

May 2012

**Pastor-Advisory Board**

**Rev. Bill Bates**  
Destiny Christian Center, Centralia

**Rev. Earl Bradley**  
Capital Region Ministries, Olympia

**Rev. Randy Burtis**  
Luis Palau Crusades

**Rev. Kevin Earls**  
Gateway Christian Fellowship, Shelton

**Rev. Mike Fogaras**  
Gateway Christian Center, Olympia

**Rev. Ted Hanson**  
Abundant Life Fellowship, Bellingham

**Rev. Scott Manley**  
Flood The Sound, Olympia

**Rev. Scott Montagne**  
Bayside Community Church, Kingstom

**Rev. Jon Oletske**  
Stone Church, Yakima

**Rev. Ken Parsley**  
Church on the Move, Yakima

**Rev. Jim Ripley**  
Neighborhood Christian Cntr, Tumwater

**Rev. Reuben Sapien**  
The Sanctuary Church, Lynnwood

**Rev. Dan Secrist**  
Faith Assembly of Lacey

**Rev. Tim Taylor**  
Watchman Ministries International

**Rev. Dwain Wolfe**  
New Horizons Christian Center, Fife

**Board of Directors**

**Paul Middleton**  
Chairman, Olympia

**Jim Winterstein**  
Secretary/Treas., Olympia

**Scott Blanton**  
Vancouver

**Bob Higley**  
Olympia

**Dorsey Holt**  
Shelton

**Jere Irwin**  
Yakima

**Peggy Kirk**  
Montesano

**Dick Raport**  
Camano Island

**Jim Robinson**  
Spokane

**Fred Weiss**  
Bellevue

**Rick Forcier**  
Executive Director

**Staff**

**George Gauntlett**  
Data Administration

**Beth Davis**  
Accounting

**Julie Gallagher**  
Prayer Coordinator

**Rusty Howell**  
Field Director

**Steve Matthews**  
Field Director

## A Man Named “Cynthia”

*And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. --Jude 22, 23*

**B**y all accounts, the campaign to gather signatures to block a new same-sex marriage law from taking effect on June 7 is proceeding very well. At least that’s the assessment of volunteers who are making the rounds with large clipboards during evenings and weekends. Thanks to some 1300 churches requesting petition forms at the outset of the campaign, 150,000-or-more signatures will be delivered to the Secretary of State’s office next week.

Much energy for the “in-house” signature gathering has been generated in smaller churches while many larger fellowships have been silent or neutral concerning the marriage matter. An April 2 blog from a pastor of a reasonably large evangelical church stated: “There are petitions being circulated that will, if successful, place this [Referendum 74] on a ballot in November for the voters to decide. I had made the decision to allow these petitions to be available at our gatherings for people to sign, if they so desired, with no encouragement from me to do so. I was wrong to do that, because it violates my sense of direction, and I’m reversing my decision.”

Across the continent in New York City, a perky (40s-something) friend named Dwayna, has a much different “sense of direction.” She shares a recent experience at the Long Island Railroad:

We met for prayer to begin outreach at the Long Island Railroad with our permit in hand. The team was Heidi, Debbie and I, and we prayed that God would bring up people with enough time to stop and let us read them what the Bible teaches about salvation and questions they have about life... One man who looked to be in his 20s, dressed as a woman, wearing a wig and makeup with painted nails approached. He said, “Hi, I am Cynthia, and I really need some food.”

I reached for a DVD from *Pure Passion* (testimonies of former homosexuals, cross dressers, sex addicts, etc. who have come to know Jesus and found new life in purity...) and replied, “Cynthia, if I buy you some lunch, you are going to get hungry again. I want to offer you food for your soul from Jesus who promises to satisfy your heart. He even calls Himself the ‘Bread of Life’ and promises that if we come to Him, He will fill the deep longings of our heart to overflowing with His PURE and HOLY Spirit. There is only one condition: you have to be willing to repent... You may not want that kind of God. The ‘god of this age’ sets you free to sin, but Jesus sets you free from it. If we come to Him, we come to Him on His terms...I read him Acts 17:30-31, “God is calling all men everywhere to repent, because He hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained, whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.”

Cynthia asked, “May I have a Bible?”... I said, “You can have this Bible, but first let me read you some verses.” I went to Romans 1:27-28 and read the verses against homosexuality and 1 Corinthians 6:9-18: “...Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate...shall inherit the kingdom of God,”...and he listened... Then, I quoted Isaiah 55:1: “Ho! Everyone that thirsts, come to the waters, and he who has no money, come, buy and eat...Incline your ear and come to Me; hear and your soul shall live...” I continued, “Cynthia, God has so much to give you, but you can only get it through repentance of sin. It is an act of the heart when you decide to turn from your old way of thinking and living and come to God on His terms. If you want Jesus, you have to be willing to deny yourself. This is the heart of the salvation message. You can’t live for yourself and God at the same time.”

