

connection

The Newsletter of Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, Inc. Vol. 33 No. 7 – August 2009

*Newly elected
Kinship Board
& Committee
Chairs (page 2)*

The full color Kampmeeting edition!



**Remembering Our Past...
Embracing Our Future**



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REGIONAL COORDINATORS, USA

Region 1 (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, PA, NJ): David Thaxton
 and Catherine Taylor, region1@sdakinship.org
 Region 2 (MD, VA, WV, NC, DE, DC): Yolanda Elliott,
region2@sdakinship.org
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 Region 4 (MN, IA, MO, WI, MI, IL, IN, OH, KY):
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 Region 5 (AK, KS, LA, OK, TX): Floyd Pönitz,
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 Region 9 (AZ, CA zip 93599-): region9@sdakinship.org

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 Older Adults: Ren Reynolds, olderadult@sdakinship.org
 IMRU? (Young Adults Under 30): Ruben López,
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 Webmaster: Linda Wright, webadmin@sdakinship.org

WHO WE ARE...

Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, Inc. is a non-profit support organization. We minister to the spiritual, emotional, social, and physical well-being of current and former Seventh-day Adventists who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals and their families and friends. Kinship facilitates and promotes the understanding and affirmation of LGBTI Adventists among themselves and within the Seventh-day Adventist community through education, advocacy, and reconciliation. Kinship is an organization which supports the advance of human rights for all people.

Founded in 1976 the organization was incorporated in 1981 and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States. Kinship has a board made up of thirteen officers. There are also regional and population coordinators in specific areas. The current list of members and friends includes approximately 1,550 people in more than forty-three countries.

SDA Kinship believes the Bible does not condemn or even mention homosexuality as a sexual orientation. Ellen G. White does not parallel any of the Bible texts that are used to condemn homosexuals. Most of the anguish imposed upon God's children who grow up as LGBTI has its roots in the misunderstanding of what the Bible says.

SUPPORT KINSHIP

Kinship operates primarily on contributions from its members and friends. Help us reach out to more LGBTI Adventists by making a tax-deductible donation to SDA Kinship International. Please send your check or money order to the address below or donate securely online at sdakinship.org. (You can also donate using your Visa or MasterCard by contacting treasurer@sdakinship.org. You will be phoned so that you can give your credit card information in a safe manner.)

SDA Kinship, PO Box 69, Tillamook, OR 97141, USA
 or visit SDA Kinship's
 website at:
www.sdakinship.org.





From the Editor

Kampmeeting!

Seattle put on a grand show for Kinship. The weather was dry and sunny. An eagle preened itself for early morning walkers in the botanical gardens. Many of us kept saying the Talaris Conference Center had the most comfortable beds and best food of any place we have stayed. Pearl led us on lovely walks through the marshes and along the river. Jacquie and Linda greeted people in a way that made us all want to stay longer. Kinshippers sang their hearts out. Joyce led a very disciplined choir. (If you haven't had her direct you before, be prepared for a joyful workout.) We had the blessing of another baptism. We became better acquainted with Daneen, Steve and Lilly and their film project, Seventh-Gay Adventists. We heard thought-provoking speakers. Of course there is no way we can share with you the conversations, the feel of the laughter, the smell of the sea on the whale watch, the taste of the fresh cooked salmon and vegetables. We are delighted to share pictures and some thoughts from our speakers. Take good care of yourself for you are infinitely valuable.



Personal Ministries at Kampmeeting

Hey Everyone,

For those of you who weren't at Kampmeeting 2009, let me catch you up to speed. My partner Joy Ellis and I attend the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Everett, Washington, about 30 minutes north of Seattle. About seven years ago we figured out how we could help those in need more efficiently. The church runs a program called "Dinner Bell" for the local homeless, which serves on average 40 people each week; sometimes much more in the winters. We run the "Food Pantry," funded by the congregants, which supplies non-perishable items. We also provide toiletry kits that help people stay clean so they can keep their jobs, their dignity, and somehow feel as though someone cares.

For those of you who grew up SDA you might remember going door to door collecting cans at Christmas, or with Pathfinders around Halloween, so that we could put together food baskets to feed people in need.

On the first evening of Kampmeeting, I let Kampers know about our project and asked them to contribute any of the sample toiletries from their rooms that they didn't need.

I wanted to let you know our tally of toiletries donated by people at Kampmeeting: 18 soaps, 27 shampoos, 23 conditioners, 23 lotions, 2 feminine products, 9 shower caps, and 11 coffees. Out of all this we were able to put together 18 complete sets of toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner, and lotion). The rest of the products made up partial kits for us to put aside to add to them later.

I was approached several times by people at Kampmeeting who told me, "I didn't know it was so easy to help other people; I thought I needed more time or resources" or "Wow, I have boxes of trial size stuff at home; I wish I lived closer."

If this is you, one person can make a difference, and collectively a huge difference! If you would like to help, take those trial size items, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine supplies (especially needed), and non-perishable food items to your local women's, men's, and/or family shelters. We are all just one paycheck away from being in a similar boat.

