

II

IS GOD AGAINST US?

Lee Frances Heller

GRACE AND LACE LETTERS: 1990-1997

(Quotations from the Holy Bible used in the writings of Lee Frances Heller were often taken from the Amplified Bible, or from the King James or New International Version, and sometimes paraphrased to make the meaning clearer.)

By the Grace of God

GRACE AND LACE

by Lee Frances Heller

GRACE and LACE is a Christian publication exclusively for Crossdressers and families. Our purpose is to enlighten CDs to the fact that they can have a guilt free (as far as crossdressing is concerned), total relationship with God. God loves us not because we are CDs any more than He loves women because they wear skirts or men because they wear pants. He loves us and “them” because we are His creation. His love is not based on who we are, what we are, what we do or what we don’t do. This first issue is devoted to clearing some misapprehensions we embrace along this line of thought.

G&L is published by Leo F. Heller, Jr., A.K.A. Lee Frances, who is the editor and correspondent. God knows who I am and in this endeavor, you have the right to know as well. Leo simply pays the expenses and then he can go and take a walk as far as I am concerned. He has absolutely nothing to do with the editorial content. Pay the bills, baby, and buy me more books. I have a lot of writing to do.

There are others, such as Jay Reviere, who have written a real moving piece in this issue. I read it at the Discussion Group I had Sunday A.M. at the *Texas Tea*. I was so moved by it that I had to choke back tears. The article is spilling over with God’s Love as purveyed by the Holy Spirit. Jaye has also consented to proof-read my writings.

There will be no membership, no fees or dues, *G&L* is a *publication*. I invite correspondence. Later on there will be audio tapes on subjects that you query me on. The first tape will be on *Deuteronomy 22:5*. This is the only way to get the facts across to you. In the meantime, please don’t live in fear of that verse. It’s a paper tiger. This is one of the reasons that I say *G&L* is for “us”. Established Christianity thinks that we are moral and sexual deviates and in no way can fellowship with God until we get rid of this horrible “sin”. My whole motive is to rid that thinking from our lives. I could cry in frustration when I think of how much God loves us and we keep Him at an arm’s length because we are not sure that He can love a CD.

Read on and may the Holy Spirit pour out God’s love in Christ on you.

Love & prayers

Lee Frances

Introductory Letter to Volume 1 #1, April, 1990

SELF-DISCRIMINATION

by *Lee Frances Heller*

BUT AS FOR THEE (MOSES), STAND HERE BY ME, AND I WILL SPEAK UNTO YOU ALL THE COMMANDMENTS AND THE STATUTES AND THE ORDINANCES WHICH YOU SHALL TEACH THEM, THAT THEY MAY DO THEM IN THE LAND WHICH I GIVE THEM TO POSSESS. (*Deuteronomy 5:31, caps ed.*)

These commandments (not The Ten), statutes and ordinances were for the Israelites within the “fences” of the land that God gave them to inhabit. Thus the “fence laws.” These laws are found recorded beginning with *chapter 21 of Exodus*.

NOW THESE ARE THE ORDINANCES WHICH YOU (MOSES) SHALL SET BEFORE THEM (*Exodus 21:1*)

and on it goes through the remainder of *Exodus* and on through *Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy*. They were all merciless do’s and don’ts. We will deal with the Ten Commandments at a later time. Even though we can’t live up to them, they serve God’s purpose in our lives, even today.

The ordinance with which crossdressers are concerned is the one that is found in *Deuteronomy 22:5*. This is the ordinance that states that a woman shall not wear the garments of a man, nor shall a man wear the garments of a woman, and those who do are an abomination to God.

St. Paul, in two places in the Bible, deals with these ordinances.

Ephesians 2:15. In a discourse of the bonding law of Jew and Gentile and them becoming one in Christ, St. Paul wrote

HAVING ABOLISHED IN HIS FLESH THE ENMITY, EVEN THE LAW OF THE COMMANDMENTS CONTAINED IN THE ORDINANCES...

CHRIST, IN HIS ATONING DEATH, HAS FORGIVEN US ALL OF OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, BLOTting OUT THE HANDWRITING OF ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US, AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS. (*Colossians 2:13-14*)

I am having a hard time not straying into side issues, but space is limited

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and ordinances are the subject and I'll keep with that. The ordinance in *Deuteronomy 22:5* is no longer applicable in the light of Christ's victory in His death *and* resurrection. If we as Christians are going to have the fullness and freedom of that victory, we have to

STOP DISCRIMINATING AGAINST OURSELVES

Like it or not, we are male chauvinists. We discriminate against that woman in us, our second self. At time we give away, throw away, or burn all of her vestiture. We say to her, "That's it, babe! You're history!" And she goes. Never underestimate the power of a woman. She's a fighter and she comes back in all of her splendor and glory. So then we go into rank denial. She just stands there and taps her foot, waiting for you, as she knows that you'll be with her shortly. When you finally do join her, you let her know that no one else can know about her. She's a second class citizen when all of the time she is the best part of you and she knows it. You start condemning yourself. Guilt builds up. You try to compromise with her. If she will just go and come at your bidding, everything will be all right. She won't cooperate. You see how we discriminate against ourselves? The foregoing are my own personal observations from my own life. That's the way I was.

I thought that God put *Deuteronomy 22:5* in His Bible just for me. It tortured me for years. I was allowing something dead to flog me. That's why I am so intent on clearing this matter up. And perhaps overzealous in doing it. I well know the necessity of secrecy in our lives, but I am speaking of being free in the sense that we recognize the woman in us and not allow her to throw us into a bad guilt trip. The way out of that is in the bringing of Jesus Christ into your life and both of you resting in Him, knowing that it was for the sin that we were born in that Christ died, and, so that the original state of sin could never stain our souls again, He rose in triumphant victory.

If you think that crossdressing is a "sin", forget it. How I'd love to write a book on that. Crossdressers crucifying themselves because of what they think and have been led to believe by spiritual leaders is "the sin" of crossdressing! I have believed that way. God in Christ is concerned with our soul. Whether that soul wears a dress or pants is not the issue. Never has been and never will be. God neither approves nor disapproves of crossdressing. It's just not the issue. If it were, then *Deuteronomy 22:5* would still be in operation. The issue is DEAD!!!! NOW!!!! Let's get on with our lives and stop condemning ourselves and feeling guilty every time we put on a skirt.

I've said all that I'm going to say on the subject. I only hope that this has

helped one person at least. I am not seeking anyone's approval. I put these ideas out in our *Beta Chi Journal* for what they are worth. I have never been strongly advised by a Christian pastor to "watch what I was and NEVER give an indication or imply that God approves of crossdressing." As I have said above, it simply isn't the issue. I have a soul. You have a soul. My soul is hid with Christ in God (*Colossians 3:3*). And THAT God approves of!

In crossdressing, I have met a most elegant and beautiful minority of our social structure in this world. Crossdressers are the elite of the male society. My love for our community is impaled, pierced through my heart and is compounded by God's love for me (*1 Corinthians 13*).

I hope to set forth some Scripture that I'm now studying about God knowing every breath we take – knowing the number of hairs on our head and knowing every fiber of our being. I believe that I was born a crossdresser. I had no choice in the matter. I'm glad that God made me the way He did. He makes NO mistakes. I escaped becoming a macho man. Dr. Peggy Rudd says on page 83 of her book, *My Husband Wears My Clothes*, that what wives of crossdressers should realize is that, "The crossdresser has a love for womanhood and not a love of manhood and men." Read pages 66-68 as she addresses the subject, "*Is Crossdressing Morally Wrong?*". She says it all in those pages and it will take me the next ten years to say the same thing!

Grace & Lace is from my crossdresser soul's eye. I will be glad to print your comments, both positive and negative. Trust me.

Other upcoming subjects. "The church's relation to the crossdresser." "The Ten Commandments and crossdressers." And countless others.

Let God bless you. Don't keep Him at arm's length. Embrace Him just as you are. He loves you, so why not return that love.

Always be assured of my love and prayers

Lee Frances Heller
Beta Chi Chapter, TRI-ESS Journal
August 31, 1989

This was the start of *Grace and Lace Letters*

By the Grace of God

GOD KNOWS WE ARE CROSSDRESSERS

by Lee Frances Heller

FOR YOU DID FORM MY INWARD PARTS. YOU DID KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB. I WILL CONFESS AND PRAISE YOU, FOR YOU ARE FEARFUL AND WONDERFUL AND FOR THE AWFUL WONDER OF MY BIRTH! WONDERFUL ARE YOUR WORKS, AND THAT MY INNER SELF KNOWS RIGHT WELL. MY FRAME WAS NOT HIDDEN FROM YOU WHEN I WAS BEING FORMED IN SECRET AND INTRICATELY AND CURIOUSLY WROUGHT IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH. YOUR EYES SAW MY UNFORMED SUBSTANCE, AND IN YOUR BOOK ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE WERE WRITTEN BEFORE EVER THEY TOOK SHAPE, WHEN AS YET THERE WERE NONE OF THEM.
(Psalm 139:13-16, Amplified)

To think that God doesn't know that we are crossdressers is an exercise in self-deception. To think that God wants nothing to do with us because we are crossdressers is the result of the general rejection of us on the part of the social climate in which we live. It's the old story of, "blue is for boys and pink is for girls." Thus, the brain conditioning starts at birth. If we show any inclination towards dolls or "girl things," we are directed away from it as "boys don't play with dolls." No regard shown for our feelings. "I like dolls but I can't play with them because Mamma and Daddy won't let me because I am a boy." Thus the beginning of frustration. The desire to play with dolls is still inside but now the boy has to repress it. If the boy happens to turn out to be a crossdresser, then frustration and repression become the hallmark of his life. He lives a life of painful deception. His delightfully feminine persona is hidden. It is closeted in the darkness of repression. It is hidden from everyone but ourselves. Hidden? From everyone? Not quite."

