

# Confessions of a Born Again Dyke

Miki Thomas

It is getting harder and harder at times to proclaim that I am a Christian. Indeed, it's easier to tell people that I am a lesbian because unlike being a Christian, coming out as gay does not automatically make people assume I am a card carrying member of the John Birch Society. And with such assumptions, it is hard to garner much sympathy on my behalf.

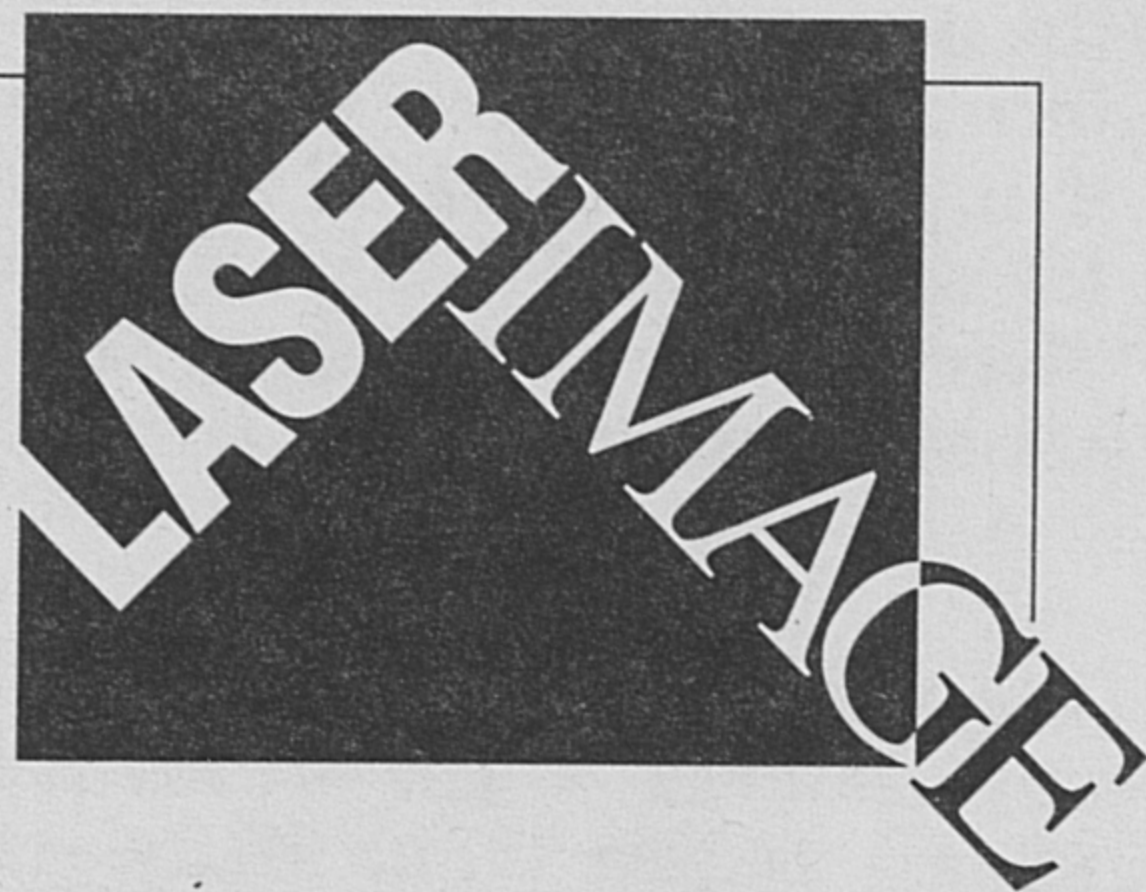
Of course, Christians these days are not a sympathetic bunch for the most part. Homophobic tirades of recent note have all had their start from Christians who haven't gotten past page one of their bibles. Jerry Falwell has recently threatened to resurrect the Moral Majority in response to his fear of America becoming a "simmering quagmire of immorality." Rev John Hague, pastor of Cornerstone Fellowship in San Antonio, Texas is pushing a new tape series that promises ways of bringing the country back to old fashioned values from the devious likes of "gay rights activists, radical feminists, the liberal media," and other "un-American" types. Among the old fashioned values Rev. Hague espouses is "neighbors loving their neighbors." That is, of course, if those neighbors are not "gay rights activists, radical feminists, and the liberal media."