(Stephanie wears the green shirt on the picture)

Stephanie Spencer



Impression from Kampmeeting 2009





Coming Out, Coming Home

by Ken Burr

Sexuality is a relational process that draws us to another person for a variety of reasons. It can involve the direction of our erotic energy and desires. It may or may not include sexual behavior.

Spirituality is made up of connection, compassion, and contribution (or service). It is the experience of being part of something bigger than ourselves. It softens our sense of judgment. We become more likely to “feel with” rather than against others. When we feel connected to others and to our ability to be compassionate, we often become moved to contribute to our world.

Reflection Question: Considering the cultures in which you were raised, what has helped or hindered you from seeing yourself as created in the image of God?

Four things are hurtful to our spiritual growth: personal reactions to judgments or harm done to gay and lesbian people, societal prejudice or rejection of GLBTI people, self-destructive tendencies, and the gay ghetto’s prejudice against religion.

Three things are most helpful for spiritual growth: community acceptance and support; self-acceptance, instead of the need to please others; and spiritual practices such as prayer, meditation, reflection, journaling, rewriting theology, and service to others.

Reflection Thought: It is possible that a gay person who has done intense soul searching at an early age may be operating at a higher level of faith development than a straight person who has gone to church all their lives. ▽

Coming Out, Coming Home, Making Room for Gay Spirituality by Ken Burr is now available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or Kenburr counseling.com.



impressions from
Kampmeeting 2009





SPIN

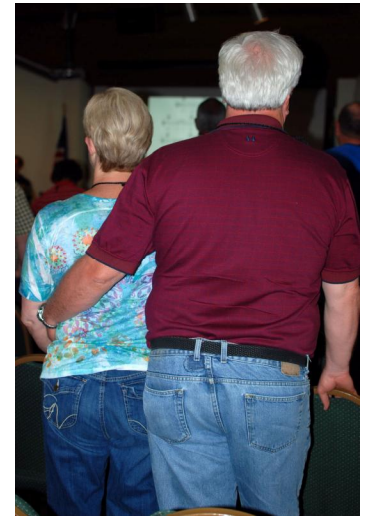
You may remember this remarkable, former Lutheran minister Lars Clausen and his unicycle journey as described in his book, *Straight into Gay America*. His talk focused on gratitude in the difficult times. His presence was so gentle that many people commented that the greatest gift Lars brings to the planet is his sense of “being.” The film he showed let us hear the people he met on his journey. We stayed after the meeting was officially over because we wanted more stories. You might want to look up his website, named after his journey. You might want to access his free daily version of the book. ▽