AND NOT A CREATURE EXISTS THAT IS CONCEALED FROM HIS SIGHT, BUT ALL THINGS ARE OPEN AND EXPOSED, NAKED AND DEFENSELESS TO THE EYES OF HIM WITH WHOM WE HAVE TO DO. *(Hebrews 4:13, Amplified)*

That verse can throw one into a tailspin. "If crossdressing is a sin, and God hates sin, and He knows that I am a crossdresser, and the church says that crossdressing is a sin, then God must hate me. The bad go in life I have been having recently, or whatever untoward event or events or happenings or series of reverses must be God's punishment for my being a crossdresser." This thinking is the result of the church's brainwashing which is akin to hog-

wash. I spent from 1947, the year that I surrendered to Christ, until 1987 in this type of thinking. Giving my life to Jesus Christ in recognition of my own sins and embracing the fact of His atonement for sin and giving Him entrance into my life only served to complicate things, when the first euphoria died down in a few months. Now the church was telling me how to live, what to do and what not to do, where I could go: church social functions, concerts in the park, Christian movies shown in the church, etc. What I could not do and where I could not go – and the sky is the limit on that one. I didn't need a Bible with all of that pulpit wisdom and the church Book of Discipline. So I threw myself into a pink tizzy spiritually for the next 39 years. The beautiful fact is that I am a survivor, and that only by the grace of God! When I see the horrendous guilt trip crossdressing put me on, I wonder how I did make it through. In all of the guilt, God set me in the position of a home missionary as a superintendent of a skid-row mission in the northeast. Amazing Grace! I had left the church long before that, and had no church membership, which was always a prerequisite for a position such as that. It's a long, long story of how I was selected. I did not apply for the position. Bottom line is that God gave it to me and kept me in it for nineteen years during which I was a closet crossdresser and only the three of us knew. Myself, my wife and God. In spite of it all, I was in no way comfortable with my crossdressing. In those years I asked God many times to "deliver" me from it so that I could be more comfortable. He didn't do it. Period. Now I know that He didn't need to. I see the miracle of His guiding hand in all of it. Crossdressing didn't mean a thing to Him. That was not the issue with Him. Now I know how much He blessed the faith that brought me to His feet to ask deliverance. With me, crossdressing was the issue. With Him, faith is the issue. It was the faith that He gave me that carried me and that's why the devil couldn't use crossdressing to destroy me, which could have happened had I somehow or another been exposed.

I can now hear the cry of, "Abominable thinking!" To say that God allows crossdressing when He so plainly states that it is an abomination in *Deuteronomy 22:5*. We will do a careful paper on that one, as I have some new research on that verse.

Back to the ranch!

We were talking about hiding and how it is impossible to hide any area of your life from God, so we have established one fact now. You know that you are a crossdresser and God knows and that makes two that know. You don't have to move over in the closet to make room for God, my Christian friend, because He is in you and hasn't deserted you. Your Christian life is

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“your new life hidden in Christ with God,” as it states in *Colossians 3:3*. That’s real hiding. It brings tears to my eyes when I think of God’s embracing love for us. He hugs us with Christ, in His bosom.

Do you REALLY think that crossdressing stands between you and God? Look at the *139th Psalm* again.

YOU DID KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER’S WOMB.

He made NO mistake. I don’t know what pattern He used when He knit me together in my mother’s womb. But I do know that if the pattern called to “knit-one and purl-four,” that He knit-one and purled-four. My firm belief is that I am a congenital crossdresser and so constituted. God just doesn’t make mistakes. I have spent much of my life crying out to Him, “Why me?” Now I know. I have known for three years now.

NAY BUT, O MAN, WHO ART THOU THAT REPLIEST AGAINST GOD?
SHALL THE THING FORMED SAY TO HIM THAT FORMED IT, WHY
HAST THOU MADE ME THUS? (*Romans 9:20, KJV*)

WILL WHAT IS FORMED SAY TO HIM THAT FORMED IT, WHY HAVE
YOU MADE ME THUS?” (*Romans 9:20, Amplified*)

Let’s look at the Old Testament:

WOE TO HIM WHO STRIVES WITH HIS MAKER! (HE IS) A WORTH-
LESS PIECE OF BROKEN POTTERY AMONG OTHER PIECES EQUALLY
WORTHLESS. SHALL THE CLAY SAY TO HIM WHO FASHIONS IT, “WHAT
DO YOU THINK THAT YOU ARE MAKING?” OR, “YOUR WORK HAS
NO HANDLES?” (*Isaiah 45:9, Amplified*)

I have my answer

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
April, 1990

DOES GOD APPROVE OF CROSSDRESSING?

by Lee Frances Heller

Here we go again! The actual act or behavior of crossdressing is NOT the issue. As we all know, our society has established norms by which all things are judged. These norms fall into several categories, some of which are good or bad, acceptable or unacceptable, etc. By society's standards we are largely unacceptable deviants. This is society's judgement on us. We are judged by our outward appearance. Men in skirts? UGH! Maybe no one sees us in our closet, so we judge ourselves. The practice of crossdressing becomes to us forbidden fruit. A thing much to be desired and we eat of it and when we do we bring all kinds of condemnation on ourselves in the light of the normal/abnormal behavior. We make ourselves miserable. The family circumstances surrounding us may force us to hide our crossdressing. Each person must deal with their own situation. You may condemn yourself in the light of your church membership or your relation to God. We are moral people with families and responsible jobs and positions and in a very large number of cases, we do an outstanding job in those positions. Does God favorably judge our work, our love for our families, and all of the "good" things we do and then turn around and condemn us for our crossdressing? Do you see what I am trying to get to? We operate on a system of human values and concepts and this is vitally necessary to live in society. Imagine a society without norms and standards! They ARE necessary, yet they do cause us so much misery in our "secret" life.

FOR THE LORD SEES NOT AS A MAN SEES; FOR MAN LOOKS ON THE
OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKS ON THE HEART. (*1
Samuel 16:7, Amplified*)

Which of us have gone in our closet with intent and purpose to do a sin against God? If crossdressing is a sin, which it is not, WE look on our outward appearance. However, we are being who we are. All the time God is looking into our heart and He sees what we are anguishing through. He hears all of our thoughts and knows of our apprehensiveness. "What if my wife or one of the kids come home unexpectedly or a neighbor knocks at the door?" No, God does not approve of crossdressing, because that is not the issue. He has no need to approve. He has already made provision for you in Jesus Christ. So you say, "If I turn my life over to Christ, then He's going to take this lollipop from me?" No. He is going to make you a child of His and afford you all of the privileges of kinship. Forgiveness of sins, the gift of faith, a solid foundation for your life. Those of us who are Christians can attest to

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that. Pants or skirts don't make the difference. Our heart's attitudes toward God does.

For without faith, it is impossible to please God. Start pleasing God and exercise the faith that He has given to you. Don't allow yourself to be brain-washed into thinking that crossdressing is a sin that stands between you and God. It's not. The indwelling Holy Spirit has cleared the way for you. Rest yourselves in the arms of Jesus Christ. He who invited us to

COME UNTO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY-LADEN
AND OVERBURDENED, AND I WILL CAUSE YOU TO REST. I WILL EASE
AND RELIEVE AND REFRESH YOUR SOULS. (*Matthew 11:28, Am-
plified*)

Wow! I never had such a hard time as I did writing the above and trying to get a point across. But only by God's grace it was completed. It's only a page and a half, but there is enough in it to curl a preacher's hair and make him gasp for breath and I am ready for the flak. I have my tummy full of trying to accommodate the "establishment." I am a crossdresser writing to, and exclusively for, other sister crossdressers of mine. The devil takes the hindmost.

"The only reality is being in harmony with ourselves and other people and God. That is the one great reality towards which God is working and towards which we are working as we obey Him." (*The Philosophy of Sin*, Oswald Chambers)

"Faith is the indefinable certainty of God behind everything and is the one thing that the spirit of God makes clearer and clearer as we go on." (*The Psychology of Redemption*, Chambers)

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
April 1990

WHERE WE STAND WITH GOD

by Lee Frances Heller

Many of us at one time or another have wondered where we stand with God. We know where we stand with the Ecclesiastical Authority in this present void. Rejected by most of them. Rejection is not acceptable. Jesus informed us,

“ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME; AND HIM WHO COMES TO ME I WILL NOT CAST OUT.” (*St. John 6:37*).

Now go ahead and tell me God will not give Jesus any CDs or TSs but will give Him only upright straight people. Are only those who are members of the “First Church of Holier-Than-Thou” eligible? They would tell us we are followers of our reprobate flesh and on the primrose path to destruction in a gaping hell waiting to consume us; and some of us have that same idea about ourselves. If that be the case then the above quotation from *St. John* is negated and Jesus is a liar because He really doesn’t want CDs. Did God create me as a mistake and is now going to destroy me to cover up His mistake? Sorry, Babe, the answer is NO WAY did He make a mistake and in no way has He opened up hell’s gates for us because we are CDs. I was warned by a minister friend, and very solemnly at that, who is not a CD, to never even suggest or intimate that God approves of CDing. We are different from the mainstream of society but our “difference in no way disqualifies us from the place we have in God’s Kingdom”. Let’s allow our Spirit to be happy in God’s salvation for us in Jesus Christ.

IF GOD IS FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? [WHO CAN BE OUR FOE IF GOD IS ON OUR SIDE?] (*St. Paul in Romans 8:31*)

IE. Is that “if” a prescription that there is a condition to be met in order that God be for us? No.

K. Wuest. “In view of the fact that God is for us, who could be against us to do us harm? The “if” is a conditional particle of a fulfilled condition.”

Donald G. Barnhouse. “This is not the “if” of questioning doubt, but the “if” of dominant faith. It could well be translated, “Because God is for us, who can be against us?” The strength of the answer has now been sufficiently demonstrated that God IS for us by His eternal covenant, His incarnation in grace and His death for us sinners.”

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Rev. Kathy. "SINCE GOD IS FOR US..."

