



ONE TO ONE

The official quarterly newsletter of SDA Kinship Australia 01/03/07

NEWSLETTER NO 7 ISSUE 1

OUR PURPOSE: Seventh Day Adventist Kinship Australia is a non-profit support organization which ministers to the spiritual, social and physical well-being of former and present SDA Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender and Intersexed individuals and their friends and families. Kinship is not supported by the SDA Church. Kinship is a confidential organization which supports the advancement of human rights for all people.



Kinship will be at the GLBTIQ Fair Days in Sydney and Brisbane this year.

We have found it quite successful in getting the message out about Kinship.

These expressions of thanks have been received at our office in Australia.

I would like to affirm the work that Kinship has played so far in my life. I have not registered till now, but have been reading your newsletters. I have also been on the USA Kinship site frequently, but the biggest help, was Carrol Grady's website, "someone to talk to" - I have no way of expressing my profound thanks and gratitude to her for what I have learned there over the last 2 OR 3 years of my deepest agony. Especially the section on letters from people - the letter "My World" by "Mark" still brings me to tears every time I read it - it is my story and there are oceans of emotion behind that and my story as well.

Thanks Noel

I always enjoy reading the newsletter. Keep up the great work.

Dear Friends,

Kinship Australia's web-site reflects that of New Zealand now and has a joining page on it. I hope that through this we support souls who are in need and support those who we have in our small group. We must respect and trust each other.

I also want to thank those that were able to come to the meeting, for their time.

David has consented to be the contact for New Zealand for those who join in the future.

We are also in need of women to be contacts for Australia and New Zealand.

The manager of GayLine Auckland, Neil Denney has also consented to Kinship using there place for a support meeting. Neil has told me that we are most welcome to use the rooms.

I have also spoken to Rev Leigh Neighbour of Metropolitan Community Church, Auckland and Leigh has said that he would support us in anyway possible.

With that we need to think of the future for Kinship in New Zealand.

On another note, Our Kampmeeting in Sydney, is on target for September. We are promised a great weekend of fun and education. So do remember to come and be Connected to each other. More details, see the events page on the web.



THE BOOK

The book "Christianity and Homosexuality: Some Seventh-day Adventist Perspectives", continues to move toward production, though not as quickly as we had originally hoped. Our main delay at the present time is one key chapter that we needed after the Workshop was completed last January. It took several months to find the right person to write the chapter and then a little time to get them to agree to write it. Since then, they have been doing research and preparing the chapter. We had asked them to have it to us by October, but because the topic has more material for research than they anticipated, it is taking longer. I am convinced that the wait will be worth it. Once we get this chapter, we need to have a response paper written, which will take additional time.

In the mean time, we are doing the copy editing and layout work for the rest of the book. We also continue to gather names of key SDA's that we would like to have read the book. These people must be personally contacted by a member of Kinship asking them to read the book. Kinship members who would like to make these contacts and make sure these people receive a complimentary copy of the book should send their name, their contact information and the names of those they want the book mailed to (along with the appropriate mailing information) to kinshipbook@aol.com.

There are four target audiences for the book. 1. those mentioned above; 2. Kinship members who would like to see that there are many leading Adventist scholars who support them; 3. Open-minded SDA's who are willing to look at the evidence regarding gay members of the church; and 4. Other conservative Christians who would like to see a comprehensive presentation about gays in the church.
Dave Ferguson

It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.

e.e. Cummings.

This is Ian's story:

I read with sadness the story of being freed from homosexuality.

This story reminds me of my own story. I grew up in a country town, Mildura in Australia. Even though I lived in a small town, there was a large SDA community and my whole life was involved with the church, it was my identity. For as long as I can remember, I was attracted to other guys. The feelings of guilt and the thought that I was not accepted by God and therefore had no hope was too heavy a burden to carry, affecting my mental and physical health greatly. As expected of me I met a young girl and married. I did like this woman; she was my best friend and great company. For a short time I felt almost "normal" and was able to suppress my homosexual feelings to some extent. We had 3 children in 4 years. Soon after the birth of our 3rd it was clear to me that I was gay and that my marriage was a sham but I did not know how to leave without destroying my young family. I felt trapped so continued to live this lie for another 16 years. During this time I thought about suicide frequently, making one serious attempt on my life. When I did come out, the result was the most devastating heartache.