impressions from Kampmeeting 2009



A pleasure is not full grown until it is remembered. —C.S. Lewis

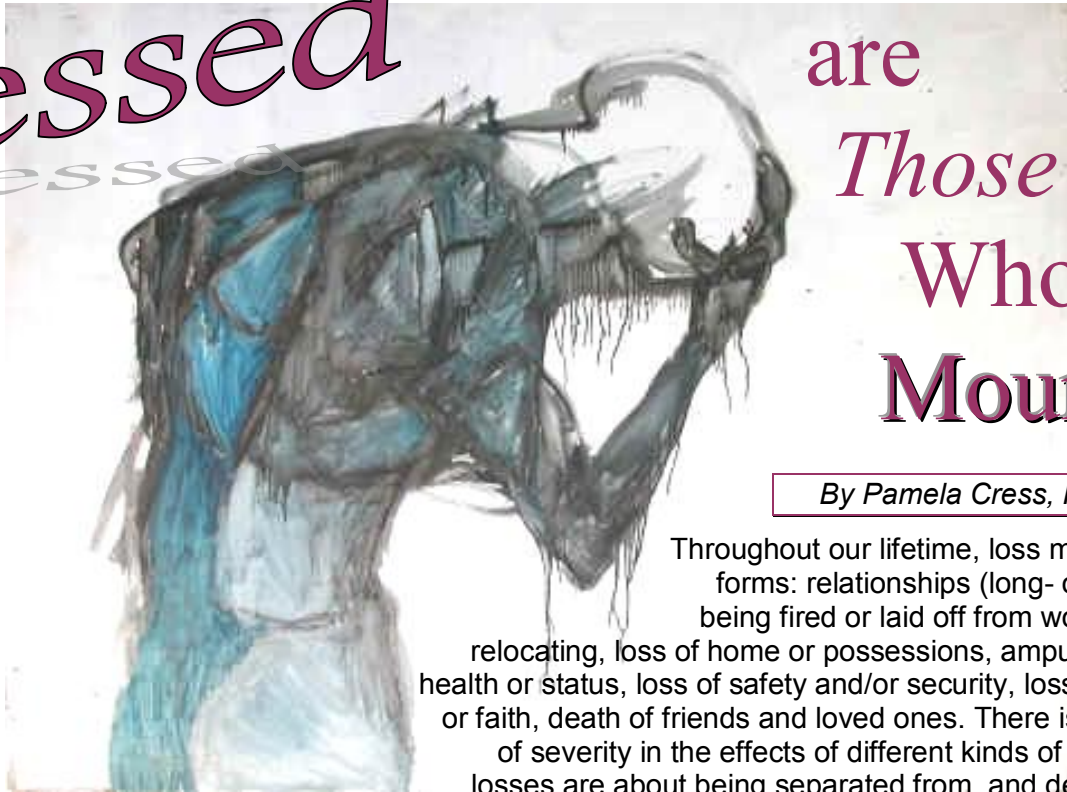


Remembering Our Past...
Embracing Our Future



Blessed

connection



are Those Who Mourn

By Pamela Cress, Ph.D, MSW

Throughout our lifetime, loss may take many forms: relationships (long- or short-term), being fired or laid off from work, moving or relocating, loss of home or possessions, amputation, loss of health or status, loss of safety and/or security, loss of spirituality or faith, death of friends and loved ones. There is a continuum of severity in the effects of different kinds of losses, but all losses are about being separated from, and deprived of, the person, object, status, or relationship. The experience of the loss depends on how much we value what we have lost. To understand loss we must understand the relationships and attachments on which it was founded.

Bereavement is the state of being bereaved or deprived of something when the person has experienced loss. Grief is a response to loss. Anticipatory grief is the mourning and coping process that begins, at least in part, in anticipation of an upcoming loss. Disenfranchised grief is what a person experiences when they cannot openly acknowledge or publicly mourn their loss. Grief overload happens when a person does not have enough time to grieve one loss before another occurs.

Grief and reactions to loss are affected by the way the loss occurred, the attachments to the deceased, coping strategies already learned, religious or ethnic backgrounds, and social supports. Wolfelt's Theory of Grief posits that grief and mourning are not the same event. He says that grief represents the thoughts and feelings that are experienced when someone dies. It is the internal meaning given to the experience. Mourning means taking the internal experience of grief and expressing it outside of ourselves (grief gone public).

The tasks of grief include: acknowledging the loss, expressing emotions, adjusting to a changed life, relocating the loss and reconstituting faith and philosophical systems challenged by the loss. Stroebe and Schut say that we oscillate between our loss-oriented processes and our restoration-oriented processes. Our task is not to "get over grief" but to remain involved and

connected to the person we have lost. It is a process of adaptation and change that involves ways of finding new connections. Our gender influences grief but does not determine our grieving style.

We can help the newly bereaved by doing (not just offering) specific things to help. Immediately after a loss it is helpful to help identify and articulate feelings and responses. It is almost always not helpful to say, "I know how you feel." Use minimal verbiage. Listen, listen, listen.

For those who are "into their grief" do not avoid contact. Assist in practical ways. Act normally and mention the lost one in ways that would be natural in the conversation. Don't try to answer unanswerable questions. Be available.

People well along in their grieving process continue to find it helpful when we mention the name of the lost one and continue to be available. All people coping with loss need social supports, nutrition, and exercise. These are often what they forget or are emotionally unable to access.

Grief is a very individualized process. The same person may respond differently to different losses because of the many different factors that influence grief. Grief is a normal part of life; and responding and adapting to loss, though not easy, is a healthy process. It takes courage to move through your grief. ▽



The Divine Fairy Tale:

Recovering the Original Hopeful Vision of the Book We Know as Revelation

John McLarty



Impressions from Kampmeeting 2009



Modern readers often think of the Bible's last book as a story of doom and gloom. In reality, those twenty-two chapters are a tale of grace. We've worried about whether we can be in heaven if only 144,000 will surround the throne of God. In reality, when John wrote the book, 144,000 (representing 12,000 from each tribe of Israel) represented completeness.

There are times of darkness. In chapter 6 it looks like evil triumphs. Mortals are sucked into the delusions of the fallen ones. However, in chapter 7 we see that God has worked out a way for a huge number of people to appear on, and at, God's side.

As in many fairy tales, there is a dragon and there is a witch. They rain terror on the vulnerable children of God. And, as in all good fairy tales, a hero comes to the rescue, at the cost of His own life; and, at the very last minute, sweeps His people from the clutches of those who would destroy them.

In Revelation 22 we see a classic picture of a throne and the King. The people, in gratitude, throw their crowns at the feet of the Rescuer. What is unusual in this tale is that the people are not in front of the throne, but *on* the throne. This is God's priority: sharing heaven with us. The need for a hierarchy has been removed.

So, why the need for the fear and disasters? You have to look at John's readers, then and now. People live in a very tough world. Most of the planet can identify with the horror in Revelation. They, we, need to know that God is not unprepared. In fact, God has a plan for how to deal with the horror. In that plan, we win. And when we win, God is victorious. ▽



Notes from Kenya



By Martha Wangoi

I was perusing some *Connections* today and kept seeing the theme of “self acceptance” running through the monthly issues. I translated that phrase in my mind to being the joy of realizing we are different and loving it! Many gay men and women in Africa are trying to pretend to be “normal” by being in false marriages.

