

Family Circle **Auckland Community Church**



May 2009

- ❖ "Queering the Gospel(s)."
- ❖ RIP Apollo
- ❖ Book review: *Thinking Straight*

"Queering the Gospel(s)." Seminar at St Lukes, Remuera.

Facilitated by Dr. Tat-siong Benny Liew

on Saturday afternoon, 23 May from 3pm-6 pm.

Followed by an informal meal. Bring and share.

Drinks will be provided, koha invited.

The Community of Saint Luke and Auckland Community Church are very pleased to invite Dr Tat-siong Benny Liew to facilitate this session.



Benny has come to Auckland to teach two courses at the University of Auckland School of Theology during semester 1. He is a specialist in Biblical hermeneutics, and has published on subjects including: Asian American biblical hermeneutics, the Gospel of Mark, the masculinity of Jesus, and the Centurion and his servant (Mt 8; Lk 7). He is based at the Pacific School of Religion in California, near San Francisco. He and Pam and son Aaron have also had a chance to experience Auckland, as well as travelling with family around NZ.

Benny provides commentary on the popular Out in Scripture website (<http://www.hrc.org/scripture/>). This is part of the Human Rights Campaign which is a very active advocacy organization in the US, working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

There is no need to pre-book a place at this seminar, but it would be helpful if you could indicate your likely attendance to m.hangartner@auckland.ac.nz

Who's who on the Board

Co-Chairpersons	Nigel Bartlett, Peter Lineham
Co-Treasurers	Craig Blockley, Stephen Witherden
Secretary	Alistair Priestley

Deaths.

Apollo (born late twentieth century, departed this life 2009). Dear friend to Campion, gracious host to many social occasions, compliant playmate for felinephile children of all ages.

"We looked after Apollo for a week while Campion was making his way down to Dunedin, and during that time Cathy's family visited from Australia. They grew to really love him, as he was an immensely patient cat who put up with having baubles and strings and all manner of things draped all over him by the little girls!! Apparently Apollo got well educated during the series "Saving Jesus", and loved watching all sorts of good movies that Campion provided for him on the big screen down at Mission Bay!! So let us all remember Campion at this time, as we all know how attached one gets to our pets!"

Liz Hermse



Book review

Reardon, Robin. *Thinking straight*. New York: Kensington Books, 2008.

Organisations such as Dr Dobson's Love won out, Joe Dallas' Genesis, Andrew Comiskey's Desert Stream; Exodus; the UK True Freedom Trust are active and well supported, they hold conferences in the US and recently one in London (held at the Emmanuel Centre over ANZAC weekend), long term counselling programmes and provide group and individual counselling. They may have adherents in NZ. Ex-ex-gays and other LGBT groups work almost as tirelessly to expose these groups and their methods.

Despite the notoriety of such groups there seems little serious reflection from a Christian perspective on them. Some humorous attempts are films such as "*But I'm a cheerleader*" which may at least lighten the subject and there are films I have not seen such as "*Save Me*"; *Chasing the Devil: Inside the Ex-Gay Movement*; and "*Saved*". This is the first novel I have seen dealing with the topic.

The main character, Ty, is torn between being honest with his parents about his sexuality, being obedient as they make him try to change, and hanging on to his relationship with Will. He is sent to a Christian Camp called Straight to God for troubled but otherwise committed evangelical teenagers. Some of the teenagers have been sent there to overcome alcohol, drug or other problems but the story concentrates on Ty and the others with same sex attraction. Robin is an uneven writer. The plot doesn't quite hold together, but the most successful parts of the story take place in Ty's head as he struggles to work through the issues. Inevitably his thought processes are closer to those of an adult than any 17 year old. He is scripturally literate and able to understand his own and others' use and misuse of the Bible.

This is certainly a book which raises questions and would be appeal to those who have been involved in evangelical church camps, although anything as extreme as this one would have been condemned by even the most rabid church leader.

Mark