

Continued from preceding page

der boundaries.

Finally, Christians have to admit while Jesus affirmed and embraced the body as good, Paul only tolerated the body. Paul was a Platonist who subordinated the body to the spirit and felt that marriage was not the ideal response and permissible for those who could not control their burning passions. Paul did some remarkable things for early Christianity despite his shortcomings. Let's surface his shortcomings to fully appreciate his genius.

The Word is Out: The Bible Reclaimed for Lesbians and Gay Men by Chris Glazer. Harper-SanFrancisco. Paperback, \$12.00.

Reviewed by Dr. Robert Goss

Christ Glazer's *The Word is Out* is a much needed meditation book on the Bible. It takes a scriptural verse for daily meditation and prayer. Each month is organized around a theme from the Christian and the gay/lesbian calendars: epiphany, lamentation, passion, covenant, community among others. Epiphany deals with themes of coming out, bodies, pleasuring. For June, the month of pride festivals, the theme is naturally liberation. He picks up thematic verses on liberation from the Hebrew and the Christian scriptures since the Bible, after all, is a book about liberation and our struggles center on freedom.

I confess that I read *The Word is Out* with a mental check list. Here are a few of the questions

that I brought to my reading: Does Glazer read and apply scripture appropriately to the context of our lives? Can the meditations be used for daily prayer? Does he deal with AIDS and breast cancer? Does he address the issues of justice, discrimination, and violence? How does Glazer integrate sexuality and spirituality? Glazer passed my mental check list with flying colors, for he deals with the whole spectrum of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered issues.

There are two points that I would particularly highlight. First, Glazer is feminist-identified and takes the time not to render lesbians invisible with the category of gay. On his meditation of the widow who contributed all that she possessed, Glazer concludes, "Embracing feminism is not just a lesbian thing. It's an appropriate spiritual connection for us all."

Furthermore, what I found balanced with the daily meditation is Glazer's consistent integration of spirituality and sexuality. The pleasures derived from sexuality and spirituality are gifts from God. Glazer boldly states, "the pleasure of sexual passion is divine....Pleasurable sensation is God's way of rewarding passion toward a person or a cause. That's why to love someone or to do a good deed makes us feel good inside." Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Christians have raised in a climate of body-negative Christianity where sexual pleasure is identified with guilt and shame. Many of us have divorced spirituality from sexuality, but Glazer consistently brings his reader back

continued on next page



Home Inspections
Residential Drafting Service

**Richard
Kendrick**

Rt 5, Box 779
Danville, VA 24540
(804) 836-3237

ONE-OF-A-KIND



**YOU WILL ONLY SEE THEM HERE.
ONE-OF-A-KIND FURNITURE CREATIONS
BY WILLIAM STRICKLAND.**

**WHATEVER YOUR TASTES, FROM
REFINED TO ECCENTRIC, DESIGNS BY
WILLIAM ARE SURE TO ACCENTUATE
MOST ANY INTERIOR.**

STOP IN TODAY.

**ASK ABOUT CUSTOM PAINTED WALLS AND
FURNITURE SERVICES.**

**GALLERY HOURS: WED. - SAT. 10-5 PM
MON. & TUES., BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.
600 GLENWOOD AVENUE RALEIGH
919/833-2600**

'8 YEARS OF DESIGN EXCELLENCE'

WILLIAM STRICKLAND INTERIORS
hand painted furniture gallery



Anchor Financial Group

"Specialists in Real Estate Finance"

4020 Westchase Boulevard, Suite 460, Raleigh, NC 27607



Please Call J. Dawn Zimmerman Today!

We are a very forward thinking, progressive mortgage company. We specialize in helping people in unique situations and in providing creative mortgage products. We are a very open-minded financial group and we are delighted to work with each individual's circumstances. I urge you to call me today at (919) 833-7130 or (800) 448-7331 for a free analysis of your mortgage needs.

Fast, Friendly, and Creative Mortgage Services