give Pastor Warren a new invitation -- a Courage Campaign invitation to a public debate on same-sex marriage with Reverend Eric Lee, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) of Greater Los Angeles. Rev. Lee is a courageous leader on marriage equality in the faith community and in the African American community.

I just added my name to the invitation. Will you join me in signing it as well? (OPTIONAL: you can also write a note to Rick Warren and let him know how you feel):

<http://www.couragecampaign.org/RickWarrenDebate>

Then please forward this on to all of your friends and family. The more signatures we gather on the invitation, the more likely Rick Warren's views on same-sex marriage will be challenged, this time by another man of faith.

## **NEW WEBSITE – TRANSCHRISTIANS.ORG**

Here is a place for Transgender Christians of all shades to find encouragement for the struggle. Being simultaneously Christian and Transgender puts us in a particularly difficult situation and there are so few of us that we haven't had much community. Maybe this site can help to heal that. Here you'll find lots of information from "what is gender" to some deep theology and everything in between. Here are the stories of other trans Christians, books, events, and pointers to help you on your way.

*<http://www.transchristians.org/>*

*Johanna, founder of this website has just joined our **Social Group** so feel free to connect through the List Serve. If you have questions, I'm sure we'd all be interested.*

*If you're not a member of our **Social Group**, you can subscribe by clicking on the **Social Group** link at <http://christiangays.com/subscribe.shtml>*

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## **BANNER AD – GAY AND LESBIAN BIBLE**

The queer Christian community has come a long distance. The focus used to be on trying to get churches to treat gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-identified congregants with limited acceptance. There was a time when the focus was on queer apologetics. Gay, bisexual, and trans-identified Christians spent much of their time defending their Christian spirituality, and showing that God does not damn people based on their sexual orientation or gender identification. Now we see theologians interpreting the Bible from the perspective of the queer community. And queer understandings of the Word are blessing straight Christians. This study Bible has valuable information, and it represents a coming of age of queer Christians.

This study Bible is based on The Source New Testament translation. The Source New Testament is a very refreshing read. The Source is one of the most refreshing translations since James Moffatt finished translating the entire Bible in the 1920s. Some passages feel so unique one wants to read more. One must read the translation to appreciate how much life it gives the Word. Three short quotes, to wet your appetite, appear below:

- \* 1 Corinthians 9:27 - Instead, I beat my body black and blue and enslave it, so that, when I have proclaimed the Good News to others, I myself won't fail to pass muster!
- \* Colossians 3:15 - And let God's peace be the umpire of your minds. God's peace is the reason you were chosen to be members of one body - and be thankful for it!

\* Colossians 4:2 - Persist obstinately when you pray, being stirred up about it, and thank God.

When comparing well-written study Bibles, there is one easy way to distinguish between a good and an excellent study Bible. A good study Bible has short notes of explanation. Excellent study Bibles have long commentaries and notes of explanation. Study New Testament for Lesbians, Gays, Bi, and Transgender has extensive notes. The notes are very academic, in some cases citing contemporary theologians. The quality of notes, the insightful comments made, the explanation of key Greek words, and the amount of commentary given make this one of the best study Bibles in this reviewer's personal collection. That is saying something, because this reviewer has over two shelves of study Bibles!

This Bible could be have any or all of these titles - Gay Study Bible, Lesbian Study Bible, Bisexual Study Bible, Transgender Study Bible. None of those titles, however, do justice to the study Bible. The queer New Testament study Bible is not just about queer spiritual interpretations of the Bible. In fact, few of the study notes have anything to do with homosexuality. This study Bible has outstanding notes on the Greek meanings of key words in the New Testament. Because of the excellent Greek language notes, this study Bible is a must for pastors and theologians. Even pastors and theologians who are strongly opposed to same-gender sexual relationships will find the commentary and the explanations of Greek good enough to justify having this book in their reference shelves."