One glaring fact. God IS for us. Does this mean then, that God is categorically for us as CDs? No, just as God is not on the Christian's side on every human issue. As humans we are loaded with imperfection and just plain old sin, but CDing is not one of the sins. In our community we find every human condition as a human being. We have no set mode or pattern of living to adhere to in order to pass an exam to qualify as one whom God is "for", or, if I fail, He is against. May I say it again? Our human condition as CDs is NOT the issue with God. Our soul's condition is. Human condition pales in the radiance of the Cross.

Jesus says, "COME TO ME ...". "But" you say, "I can't because I wear the clothes of a woman."

"COME UNTO ME ALL YOU WHO ARE HEAVY LADEN AND OVERBURDENED" replies Jesus.

"How can I, Jesus, when I have been told my human condition is contrary to everything you stand for?"

"COME UNTO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN AND OVERBURDENED AND I WILL EASE, RELIEVE AND REFRESH YOUR SOULS".

"Oh Lord, I would love to do that but I can't 'til I give up my skirts and forsake them forever."

TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU AND LEARN OF ME FOR I AM GENTLE (MEEK) AND HUMBLE (LOWLY) IN HEART AND YOU WILL FIND REST, RELIEF, EASE AND REFRESHMENT AND RECREATION AND BLESSED QUIET FOR YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS WHOLESOME (USEFUL, GOOD—NOT HARSH, HARD, SHARP OR PRESSING BUT COMFORTABLE, GRACIOUS AND PLEASANT) AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT AND EASY TO BE BORNE." (*St. Matthew 11:29*).

CASTING THE WHOLE OF YOUR CARE, ALL YOUR ANXIETIES, ALL YOUR WORRIES, ALL YOUR CONCERNS, ONE AND FOR ALL ON HIM; FOR HE CARES FOR YOU AFFECTIONATELY AND CARES ABOUT YOU WATCHFULLY. (*St. Peter first book 5:7. Quotes from Amplified Bible*)

Anything I'd say now would simply be anti-climax.

Lee Frances

I finished my disclosure on the above subject on June 1 and imagine the surprise and blessing when I discovered today's (6/4) devotion which I have copied for you.

The above verses are among the most beloved in the New Testament and for good reason. A compassionate Saviour holds out His hands to all mankind in these verses. His invitation is freely given, and His promise is more to be desired than gold.

Some of us have been bowed down with guilt and shame, bitterness, fear and discouragement since childhood. We are weary of trying to even stand, let alone walk under such a heavy load.

Jesus is saying, "Come to me and I will take that load off your back." As we allow God's healing love to take over in our lives, for the first time we will experience true rest. Yet, just when we come to know rest, the Lord Jesus tells us to take His yoke upon us and learn from Him. Why? In Bible times a farmer would yoke a young ox with an older, capable one so that the younger could learn to plow the right way. Jesus is saying we no longer have to try to pull the plow ourselves. He will be in yoke with us now, and we will be His disciples learning from Him. Because He is always that yoke with us, whatever we have to face becomes easier because He is the strong one, pulling us through and guiding us to keep the furrow straight.

-from "Day by Day Love Is A Choice" Devotional for June

I am convinced beyond human reasoning that God is going to bless and use *G&L* for His glory and the edification of our sisters to the point of comforting them and to restore relationships to Himself which were fractured by Satanic-inspired guilt. I have suffered such guilt and you have as well. Thousands of our sisters are presently suffering. Once the Spiritual foundation in Christ and the Holy Spirit is restored and Spiritual awareness comes alive, there will be a new and happy CD. Enjoy the summer, God bless you, make you and loved ones happy. My dearest love and prayers are always yours.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace
June 1990

By the Grace of God

THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OUR SALVATION

by Lee Frances Heller

The accomplishment of our salvation is in the death of Jesus Christ as He paid the ultimate penalty due our sins. Those, who by faith, have adopted the sacrifice as their penalty paid have experienced full forgiveness for sin and have restoration to fellowship with God. The restoration is made permanent by the resurrection of Jesus Christ in a continuing fellowship with our God. Christ gained the victory over the Spiritual death our sinful nature was headed for.

God saw the mess the world was in Noah's day so He destroyed humanity with a flood and saw it did no good, so He said, "NEVER AGAIN . . ." This time He came into the world Himself and fulfilled His command in *Ezekiel 18:4*,

BEHOLD, ALL SOULS ARE MINE...THE SOUL THAT SINS IT SHALL
DIE.

By God's pronouncement death is sin's penalty. Death of the soul and spirit. God died that death in the person of Jesus Christ and in so doing opened up the way to fellowship with Him. The walking dead today are those who have neglected establishing a spiritual life.

As the sacrifice of the Cross forgives our sins, the resurrection of Christ gives us the assurance of a continuing spiritual relationship by the Holy Spirit given on the day of Pentecost. If there is no Resurrection then there is no Ascension and therefore there can be no Holy Spirit coming on the day of Pentecost to indwell those who believe, put their faith and trust in, and adhere to and cling to Jesus Christ. If there was only the Cross but no Resurrection the most we could be is a bunch of miserable forgiven sinners with no Life in us. St. Paul said in

Romans 5:10, FOR IF WHILE WE WERE ENEMIES WE WERE RECONCILED TO GOD BY THE DEATH OF HIS SON, MUCH MORE, NOW THAT WE ARE RECONCILED, WE SHALL BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE.

...BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU SHALL LIVE ALSO. *John 14:19*

The whole creation hinges on His Resurrection. Remember it daily.

I hope you all have a nice Easter with your families. Those of you who have no family communications like me, because of crossdressing, join me in Spirit and we can worship together in our churches. Also invited are those in the closet. Dress if you can and get a good Church service on TV and join us in that manner. I did that for many years.

Those of you who feel crossdressing is a sin which stands in the way of a good relationship with God I ask you to read my article, *Is God Against Us?* in the Fall '90 issue of *Femme Mirror*. If you don't get the *Mirror*, I will be happy to provide you with a copy, plus the first article I wrote for our *Beta Chi NL*. In no way is crossdressing a sin or any hindrance to a lifelong, rewarding fellowship with God. When the devil or forces of evil try to inform you that God thinks you are an abomination to Him, remember: Jesus dropped the charges.

It's been a long time since I have written. I have made so many promises about meetings and social functions for *Beta Chi* and have been unable to fulfill any of them plus fulfill my promise to write more on the subject of "Christianity and The Crossdresser". I can make no promises but I have just finished the best week, physically, I have had in over a year, so I think I see a glimmer of light in the tunnel.

Very low profile is my game.

I wish you all the very best of everything all ways and always and above all, God bless you and bless you!!

My love and prayers to you and for you.

Lee Frances
Grace and Lace
Easter, 1991

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PURPOSE OF GRACE AND LACE

by Lee Frances Heller

THE PURPOSE OF *GRACE AND LACE* is simply to present the positive that God loves us and is on our side in life in spite of our crossdressing. His care and concern is for our souls. We, also, are His created beings and His love is for His Creation of which we are a part. Whether we wear skirts, pants or nothing at all is no issue with God. The clothes humanity wears does not validate any standing before God. Faith does. Faith in skirts, faith in pants and faith wearing nothing at all; faith is the only criteria for pleasing God.

BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM; FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS (EXISTS) AND THAT HE IS THE REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.
(Hebrews 11:6 KJV)

BY FAITH THE HARLOT RAHAB PERISHED NOT WITH THEM THAT BELIEVED NOT, WHEN SHE RECEIVED THE SPIES WITH PEACE.
(Hebrews 11:31)

Just one question. If God blessed a prostitute's faith, is there any reason why He can't bless Daisy the crossdresser's faith? At this point I could "take off" into a 3 page dissertation. As you can sense, I feel very strongly on the fact of God's love for us as His created beings. I'll spare you and tell you that I love you.

I want to make *G&L* a bi-monthly publication in 1992 with the first issue in February. My mail list is growing weekly in spite of the fact that there has been no letter since June. I have adjusted my work schedule to allow me the time I need. Work is a necessity as the 20 years I spent as director of a skid-row mission in NJ provided no retirement benefit. I now have the time I needed and I can see no excuse for not coming to you again in 2 months from this time.

PLEASE NOTE: I ask you to notify me if you do not wish to receive further copies of *G&L*. I will not think negatively of you and will thank you now for saving me the postage and copying expense. After all, not everyone likes vanilla ice cream. I like chocolate myself and I have a friend who loves pistachio. In that vein, *G&L* is not for everybody.

HOW IS *G&L* PAID FOR? I must confess that this issue has not cost me anything. Sisters have sent donations which were unsolicited. My policy is to keep *G&L* free of any kind of fund solicitations. Should I ever become unable to work, that would be another story. I had a Christian Radio program in the West Indies in the '70s and never asked directly or indirectly for any funding. Some day I'll tell you of the miracle of God's provision. Starting out with the \$109.00 reel tape recorder and ending up with a complete professional studio in an extra room in the Mission. I stopped only because there were more and more demands on my time locally. Anyhow, PLEASE enjoy *G&L* and if you need extra copies for friends, I have them and they are yours. Just ask.

No. I didn't have my sights set on forming a crossdressers' church. No way! The printed page and later on the spoken word via cassette tapes to all of our dear sisters is it. I do envision in some future year having a retreat some weekend here in Jackson but that is in the future. There is nothing to buy or join now or anytime later. Just enjoy *G&L*.

Deep within us is an amazing sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a divine center to which we continually return. It is a dynamic center, a created life that presses to birth within us. It is a seed stirring to life if we do not choke it. It is the presence of Christ in the midst. *Testament of Devotion by Thomas Kelly*.

Love and Prayers

Lee Frances
Grace and Lace
December, 1991

OUR HIGH PRIEST

by Lee Frances Heller

A word about our High Priest, Jesus Christ who was the sacrificial lamb without blemish. God would not accept the person who offered a sacrificial animal which had a blemish.

