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Freedom

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."
—Galatians 5:1

The Newsletter of the Metropolitan Community Churches in Lancaster and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

March, 1984

Vol. 2, No. 12

What the Bible Really Says...

by Frank Lang

Few Gay Christians that I know are Bible scholars. Perhaps because they are afraid of what they might learn or worse, they already believe the gross misinterpretations of the Scriptures taken by many of the so-called scholars (including the Rev. Billy Graham). But there are a few brave pioneers who venture into the Word with a sensitivity and a keen eye for the truth to present what the Bible actually says about homosexuality.

Lethia Scanzoni and Virginia Mollenkott are two of the best known pioneers in their excellent work: Is the Homosexual My Neighbor? (Harper & Row 1978). There are other writers equally good, but



Give Ink!

The next time you see Jackie, of FLAG (Friends & Parents of Lesbians and Gays) thank her for the green. Our March issue would have appeared in black and white without her generosity.

Every month for just \$10. you can buy the ink for Freedom and brighten our every issue. Someone has stepped forward to buy the April ink, but there is still eight more months in the year.

Checks should be made payable to MCC/Harrisburg with memo in the bottom left of your check "for INK". The financial strain forces us to go black & white unless someone can pay for the ink. February's red ink was contributed by an anonymous source.

Once again, Jackie, thank you for the green. You're gorgeous!

they are my favorites. Frank Lang is another scholar who put together a 3-part series for the Harrisburg Gay Switchboard in 1981, that are worthy for your examination. Freedom will present his 3-part series and an additional Part 4 by Father Sawdy, beginning with this issue. It may be the best thing you'll ever read to break the chains that people with good intentions have welded for you.

To your good health: GOD & GAYS
Part 1:

There are six basic passages in the Bible that have been used as proof texts that God condemns all homosexuality: two in the Old Testament (Genesis 19:1-29ff; Leviticus 18:22) and four in the New Testament (Romans 1:27; I Cor. 6:9; I Timothy 1:10; Jude 7). If these passages are studied in the light of

1. the original Hebrew or Greek words used in the passage
2. the context of the entire chapter or Book,

much can be seen to prove that homosexual orientation is not condemned by God. The most frequently used (or misused) verse, I Cor. 6:9, seems to be very damaging when viewed on the surface. However, in actuality, it in no way gives a blanket condemnation.

I Cor. 6:9: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...." (KJV)
"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of

cont. on p. 2

God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders"(New International Version).

In the original Greek, there are two words used which are translated by the underlined words above. These words are 'malakos' and 'arsenokoites'. 'Malakos' is used very few times in scripture (Matt. 11:8 [twice]; Luke 7:25; I Cor. 6:9). In the other passages it refers to 'soft' or 'given over to luxury' as one would experience living as a nobleman in a palace, dressed in luxurious ('soft') clothing. To collaborate this interpretation, the KJV uses the word 'effeminate'. Immediately this connotes to us a feminine male or one who is much like a woman. To many an immediate connection with homosexuality is made as well. However, The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on Historic Principles states that at the time the KJV Bible was published (1611), the word 'effeminate' meant 'luxurious living' or 'soft' and expressed no connotation of homosexuality. Therefore, the KJV mirrors very accurately the Greek word 'malakos', but we have added meanings that were never implied.

The second word, 'arsenokoites', is used only twice in scripture (I Cor. 6:9; I Tim. 1:10). Because of this sparse usage in scripture and concurrent literature, it is very difficult to assign a fixed meaning. It is made up of two morphemes: 'arseno' meaning 'male' and 'koites' meaning 'chambering' or 'bedding' (from which we get the word 'coitus'). It denotes promiscuity and abuse. (A little later in Greek usage it acquired the meaning of abusive male pedophilia.) So this term does specify a facet of homosexual activity, but one of promiscuity and abuse, not a wide-sweeping condemnation of all homosexual orientation.

I Corinthians 6:9 does not segregate all homosexuals as enemies of God or as unable to be part of the Kingdom of God due to

their sexual orientation. The other scriptures mentioned at the beginning of the article are equally misused when they are said to support the contention that God hates homosexuals and that all homosexuals are categorically condemned.

