

Subject: Update

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 7:47 PM

From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

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"TWO" (Truth Wins Out) REPORT – CONVERSION OR COERCION?



A Wisconsin man, Travis Swanson, claims that last month, his 23 year old boyfriend, Bryce Faulkner, was economically blackmailed by his parents into entering an "ex-gay" boot camp. Swanson believes that Faulkner is in a ministry in Florida, where the ex-gay organization *Exodus International* is headquartered.

When Faulkner's family found out their son was gay, they reportedly told him to enter an ex-gay program or lose financial support.

"Sadly, this is not an isolated case," said Wayne Besen, Executive Director of *Truth Wins Out*. "Ex-gay organizations commonly use coercion to recruit new clients and often play on the fears of parents. We hope that he is found and escapes this boot camp before he is brainwashed and emotionally scarred."

A Face Book page was set up to help locate Faulkner at <http://savebryce.ergonomicalministries.org/> Please view the video.

"We will do our best to help find Faulkner and end the psychological abuse that young people face as a result of being forced into such damaging programs against their will."

Faulkner was a pre-med student from Arkansas. He was reportedly about to come out to his ultra-religious family when his mother found email correspondence with Swanson.

If you know of his whereabouts, please contact Wayne Besen at *Truth Wins Out* - wbesen@truthwinsout.org

(Thanks Wayne!)

BIBLE STUDY UPDATE – FROM REV JOHN W. BROWN

This is to let everyone know that I began to restart teaching on the clobber verses used to condemn gays. We began with Sodom and Gomorrah last week and will continue tomorrow (Wed) with the Leviticus passages and the whole Holiness Code.

The time will be at 6pm Pacific Time or 9pm Eastern time. So if

you are new and wondering what the Bible actually says about Gays, and God's attitude toward us, come on by and join us, or if you need a refresher course please come.

All are welcome without condemnation but with open arms of love. See you all in Bible Study.

*Note from Mary: If you're new to Bible Study in the Chat Rooms, please visit the **Gay Bible Study** page at http://christiangays.com/chat_study.shtml for details so you'll know what to expect and how to find us.*

REMINDER – CHAT NIGHTS

Regular Chat Nights are Saturdays at 9 pm ET (6 pm PT)

Carlos will greet you on Sundays and Mondays from 8 - 10 pm ET (5 - 7 pm PT)

Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 9 pm ET (6 pm PT)

NEW ARTICLE - "ON GAY TERMS"

Those of you in our Social Group will know that one of our family, Rick, is now in jail for a gay-related indiscretion. Rick was an ordained pastor in the Nazarene Church but, needless to say, is no

longer officially pastoring in that capacity. However, I do believe that God is using him in a new direction. His faith is keeping him strong. Due to circumstances, Rick was "outed", and is now starting to write a book of his experiences as a gay man who loves Jesus. Before he went to jail he left me with two new articles.

The first article is about "Gay Terms" including:

1. homosexual behavior
2. practicing homosexual
3. "the gay lifestyle"
4. gay relationships
5. "love the sinner; hate the sin"

*Read Rick's **Article** at <http://christiangays.com/articles/richardson2.shtml>*

NEW ARTICLE – "THREE HOMOSEXUALITY MYTHS"

Rick's second article, "Three Homosexuality Myths" discusses the myths that:

1. Homosexuality is a choice
2. Homosexuality is "unnatural"
3. Homosexual relationships are intrinsically unstable

Within the context of these three topics, he touches on science, scripture, interpretation, ex-gays, etc, etc.

I know that you'll relate to what Rick has to say at <http://christiangays.com/articles/richardson1.shtml>

REMINDER – SOCIAL GROUP

Our **Social Group** List Serve allows you to communicate with others via a group email list. Everyone on the List gets to read what you have to say. This is where we really get to know each other if you choose to participate. Start discussions, post photos, let people know when you're going to go to the chat rooms, ask for prayer, or just be a silent observer.

Go to http://christiangays.com/subscribe.shtml#social_group to get more information and to subscribe. Please remember to tell us why you want to join. The group is restricted to those who will not bash us so I need to know why you want to join us. If you say you read about it in the Newsletter, that will do.

DATING SERVICE – UPDATED STATS

Total Profiles - 2121

Active Profiles – 1649

Pending Profiles (need to be activated by member) - 16

Rejected Profiles – 472

Gay Men – 1404

Bi Men – 88

Unsure Men - 21

Lesbians – 521

Bi Women – 51

Unsure Women - 22

Trans F->M – 6

Trans M->F – 8

If you're looking for a partner, please consider using our **Dating Service**. We've only been operating it for a year and a half and have had over 2000 registrations already. Unfortunately I've had to reject nearly 500 of them for inappropriate or fraudulent (for the purpose of scamming) content, but we are growing by about half a dozen new subscribers every day. Please spread the word to your friends. We are, to my knowledge, the only completely free LGBTQ Dating Service.