In my work as a human rights activist for the Kenya Human Rights Commission, a private organization, I try to let people know their rights as citizens and as human beings. We have numerous rallies and workshops. Sometimes the issue of gay rights comes up, but the issue is a bit tricky here in Africa. We try to answer the questions that are asked, but sometimes we get caught in difficult situations.

I have done some research about homosexuality and Kenyan law. I have talked with a friend of mine who is a lawyer and who works for a local human rights organization. He says the law here is totally silent about the issue. He told me the issue is very new in our

My Son, Beloved Stranger

Carrol Grady



◀◀ This book
can be ordered
online at
[www.
sdagayperspectives.
com](http://www.sdagayperspectives.com)

country and has never been addressed.

Recently a woman came to speak to me at the end of a rally my organization had conducted. She told she had found out her husband, who is a high school teacher, is gay. When she told him she knew about his orientation, he denied it. Her intention had been to be supportive of him, to tell him that she still loved him, and to open ways where they could talk about this issue. She had been concerned that his behavior had been deteriorating and thought that, with support, he might not place himself in dangerous situations.

This woman told me that an angry parent of one of her husband’s students had approached her and told her to warn her husband to stay away from his students! The boy was supposedly the teacher’s favorite student at the school. Rumor had it that the teacher had summoned the boy to his house on the school compound while his wife was away, got the boy drunk, and spent the night with him.

While taking advantage of children and students is not ethical or permissible, I explained that being gay and having relationships with consenting peers is not a choice but something with which we are born. I have contacted Floyd and Catherine about accessing resource materials. Along with that I would like to hear from you readers any advice you might have about tackling these kinds of challenges. A close friend of mine and I are discussing setting up a place where people with orientation issues or concerns can come and speak to someone. We are not sure how advisable this is but are working to build resources for others. ▽

marthawangoi@yahoo.com

We would like to introduce you to....



Sean Waters is a Boston realtor who enjoys "finding the right home for my clients." He was born in Phoenix, Arizona, went to Monterey Bay Academy, but somehow, as an adult, has found himself living on the east coast. When not working, Sean enjoys hiking, softball, flag football, cooking, and living in Boston. One of the exciting things for Sean this year has been finding new ideas and new spiritual

paths. This new information and knowledge are the most important parts of his spiritual journey. He was introduced to Kinship in Seattle, Washington, by Marcus Stringer. The parts of this community that he mentioned enjoying are the chance to reconnect and the times when we sing praise music. Sean is single and has a wonderful perspective on the type of relationship he wants to build: trust, shared interests and values, good communication, sense of humor.

(seanwaters1@yahoo.com)



Heidi Johnson was born in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and spent her entire educational career in Adventist schools: Mt Vernon Academy and Columbia Union College. What she likes about her job as a librarian is its paycheck, security, and opportunity to salvage resources. When she's not at work Heidi enjoys helping to prepare

food for the animals at the National Zoo and promoting recycling and conservation of resources. Getting the volunteer position at the zoo has been the high point of this year. Humanist ethics are important to her. Other than that she is glad she doesn't have a spiritual journey. Heidi found out about Kinship from a circular. Since that discovery she has enjoyed the affection found in our community, social interactions, friendships, shared laughter and tears, and being tourists together in the journey of learning and sharing. Heidi says "My husband is more introverted than I am. That's why you

rarely see him. He likes to garden, ride his bicycle, and hike. He's a good photographer. He's looking forward to retirement but we don't know when yet. That will be an adjustment."

(heidi.johnson.civ@lrcm.usuhs.mil)



David Thaxton, like many New Englanders, lives in the same town where he was born: Springfield, Massachusetts. He attended the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and the University of Grenoble in France. He speaks French fluently and has been known to pop

across the Atlantic for a weekend in Paris. In this time of economic stressors, David has been quite busy in his job as Administrative Law Adjudicator for the Department of Unemployment. When asked what he is excited about this year, David replied "I am learning to play the piano!!" He found Kinship through an advertisement in the alternative paper for Western Massachusetts, *The Valley Advocate*. It announced a meeting for gay and lesbian Adventists in Hartford, Connecticut. He enjoys the spiritual side of our community, as well as the fellowship and various activities. He is one of the Region One coordinators. David says he does not have a partner and that his family is made up of his three very supportive brothers, their wives, and six supportive nieces and nephews.