*(Thanks to <http://www.createdgay.com> for permission to reprint this review!)*

*Please go to the main website <http://ChristianGays.com> and click on the banner ad for "**World's First Gay & Lesbian Bible**" for more information.*

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## **VIDEO – "FINDING JOY"**

Some inspirational sayings on a background of beautiful photography and music.

*<http://www.findingjoymovie.com/>*

*(Thanks Dorothy!)*

## NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS, January 1 - 31

January 1: FBI Director **J. Edgar Hoover**, 1895

January 6: French soldier and martyr to the Inquisition **Joan of Arc**, 1412

January 8: Rocker **David Bowie**, 1947

January 9: Feminist writer **Simone de Beauvoir**, 1908; singer and activist **Joan Baez**, 1941

January 10: Pop singer **Johnnie Ray**, 1927; actor **Sal Mineo**, 1939; drag performer **Craig Russell**, 1948

January 11: American Revolutionary War hero and statesman **Alexander Hamilton**, 1757; actor, director, writer, and teacher **Charles Nelson Reilly**, 1931

January 13: American writer **Horatio Alger, Jr.**, 1832

January 15: Songwriter and singer **Meg Christian**, 1946

January 18: Actor **Cary Grant**, 1904

January 19: Writer **Patricia Highsmith**, 1921; rocker **Janis Joplin**, 1943

January 21: Fashion designer **Christian Dior**, 1905

January 22: Statesman and philosopher **Sir Francis Bacon**, 1561

January 24: **Frederick the Great**, King of Prussia, 1712; **Gustav III**, King of Sweden, 1746

January 25: Writer **W. Somerset Maugham**, 1874; novelist **Virginia Woolf**, 1882; activist **Peter Tatchell**, 1952

January 26: Actress and comedian **Ellen DeGeneres**, 1958

January 28: Critic **Susan Sontag**, 1933

January 29: Olympic diver **Greg Louganis**, 1960; actress **Sara Gilbert**, 1975

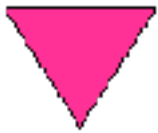
January 31: Composer **Franz Schubert**, 1797; actress **Portia De Rossi**, 1973

*(from glbtq.com)*

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## **THE TRIANGLES**

### **Pink Triangle**



As most everyone knows, the pink triangle is a symbol taken directly from the Nazi concentration camps. Usually when concentration camps and Nazis are mentioned, most people tend to think of Jews and the Jewish Holocaust (for good reason). But the fact that a large number of homosexual prisoners were in those same camps is an often ignored or overlooked fact of history.

The real story behind the pink triangle begins prior to World War II. Paragraph 175, a clause in German law, prohibited homosexual relations (much like many states in the U.S. today have laws against "crimes of nature"). In 1935, during Hitler's rise to power, he extended this law to include homosexual kissing, embracing, and even having homosexual fantasies. An estimated 25,000 people were convicted under this law between 1937 and 1939 alone. They were sent to prisons and later concentration camps. Their sentence also included sterilization, most commonly in the form of castration. In 1942, Hitler extended the punishment for homosexuality to death.

Prisoners in Nazi concentration camps were labeled according to their crimes by inverted colored triangles. "Regular" criminals were denoted by a green triangle, political prisoners by red triangles and Jews by two overlapping yellow triangles (to form the Star of David, the most common Jewish symbol). Homosexual prisoners were labeled with pink triangles. Gay Jews- the lowest form of prisoner- had overlapping yellow and pink triangles. This system also created a social hierarchy among the prisoners, and it has been reported that the pink triangle prisoners often received the worst workloads and were continually harassed and beaten by both guards and other prisoners.

Although homosexual prisoners were not shipped en masse to the Aushwitz death camps like so many of the Jewish prisoners, there were still large numbers of gay men executed there along with other non-Jewish prisoners. The real tragedy though occurred after the war. When the Allies defeated Germany and the Nazi Regime, the political and remaining Jewish prisoners were released from the camps (the regular

criminals- murderers, rapists, etc.- were not released for obvious reasons). The homosexual prisoners were never released though because Paragraph 175 remained West German law until 1969. So these innocent men watched as their fellow prisoners were set free, but remained prisoners for 24 more years.