I have met many others who have also had my experience and know that these stories will lead others to make this mistake. All young people need support and guidance especially from their spiritual community - finding your way in early life is confusing at the best of times. People should not have to feel their whole life has been a lie or that they have wasted the best 20 years of their life as I feel I have.

I am surer of my Spirituality now than before and don't care what the church thinks of me - I know they are wrong. The thing that is most important to me is the fact that my ex wife, her new husband, and my 3 grown children are my best friends. We are one big happy and supportive family. But I still have the deep and painful scars that will never go away.

CHANGE PROGRAMS

Some news on the travels of Pr Ron Woolsey.

"That Kind Can Never Change! Can They...?", written under the pseudonym of Victor J. Adamson several years ago.

Ron was brought to Australia (Brisbane) (Melbourne) by a private organization of Col Martens, that is of the SDA background. Ron said he was not cheap to bring out and proceeded to say he has changed from living a life of Homosexuality. Ron plays an instrument, a Xylophone. (Marimba music)

My family went along to hear him talk and was not aware of his background.

Yes Ron was saying he has changed and that we can also.

Yes Kinship did get a mention and we have rebuked him for his stand, he said. Ron also asked if people had heard of Kinship and out of the two hundred or so people that were there, half had heard of us. Very Good!!

So can we change!!!

We all know that change is not real for most of us.

This has been proven time and time again.

Ron is married and because of this the church has given him some standing.

This reminds us of the Colin Cook change program.

What a sorry affair that was in the Adventist history.

Kinship has to work harder to pick up the pieces that are left behind because of the church and its stand on Homosexuality.

Our duty is to lovingly hold Ron accountable for his actions... meaning not letting Ron get away with false statements about homosexuality and, if and when the time ever comes, to welcome Ron and support Ron as a fellow gay Christian who comes to love himself just as God created him.

God does ask us to be honest with ourselves and not live a lie.

Truth will always win in the end.

EDUCATORS TARGET CHAT ROOMS

by Harley Dennett SSO

A peak health body hopes to continue to run sexual health campaigns in online chat rooms, following a successful six-month trial.

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) released the results of its Netreach trial this week, which included using TRAINED peer educators from every state except NSW and attracting the attention of 460 Gaydar users.

The majority of men who sought out the educators were referred to sexual health clinics, AIDS councils and medical practitioners for further consultation.

Ian Rankin, AFAO president, said there was some initial resistance to the educators' presence, but that dissipated quickly.

"We're using people familiar with these internet chat rooms and these cultures, so they entered in a respectful way. The same strategy has worked for us over the years in bars and saunas and Fair Day.

"Once people were comfortable it wasn't a high-pitched sales job, they were able to have a private chat and ask questions they may not otherwise ask their GP or friends," he said.

The peer educators, known as outreaches, can be recognised by an .ac suffix on their profile name, which Gaydar restricts to those authorised by the program.

Nearly a third of respondents came from rural and regional areas of Queensland and Tasmania.

"It was interesting that there was such a large response from rural guys," Rankin said. "For them it was a rare opportunity to access service like that."

AFAO is keen to expand the program, both into other regions and other mediums like instant messaging.

"We're in the market for health promotion, we'll go anywhere to encourage good sexual health," Rankin said.

I am pleased to see that this is being done in our community. We need to be mindful that we put ourselves in danger when we use the chat rooms or beats for pleasure.

Kinship is not here to tell you how to live your life, but to educate and lovingly guide you to good health practices.

I LOVE THIS

**No one falls in love by choice, it is by CHANCE.
No one stays in love by chance, it is by WORK.**

And no one falls out of love by chance, it is by CHOICE!