*Check out the **Dating Service** at <http://christiangays.com/osdate/>*

UPDATED INFORMATION – GAY MARRIAGE

I have updated our "Where Is Gay Marriage Legal?" page. It includes

- 1) Countries where Gay Marriage is Recognized
- 2) Countries That Allow Same-Sex Domestic Partnerships or Civil Unions
- 3) US States that Recognize Gay Marriage
- 4) US States that Allow Same-Sex Domestic Partnerships or Civil

Unions

5) US States with Some Provisions

6) Countries that Ban Same-Sex Unions.

I hope you'll find it useful.

It was quite complicated getting all the info so if anyone sees any errors, please let me know.

*You can find the page in the **Gay Marriage** section at <http://christiangays.com/marriage/legal.shtml>*

COMPUTER DONATIONS - UPDATE

Hallelujah! We are three-quarters of the way there to cover the cost of the new (used) computer.

We have received \$1012 in donations – just another \$488 to pay for it completely.

God is so good! I really didn't expect to receive this much.

Thank you everyone who has contributed!

*If anyone still wishes to be part of this, you can contribute through the **Donations** page at <http://christiangays.com/donations.shtml>*

I love you all and am so appreciative!

NEW GROUP – TWO SPIRIT PROGRAM IN OTTAWA

From Elena Abel:

Hi Everyone,

I'm very excited to announce the launch of a new Two Spirit program for Aboriginal men & women in Ottawa!

This Two Spirit Social Circle will be held at PTS – Pink Triangle Services

251 Bank Street, Suite 301 in Ottawa. (Bank at Cooper)

The circle will be held twice per month – on the first and third Tuesday of the month

from 6-8 pm, starting August 18, 2009

Bus tickets and refreshments will be provided.

Programming will include: Discussion circles, games night, drumming, movies and more.

Program is open to Aboriginal men & women and their partners/ friends (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal).

For more information, please contact:

Elena Abel

Two Spirit Program Coordinator

Minwaashin Lodge

eabel@minlodge.com

(613) 741-5590 ext. 260

Don't miss out on the fun... Join our Two Spirit group email list!

NOTABLE BIRTHDAYS, July 1 - July 31

July 1: French writer **George Sand**, 1804; Anglo-American actor **Charles Laughton**, 1899; actor **Farley Granger**, 1925;

July 6: Soldier and activist **Leonard Matlovich**, 1943

July 7: Director **George Cukor**, 1899

July 11: Movie idol **Tab Hunter**, 1931; designer **Giorgio Armani**, 1934

July 12: American writer **Henry David Thoreau**, 1817; agronomist and educator **George Washington Carver**, 1864; pianist **Van Cliburn**, 1934

July 21: Writer **Ernest Hemingway**, 1899

July 22: Indigo Girl **Emily Saliers**, 1963; singer and songwriter **Rufus Wainwright**, 1973

July 23: novelist **Lisa Alther**, 1944

July 27: Religious leader **Troy Perry**, 1940

July 28: poet and activist **Judy Grahn**, 1940

July 29: Diplomat **Dag Hammarskjöld**, 1905

(from gltq.com)

BANNER AD - "GAY CHRISTIAN 101" by Rick Brentlinger

Review:

"I was impressed that he did not limit the perspectives he presented to the ones he viewed (and supported) as correct. Far to the contrary, he at times almost overwhelms the reader with alternate viewpoints, considering all angles of the critical issues regarding homosexuality and the Bible.

For example, Brentlinger presented 18 different interpretations of Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, explaining what type of people believe them, then sorting out and presenting what he believes the evidence shows.

You may even reach different conclusions — there is enough alternative information provided to make that possible — but he does such a good job of methodically making his points that disagreeing with his final conclusions would be very difficult.

I have never read a more comprehensive study of how homosexuality is and is not treated in the Bible than this book, and I suspect you haven't either." - Jim Johnson, Straight Not Narrow Blogspot.

Please click on the **Gay Christian 101** Banner Ad to find out more about this incredible book. <http://christiangays.com>

It is also available for sale on the ChristianGays.com website **Store** at http://christiangays.com/store/product_info.php?cPath=31_48&products_id=298

FUN - CHURCH BULLETINS

They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins!
Thank God for church ladies with typewriters.
These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park

across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday..

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door...

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!

WISDOM - AN OLD FARMER'S ADVICE

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.

Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.

(Thanks Jack!)

SOME WISDOM

God doesn't give you the people you want, He gives you the people you NEED. To help you, to hurt you, to leave you, to love you, and to make you into the person you were meant to be.

Love to you all!
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> <<http://christiangays.com/subscribe.shtml>>

Please check out our ALL FREE Dating Service at <http://christiangays.com/osdate/> <<http://christiangays.com/osdate/>>

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> <<http://christiangays.com/donations.shtml>> for information.

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

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

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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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