THAT YOU MAY BE ACCEPTED, YOU SHALL OFFER A MALE WITHOUT BLEMISH OF THE YOUNG BULLS, THE SHEEP OR THE GOATS. BUT YOU SHALL NOT OFFER ANYTHING WHICH HAS A BLEMISH, FOR IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR YOU. (*Leviticus 22:19-20*)

BUT YOU WERE PURCHASED WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST THE MESSIAH, LIKE THAT OF A SACRIFICIAL LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH OR SPOT. (*I Peter 1:19*)

WHEREAS THE ONE (CHRIST), AFTER HE HAD OFFERED A SINGLE SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS (THAT SHALL AVOID) FOR ALL TIME, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD. *Hebrews 10:12. (All quotes from Amplified Bible.)*

Bear with me. There is a point to all of this.

LET US, THEN, HOLD FIRMLY TO THE FAITH WE PROFESS. FOR WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST WHO HAS GONE INTO THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD – JESUS, THE SON OF GOD. OUR HIGH PRIEST IS NOT ONE WHO CANNOT FEEL SYMPATHY FOR OUR WEAKNESSES. ON THE CONTRARY, WE HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO WAS TEMPTED IN EVERY WAY WE ARE, BUT DID NOT SIN. LET US HAVE CONFIDENCE, THEN, AND APPROACH GOD’S THRONE WHERE THERE IS GRACE. THERE WE WILL RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP US JUST WHEN WE NEED IT.” *Hebrews 4:14-16. The Good News Bible, Today’s English Version. Am. Bible Society.*

As crossdressers (CDs) we are all prone to feel something is standing between us and God. It is not the “sin” of CDing for the simple reason CDing is not a sin. What stands between us and God is the sinful *nature* with which we were born. CDing does not add to our sinfulness. This is the universal sin we were born with; inherited from Adam. Thus the “Adamic nature” we

hear about. Our first expression of it was in babyhood when we couldn't even talk yet, when we learned what no-no meant but went ahead and did it anyhow. Rebellion. If we were forcibly stopped from doing something we wanted to do but shouldn't do, we fussed and fumed, or, in some cases, threw a temper tantrum which is a display of the Adamic (sinful) nature. I don't want to take time here to show how this sinful nature plagues us all of our lives. We all taste of it. Yes, even we who call ourselves Christians. May I suggest you write for the very first issue of *G&L* I sent to 50 sisters 2 years ago. It is 10 pages of articles demonstrating why CDing is not a sin. It will clear up a lot for you. Jaye Reviere has a devotional in it which is a classic.

“Yes, I crossdress, But . . . “Wow-dee-dow! Now comes the litany of. “(But) I am not an immoral person, I don't lie or cheat (IRS-take note), I am not a greedy person, I never deliberately hurt my fellow man. I am an upstanding member of my community and a credit to my employer and I am a good provider and love my family dearly. The only fault I have is CDing and that hurts no one.” With all of that rationalization and attempted pacification you are still uncomfortable in your relationship with God. Could it be you are attempting to justify yourself before God on the basis of what you are not? Let's see.

There was a fellow in Jesus' time, a Pharisee, who was going into the Temple to pray. Another fellow was going for the same purpose but he was a tax collector. In those days tax collectors were independent contractors. The government told them how much money they expected from a given area. A tax collector was assigned and he was the one who determined the amount of your tax and they really laid it on everyone and especially the poor suffered under the tax burden. The tax collector kept, for his remuneration, everything above the specified amount the government wanted from his territory. The collector was a hated, miserable worm and a poor excuse for a human being.

So there they go. Two men widely divergent in philosophy and social station in life; yet both seeking the same God. The self-righteous Pharisee prayed:

THE PHARISEE TOOK HIS STAND OSTENTATIOUSLY (SHOWY DISPLAY; PRETENTIOUSNESS) AND BEGAN TO PRAY THUS BEFORE AND WITH HIMSELF: “GOD, I THANK YOU THAT I AM NOT AS THE REST OF MEN, — EXTORTIONERS (ROBBERS), SWINDLERS UNRIGHTEOUS IN HEART AND LIFE ADULTERERS, — OR EVEN LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR. I FAST TWICE A WEEK AND I GIVE TITHES OF ALL THAT I GAIN. (*Luke 18:11 & 12 Amplified Bible*)

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Pity the poor tax collector listening to all the “Holy am I” stuff.

BUT THE TAX COLLECTOR, (MERELY) STANDING AT A DISTANCE, WOULD NOT EVEN LIFT UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN; BUT KEPT STRIKING HIS BREAST, SAYING “O GOD, BE FAVORABLE (BE GRACIOUS, BE MERCIFUL) TO ME, THE ESPECIALLY WICKED SINNER THAT I AM!”

BUT I TELL YOU, THIS MAN WENT DOWN TO HIS HOME JUSTIFIED — (FORGIVEN AND MADE UPRIGHT AND IN RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD) RATHER THAN THE OTHER MAN; FOR EVERYONE WHO EXHALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLED, BUT HE WHO HUMBLER HIMSELF WILL BE EXHALTED.

Luke 18:13 & 14 Amplified

There is no sense in being Pharisee-like before God. To try to justify our CDing by saying, “well, women wear pants and men’s shirts and now men’s boxer shorts,” followed up by what a good person you are. That rationalization just won’t fly. It’s only when we realize the toll sin has taken on our lives and become aware we can in no way make it up to God; it is then that we can avail ourselves of the impact of the Cross. God, in the person of Jesus Christ, paid the death penalty He demanded for sin (THE SOUL THAT SINS SHALL DIE *Ezekiel 18:4*). He paid for our sins. We could never pay for our sins, nor can we repay the Christ of God for what He has done for us.

In all of this I am trying to say that God takes no joy in our suffering. The satanic forces do. As long as we believe the lie that CDing is a cardinal sin against God is just how long we will suffer. In faith, do what the tax collector did.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace
November 1991

IS CROSSDRESSING STANDING BETWEEN US AND GOD?

by Lee Frances Heller

Dear Friends and Sisters,

G*race and Lace* is written for Crossdressers and by Crossdressers. While we may quote from some ecclesiastical establishment sources, (Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, both whom I reverence, immediately come to mind) we will publish no material written by a non-crossdresser at this point in time. We need to hear from our own people and their experiences in how God has helped them to accept themselves in Jesus Christ and know real freedom from the forces of evil's Big Lie -- telling us we are hopelessly lost for time and eternity because of our skirts. They quote St. Paul in *1 Corinthians 11:14*,

DOES NOT NATURE ITSELF TELL YOU THAT FOR A MAN TO HAVE
LONG HAIR, IT IS A SHAME TO HIM?

Really? It looks to me like the long hair bit is a hangover from *Ezekiel 44:20* where a Levitical Priest was not to shave his head nor have long hair but to keep it trimmed (thus the beginning of the barber shop for men). I have 14 inch long hair and God does nothing but bless me, not because of the *G&L* Ministry or anything I do, but because I am His child in Christ Jesus. I'm not a Levitical Priest.

Then it has been brought to my attention in *Romans 14:15* that St. Paul instructs not to eat meat if it is offensive to another and in *1 Corinthians 8:13* he says,

IF...EATING MEAT OFFENDS MY BROTHER, I WILL EAT NO MEAT AS
LONG AS THE WORLD STANDS... IF IT CAUSES MY BROTHER TO FALL.

He is talking about meat here. Just meat (food). If you want to allegorize those verses by my guest. If it would happen a Seventh Day Adventist were to visit me, I would neither eat or offer her meat or food which would offend her.

The best one of all is the one about CDs being deceivers. Apparently, there is a train of thought that goes something like this, "I am a man trying to pass as a woman and that's deception and a Christian shouldn't be a deceiver." I guess the thought is, we apparently are not what we represent ourselves to

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be, women, and I'll say Amen to that. Nor are we deceiving. We are not deceiving God. He made us this way. Read *Psalms 139:15 & 16*. Deceiving has to be on purpose and we have no desire to maliciously deceive anyone. When you are "read", admit forthrightly you are a man in women's clothes. When you deny you are a man then you are trying to deceive. Let's go on to other things.

I hope to get at least 4 issues out this year and this is the first one for 1992. I have enough subjects to write on for as long as I will live, but it's a matter of time and health. I will do the very best I am able to. Why don't you send in an article as mentioned above or on any other Christian subject. The guidelines are simple. *G&LL* is an evangelical publication so we want articles in the evangelical mode. We have no computer so your copy must be typewritten and copier ready. Your computer printout is fine if it is in 8" x 11" segments. Again, this issue was almost all paid for by CD's voluntary contributions. Stamps being the biggest item. I admire Kimberleigh Richards of "Cross-Talk" newspaper. She has a literary service for us in her paper and she pays for it out of her own income. She has a few subscriptions at \$24.00 a year to help out, but she has been thru the mill, trying at times to get enough money together for the next issue. She's like the battery bunny—she just keeps going and going and going. I am more than willing to pay the cost of *G&L* and I also am thankful for those who have helped. *G&L* is free from any cost or charges to you and it will stay that way. I am not shooting for a holy financial empire. I don't want to do any bookkeeping or have a special account for *G&L*. I want to write of God's love for us in spite of what we think of ourselves and our self-inflicted guilt. Christ arose from the grave and never went back but went up where He lives today ready to make sons of God out of whoever calls upon Him. WHOSOEVER (CD's included) shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." I love you and pray for you daily.

Lee Frances
Grace and Lace Letter
March, 1992

CHRIST'S PLACE IS IN THE HEART

by Lee Frances Heller

I must agree with some of those in community who say Christ has no place in our sororities, clubs and CD organizations. They are not churches.

Christ's place is in the hearts and souls of the members of the organizations of which some of our number have allowed Him to take up residence in their lives and who trust Him. In some Christian circles that action is known as being "saved", while in others it's an act of surrender to His Lordship.