GOD & GAYS PART 2 in APRIL



Mr. Hbg. Chosen

Congratulations, Mr. Strawberry! Chris, is now the first Mr. Harrisburg. You looked awfully good on Sunday Night! Mr. Pegesus (Robbie) 1st runner-up; Mr. Neptune (Bobby) 2nd runner-up; and Mr. Shadows (Chuck) 3rd runner-up deserve another round of applause. You all looked mighty fine, men! Stay hunky.

Special thanks to the Pennsmen who made it all possible in Harrisburg. Thanks, men!

FREEDOM

Vol. 2, No. 12
March, 1984

FREEDOM is the newsletter of the Metropolitan Community Churches in Harrisburg and Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It is published monthly and mailed from Harrisburg on the Monday prior to the first Sunday of the month.

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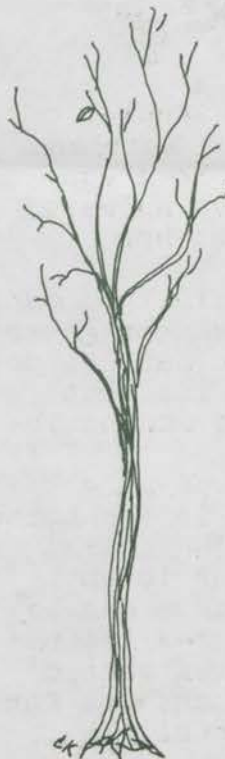
Rev. Patricia Lichty

Editors Colin Kreitzer & Laurie Israel
Artwork Colin Kreitzer

Manuscripts submitted for publication should be typed, single-spaced, with a column width of no more than 3¼ inches (19½ picas). Manuscripts will not be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included. Manuscripts should bear the name of the author.

The views expressed in the articles are those of the writers and not necessarily those of MCC-Lancaster, MCC-Harrisburg, or the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Publication of the name of any person, business, or organization should not be construed as indicative of the sexual orientation or ideological stance of that person, business, or organization.

The Metropolitan Community Church is an ecumenical, Christian church for all people with a special ministry to the lesbian and gay community.



CHURCH NEWS

by David Leach, MCC Harrisburg

The Strawberry Inn fire was a shock to the community. How would we respond? Members of MCC were active in all areas of ministry to the victims including; Keith Baim's funeral and memorial service, raising money for Keith's son, Danny, and for the Gay Switchboard, and collecting clothing for those in need. The entire community is to be commended for its support. Perhaps we are a closer community out of this adversity.

This issue of FREEDOM will be included in media packets which are being distributed to the print and broadcast media in the area. The packets will include general information regarding the history, doctrine, and mission of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches as well as MCC-Harrisburg. Editors will be able to refer to the packets when they receive press releases from us.

A committee is being formed with members from the Harrisburg and Lancaster congregations to work jointly on FREEDOM. By discussing possible articles and by soliciting such items from the two churches, much of the work load can be removed from Laurie and Colin. Currently they are the writers, editors, and publishers.

Although it had been announced that a pot luck dinner will be held the 3rd Sunday of each month, only 9 people made it to February's event. A baked rice dish, lasagna, three cakes and one pie were there also. For the March 19, pot luck we are asking everyone to bring green foods. Use your imagination!!!

A new event for MCC-Harrisburg will be the movie matinee day, March 10. A film and time will be chosen nearer to that date. Everyone interested will meet at the Friends Meeting House, and we will car pool to the theatre.

Nowhere are there more
hiding places, than in the
heart. GERMAN PROVERB

Coming Events...

Colin plays Rabbit... May 19th, 1984

A RABBIT in the RAIN, will be the fourth appearance of Buh Rabbit at the Friend's Meeting House. Buh Rabbit is the most famous character in the collection of Black American folktales.