(mufaro96@aol.com)



Denise Proulx was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, and went to the Boston School for the Deaf in Randolph, Massachusetts. She is known for crafts and her quilting. In fact, she has donated quilts as part of our fund-raising for her American Sign Language interpreters at Kampmeeting. Denise has also been

known for the beautiful kites she flies when Kinship meets at Rehoboth Beach. This particular mini-Kampmeeting was the highlight of Denise's year so far. She met Kinship on the internet "when I was coming out for the second time, after I became an Adventist." She

enjoys meeting people at Kinship gatherings and having the chance to listen to the struggles and the stories. Denise says she appreciates her siblings “who know about me and respect me.” She concluded with sharing that the most important part of her spiritual journey is “getting back to understanding my own spiritual life.”
(ShyPea697@aol.com)



Brenda McColpin went to Southern Adventist University and is a registered nurse in the admissions department of a psychiatric hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She says her work is dynamic, challenging, and sometimes rewarding. On weekends she likes to be outdoors. “I trail bike, hike, kayak, and

canoe. In the evenings I take walks near my home. I like to read, play music, and write songs. Pearl is my partner. Our two shih-tzus, Tucker and Tia, are our children. Their antics are never-ending entertainment. I think my life is full and very blessed.” Brenda found Kinship through family and friends. She attended her first Kampmeeting at Menucha in 2004. “Kinship has given me a loving, supportive, spiritual family. I am welcomed here. I belong.” She said that the most important aspect of her spiritual journey at the moment is “God’s current seeming tests of my faith and patience.”



Ted Ellquist went to physical therapy school at Loma Linda University’s Allied Health Department. He works as a physical therapist in a Portland, Oregon, physical therapy practice. In his spare time he likes to cycle, hike, garden, bake, travel, and go to the theater. Ted’s parents live in Redding, California. They are retired teachers of nursing. He has one sister, two brothers, no partner, one

dog, and one cat. Ted found Kinship “when my mother told me about it and got me involved.” Kinship has given Ted “a connection with my heritage and with my parents. This is a place that is comfortable for both of us.” The most important aspect of Ted’s present spiritual journey is “being true to myself and connecting with people who are accepting of all people (finding community).”



Dawnne Woodie, D.Min., has a B.A. in music from Texas Baptist College, a B.A. in Journalism from Texas A&M, a master’s degree in English, and a Doctor of Divinity from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. She is executive director of OPTIC (Outreach Program for Transgenders in Crisis). Dawnne enjoys travel, reading, and sleeping. She has twin 26-year-old

daughters and seven grandchildren (two-year-old triplets and six-month-old quadruplets). Dawnne met Kinship through Dave Ferguson and the Human Rights Campaign. She said she appreciates our community’s sense of friendship and inclusion. The most important aspect of Dawnne’s spiritual journey at this time is sharing the love of Christ with others.



Stephanie Spencer spent twelve years in the Adventist school system. She graduated from Auburn Adventist Academy in 1995. Stephanie obtained a certificate from massage school in 1996 and completed her Associate Degree with honors in Arts and Sciences in 2007. She enjoys web design, videography, audio/visual editing, music, and scrap booking.

Stephanie met Joy in a non-dating chat room in 2000. They were married in 2002. She has six nieces and nephews and two cats (our “fur children”). Stephanie describes Joy as “a wonderful person. She is the missing puzzle piece I searched for.” Stephanie says that Kinship has given her trust, a church family all over the world, and “connection to others like me. Kinship has helped me resolve my anger at the way the Adventist church has caused hurt and has helped me replace that anger with peace and understanding. Now I am able to step back and feel sorry for the church. Kinship has also given me resources.” Stephanie told us that the primary focus of her spiritual journey now is connecting to other LGBTIQ Adventists, building an accepting and caring physical church community, finding a prayer partner, having occasional in-person contacts with LGBTIQ Adventists, and keeping in contact with Kinship. ▽