Regardless of what term is used, the salvation of our souls goes far beyond the circus-like atmosphere of an "altar call" and people running down the church aisle with the congregation singing *Just As I Am*. Next comes the call for backsliders to return to God at the altar. That failing to bring anyone to the altar, the call is issued to "Rededicate your life to the Lord". Amid all that hoopla poor Daisy the Crossdresser (CD) hears the forces of evil, namely the devil, tell her (him) she (he) cannot be saved because God has said a man who wears women's clothes is an abomination to Him (*Deuteronomy 22:5*). That makes poor Daisy cringe with guilt and even tho she does not want to be an abomination she is forced to brand herself a bad sinner. Sinner because of CDing she is NOT (see *Is God Against Us?*), and she has not disqualified herself from being a child of God because of her purported "abomination".

God knows how HARD she has tried to stop her CDing, she (he) has sworn off, purged and promised God she'll do ANYTHING if He will only remove this "curse" from her. Nothing happened and now she sits there, unavoidably, cunning, planning her next dressing session and not wanting to plan it, but subconsciously it's working on her. (For some enlightenment see Dr. Sheila Kirk's article on some of the "Why's" of CDing in *Tapestry #60*.) So Daisy leaves the Church feeling lower than a snake's belly.

Not so with "Precious Sue". Precious hit the "sawdust trail" and was saved, sanctified and delivered and walked victoriously out of the Church in high spirits. "Oh Boy! Oh Boy! Finally! I am delivered from crossdressing. No more "Precious Sue". It's Patrick Stephen from now on and when he gets home, out come the plastic bags and away he goes filling them up with all of those beautiful clothes and putting them in the nearest dumpster or giving them to the Salvation Army or Goodwill. Good riddance! (By the by, if you are purging and you are 5'10" and weigh 250# send them to me!!) Here come the catalogs and out they go. Every vestige of Precious Sue is GONE!

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Patrick Stephen is now in the clouds of sweet victory over the scourge of CDing. Praise the Lord! Gone forever! I am now an EX-CDER! EUREKA! HALLELUJAH!

In that same meeting was William who experienced all of the above but found after a few months his “Winnie” was stirring to life again. At first he could squelch her, but her female grit and determination wouldn’t stay squelched and William went down in devastating defeat. He answered the altar call for the rededication of his life to God. He thought he had gotten away from God and if he’d rededicate his life everything would be OK and Winnie would go away. Not so.

William, Precious Sue and Daisy have not recognized the fact they are CDs. They came out of the womb CDs. Mr. “Holier-than-Thou” in any position in the Church from member to bishop has branded them sinners at a very sinful game. We cross-dress because we are crossdressers. CDing is not something we do for temporary “kicks” or as a vehicle to sexual activities of which, Praise the Lord, there are none for us. We do because we are and we are because we were born this way!!! (See Jaye Reviere’s devotional piece on the 139th Psalm.)

Until we can accept the fact we are Cders and ACCEPT OURSELVES as such, is just how long we will be in turmoil. The turmoil effects us both physically and spiritually. “God loves you” has become an empty phrase which is carelessly bandied about, but that doesn’t take away the fact that God DOES love you.

The foregoing three girls are a composite of myself and experiences I had in my quest for God’s deliverance from “The ‘sin’ of CDing”. However, the Lord was gracious and delivered me from alcohol, prescription drugs and tobacco. I’d be less than honest if I didn’t say He had to deliver me from booze three times, prescription drugs twice. The fact remains He did finally allow me to put them out of my life by His divine grace and love in Jesus Christ. I have no record of the times I sought deliverance from CDing. At least a dozen if not two dozen times.

In one of my quests for divine action in getting rid of CDing in my life, I was free from it for a period of 304 months and had the Precious Sue and William experience. Why didn’t God make it permanent? I feel strongly God had nothing in it. It was a psychological experience which I can’t explain. Crossdressing is not a substance such as alcohol, drugs and tobacco. Rebecca and I were talking one afternoon discussing this very subject. God had de-

livered her from a lot of undesirable traits which are, of course, acquired in one's life but He did nothing about her CDing. Her conclusion was that we may as well ask God to change the color of our eyes. So, anyhow, lets get on here. At the age of 68 years I finally and wholeheartedly accepted myself for how God had made me; "You made me this way, Lord and I accept it fully and wholeheartedly." My life has been a blessed experience since then and I'll be 73 years old by the time you receive this. I must say I would not trade the last 5 years for any of the best 5 years in my life, prior to 1987. God give me a little more time in this world to share His Love for us in Jesus Christ with you.

We will soon grace the altars of our Churches with lilies in commemoration of Christ's resurrection. We will, gustily, sing *Christ Arose, He Arose*. The choir will sing an "Easter" anthem and the Dear Preacher (regardless of my obviously cynical nature, I love God's servants – like us, they are all products of what they have been taught) will preach a sermon on the spiritual value of the resurrection. By Monday, it's all forgotten and the lilies are sent to nursing homes and hospital wards. The altar is vacuumed and life goes on as usual. I urge you to go to Church on Easter Sunday and if you are out of the closet, dress to the nines. I will, but join this old lady in the worship of our resurrected Saviour who didn't go back to the grave when they closed the Church doors. The Christ who 3 days prior expired on the Cross – who bore our sins and who nailed the handwriting of the ordinances that were against us to His Cross. God, who demanded blood sacrifices for sin, finally became that sacrifice Himself in the person of Jesus Christ and on the third day He arose from the grave bringing personal salvation and justification to us who will put our faith and trust in Him, will cling to it, believe and rely on Him. Church comes alive when we return the love God has given to us in Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Please accept my best and heartfelt wishes for your Easter. May it be a life changing one.

GRACE and LACE is an expression of my love for you because I love you, be you CD, TG, TS, or whatever.

Lee Frances
Grace and Lace Letter
March, 1992

UNORTHODOXY
by Lee Frances Heller

Many of us face extremely difficult situations as crossdressers. Some of us are not spoken too well of by family and friends or neighbors. Our motive is misjudged. As far as many of them, and especially our dear ones, are concerned, we are sexual deviants. Oh boy! How the devil loves to have that one leveled against us. To others, our lifestyle is a perpetual party, or that we will want to have sex reassignment surgery. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are heterosexual crossdressers. Transsexuals are of another genre. Gays are of still another. We are alone in our category, and unlike any of the others. Our rejection stems from the confusion experienced by our families and friends. They simply are unable to sort it out and that is mainly because they refuse to learn anything about our situation. They won't even pose a question. The simple reason is they would hear the truth and sometimes the truth can be a frightening matter. As soon as we would open our mouth, their minds would go to automatic reject and anything we would have to say would go in one ear and out the other. We are not to be pitied; our well meaning critics are. It is they who are denying themselves association with us fine folks who are friends and relatives.

Didn't Jesus say in *Matthew 13:57*:

...A PROPHET IS NOT WITHOUT HONOR EXCEPT IN HIS OWN COUNTRY AND IN HIS OWN HOUSE.

That statement simply shows what it is to be different. Jesus was certainly different from the Pharisees who were steeped in their own self-made righteousness. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God sent from heaven (*John 6:38-39*)! He ate and drank with sinners. He beat up the money changers and the merchants of animal sacrifices and drove them out of the temple (*John 2:13-16*). He made Matthew, a tax collector, one of His disciples. Yes, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was different from those who claimed to follow God and made public displays by praying on street corners, "...AND FOR A PRETENSE, MADE LONG PRAYERS" (*Matthew 23:13-16*). They loudly decried Jesus (*Luke 16:14*). Yes! Jesus was different. He didn't fit the Pharisees' concept of God. He healed on the Sabbath (Pharisees: "... HE KEEPETH NOT THE SABBATH DAY" (*John 9:16*)). He made wine and people partied (*John 2:1-12*). To cap it all, after He had been crucified for our sins and was buried, He rose from the grave on the third day and appeared to Mary Magdalene who was the first to see Him in His resurrected state. You may ask what is so notable about that?

Women were the underdogs of the day, and Mary Magdalene was the woman out of whom Jesus cast seven demons (*Luke 8:2*). He chose to appear to a woman who was different also.

What am I trying to say? Jesus' life was unorthodox. He was not a member or follower of the "establishment" of those days. In juxtaposition, we are different from the usual run of humanity. We are different from our friends and neighbors and family members. That makes us subject to criticism while our sisters and some friends have no problem with us. We are not prophets, but we are without honor in our own homes and the butt of many unsolicited and unjust opinions.

We were created crossdressers. We are constitutional crossdressers. God knows us. He made us this way (*Psalm 139:13-15*). Take the shield of faith (*Ephesians 6:16*) and let all of the flak that comes our way bounce off of it up to God who can deal with it. If He does nothing more, He can help us be tolerant and loving towards our critics, even if they choose not to try to understand us. God can give us an acceptance of ourselves and help us to stop fighting the losing battle against our crossdressing. In my ignorance, I fought it for my whole life until I reached the age of 67. At that age I finally accepted myself for what God made me and 45 of those years as a "born again" Christian. I am now a born-again Christian crossdresser. Through the Bible five years ago, I came to realize I was created this way – accepted it in full faith and have taken my shield and warded off my critics for God to deal with, and He has spared me a lot of discordant situations with those who refuse to understand me. Those dearly beloved ones are His problems. He has given us our shield of faith to use, along with the whole armor of God (*Ephesians 6:12-17*). If you have never bowed your knee to Christ and thanked Him for His sacrifice for our sins and asked Him into your life, you have no idea what is missing. By all means, do it.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
August 28, 1992

By the Grace of God

IS GOD AGAINST US?

by Lee Frances Heller

Is God neutral regarding our practice of crossdressing, or is He against it? Our lifestyle or the occasional practice of crossdressing in “the closet” is a deviation from the norms of society. We have been told that we are unacceptable to society and especially church society, and have been branded sinners by the church. How then could God ever stoop to love a crossdresser? In some cases, families are divided over the fact that Dad is a crossdresser, and those marriages have ended in divorce. We can be a real source of conflict and emotional upset to others.