One review of Rabbit captures what Rabbit is about:

"The lights went out and for the next hour we were plunged into an experience of intense giving. For us it was a night of laughter, of surprise, of tho't, of remembrance, and of just simple enjoyment. For us it was a night of stars But the stars that shone the brightest before our eyes and ears were the sharp-witted 'Buh Rabbit' and the man who brought him to life.

...And throughout the performance we became increasingly aware that we were receiving a special gift, a gift that is all too rare: the giving of one's self. For that is what happened: a talented, creative, and caring man shared a part of himself and touched the minds and hearts of his audience."—Frank Lang

Editors Read Dramatic & Subdued Poetry and Prose

On Saturday night, March 31, a free-will offering is the only ticket of admission to hear Harrisburg's Gay Community's Editors read Dramatic & Subdued Prose & Poetry for the Gay Community. The gifts you bring will be divided between Freedom and the Keystone (Dignity Cent. Pa.).

Mark your calendars for March 31 for laughter, for tears, for an experience you won't soon forget. Friend's Meeting House, 7:30pm for an evening with the Editors.

Distaff News Clips

San Francisco--Steve Simmons describes himself as a "male chauvinist feminist". He's also a mechanic at the Van Ness Avenue Texaco station. "I found out that women only make 59 cents for every dollar earned by men. So I give them (women) 41% discounts on all labor charges," Simmons says. How do men feel about that? "They think it's unfair," he admits.

from the Sunday Parade.

Says Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D., Colo.): "I Try to teach my male colleagues about how to treat women. I try not to do it in a hostile way. For example: "I might introduce someone by saying, 'This is Charlotte Ford's husband. His most remarkable achievement has been the wonderful way he has managed to balance a career and a family.' It's wonderful to watch their faces."

from the Sunday Parade.

**LANCASTER
GAY/LESBIAN
HELP LINE**

397-0691

Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, and Sunday
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**GAY
SWITCHBOARD
OF HARRISBURG**

234-0328

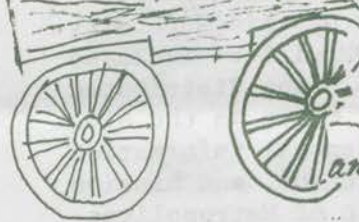
Monday thru
Friday
6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

March Proverbs

Calligraphy and illustration by Colln Kreitzer

*I know a woman who,
whenever one of her intimates
is attacked in her presence,
merely states, "She is my
friend," and refuses to
say more.*

-Andre Maurois



*All the best work is done
the way ants do things
by tiny but untiring
and regular additions.*
-LAFACIO HEARN.

*The future belongs to him
who knows how to wait.*
RUSSIAN PROVERB.

*NOBODY IS KIND ONLY TO ONE
PERSON AT ONCE, BUT TO
MANY PERSONS IN ONE.*
-Frederick W. Faber.

Glory to your feet.
ALBANIAN ROAD GREETING

HARD HEADS SUFFER MUCH.
-ALBANIAN PROVERB

*I
wonder
sometimes
if
any
one
learns
to
laugh-
really
laugh-
much
before
he
is
40.*
-David Grayson.

TO CONTINUE YOUR FREEDOM HOME DELIVERY:

Could you please take a few moments to complete and mail the coupon below?

- YES, I would like to stay on your mailing list and receive Freedom. My name and mailing address are below.
- YES, please add me to your mailing list.
- Enclosed is a free will contribution of \$_____.

MCC/HARRISBURG
Box 3897
HARRISBURG, PA
17105

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Please make checks payable to MCC/Harrisburg). I understand that this gift will be used to defray costs for FREEDOM. Contribution is not necessary to continue receiving this newsletter.

Lancaster Congregation to Meet

Due to bad weather, illness and unfortunate circumstances, the Congregational Meeting scheduled for MCC Lancaster for February 5th had to be postponed. Why? We didn't have a quorum of members present in order to conduct business. Nine members constitute a quorum by our current roll. If you attend church regularly, you will realize that we have only nine members who are present nearly every week. If you haven't attended lately, we especially need your presence March 11th in order to prevent a repeat of the February postponement.

