

Campaign seeks dialogue between gays and Christian conservatives

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS—"Would Jesus discriminate?"

The question has been popping up on billboards, yard signs and in newspaper ads around conservative central Indiana lately in a new, Bible-based appeal for acceptance of gays and lesbians. It's a campaign organized by a predominantly gay and lesbian denomination—Metropolitan Community Churches—and a Jewish gay activist.

Organizers say the effort is the first in a planned series of campaigns across the country aimed at getting people to take a fresh look at the social justice passages in the Bible.

"Jesus taught us to love everyone, even our enemies and those who are different from us, not destroy and mistreat them," said one ad published in The Indianapolis Star

"We want the dialogue to take place in every city that we operate, in some way," said Rev. Cindi Love, executive director of MCC, which has congregations in 240 cities.

Christians with conservative theological views believe gay relationships violate Scripture. They insist their outlook is based not on prejudice, but on the Bible and 2,000 years of Christian teaching.

Liberals see the primary values of the Bible as being love and inclusiveness, with long-term gay relationships left unaddressed.

While some are willing to start a dialogue, the discussion around Indianapolis hasn't always been friendly.

An independent Baptist congregation along a major thoroughfare posted the message "God Discriminated at Sodom" on its sign board. A

Christian conservative group, the American Family Association of Indiana, distributed radio ads saying, "Not only did Jesus discriminate; he is going to discriminate again."

The MCC and the campaign's benefactor, furniture designer Mitchell Gold, are undeterred.

Gold, the North Carolina-based purveyor of chic furniture sold by the likes of Pottery Barn and Crate & Barrel, is underwriting much of the \$100,000 media campaign through Faith In America, a national organization he founded to fight intolerance.

"I've suffered a good amount of discrimination by people holding up their Bible," Gold said in an interview. "The clock is being turned back, and I want to stop the clock from being turned back."

The characteristics of true love

Continued from page 5B

3. What are some of the characteristics of love? (v. 4-8)?

Paul gives a long list of characteristics of love. In this list, there is probably at least one characteristic that each of us needs to work on. As we strive towards godly love, we will continually improve on these characteristics.

The first characteristic that Paul gives about love is that it is patient. There are a lot of

people who suffer in this area. Obviously, the Corinthian church had to suffer from this problem since Paul listed this characteristic first. It takes time to develop patience; it does not come overnight. It is a characteristic that most people don't want to work on. It is, nevertheless, the outgrowth of genuine Christian love.

Love is kind. We should not mistreat anyone. Too often,

Christians exhibit an unkind attitude towards others. The Bible says, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:12).

Love is not envious or jealous. When someone receives blessings and successes from God, we should all rejoice. We should not get mad because we did not get that particular blessing or success.

WITH LOVE AND THANKS



PHOTOSPECIAL TO THE POST

A warm and special thank you for all the members, family and friends of the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church that assisted in making the second Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Henry Williams Jr., First Lady Katrina Williams and their family a memorable event. Pastor Williams and family were truly surprised and appreciated the heartfelt outpour of love and admiration. The sentiment was well coined by one of our Deacons, who stated, "Pastor, we hope to celebrate another 40 years with you as our pastor and leader."

THE FAMILY HOSTS

AUGUST 9-13, 2006

GATHERING

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Wed. Aug. 9th - 7:30pm
Pastor Terrell Murphy
New Birth-Charlotte
Charlotte, NC



Thurs. Aug. 10th - 7:30pm
Bishop Orlando Wilson
New Antioch Church
Baltimore, MD



Fri. Aug. 11th - 7:30pm
Pastor R. A. Vernon
The Word Church
Cleveland, OH



Saturday 12:00-6:00pm
Pastor Paula White
White, Wells
Immanuel Church
Tallahassee, FL

CONFERENCE LECTURERS



Fri. Aug. 10th - 6:30pm
Bishop Philip Davis
The Word Community Church
Charlotte, NC



Sat. Aug. 12th - 9:00am
Pastor Karen Woods
New Creation Church
Charlotte, NC

YOUTH SPEAKERS



Wed. Aug. 9th - 7:30pm
Pastor William Murphy, III
The Dream Center Church
Atlanta, GA



Thurs. Aug. 10th - 7:30pm
Pastor Christopher J. Harris
Cross Glaze Tabernacle of Praise
Greensboro, NC

Sunday - August 13, 2006

10:00am Spirit Flows Celebration with a Life Changing Message by Elder John A. McCullough, Jr.

Culmination Activity
The Ultimate Family Reunion
2:00pm - 7:00pm
Bradley Community Center
Gastonia, NC

All Services Held At
Friendship Baptist Church
221 W. Bradley Avenue
Gastonia, NC
www.friendshipgastonia.org
704-865-9016 (office)
704-865-9057 (fax)

H. I. I. Information
Contact: 704-865-9016 or 704-865-9057
Clergy: 704-865-9016
Gastonia, NC 27634

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