GOD IS NOT THE GOD OF CONFUSION AND DISORDER.
(1 Corinthians 14:33a)

God has declared us to be an abomination to Himself

...NEITHER SHALL A MAN PUT ON A WOMAN’S GARMENT, FOR ALL THAT DO SO ARE AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD YOUR GOD.
(Deuteronomy 22:5)

It looks like God and society are both lined up against us. How can we win against those odds? We can!

Way back in the beginning of recorded Biblical history, Moses tells us in Genesis that already

GOD SAW THAT THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY IMAGINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY. AND IT REPENTED GOD THAT HE HAD MADE MAN ON THE EARTH, AND IT GRIEVED HIM AT HIS HEART. AND THE LORD SAID, “I WILL DESTROY MAN WHOM I HAVE CREATED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH; BOTH MAN AND BEAST AND THE CREEPING THINGS AND THE FOWLS OF THE AIR, FOR IT REPENTETH ME THAT I HAVE MADE THEM.”
(Genesis 6:5-8)

Thus the great flood and Noah’s ark. Noah and his family and the animals were the only ones spared.

After the flood, Noah opened up the ark and the animals and birds and creeping

things were released. Then Noah communed with God.

AND THE LORD SAID IN HIS HEART, “ I WILL NOT CURSE THE GROUND ANYMORE FOR MAN’S SAKE, FOR THE IMAGINATION OF MAN’S HEART IS EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH; NEITHER WILL I AGAIN SMITE ANYMORE EVERY LIVING THING, AS I HAVE DONE.” (*Genesis 8:21*)

Again in *Genesis 9:11* He says that never again will there be a universal flood.

I WILL ESTABLISH MY COVENANT WITH YOU; NEITHER SHALL ALL FLESH BE CUT OFF ANYMORE BY THE WATERS OF A FLOOD; NEITHER SHALL THERE ANYMORE BE A FLOOD TO DESTROY THE EARTH.

All that happened in the flood was that one bad crop of humans was destroyed. The ground had dried and Noah had made himself a vineyard, harvested the grapes, made wine, and got drunk. As Noah staggered to his bed, his cloak fell off and he slept naked. His son Ham saw him naked and it was against the Levitical law for a son to see his father naked (*Leviticus 18:7-8*). Speculation has it that Ham violated the sexual code with his father (*Genesis 9:24*). Biblical scholars and commentaries at best can only say that this is a fuzzy area. The fact I am trying to bring out is that sin has flourished since the beginning of mankind and even the flood didn’t wash it out.

In order to place some control on man’s evil nature, God set forth by the Holy Spirit through Moses the *Ten Commandments* and other rules, regulations, and ordinances. These can be found beginning with the twentieth chapter of *Exodus* and continuing on through *Leviticus*, *Numbers*, and *Deuteronomy*. This was a spiritual fence built by God to keep His children protected from the surrounding evil pagan world. The law of God is burned into every one of our hearts by the Holy Spirit to make us aware of our shortcomings. Therefore we as Christians are extremely sensitive and acutely aware of sin in our lives.

Let’s get to the point of all this, which is to lay your guilt where it belongs. On Jesus Christ.

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD THAT TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. (*John 1:29*)

Simply put, God got sick of sinful man once again and took upon Himself the person of Jesus Christ. He came into the world He had created. He lived and taught and then took upon Himself the sins of the past, present and future, thus becoming our sin-bearer. In His atoning death upon the cross He

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fulfilled His own pronouncement and declaration in *Ezekiel 18:4*:

THE SOUL THAT SINNETH, IT SHALL DIE.

Sin is atoned for by a sacrificial lamb, and Jesus Christ became that lamb for us, the human race. Including crossdressers.

Finally,

HAVING CANCELED AND BLOTTED OUT AND WIPED AWAY THE NOTE, (THE BOND) AND THE ORDINANCES WITH ITS LEGAL DECREES AND DEMANDS WHICH WAS IN FORCE AND STOOD AGAINST US: THIS (NOTE WITH ITS REGULATIONS AND DECREES AND DEMANDS) HE SET ASIDE AND CLEARED COMPLETELY OUT OF THE WAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS. (*Colossians 2:14*)

We are not sinners because we crossdress. Our very nature is sinful and it is the same inherited sin nature and condition that every human has. There is always the conflict of good and evil. We possess a grossly enlarged sense of guilt because we crossed the invisible line between male and female. We are men making like women. Wow! This is really a mind-blowing thing, but I'll save any further comment for another time. In the meantime, we can't entertain the notion that we are alienated from God because of the fact that we crossdress. We are what we are and we are exactly as God made us.

Crossdressing and sin are not synonymous. A thumbnail sketch of the Hebrew word translated "abomination" is *to'ebah* and is connected with the idolatry of the pagan world where crossdressing was for ceremonial sexual purposes. My crossdressing doesn't fall into that category. I sin no sin in my crossdressing.

Heavenly days! I have tried to condense a three-hundred page book into a few paragraphs. As a crossdresser, as Lee Frances, I pray that the Lord will use these few words to ease some long-held guilt and give mental relief. He is for us as human beings, as His creation, so let us allow Him to bless and make happy our lives. We have already discovered that we are helpless to do anything about our crossdressing, even after purges and beseeching God for deliverance, including trips to the altar. For booze, dope, and tobacco there is divine deliverance. I have been delivered from all three by divine intervention. To ask for deliverance from the very nature God gave us and from the way He made us is an unreasonable expectation.

If my love for you is in each word I have written, then how much more is His love for you. As crossdresser to crossdresser, I say, God Bless You!!

September 9, 1992

Dear Friends and Sisters:

I use the above salutation, as *Grace & Lace* goes to some who are not crossdressers. First I want to ask you for a favor. If you do not read *Grace & Lace*, I would appreciate it if you would please advise me so I can remove your name from our list. I won't be offended at all. This particular issue will cost about 92 cents with the copying and mailing. If you have a copy machine you don't use then send it along. It will save between thirty-five and fifty dollars depending on the number of pages.

I am now at work on the next issue for November. It will relate to crossdressing and forgiveness. I have much more time now as I have finally gotten to the bottom line of my illness. I have difficulty with doctors and will go only in dire circumstances. So now I know what's wrong – I have an irregular heart-beat (and please spare me about your cousin or gran'ma who has had one for 25 years) plus a sugar problem. Don't know too much about that yet, as more tests are to be done. For over a year I have had no energy and now I know why. The real problem is I am 73 years old and weigh 285 pounds. Enough of that.

Grace & Lace is published to encourage Christian crossdressers and to convey to them and others that God loves you. Those who are in the closet are not seen of others but are seen of God. We are prisoners in our own darkness and when we come to the Light of Lights, the divine essence shining on our being, our souls, we find we are loved exactly as we are. The force of God's grace comes to you where you are. Believe me, it's safe to tell God the truth. Martin Luther, the reformer, said, "Whenever a man seeks to live before God on some basis other than forgiveness, no true fear of God remains." He is saying no reverence of God remains.

I will have a 30-minute cassette ready on the subject, "*Is God Against Us?*" in a month. It is free with the exception that I ask you to send a fifty-two cent stamp if you'd like to have it. This cassette points up the fact that crossdressing is not a sin. I'll begin mailing it by October 15th. If you have a blind crossdressing friend as I do, give me her address and I'll mail it to her. I have already recorded the *Tri-Ess Femme Mirror* article on secondary transvestism for the blind, or legally blind, or illiterate. I have a high speed

By the Grace of God

cassette copier and can copy both sides of a 60-minute cassette in two minutes. I have had this copier for seven years.

I know you will enjoy *Answered Prayers* by Rebecca Anne Allison. Rebecca is from Jackson, Mississippi also. She came to us via the Lord by way of her joining *Tri-Ess*. She will be a regular contributing editor along with Jaye. Jaye has been with me and used greatly of the Lord to encourage and counsel me since I met her in June 1988 at a *Tau Chi* meeting I was visiting, where I was invited to share the Bible with my sisters. That meeting was the turning point in my whole life. I am so thankful for Jaye and Rebecca. If you have an article you'd like to submit for consideration, please do so. If you type, then submit it ready for copying. If you feel you are not too proficient at writing then write it in letter form and I in turn will submit it for rewrite by an expert. Your original thoughts will not be tampered with.

Jaye, Rebecca and I pray you will be blessed with the great abundance of God's love for you which He declared when, in the person of Christ, He expired on the cross for our sins and rose from the grave three days later to give us life, His life. "... SAVED BY HIS LIFE." (*Romans 5:7-10*). My dearest love to you.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
September 9, 1992

EUNUCHS IN HEAVEN

by Lee Frances Heller

My hope and prayer is that you will have a nice Thanksgiving and Christmas and the whole holiday season. Jaye, Rebecca and Michelle K. join me in these greetings. We wish you well all year long.

Michelle K. is the latest one to contribute her talents to help make *Grace & Lace* an even more presentable letter. She is going to teach me how to use her computer so we can have two columns, and to make the type uniform. Everything I receive now will have to be put in the computer. My prayer is that I can learn to do it. I am computer illiterate and my brain has been slowed down for quite awhile now. The Lord will overcome all of that.

Would you sit down and write out your views on what Biblical salvation means to you? I want to do a whole issue on the subject of salvation for our May 15 issue. Some people feel there is no spiritual salvation for us crossdressers. I feel strongly there is, and not only for us but for transgendered, secondary transsexuals and primary transsexuals as well. No one is excluded. Please contribute your thoughts on God's salvation for all of us.

I want to make an apology. In the last issue I let something slip by. In telling you of my physical condition, I remarked, "I have an irregular heartbeat – and please spare me about your cousin or gran'ma who has lived with one for 25 years." Please forgive me. I can think up all kinds of reasons why I said that, but the truth is that I was simply being a cantankerous old woman. With no reason to be so. God is blessing me more than He ever has in my life today. He blesses me right out of my size 11-WW booties!

