

Subject: Update

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From: Mary Pearson <mary@christiangays.com>

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

NEW - CHANGES TO THE WEBSITE

Search Box

The Search Box has been moved to the right side of the home page. It will no longer appear on all pages, just the home page. If you want to find anything on the ChristianGays.com website, just enter a few keywords into the Search Box and it will bring up anything related to your keywords.

Store

I've changed the link to the **Christian Gays Store** to be a drop down menu, now called **Shop At CG.com**, so that you can see the products we carry by clicking on the drop down arrow. This will allow you to go directly to the category of the product you're looking for. It is at the top of the Navigation Links.

Share Icons – I Need Your Help Please

I recently added a "sharing" feature to the bottom of most of our pages that allows you to create a "Printer Friendly" page so that you can print just the article without the navigation links, ChristianGays.com title, etc. It also allows you to email a friend with the link, bookmark the page as a Favourite, etc.

Well I worked very hard to make these little icons look good on the page by placing them exactly where I wanted on the pages. They looked great on my Mac and I didn't think anything more about it until yesterday when I happened to be looking at a PC and saw that all the icons were left-aligned instead of centered (as on my Mac), and there wasn't even a margin on the left side. They looked just awful!!!

Well I have to tell you that I was somewhat disappointed that nobody let me know about it. Macs are very forgiving regarding coding. PC's using Internet Explorer are not so forgiving, so often, pages can look great on my computer and

awful on someone else's computer.

If you haven't figured it out by now, I'm a bit of a perfectionist – Oh heck, I'm a total perfectionist, and I really like things to be "right", so please, please, please, if you see a page with ANYTHING that doesn't look right to you, please contact me and let me know. I would be SO grateful!!!!

(You don't have to tell me about the Share icons. I have hundreds of pages that I need to change them on so it will take me a while, but anything else like dead links, music that doesn't play for you, things out of alignment, etc, PLEASE let me know!!!)

NEW MUSIC – FOR CHRISTMAS

Once again, I set this up for people to enjoy. It worked great for me but thank heavens one person told me it wasn't working for them. I would never have known if she hadn't told me.

So anyway, I've changed the playlist for the Music Player at the **top of the website** to something more seasonal. I've set it to start automatically when you go to the website so if you don't want to listen, please just click the square in the player (very top of the page).

I have also instituted a "resume" feature so that you don't have to leave the window open as before to listen to the music. You can now go to different pages within the website and the player (will make a little jump but) will continue with the song.

Enjoy **Jason & deMarco** singing *Ave Maria* and *Let it Snow*, **Marsha Stevens**, *The Gift is on the Inside* and *Mary Did You Know?*, from **Jeanine Noyes**, *Angel Song* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and many more.

You can skip songs or repeat them using the controls on the player. You can also control the volume by moving your mouse over the volume bars on the right of the player. Shuffle the songs by clicking the "S" to the right of the volume bars. The instructions are on the page just under the player.

My plan is to let the music start automatically until Christmas (just two more

weeks) so that people will get used to knowing that we have a music player. After Christmas when I change the playlist I won't have it start automatically. You'll be required to start it manually.

<http://christiangays.com/>

MUSIC VIDEO - EIGHT DAYS OF HANNUKUH

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, a Mormon, has written a song about Hannukuh, inspired by Jeffrey Goldberg who met Hatch about 10 years ago.

"I have always felt that the song canon for Hanukkah, a particularly interesting historical holiday, is sparse and uninspiring, in part because Jewish songwriters spend so much time writing Christmas music," writes Goldberg.

The project came together when Hatch, Goldberg and several other musicians met to record the song.

*View it on the **Christmas & Hannukuh Songs** link at <http://christiangays.com/christmas.shtml>*

(Thanks Sharon!)

A LETTER – FROM JESUS RE CHRISTMAS

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking my name out of the season. How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day. If you want to celebrate my birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now, having said that let me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting my birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santas and snowmen and put in a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all my followers did that, there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town.

Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish. I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15: 1 - 8.

If you want to give me a present in remembrance of my birth, here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way my birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know. They tell me all the time.
2. Visit someone in a nursing home. You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
3. Instead of writing the President or Prime Minister, complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of my birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
- 5 Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.
7. Instead of nit-picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even if they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas", that doesn't

keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day, they'd close and let their employees spend the day at home with their families.

8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary - especially one who takes my love and Good News to those who have never heard my name.

9. Here's a good one: There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only will have no "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in me and they will make the delivery for you.

10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in my presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of myself. Just love me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest. Check out the list above and get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those whom you love, and remember...

I love you,
Jesus

(Thanks Frank!)

CHRISTMAS CARD

Ashland College in Ohio always does a beautiful Christmas card and this year they have done another one. This should get you into the Christmas spirit. Make sure you have your speakers on and enjoy.

<http://ecard.ashland.edu/2004admission/index.html>

(Thanks Frank!)

CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM EDNA

There was a man who worked for the Post Office whose job was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses.

One day, a letter came addressed in a shaky handwriting to God with no actual address. He thought he should open it to see what it was about.

The letter read:

Dear God,

I am an 83 year old widow, living on a very small pension.

Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment.

Next Sunday is Christmas, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope.. Can you please help me?

Sincerely, Edna

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all the other workers. Each one dug into his or her wallet and came up with a few dollars.

By the time he made the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman.

The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of Edna and the dinner she would be able to share with her friends.

Christmas came and went.

A few days later, another letter came from the same old lady to God.

All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened.

It read:

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me?

Because of your gift of love, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of your wonderful gift.

By the way, there was \$4 missing.

I think it might have been those b*st**ds at the post office.

Sincerely,
Edna

God bless,
Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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Gay by God. Proud by choice!



**Want to meet more gay Christians? Please join us on our List Serve (social group).
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If you have any questions or concerns, please write to mary@christiangays.com

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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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