

Subject: A Trailblazer from Birth

Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2010 9:16 PM

From: Mary Pearson <mary@ChristianGays.com>

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NEW ARTICLE – "A TRAILBLAZER FROM BIRTH"

Excerpt:

He was the first of some 20 babies born to a lesbian parenting support group in Kingston in the 1990s that paired lesbians with willing sperm donors and arranged for their artificial insemination.

He was the first child in Ontario to have two women's surnames on his birth certificate and later watched his two mothers legally marry.

Aiden was born a girl named Caitlyn in 1992 but came out as transgendered in his first year of high school.

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He fought addiction, bullying and intolerance about who he was and what he was becoming, and on April 22, in the middle of the night, Aiden sent an electronic goodbye to those he loved before killing himself.

He was one month shy of his 18th birthday.

*Please read and share **Aiden's story** at <http://christiangays.com/trans/aiden.shtml>. We MUST educate about the consequences of transphobia!*

NEW – MESSAGE BOARDS RETURN

For many years we had a Forum that we called our Message Boards. They

were quite active until we started the Social Group and then activity seemed to transfer to the Social Groups.

At one point the website was hacked and we lost the Message Boards. I didn't bother putting them back since they hadn't received a lot of attention, but we've had a request to have them again, and so they are back.

I hope you'll make use of them to meet and greet others in your geographic area, connect with people who have similar disabilities, to discuss different topics, to support and get support from others with addictions, to post your prayer requests and praises, and to notify us when your church is having a special event, concert etc. Tell others about your city's Pride events or let us know about a movie that you think is great, especially if it relates to GLBT's.

If you'd like me to create a new Category just let me know.

*Please check out the new **Message Boards** at <http://christiangays.com/boards>*

NEWS - UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SUPPORTING REPEAL OF DADT

Your voice needs to be heard in support of the rights of gays and lesbians to serve openly in the Armed Forces by calling on Congress to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT).

DADT is legalized discrimination. No category of citizens of the United States should be regarded as second class and singled out for discrimination. All should be afforded equal opportunity and equal protection under the Constitution. More than 13,000 gays and lesbians have been discharged under DADT, and an uncounted number of others have left prior to completing full careers due to the pressures imposed by DADT.

Go to the **Gay News** page <http://christiangays.com/news.shtml> for the link to the whole article and where you can take action in support.

(Thanks Dennis!)

RESEARCHERS NEED SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

We are researchers at The Ohio State University. We are studying the roles that religion and sexuality play in peoples' lives, and how people cope when those roles conflict. We are particularly interested in perspectives of people who are trying or who have tried in the past to change their sexual orientation (these activities may be called reparative therapy or the "ex-gay" movement).

If you are currently involved in any activities designed to change your sexual orientation OR if you have ever tried any of these activities, we invite you to participate in our study.

If you choose to participate, please follow the link below to the online survey. It should take about 30 minutes to complete. Please know that any information you provide will be kept strictly confidential, and you will not be asked to provide any identifying information as part of the study.

More information about the study can be found at the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/38RFN5T>

If you choose, you may be entered into a drawing for one of two \$50 gift certificates for amazon.com. Information for the drawing will be collected separately from the survey information.

Please forward this message to anyone else who may be interested in participating. Thank you very much for your help!

Elizabeth Weiss

NEW BOOK - "The Bible in Original Languages is Not Anti Gay: An Essential Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians."

Dr Ann Nyland (the translator of *The Source* and the *GLBT Study New Testament*) has a new book just out, "*The Bible in Original Languages is Not Anti Gay: an Essential Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians.*"

The facts are that the Bible in the original languages does not speak against gay or lesbian people at all. It is only in English mistranslation that this appears to be the case. This easy-to-read book is an essential guide for gay and lesbian Christians as it sets out what the Bible actually says in the original languages.