Movie Review: *A Jihad for Love*

Submitted by Ruud Kieboom

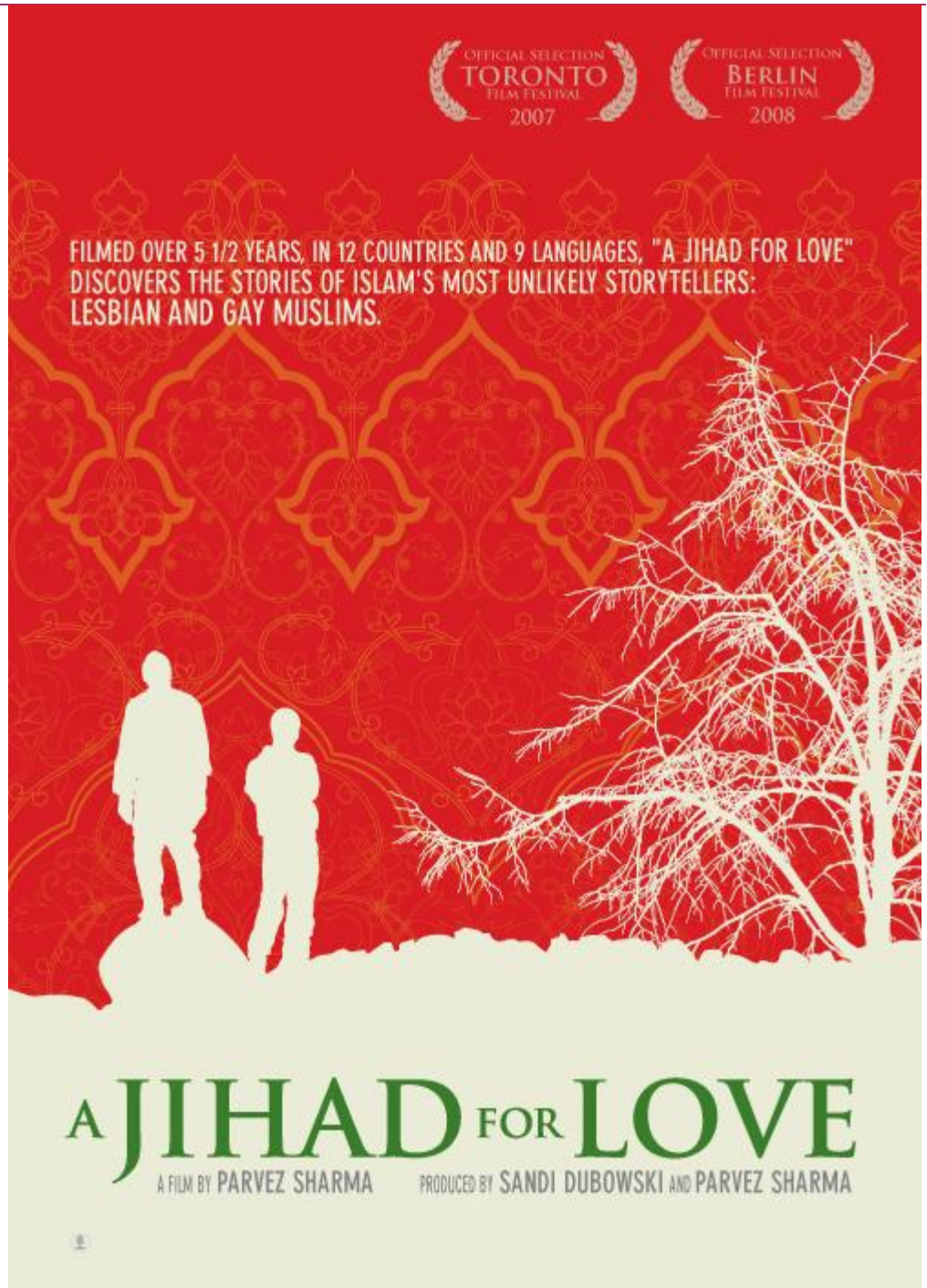
In a time when Islam is under tremendous attack from within and without, "*A Jihad for Love*" is a daring documentary filmed in twelve countries and nine languages. Gay Muslim filmmaker Parvez Sharma has gone where the silence is loudest, filming with great risk in nations where government permission to make this film was not an option.

"*A Jihad for Love*" is Sharma's debut and is the world's first feature documentary to explore the complex, global intersections between Islam and homosexuality. Parvez enters the many worlds of Islam by illuminating multiple stories as diverse as Islam itself. The film travels a wide geographic arc, presenting us stories from India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa, and France. Always filming in secret and as a Muslim, Parvez makes the film from within the faith, depicting Islam with the same respect that the film's characters show for it. "*A Jihad for Love*" is produced by Sandi DuBowski (Director/Producer of the award-winning "*Trembling Before G-d*") and Parvez Sharma in association with other parties.

In Western media, the concept of "jihad" is often narrowly equated with holy war. But "jihad" also has a deeper meaning, its literal Arabic being "struggle" or "to strive in the path of God." In this film we meet several characters engaged in their personal "jihads" for love. The people in this film have a lot to teach us about love. Their pursuit of love has brought them into conflicts with their countries, families, and even themselves. Such is the quandary of being both homosexual and Muslim, a combination so taboo that very little about it has been documented.

As a result, the majority of gay and lesbian Muslims must travel a twisting, lonely, and often dangerous road. The majority of Muslims believe that homosexuality is forbidden by the Qur'an and many scholars quote

Hadith (sayings attributed to the Prophet Muhammad) to directly condemn homosexuality. Islam, already the second largest religion in the world is also the fastest growing. Fifty nations have a Muslim majority. In a few of those nations, laws interpreted from alleged Qur'anic prohibitions of male homosexuality (lesbianism is allegedly absent from the Qur'an) are enforced by religious, tribal, or military authorities to monitor, entrap, imprison, torture, and even execute homosexuals. Even for those who migrate to Europe or North America and adopt Western personae of "gay" or "queer," the rela-



tive freedoms of new homelands are mitigated by persistent racial profiling and intensified state surveillance after the attacks of 9/11 and train bombings in Madrid and London.

As a result, many gay and lesbian Muslims end up renouncing their religion completely. But the real-life characters of *"A Jihad for Love"* aren't willing to abandon a faith they cherish and that sustains them. Instead, they struggle to reconcile their ardent belief with the innate reality of their being. The international chorus of gay and lesbian Muslims brought together by *"A Jihad for Love"* doesn't seek to vilify or reject Islam, but rather to negotiate a new relationship to it. In doing so, the film's extraordinary characters attempt to point the way for all Muslims to move beyond the hostile, war-torn present, toward a more hopeful future. As one can imagine, it was a difficult decision for the subjects to participate in the film due to the violence they could face. It took the filmmaker six years to finish this film and he, like those who have stepped forward to tell their stories, feels that they are Islam's most unlikely storytellers. All of them feel that this film is too important for over a billion Muslims—and all the non-Muslims in the world—for them to say no. They are willing to take the risk in their quest to lay equal claim to their profoundly-held faith.