Grace & Lace is published for the crossdresser, transgendered and transsexual community. Anything written is for your support and encouragement in our lifestyle. We have nothing to sell, no contributions solicited. We are not ready to pounce on you and tell you to "git saved or go to Hell." When the Holy Spirit tells you to "git saved," you will. Only He can open our God's word to you, and I am content to let Him do it. You can phone me and we can talk without fear that I am an aggressive "soul-winner" type, ready to rob you of your freedom or tell you that you must believe as I do or "fry." My concern is YOU and your happiness in the Lord, regardless of what you have been told by others. God loves us. Period! In the *Psalms*, David cried out, "...NO MAN CARED FOR MY SOUL." Jaye, Rebecca and I care for your souls as well as ours. There's plenty of love to go around.

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Any life without contact with God is empty and meaningless. We all need a God-given spiritual life. Our temporal life is not sufficient to meet our inner needs. The life we crossdressers/transgenders/transsexuals have has a degree of confusion as to who we are, how we got this way, and where we are going. The facade of confidence we wear hides these things from everyone but us and God. Those of us who have crossed the gender line are venturing into what can be a land of unknowing need of God's hand in our lives. We need His protection and guidance. We cannot accept the ecclesiastical condemnation of our situation: that unless we change, we are sliding down a greased pole into a blazing inferno of Hell. They need to go back to their Bible and learn God's love all over again. Or perhaps for the first time?

God's love? No man can fathom it. Look at this example:

HE WHO IS WOUNDED IN THE STONES (TESTICLES) OR HATH HIS PRIVY MEMBER CUT OFF, SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE CONGREGATION OF THE LORD. (*Deuteronomy 23:1*)

No eunuchs allowed. Pretty final, isn't it?

Let me just casually mention that eunuchs gained stature as the Old Testament unfolded. They became trusted government officials.

Now, let's come into the book of *Acts* in the New Testament for a revelation of God's love and purpose towards us in Jesus Christ. Philip had been on a preaching mission and had just returned to Jerusalem.

AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD SPOKE UNTO PHILIP, SAYING, "ARISE AND GO TOWARD THE SOUTH UNTO THE WAY THAT GOETH DOWN FROM JERUSALEM UNTO GAZA, WHICH IS DESERT. AND HE AROSE AND WENT; AND BEHOLD, A MAN OF ETHIOPIA, AN EUNUCH OF GREAT AUTHORITY UNDER CANDACE, QUEEN OF THE ETHIOPIANS, WHO HAD THE CHARGE OF ALL HER TREASURE AND HAD COME TO JERUSALEM TO WORSHIP." (*Acts 8:26-27*)

And now the eunuch is returning home from Jerusalem, and as he was riding along reading from *Isaiah*, Philip happened along, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian asked Philip how could he, as he had no one to explain it to him. He had been reading *Isaiah 53:7-8*, which spoke prophetically of Jesus Christ. Philip explained it to him. As the KJV Bible says,

PHILIP...PREACHED UNTO HIM JESUS.... THEY CAME TO A BODY OF WATER AND THE EUNUCH ASKED HIM WHY HE COULDN'T BE BAPTIZED. AND PHILIP SAID, "IF THOU BELIEVEST WITH ALL THINE HEART, THOU MAYEST." AND HE ANSWERED AND SAID, "I BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD." (*Acts 8:35-37*)

What happened between the time God said no eunuch could ever enter the congregation of God, and the eunuch's baptism? The same thing happened that happened between the time God forbid crossdressing and today. Jesus Christ happened. God made flesh and the very embodiment of love. In other words, Jesus was God's love fleshed out.

Our spiritual life doesn't come from who or what we are. It comes from who and what Jesus is. Our Saviour. Don't ever let your lifestyle or orientation stand between you and God, because He doesn't care about your lifestyle or orientation. He cares for your soul. We at *Grace & Lace* care enough for your soul to write to you every three months about it. If we paltry gender people care with our imperfect human caring, how much more is Our Saviour's care for you?

CASTING ALL OF YOUR CARE UPON HIM; FOR HE CARETH FOR YOU.
(*1 Peter 5:7*)

May God's blessings be yours and your family's this holiday season, and every day this coming year.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
November 13, 1992

WHY ME LORD? (I)

by Lee Francis Heller

Has this been your cry to our Lord? “Why did this have to happen to me?” “I have prayed and prayed, Lord, for this affliction to be removed from me. Why must I dress and act in the manner of the female gender? Yet I feel so natural and composed when I’m in the femme mode: it’s almost as if I should have been a woman, but I know you make no mistakes. I asked you to remove the tobacco habit from me. You did. I asked you to remove alcohol abuse from my life. You did. Again my cry was for you to remove the addictive use of prescription drugs from my life. You did. Then I asked you to remove this addiction I have to women’s clothes. At least I think it’s an addiction. Society looks on it as disgusting, shameful, repulsive: not to say what my wife thinks of it. And if I am ever discovered, my marriage (or relationship) and job are in jeopardy. I couldn’t face it all.” You have prayed and prayed and in some cases lit candles in church asking for deliverance. All to no avail.

If you have prayed this way, take heart in what the Lord told St. Paul when he asked three times for the Lord to remove the thorn in his flesh given to him to keep him from becoming too conceited.

“MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.” (2 *Corinthians* 12:9)

We don’t know why we were chosen to be CDs or why we were made this way. Your thinking may go: “Well, St. Paul’s conceit is not immoral like CDing is.” WHAT!! Immoral? How dare you!!! Crossdressing is like everything else. In itself it is not immoral until it is put to immoral use. I am talking about the innocuous aspect of crossdressing. We are normal heterosexual males who have a pronounced feminine side in our psyche (soul, mind) which demands expression in our imitating women given the opportunity.

Our daily lives are no different from any other responsible male. We are scientists and janitors and everything between with no distinguishing marks to betray our status as CDs (unless you run into the office for a moment after changing into men’s clothes having forgotten to remove lipstick and earrings! My place of part-time employment knows I am a CD and my big boss doesn’t care what I wear as long as I generate sales. My immediate supervisor can’t handle CDing, so I acquiesce to her good pleasure and thus keep peace in the family.) I see no immorality in our brand of CDing. It is

a “thorn” in that we have to conceal it and worry about discovery. This kind of weakness can be made into a strength.

I used to pray for deliverance using all of those choice adjectives as I prayed, telling God that my CD “habit” was a vile, repulsive, disgusting habit. The truth is, I didn’t feel that way at all, but God said in *Deuteronomy 22:5* I was an abomination to Him. I couldn’t let him know how much I enjoyed it. The laughable thing is, I was trying to “con” God by speaking to Him in terms I felt would tickle His ear. He knew those were baseless, empty prayers, as I enjoyed CDing and God KNEW I did. It was later I learned He made me this way. I came out of the womb a CD because He

...CREATED MY INMOST BEING AND KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY
MOTHER’S WOMB. (*Psalms 139:13*)

In asking for deliverance we are asking that God’s divine plan for our lives be breached. We may as well pray for the color of our eyes to be changed to our choice of color. (Pink and blue are my favorite colors, in that order. One of the nicest things about coming out of the closet in 1989 was I could wear my pink suit with abandon. The sun could shine on it and intensify its beauty. I am satisfied with my blue eyes, so I thank God for my pink suit and blue eyes!)

God has said,

“MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE
PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.”

If you want to label CDing as a weakness (as I did for my entire life until 1989) then it is a weakness and you’re stuck with it. On the other hand, when you finally accept yourself as God made you and quit banging on the gates of glory to be “delivered” from the way God made you, then you will relax and, for the first time in your life, pray to God with a free, unshackled mind. You can expect and receive answers to your prayers as a CD/TG/TS free of the false guilt that Satan lays on you in his war against God. Let God handle Satan.

FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST
PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF DARKNESS
OF THIS WORLD (dogging our heels – ed.) AGAINST SPIRITUAL
WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES. (*Ephesians 6:12*)

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As the scripture said, “High places”. Out of our reach, but not out of God’s reach. Every one of us that Satan can keep in a defeated state because of CDing or being TG/TS is a credit to him. Yes. CD/TG/TS is a strength when we release ourselves from bondage by accepting the way God made us and thanking Him for it.

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS, FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN
CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU. (*I Thessalonians. 5:18*)

It doesn’t say “In everything except CD/TG/TS. It says EVERYTHING. Webster defines “everything” with one word: ALL.

In our newfound strength, when we receive no answer to a specific prayer, we can accept God’s “no” and not say, “Oh, He doesn’t answer because I am a CD/TG/TS.” God’s grace is sufficient and is all we need. We can now worship Him in spirit and in truth (*John 4:24*). We are free in the Holy Spirit to actually thank Him. We can say with King David,

I WILL PRAISE THEE FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE
...AND THAT MY SOUL WELL KNOWS. (*Psalms 139:14*).

Christian transsexuals: God bless you. You either will give, or have already given, your bodies over to a surgeon for a “makeover” via sexual reassignment surgery. Don’t stop there. Be all you want to be both physically and spiritually. You have lost a lot of blood to become what you are. Christ lost His blood to pay for the sins of mankind, of which all are included. Let Him give you a spiritual makeover, and then you are complete in Him.