*It's available for sale on Amazon. Click on the banner ad directly under the navigation links for "**World's First Gay and Lesbian Study Bible**" <http://christiangays.com/> for information about this new book.*

EVENT - STEPPING UP IN FAITH FOR HIV/AIDS – NEW YORK CITY – JULY 11 - 17

Sunday July 11

Queens

Are you ready for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in your House of Worship
3:00 - 6:00 pm God of Light International Ministry

Monday July 12

Brooklyn 11:00 AM Kick off

Opening Press Conference, Brooklyn Borough Hall

General Community Meeting Lunch, Brooklyn Borough Hall

House of Worship HIV Stigma, GMAD Office

Tuesday July 13

Manhattan

Visiting Sick, Shut-in and Isolated People Living with HIV/AIDS
(City-wide Care Partners Programs in 2010)

12:30 - 3:00 pm

St. Johns Episcopal Church

Bronx

Are you ready for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in your House of Worship?

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Parkchester Baptist Church

Wednesday July 14

Staten Island

People Living with HIV/AIDS Town Hall Luncheon, Our Quality of our Care

12:30 - 3:00 pm Location TBA

Thursday July 15

Manhattan

NYC Conversation on HIV, AIDS, Faith and Minority Health

12:00 - 2:30 pm

Native American Indian House

Brooklyn

Tapping Into Your Inner Diva Swagg (Youth HIV/AIDS Wellness Event

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cypress Hill - East New York

Manhattan

Acting Up for HIV and AIDS through Faith and the Arts

6:30 pm- 8:30 pm

Broadway UCC

Friday July 16

Brooklyn

High Noon" - A Black / African American Conversation HIV, AIDS, Faith in
the NYC Community

11:30 - 3:30
(Location TBA)

Saturday July 17

Manhattan

"Christmas in July - A Gospel Lunch Concert raising HIV/AIDS Ministry Awareness"

11:30 - 2:30 pm Riverside Church New York City

For all July event information and updates visit <http://www.nycfia.org/> or contact info@nycfia.org

SOME HEROES OF THE FAITH

ABRAHAM



CAME OUT OF UR

MOSES



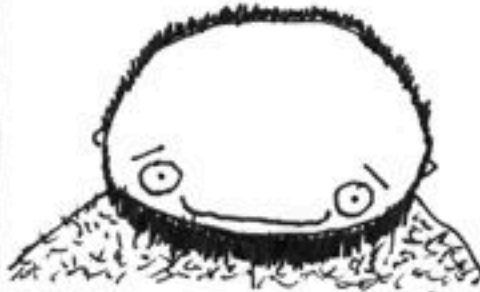
CAME OUT OF EGYPT

DAVID



CAME OUT TO FACE GOLIATH

DANIEL



CAME OUT OF THE LION'S DEN

JESUS



CAME OUT OF THE TOMB

PAT



CAME OUT OF THE CLOSET

©dhayward 10

I'm not one to throw the word *hero* around lightly but if a *hero* is someone who risks their life to save another, then I don't consider it a stretch to attribute heroic status to those who come out of the closet. Every time someone comes out of the closet it comes with the risk of losing the life (family, friends, community, career, home...) they've always known and all too tragically there continue to be places in the world where the price is much higher still, resulting in the loss of their freedom even to their very life.

Like the pilot who uses his skill and calm to land a plane safely so all the passengers are saved or the firefighter who enters a burning building to rescue a child trapped inside, the person who comes out of the closet saves not only the lives of others who find hope and strength to go on for another day by their example, but they save their own life. Coming out is life-saving for the one who comes out and for those who witness their courageous act.

I don't know who Pat is that David refers to in the cartoon but in my mind everyone who comes out of the closet, especially those deep locked closets held within the walls of the church, are heroes in the truest sense of the word. And like most heroes who've ever lived, the hero who comes out of the closet is the first to acknowledge that what they thought they could never do, they were able to do because God gave them the strength and the courage to do it; to open the door and step out.

You are all heroes or future heroes in the making in my book. Don't sell yourself short and just as importantly, don't sell short what God can and will do through you.

Now go get your SuperHero cape out of the dryer before it wrinkles.

*From **SisterFriends Together** <http://www.sisterfriends-together.org/>,
cartoon created by **David Hayward** at <http://www.nakedpastor.com/>*

God bless,

Mary

Gay AND Christian? YES! It IS Possible!

<http://www.ChristianGays.com>

Gay by God. Proud by choice!



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