"A Jihad for Love's" characters each have vastly different personal takes on Islam: some observing a rigorously orthodox regimen and others leading highly secular lifestyles, while remaining spiritually devout. As the camera attentively captures their stories, the film's gay and lesbian characters emerge in all their human complexity, giving the viewer an honest rendering of their lives, while complicating our assumptions about a monolithic Muslim community. Crucially, this film speaks with a Muslim voice, unlike other documentaries about sexual politics in Islam made by Western directors. In the hope of opening a dialogue that has been mostly non-existent in Islam's recent history, and defining jihad as a "struggle" rather than a "war," the film presents the struggle for love. ▽

Public Relations Cards:

These 4" X 10" rack cards have information on one side about our book, *Christianity and Homosexuality*, and can have Kinship regional information on the other side. They are perfect to have in any gathering place for LGBTI people, such as pride parades, or other public events. For more information you can contact us at communications@sdakinship.org

European Kinship Meeting 2009

Your last chance to register!

Registration for EKM2009 closes by the end of August. So if you want to join, don't wait any longer and register on line at <http://www.sdakinship.net/sdakinship/ekm/ekm2009.html>.



The meeting will be held in St Marks College, an Anglican (Episcopal) Retreat Centre located approx 40 miles/60 km northeast of London. Parts of the building go back to the 17th century. The accommodation will be adequate; the fellowship fantastic, the scenery stunning, the spirituality stupendous, and the worship wonderful!

There will be presentations, discussion, activities, social time, a half-day tour to Cambridge, plenty of good food, and a wonderful atmosphere in this secluded part of southern England.

After the meeting there will be a one-week holiday in Dorset, for which registration is also open till the end of August.

It's cool to be there! Register today!



Women's Interests – Karen Wetherell

Happy August! It is with great pleasure I write to you as your recently elected Director of Women's Interests. We are beginning our "new year" with three programs.

I am developing a calendar of women willing to host Friday night and Sabbath afternoon chats on our website. By the time you get the *Connection* you will be able to sign on to www.sdakinship.org, and access "Women's Interests" to confirm dates, topics, moderators, and times of our online chats.

We are beginning a series of monthly dinners for women. Stephanie Spencer and Joy Ellis will be hosting a potluck at their home on August 23 for all of you who can make it to Everett, Washington. For more details you can contact Stephanie directly at peacefuldolphin@yahoo.com. Keep an eye on our website for directions to this event and for upcoming women's gatherings.

A group of prayer warriors is being formed to pray for specific requests from *KinWomen* on *KinNet*. A new thread has been started where you can submit whatever requests you would like this group to pray for. If you don't know how to post on *Kinnet*, you can send your request to me at women@sdakinship.org and I will post it for you.

I am currently investigating interesting activities in Atlanta for the 2010 *Women and Children First* event. If you have any suggestions, write to me. I would love to hear them.

If you are willing to host a chat or dinner, please let me know. Please also feel free to contact me with any other suggestions you may have to better enhance our organization. I look forward to hearing from you and to all of us becoming better acquainted!



This DVD contains stories of three supportive Seventh-day Adventist parents of gay and lesbian children, and can be ordered on line at www.sdagayperspectives.com.

Fall Board Meeting – Yolanda Elliott

We will be having Fall Board Meeting in San Francisco, California, September 11-13 (or 14, for some of us on the east coast or the Netherlands). Our board meetings are open and we invite you to join us and learn more about the projects and processes of your community. The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel near the San Francisco Airport (Burlingame).

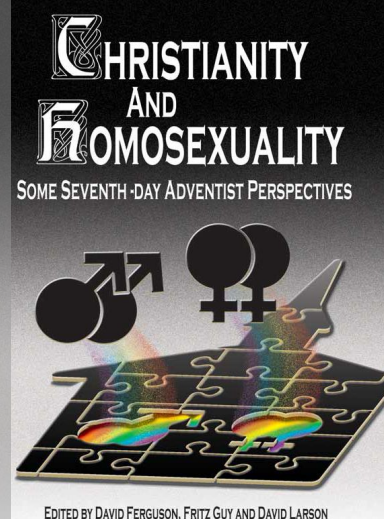
We will plan to eat dinner together on Friday evening if you arrive by 5pm and have notified Naveen in advance so he can take care of those arrangements. Please let him know your flight information by sending him a private email at mftguy79@gmail.com.

