

Subject: Embrace the will of God Conference

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CONFERENCE - "EMBRACE THE WILL OF GOD" – IRVINE, CA

The Evangelical Network 2010 Conference will take place April 29 - May 2, 2010, at the Crowne Plaza Irvine in Irvine, CA.

The 2010 conference is designed to educate and inspire every Christian to embrace God's will for their individual lives, relationships, and ministries.

The conference workshops and sessions focus on helping better understand, develop, and further our God-given gifts for greater ministry in the body of Christ.

The 2010 conference will feature four days of transforming teaching, intimate worship, and building relationships.

Our mission is to spread the Gospel to ALL people and to build bridges between the GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) Evangelical community and the Straight Evangelical community by fostering a safe space for on-going conversation and education.

We provide resources, support, and networking opportunities for churches, ministries, and individuals who are GLBT-affirming or are seeking to become affirming. Our affiliated churches, ministries, and Christian workers collaborate together on national and international projects.

For more information, please visit <http://www.theevangelicalnetwork.com/>

GOOD NEWS!!! - THE LUTHERAN CHURCH EMBRACES THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Excerpt:

George Bernard Shaw once said, "Certainly all great truths begin as blasphemies." On April 11, 2010, those who identify as people of faith and as "non-heterosexual" were given particular cause to celebrate Shaw's wisdom: a most unlikely church has given a most unlikely people a gift of love and truth, and I cannot stop smiling.

After twenty-five years of deliberation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Church Council has abolished its anti-gay policies, effective immediately..

Visit the **Gay News** page for the link to the full Article <http://christiangays.com/news.shtml>

(Thanks Darren!)

FOUR NEW POEMS BY DENNIS

"Denial", "Acceptance", "Beyond the Hanging Tree" and "Black Sheep Shepherd".

"Beyond the Hanging Tree" deals with struggling to be a leader in the church when being Gay.

"Black Sheep Shepherd" is more personal - dealing with being "different" within my own family, yet an underlying, hidden meaning for all Gays.

Please view them at: <http://christiangays.com/blog/dennis.php>

NEW – PERSONAL STORY BY SCOTT MCKERNAN - “THE GREAT SHAME”

Scott McKernan has written his own personal story about how he reconciled his Christianity with his sexuality. It includes many of the things that Scott had to learn to come to the realization that he is acceptable to God just as he is.

I highly recommend this 11 page .pdf file, especially to those who are still struggling. You will relate to Scott, and perhaps learn the things you need to learn to come to complete acceptance of yourself.

His story is called (very fittingly I think) “**The Great Shame**” and you can download it from the **Personal Stories** page at <http://christiangays.com/stories.shtml>

Thank you Scott for sharing this with us.

SEEKING – PEOPLE WITH VIDEO CAMERAS TO TELL THEIR STORIES

I am an amateur filmmaker and I would like to do an independent film about Gay Christians. I have \$0 budget so I am hoping others will have a video camera to film themselves, and I will do all the editing.

- I specifically would like people telling their story about how they struggled with being gay and Christian, and how they became a Christian.
- I would like stories of people who have gone through ex-gay ministries, but the film is not limited to those who have
- I would like interviews with their religious leaders (if possible) and shots of them performing their spiritual rituals (devotionals, rosary, church, etc).
- I would also like interviews with therapists, if applicable.
- Everyone in the film needs to sign a release form, which I can make available by people emailing me

I would like to keep this as boundary free as possible as I would like to see others' creativity come out with this project - the more creative the better. They can contact me for information and to send me their final file at gaychristianfilm@yahoo.com

Jackie N. McCarty

SEEKING - LGB GROUPS IN THE STOKE ON TRENT AREA, UK

My name is Ian Bradshaw,

I am a counsellor trainer/for the Dove service a counselling charity organisation working in the area of loss and bereavement. Previous to this I worked as a counsellor for the Terrance Higgins Trust in Birmingham working extensively with the LGB community.

We have recently been awarded a big lottery grant enabling us to offer Counselling, peer mentoring training and training around grief awareness to young people aged between 10-18. I am therefore contacting the switchboard to enquire if you could possibly help me in contacting LGB groups in the Stoke on Trent area?

Contact Ian at ian.bradshaw@thedoveservice.org.uk

CHRISTIAN GAYS FACEBOOK PAGE

If you haven't already checked it out, point your browser to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oshawa-ON/Christian-Gays/241807094094?ref=ts/> A lot of people are posting messages about recommended books,

concerts, conferences, events, their own websites, etc. Lots of good stuff to see.

DEVOTIONAL - "BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW"

Excerpt from Exodus 5: 6 - 7

"That same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmaster of the people, as well as their supervisors, 'You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks.'"

Reflection by Anthony B. Robinson

Lately, I've been running into one gay and lesbian couple after another who have adopted children with special needs. Often the children they have welcomed into their lives are the kids no one else wants, children with problems associated with the addictions of their birth mother.

Somehow this strikes me as like the Exodus story of the Egyptian taskmasters making the already hard life of their Hebrew slaves harder by telling them to make bricks without straw or to find their own straw, and yet still meet the same brick-production quotient.

Society says to gay and lesbian people: we're not sure you belong. We doubt you should be married. We're not at all sure you should be parents. And yet I keep bumping into these couples who are doing parenting I can hardly imagine.

One such couple, two gay men from our church, were in court not long ago to finalize an adoption of two children with fetal alcohol syndrome. Someone objected saying that they were not fit parents, though they have been successfully fostering the children for several years. The judge, an older man, looked with startled disbelief at the person who protested and said, "These boys (the gay couple) are heroes."

As a society we've pretty much said to people who are gay and lesbian, "Make bricks without straw." Make a sane life without any of the usual supports. It's time to leave Egypt behind.

Prayer

Lord, I pray today for the kids who are born with tough challenges and for the parents who love them and raise them. Let the children and parents know they are precious to you. Amen.

Author Tony Robinson, a United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher and writer.

UCC Daily Bible Readings: <http://act.ucc.org/site/R?i=ioXwpGVOYvXYDxo8G59UXQ>

(Thank you Dennis!)

God bless,
Mary

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<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

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

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