

Mail Box



Some responses to our story on Singles Ministries

I want to thank you for your article in the March issue about single people and the ministry that an evangelical Christian group is working on for single people. I found that bias against or misunderstanding of single people crosses many denominational boundaries.

I hope that all types of religious groups keep this issue in mind. They all have certainly improved since the days I heard that a small Baptist church did not know how to deal with an older single gentleman and had him in Sunday school with the kids because their adult class was for couples, but there still needs to be improvement.

Between my experience and single friends' experiences we have found that singles have a hard time finding a place in some churches and other religious organizations. A Jewish friend said that she visited a synagogue with an interest in joining and everything was so family oriented that she felt excluded. I did not have as much problem in the Baptist church I belonged to but there still was not much place for a single adult woman, living by herself and since this was so outside their culture, they had a hard time understanding what I was doing.

One would think that the more liberal religions would have more place for singles but I have not found this to

be necessarily true. The best experience I had was in the Unitarian Universalist church I belonged to. I have found that the alternative religions vary in quality of ministry to singles.

I hope that religious groups can learn from what the Assembly of God is attempting to do in its singles ministry and also remember that a singles ministry is not to help find partners for the single people in their congregation but to celebrate that all people are individuals with individual needs. Not all people are or desire to be couples.

Linda Robinett
Ridgecrest, CA



Thank you for publishing the article on our singles ministries in your publication. It is greatly appreciated.

If there is anything that I can ever do, just let me know.

Reaching Single America,
Dennis Franck
Director, Single Adult Ministries
Assemblies of God

Tip to AASP causes change on website of bed & breakfast inn

My husband and I recently booked a weekend stay at a bed and breakfast in Oregon. While looking at the website, we discovered the following paragraph: "To avoid confusion and disappointment, please state the names of all persons in your party. Small conference groups, business persons, singles, married couples, and families will be most welcome. Unmarried couples will feel uncomfortable."

This seems highly discriminatory towards unmarried heterosexual couples as well as homosexual couples ... maybe even illegal. Needless to say I have since canceled the reservation and plan to write them an email on why. I still feel inclined to forward this on to another organization ... any ideas?? Am I being overly sensitive??? My husband found it offensive as well.

Julie B.

AASP sent the following e-mail to the owner of the bed & breakfast:

Your website states: "Unmarried couples will feel uncomfortable."

Why would that be so? How would anyone know if two people were married or not? Does this warning apply to same-sex couples as well?

We just can't imagine why such a statement would be made, except, of course, to discourage unmarried couples from patronizing your establishment. But why would you take such a course of action, especially since marital status discrimination is illegal in housing accommodations in Oregon?



The manager replied:

I spent all afternoon trying to find that statement and finally did. I will have the web designer eliminate it as soon as I can get him to change it. Thank you for the information.

We later checked the website and confirmed that the offensive sentence was removed.