In the 1970s, the pink triangle started to be used in conjunction with the gay liberation movement. When people, especially public figures such as law makers, were confronted with such a symbol, they risked being associated with the Nazis if he or she were to attempt to openly limit or prosecute gays. In the 1980s, when the triangle's popularity truly began to take off, ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) adopted the it as their symbol, but turned it upright to suggest an active fight rather than passive resignation. I've also been told that some people wear their triangles pointing up if they personally know somebody who has died of AIDS. In any case, the pink triangle is definitely a symbol very closely connected to oppression and the fight against it, and stands as a vow never to let another Holocaust happen again. Like the word "queer," it is a symbol of hate which has been reclaimed and now stands for pride.

### **Black Triangle**



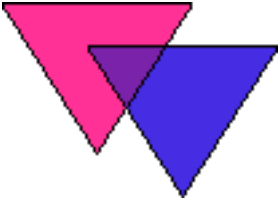
The Pink Triangle was used exclusively with male prisoners - lesbians were not included under Paragraph 175. However, women were arrested and imprisoned for "antisocial behavior," which include anything from feminism, lesbianism, and prostitution to any woman who didn't conform to the ideal Nazi image of a woman: cooking, cleaning, kitchen work, child raising, passive, etc. These women were labeled with a black triangle. Just as the pink triangle has been reclaimed, lesbians and feminists have begun using the black triangle as a symbol of pride and sisterhood.

### **Burgundy Triangle**



It is rumored that there was a burgundy triangle which designated transgendered prisoners, but so far this is only a rumor and has not been substantiated with facts.

### **Bisexual Triangles**



Somewhere in all this excitement with gay and lesbian symbols, bisexuals appear to have slipped through the cracks. It has only been within the last decade or so that bisexuals have begun actively organizing and fighting for equal voices. One of the many good things to come out of this movement is a symbol that bisexuals can call all their own: the interlocking pink and blue triangles, sometimes referred to as the "biangles."

Unfortunately, in contrast to most other pride symbols, the exact origin of this symbol is quite mysterious. I have polled a great number of national and international bisexual and gay/lesbian/bisexual organizations, but nobody has been able to give me a definitive source. The pink triangle is obviously taken from the gay symbol. The blue triangle was never used by the Nazis. It may have been added as a foil for pink - pink for girls and blue for boys (because bisexuals have attractions to both), with the overlapping purple triangle (purple has always been a very prominent color in the gay pride movement) representing the middle ground that bisexuals fall into. I've also heard it explained that the pink triangle represents homosexuality while blue represents heterosexuality. Thus the overlap between the pink and blue triangles is the purple triangle of bisexuality. All these are personal explanations that I've gathered through Email.

*(Thanks Allen!)*

*From Lambda GLBT Community Services <http://www.lambda.org/symbols.htm>*

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## **JOKES**

Two Nuns are riding their bicycles down the back streets of Rome.

One leans over to the other and says,

"I've never come this way before."

The other nun whispers, "It's the cobblestones".

James (age 4) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.' Concerned, James asked: "What happened to the flea?"

'Dear Lord,' the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face, 'Without you, we are but dust..' He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter who was listening leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old girl voice, 'Mom, what is butt dust?'

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## **DONATIONS**

It's the beginning of a new year. If you believe in this ministry and have been blessed by it, I wonder if you would prayerfully consider making regular monthly donations to ChristianGays.com as part of your giving habits. Of course a one time donation is also always appreciated!

If you can help, please visit the Donations page at <http://christiangays.com/donations.shtml>

Many thanks for your consideration.

God bless,  
Mary

**Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!**

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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**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](mailto:mary@christiangays.com)

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Chat Reminders will usually be sent 3 times per week.  
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