A couple came up and interrupted, speaking directly to Cynthia, asking, “Didn’t we meet you here last night?” [T]hey had been telling Cynthia about God’s love. I said, “I was just telling her to repent in order to be saved and know Jesus.” They looked at me with shock and explained they were from a church in Nashville (which is known for being part of a growing movement in America called the “emergent church).” I read verses from the Bible very politely and lovingly about repentance, and I could tell this couple did not like these verses. I continued with Cynthia, as this couple listened... “Here is your verse for the day.” I turned to John 3:36 and read: “He that believes on the Son has everlasting life, but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” I explained, “This is coming from the God who IS LOVE.” This couple from the emergent church looked shocked, as if they had never read that verse before...

... I bought Cynthia some lunch and gave a Bible to this man dressed like a woman hurting so deeply, and explained that God loves him and wants a relationship with him, if he will only read the Bible and believe God is who He says He is and agree with God about His definition of sin. Cynthia promised to come to church the next day. [Afterwards] I walked back to my table only to have my emergent... friends challenge me on the Bible verses I had just read to Cynthia. They remarked, “We want to disagree with you about telling this person to repent. This person needs to know the love of God.” I said, “This guy has no fear of God, and he knows the ‘love of God’ every time he turns around in this New Age/occult culture of ours where hardly anyone believes in hell or the holiness of the God of the Bible. My goodness, every time he looks at a magazine or watches TV in what has become a very pagan culture in America, he hears about “god’s love” in reincarnation and some universalism about how everyone goes to heaven and never hell. I was right to tell him to repent, because that is what the Bible teaches... I would have taken the guy to verses about God’s mercy if he had seemed convicted over sin...”

“If there is no hell or need for repentance,” I asked, “why did Jesus die?” There was silence. I reminded [them] that Jesus spoke more about hell than He did heaven... The... couple amicably agreed to disagree with me about the need for repentance in salvation...

[The next morning]... I headed off to church... praying God would let some of the people come we had invited from the outreach table... At the end of the sermon the pastor gave an invitation, and we began to sing: *How deep the Father’s love for us, How vast beyond all measure.* Down walked Cynthia. We continued to sing: *That He should give His only Son, To make a wretch His treasure...* I accompanied Cynthia to the back room to pray as the congregation continued to sing: *How deep the Father’s love for us, How vast beyond all measure...*

I said, “Cynthia... you are a precious person with a soul that God wants to redeem and make His treasure, but we have to get honest now before God. You are a man. You don’t want to be, but you are.” He looked down and did not try to deny it. We bowed our heads, and I prayed, “Dear God, I thank You that You don’t make any mistakes when You make us. I know that this man is hurting so deeply, like only You can understand, but I pray You will heal him and make him whole.” He began to cry as I had my arm around him. I continued, “Give him love from You as his Father like he has never known before... He has a soul, Lord, that you love and want to heal, and you see right past the wig and makeup, and I pray for this man created in Your image, that You will make him whole and new like only You can do.”... Afterwards, I texted him the number of a Christian counselor who specializes in... gender confusion and cross dressing issues... [reminding him]... that God does not want him to repent to make him miserable. He wants to give him the best life on earth, a life filled with His...healing and pure love...<sup>1</sup>

If “Cynthia” walked through the doors of a large church would staff pretend not to notice a man dressed as a woman? Would “she” be invited to the women’s Bible study? When would “eternal life” be discussed? When would the *narrow gate* (Matt 7:13, 14) be preached? In several weeks? Several months? Several years? When would Jesus initiate that dialog?

On the heels of a great period of prosperity in colonial New England (circa 1660s), church membership dwindled as a younger generation declined to follow the ways of their parents. Desperate to attract new members, many churches offered so-called *half-way* memberships providing limited access for weddings and “infant baptisms,” but no general communion. Author and historian Peter Marshall, Jr. called this a *half-way covenant* for *half-way committed Christians*.<sup>2</sup>

We don’t know if churches opting out of the homosexual marriage debate are *half-way* churches. Let’s just say we have much more confidence in the mighty women of valor at the Long Island Railroad.

*Rick Forcier*

<sup>1</sup> Dwayna Litz, [www.lightingthewayworldwide.org](http://www.lightingthewayworldwide.org)

<sup>2</sup> Peter Marshall Jr., David Manuel, *The Light and the Glory*, Fleming H. Revell Company, Old Tappan, NJ., 1977, pg. 220