I could certainly go on and on with examples of such "Christian good-will." We are certain to hear more as the controversy over gays in the military heats up. However, despite the venom displayed by such Christian leaders, I still believe. My faith is the most important part of my life. No one, not even the likes of Jerry Falwell, who is willing to condemn me to hell without consulting God first, could take that faith away from me.

All is not bleak though on the non-gay Christian front. There are people who are

coming to question their homophobia, realizing that by harboring such hate they break a few of the Ten Commandments such as thou shalt not lie, thou shalt not kill, and my favorite, thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Within the past few years, pastors around the country such as Benny Hinn, another of those tele-evangelists, have suddenly said that God told them that the next big revival will include gays, whether the pastors like it or not. On a personal level, I subscribe to a Christian alternative music magazine that has been very open in dealing with gay and AIDS issues. I congratulated the editor on taking such courageous stands. He wrote back, saying that as a minister in the United Church of Christ (one of the more "gay-friendly" denominations) he has dealt with such issues in the past.

Even without such support in areas where one would least expect it, there is the huge network of gay and lesbian Christians across the country. Within the past two and a half years I've been able to tap into this network, to worship God with my fellow gays and lesbians openly and proudly just as we are. Believe me, no one has really lived till one is in a room full of gays and lesbians hooting and hollering for Jesus. One of the most affirming events for me occurred in the last year at a conference for Christian gays and lesbians in Phoenix, Arizona. In the afternoon a bunch of us decided to go to a Christian bookstore not to protest but to buy Christian goodies. No one gave us any problems because we were probably the best customers they had all day and even if they did they would have felt the wrath of 30 butch lesbians. Just like the stories I could tell about Christian homophobia, I could tell many more about "little miracles" of Christians, both gay and non-gay, coming together as children of God, the way it ought to be in the first place. ▼



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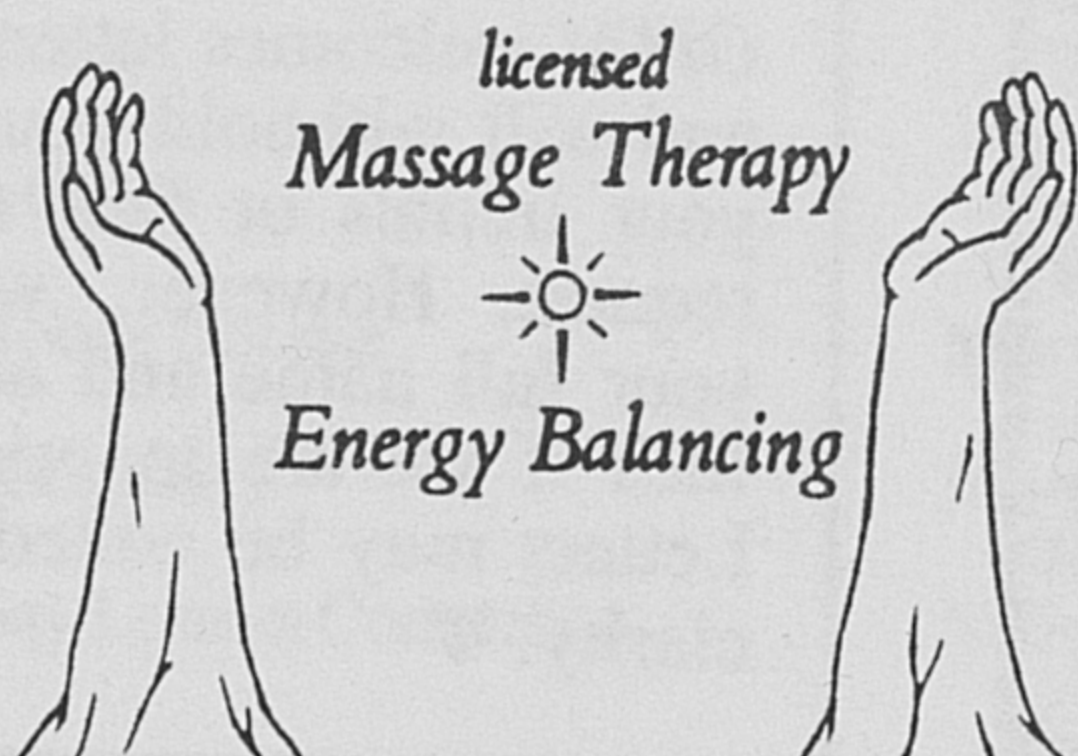
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