Since most of us have expressed a desire to attend Second Wind (secondwindsf.org), we will plan to go there Sabbath morning, eat lunch near the Fort Mason area, and return to the hotel for a full afternoon of meetings. We will eat dinner at a nearby restaurant then resume our meeting on Sunday morning. Please know that we plan to meet for a full day on Sunday, so if board members need to fly out on Sunday evening, it should be closer to 8pm, if possible. Those who can fly out on Monday should plan to do so. We have secured a sizable discount at nearby restaurants for our Saturday evening meal and Sunday lunch and dinner.

Please let Naveen or me know if you have any other questions. Again, our email addresses are yselliott@aol.com and mftguy79@gmail.com.

See back cover for more details about "The Beach and The Book" Weekend

This is an exciting new entry into the discussion of the church and its relationship to its non-heterosexual members! This collection of chapters and responses covers a wide range of topics from scriptural analysis to personal experience, written by respected professionals from within the Adventist community. It seeks to open the door to discussion, without making any claim to provide ultimate answers.





AUSTRALIAN-STYLE KAMPMEETING

"Incurably Gay and SDA."

Sydney NSW

25th, 26th September 2009

Aussie-style Kampmeeting is a wonderful gathering of members from all over the country and other parts of the world who share the same Adventist background and sexual orientation. We welcome our friends who support us and value an inclusive environment. We look forward with keen anticipation to this time of the year when we are invigorated physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. At this time we are surrounded by old and new friends--our extended family.



The Venue

Uniting Conference Centre at North Parramatta, NSW (www.unitingcc.org), meeting place is the "Bulayu House".

The Program

Friday will begin with a unique evening vespers and getting to know each other. Saturday at Kampmeeting is always a very special time together and if you have not been part of it, you will have the best day of your life. The day will be filled with music and a spiritual message centered on love, acceptance, understanding, encouragement, faith and hope. We have excellent speakers for the day. Sunday there will be a BBQ and get together for those who want to stay. Please let us know when you book if you wish to stay for Sunday's event.

Costs

The full price for this weekend is \$120. This includes Friday evening supper and catering for Saturday. Dinner for Friday can be arranged at \$30 per head. All-vegetarian menu. Sunday will be extra for those who wish to attend.

Accommodation

Accommodation is also available. Price is AUS\$78 Twin share per room or AUS\$88 per double deluxe. Continental breakfast is included. Rooms are first-come/first-serve bases. Transport can be arranged.



Meeting room Bulayu House

Contact Noel on mobile phone 0412 465812/ 0412 465812 Please register a.s.a.p. via our online Registration form on <http://www.sdakinshipaustralia.org/registration.php>.

connection

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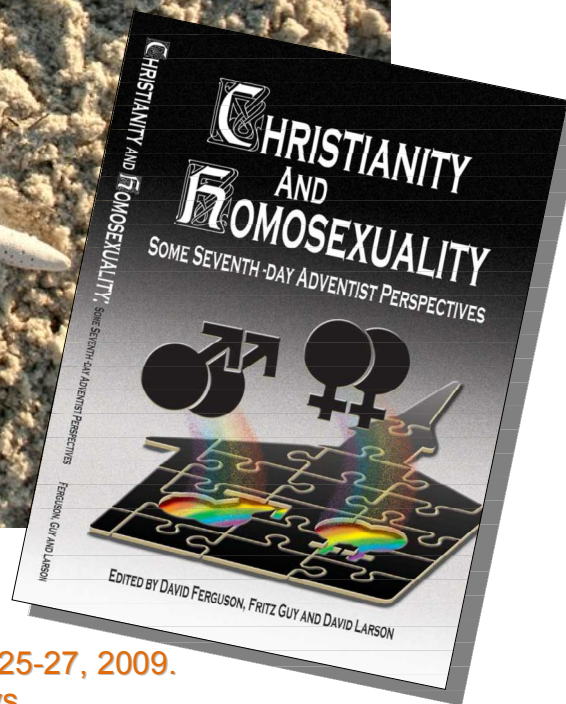
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Member of the Gay and Lesbian Press Association.

You are invited to a weekend of

The Beach and The Book



8306 S. Old Oregon Inlet Road, Nags Head, NC 27959

We have reserved a cottage in Nags Head, North Carolina, across the street from the ocean, for the weekend of September 25-27, 2009. The ocean will still be warm. We have ordered sun-drenched days.

Our focus for this weekend is to make room for discussions of *Christianity and Homosexuality: Some Seventh-day Adventist Perspectives*, using the discussion questions at the end of each chapter. You can pick which topics interest you.

There will be time for walks on the beach, board games, meals cooked and eaten together, laughter and making plans for further beach weekends.

Some supportive members of a North Carolina Adventist congregation are looking forward to meeting and spending this time with Kinship members. We're going to have a very relaxed schedule.

The **beach house** has three floors, two kitchens, and room to comfortably sleep up to 28 people. \$75 per person covers both room and board.

You can either drive or fly, or come by train to Newport News (Virginia) and be picked up there.

For more information: contact Catherine at region1@sdakinship.org
To register go to <http://www.sdakinship.net/sdakinship/> and click on "The Beach and The Book".