There is much important business to be discussed at this meeting including adoption of the 1984 budget, report of the pastoral search group, fund raising activities to be announced and congregational response to fall district conference resolutions. The decisions made at this meeting will determine the course of our group for the coming year. Your input is not only important to the church but it is part of your responsibility as a member of this body. So reserve March 11 on your calendar and make a special effort to be there. Better still plan to attend this Sunday and every Sunday and bring a friend to share in the experience.

by Earl Custer

People "died" all the time in their lives. Parts of them died when they made the wrong kinds of decisions—decisions against life. Sometimes they died bit by bit until finally they were just living corpses walking around. If you were perceptive you could see it in their eyes; the fire had gone out. . . . But you always knew when you made a decision against life. When you denied life you were warned. The cock crowed, always, somewhere inside of you. The door clicked and you were safe inside—safe and dead. — Anne Morrow.

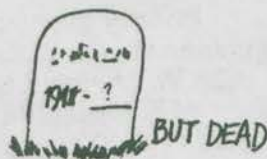


Gay Rap Expands

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! Lancaster Gay Rap is expanding. We have developed a schedule of events which we are cordially inviting all of our friends to attend. All Gay rap sessions are held at the Unitarian Center-- 538 West Chestnut Street on the first and third Thursday of each month from 7:30-9:30ish. COME AND JOIN US SOON!

- March 8- Swimming (call 392-2729 for information & directions)
- March 15- Gay Rap Anniversary & Dance
- April 5- Panel discussion with professional counselors
- April 12- Gay Skate (we hope in Lancaster (call 392-2729 for details.

Come join us for all or some of these events. Future plans include: Films, Sexually Transmitted Disease discussion, Stereotypes within the Gay/Lesbian community and lot's more. Just come and find out for yourself - bring a friend!!!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

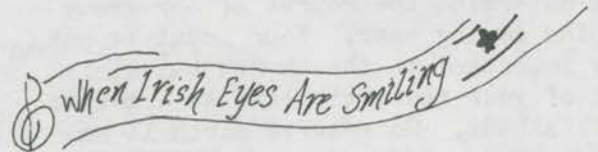
Harrisburg Church...

- Mar. 10 - Saturday Movie Matinee. Meet at Friends Meeting House to car pool. Time and film to be announced. For more information call Pat, 232-7040.
- Mar. 18 - St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck, bring YUMMY green foods. FMH, 5:30pm. Worship service follows, 7pm.
- Mar. 24 - Saturday nite Game nite at Dave's, 7pm. For more info. call Dave 737-6644.
- Mar. 31 - Go Fly a Kite? er... Come with us and fly a kite and picnic. City Island, 1pm. Bring a covered dish and the kite of your choice, and go fly a ki ...er come with us and fly a kite.
- Mar. 31 - The Editors read Dramatic and Subdued Prose and Poetry. FMH. 7:30pm. Free Admission and free will offering to be divided between the Keystone (Dignity Cent. Pa.) and Freedom (this here publication). Come to laugh and to cry.

every Sunday- Worship services. 7pm. FMH.
every Wednesday - Mid-week Bible Study, 7pm. FMH.

Lancaster Church....

- March 4- Guest speaker- Dale Bowman
March 11- Guest speaker- John
March 18- guest speaker-a mystery?
March 25-pot luck
All worship held in Emerson hall for March
Suicide/CONTACT--Gay Rap 7:30 March 1
Swimming LAST CHANCE--7:00-8:45 March 8
First Anniversary--7:30 wear GREEN March 15
bring munchies and drinks, be ready to have fun and dance the night away!!



**Deadline for April Issue:
March 20th**



WORSHIP SCHEDULES

Harrisburg:

Sunday Evenings
Friends Meeting House
6th & Herr Streets
Harrisburg, Pa.
7:00 p.m.

Lancaster:

Sunday Evenings
Unitarian Center of Lancaster
538 W. Chestnut Street
Lancaster, Pa.
5:00 p.m.

Williamsport:

^{and 3rd}
1st Sunday of the Month
YWCA - 815 W. 4th Street
1:00 p.m.
717-238-3746 for info.