Matthew 10:32 "Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will acknowledge him before My Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him"

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

The world-wide Adventist church has a special day of prayer for women every year – it is the first Sabbath of March.

This year the focus is entitled "Just like Jesus". Thousands of women around the world will be sharing together on this topic and praying together with the intention of being more "just like Jesus".

In West Africa thousands of young women are the focus of support and encouragement by the older women and they will be involved in fervent prayer on this special day.

In India many women are being taught to read and older women are now able to receive a pension because they can at last sign their name. These women will be seriously involved in prayer on this prayer day.

Across Russia women who have struggled with poverty and abuse because of the huge consumption of alcohol and vodka, will be praying together for strength to be "just like Jesus".

Jesus taught us to pray, He urged us to pray, He demonstrated how to pray, He prayed – how much more should we who are mortal human beings spend time in prayer with the One who wishes to commune with us? We are called to be "just like Jesus" and when we spend time with Him we reflect His gracious and compassionate character. This is what the world needs to see in us as His followers. A sermon, children's story, full programme outline, songs and other helps are available for your church to have a women's day of prayer. This is available on the Women's Ministries General Conference website.

wm.gc.adventist.org
Joy B.

TV EXPOSÉ DRIVES PASTOR TO SUICIDE.

A PRESBYTERIAN minister in Pittsburgh US took his own life after learning

a local television station was to broadcast an expose on his same sex trysts.

Rev. Brent J. Dugan, 60, of Pittsburgh's

Community Presbyterian Church died from an overdose of legal

non-prescription drugs, according to the state coroner's office.

In a letter he left for his congregation, Dugan acknowledged he had occasional sexual encounters with a man who eventually betrayed him by setting up a meeting at an adult bookstore where KDKA-TV recorded him. The reporter who conducted the

investigation claimed to have "uncovered illicit, possibly illegal, activity by a local minister, activities which at the very least violated the rules of his denomination."

However, the station decided the night before Dugan's suicide not to air the story after receiving a warning Dugan may harm himself. It is not clear whether Dugan ever knew that the station had decided not to run the segment.

In his letter, Dugan apologized for the shame he believed he had brought on the presbytery. He said he had struggled with his sexuality all his adult life.



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ORGANIZATION FOR PARENTS OF GAY/LESBIAN ADVENTISTS

Someone to Talk to.... Carrol Grady
(aka Kate McLaughlin My Son, Beloved Stranger),
Coordinator.

Web-Site <http://www.someone-to-talk-to.net>

My Son, Beloved Stranger

by Carrol Grady

This excellent book has been reprinted with an added epilog. This is a great book to have in your library and to have extra copies to give to parents, pastors, friends and anyone else who deals with having a loved one come out to them. "Contact your local Adventist Book Center to request them to carry the book!" This is a must have resource for both GLBTI people and Parents that are Adventists and have a gay child.

Open Heart, Open Hand (Video/DVD)

- USD \$14.95 plus postage

Three conversations about homosexuality and the family - a life and death matter. Introduced by Dr. David Larson, a professor with the Faculty of Religion at Loma Linda University, this new resource features interviews with Adventist parents of gay and lesbian people: Dr. Walt and Virginia Cason (physician/daughter of Elder H.M.S. Richards), Dr. George P. Babcock (educator) and Mrs. Carrol Grady (minister's wife).

To order your copies of these, both Book and DVD/Video contact **Carrol direct** at carrolgrady@hotmail.com

P-flag Australia For parents
and friends of GLBT people
web site: www.pflag.org.au

Associations of Kinship Elsewhere SDA KINSHIP
INTERNATIONAL www.sdakinship.org

MEMBERSHIP FOR KINSHIP IN AUSTRALIA IS WELCOME.

Membership is **FREE** in Australia, but relies on donations, to reach out to other people within the GLBTI community.

Finally: The world is a bridge, walk across but build no house upon it....

Articles in this News Letter are not necessarily Kinships view: Contributions to this news letter are welcomed and encouraged.
(The Newsletter One to One has been prepared by N Thorpe --- Co-ordinator.)