So, my dear sisters, let’s lay aside the matters of gender: put on our “pink suits”; and stand, sit, or kneel in the middle of the room and praise and thank God for the way He made us. Step out of the door of the spiritual hostage life, into the sunshine of God’s freedom and love, and see the beautiful person He made you in your spirit. Experience His liberating love and grace which will see you through the rest of your life in the strength He has made out of our weakness.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
August 1993

Dear Friends,

Rebecca is in Atlanta on personal business so I had to type this Letter Section and this communique. Rebecca is responsible for the fine look of *G&LL* as she has done it all on her computer. She has never said so but I know there is some personal sacrifice involved. Thank you Rebecca, again. She always replies, "I'm just glad I am able to do it." So am I. Thank you Lord for causing our paths to cross. First our Lord put Jaye and I into each other's lives and then Rebecca. This issue and others are a testimony in our lives to accomplish His purpose in all of our lives. I thank God we can be of service to Him in this way. When I first proposed *G&LL* all I got were blank stares. From God I got a "go ahead" and I went and have been going ever since and will continue to go 'til the breath of life leaves me. If you have a literary contribution, please send it along for consideration. It can be in the form of a Letter – you don't have to write an article, but we do need to expand the pages of *G&LL*. Your help would be appreciated. Our next issue will be in November.

Do you find it next to impossible to thank God you are a CD/TG/TS/? Does it seem strange to thank God for what you may consider to be on the same level as an addiction? Read on. Here's a free book for you.

FROM PRISON TO PRAISE (by Merlin R. Carothers) is not a prison with bars, but about a prison of circumstances and how to be set free. Now, I don't want to suggest this book is a "how to" to eliminate CD/TG/TS in your life. This is what you happen to be and in this context you can thank God how fearfully and wonderfully you are made. You can be set free from guilt and self-condemnation through thanking Him. Are there people in your life who reject you because of your lifestyle? Thank God for them! By now you are considering I may be a bit off the trolley. You have to read the book and see the whole picture. The Bible says very simply

...GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THIS IS THE WILL
OF GOD FOR YOU.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
August 1993

By the Grace of God

TWO YEARS OF GRACE AND LACE

Dear Friends:

To mark the successful completion of 2 years of *GRACE & LACE LETTER*, I thought I'd write this letter instead of an article. Jaye, Becky, Dianna, Kathy, and Jennie certainly have given us a diversity of articles and I am so grateful to them for helping to make *G&LL* a successful Paper.

What is the purpose of *G&LL*?

Our purpose is to encourage and support you as the CD/TG/TS God made you. To tell and demonstrate the fact of the love God has for us. He has not set us aside. To tell you that you can be a full participant in God's salvation wrought by Jesus Christ's atonement and join in the fullness of joy in the new life imparted to us by His resurrection. Our thrust is to lift up the discouraged and troubled Christians among us who, unnecessarily, allow themselves to continue in the guilt they feel because our lives have been condemned by a well meaning but unenlightened church, pastor or layman. To lift them up by the power of God's word, the Bible. To rejoice with those who have found freedom in Christ, freedom from the repressive bonds of the evil one who tells us God can never love us or care for us unless we get "delivered" from our gender problems. In our community this is the BIG LIE and God has given *G&LL* the blessed vocation of conveying His true love of us. Pray for us.

I pray for those of you who have asked me to pray for a need you have or have simply said, "Please pray for me". Presently there are 28 of us on the list and I pray thru the whole list at least 4 times a week and often more. Once you are on the list you are there until I leave this present world for my home and reward in heaven where I'll be with God FOREVER! What a happy prospect! I'm not Pentecostal but if I was I could shout for you right now but I'm a staid German that swallows her emotions, or is that Presbyterian? Just joking. The church denomination I was in I quit in 1970. I quit because I am a CD and feared the ridicule if it was ever discovered. "If you ain't there they can't hurt ya". God has blessed my life in abundance, regardless. A pastor friend of mine always reminds her congregation to pray for themselves also. It's important. As director of a rescue mission drug and alcohol rehab center in an East coast city for 20 years I had much to pray for and pray about but I always prayed for myself first because if I wasn't in good spiritual shape I would be ineffective in my work which was God's work.

Pray for yourself and I'll pray with you.

CHANGE THE SUBJECT. I had a real blessed experience a couple of months ago. If you have ever gone to church in your feminine best you are familiar with the uneasiness that accompanies such action. I have been going to a certain Evangelical Church in Jackson ever since I arrived in Nov. 1985. (Wow!, 8 years ago. Hard to believe it.) I started going again this summer in earnest. I became aware of the fact that if I was discovered, what effect it would have on the congregation. Long ago I learned how to handle being read or discovered. I finally made an appointment with the pastor. (Prior to the appointment I sent *G&LL* to him.) I wanted to discuss with him my desire to attend church on a regular basis.

On the day of the appointment, the butterflies were a' flying and when I stepped into the office the secretary hugged me and said how happy she was to see me. We had talked on the phone a couple of times. With that the butterflies left and I was calm. I knew I was in friendly territory. She ushered me into the pastor's office and we shook hands and he immediately started telling me how, a couple of years ago, four crossdressers came to church one Sunday and one of the church ladies went to him and told him she thought some CDs had just come in. She wondered if it would be proper for her and a couple of other ladies to sit in the row ahead of them and welcome them and see to their comfort and invite them back when the service was over. He gave them the go-ahead. Those CDs were Cissy Conley, Rita Wright, Rhone Behtz and myself. The pastor and I talked for an hour and now I have a church where I can worship and be the person God has made me. I can be an ambassador from our community. I can show what kind of people the biggest majority of us are. By the grace of God and the Holy Spirit I can dispel the idea people have of us being men in dresses bent on partying and devious dark activities. We too, can be Christians, a credit and benefit to our church and community at large. I told him he was free to tell anyone or the whole congregation I am a CD. I would leave that to his wisdom. I put no restrictions on him. If he has told anyone, I know nothing about it as everyone is so nice to me. No one has slipped and called me "sir" yet. I have nothing to hide or be ashamed of. I simply want to do the *G&LL* letter, uplift our whole gender community to God, and be the born-again Christian crossdresser He has made me for just as long as He leaves me in this world.

I dislike going to a negative note now but we must be about our business. If you would like to have *G&LL* sent to a pastor or a church or to any individual you can send their name and address to me and I will mail a sample to them. Your name will not be used. They will receive a copy of *G&LL*

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plus one of my cards with my name and phone number on it. I'll be glad to take the "heat", if any. Some of you write of negative experiences with a church so let's send them a *G&LL* in the spirit of love and trust the Holy Spirit to speak to their hearts in a positive way concerning the subject of CD/TG/TS.

Rebecca does most, if not all of *G&LL* on her P.C., which is, and has been, a big answer to my prayer for someone to help with the "donkey" work. She not only does that but she just spent \$130.00 for postage for this issue, and this time will also help with the cost of copying this mailing of 240 issues. When I started *G&LL* I stated I would send it out until I could no longer afford the cost. This issue, with the fancy envelope, costs \$.96 each. May I make a simple request?

If you enjoy *G&LL* then will you join in helping us by sending a contribution of \$1.00 to \$5.00. It will help and every penny will go directly into the publication of *G&LL*. None of it for administrative costs.

No, not even a bowl of beans for me. You will be put on the list to receive an accounting of money received and disbursements of which the U.S.P.O. and the printer are the beneficiaries.

Rebecca changes address from Jackson, MS to Atlanta, GA on Dec. 2, 1993. She will start her 1-year Real Life Test on the evening of Nov. 30 when she and I will go to a restaurant and launch her onto the feminine sea of life where her life from that date back will be only a foggy memory and she will now have the life God made her for. We will conduct *G&LL* business by mail and, of course, she will be back here from time to time. I will miss the fellowship we have had and the Saturday nite dinners we had here, and the prayer we had together at the close of those evenings for ourselves and primarily for *G&LL*.

God bless and guide you, Becky; many of us are praying for and with you.

And we are praying for and with you, my dear friends. Enjoy this issue of *G&LL*.

In Christian love,

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
November, 1993

HIS LIFE IS OUR LIFE

by Lee Frances Heller

A baby was born to a homeless couple in a large city. Their car was their home. The baby spent the first sixteen months of its life in a child's car seat. Finally, they were discovered by the Child Welfare Agency and the baby was rescued. When they took her out of the car seat, and out of the car, she **fought** to retain the only security she knew: the car seat. When she began to exercise her arms and legs and body, she began to learn what freedom was. She readily accepted it and found the joy of freedom which enabled her to forget the car seat.

...BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS; WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US. (*Romans 5:8*)

FOR IF, WHEN WE WERE GOD'S ENEMIES, WE WERE RECONCILED TO HIM THROUGH THE DEATH OF HIS SON; HOW MUCH MORE, HAVING BEEN RECONCILED, SHALL WE BE SAVED THROUGH HIS LIFE. (*Romans 5:10*)

Our salvation is important to all of us. None of us has any desire to end this life in perdition. We are justifiably concerned about where we will spend our life after we exist in this body. This is why evangelists have cried out since the ministry of evangelism began, "Where will *you* spend eternity?" And then they would break loose on hell's fire and brimstone in an effort to scare the hell out of the people and scare them into heaven. Such tactics do not motivate. How can we love a God who is constantly threatening? Not me. Although as a fundamentalist and a crossdresser, I lived in fear of God and wondered if it was worth it all. When God started blessing my ministry, I knew crossdressing was not the condemned activity I had felt it was. Still not clear, I started a little research in the Scriptures and finally gained assurance that crossdressing was no sin. God has made me a happy Christian crossdresser. Saved and looking forward to eternity with Him. I prefer to bring out the overwhelming positives of the word God has given us as a guide. I for one, and I assume you also, have had enough condemnation from well-meaning folks who presume to speak for God and on His behalf. Christ died for our sins. His death was a sacrificial and redeeming death.

IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RICHES OF GOD'S GRACE. (*Ephesians 1:7*)

By the Grace of God

...THE [MOSAIC] LAW REQUIRES THAT NEARLY EVERYTHING BE CLEANSED WITH BLOOD, AND WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS (OF SINS). (*Hebrews 9:22*)

FOR YOU KNOW IT WAS NOT WITH PERISHABLE THINGS SUCH AS SILVER OR GOLD THAT YOU WERE REDEEMED; BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST. (*1 Peter 1:18*)

Redemption and forgiveness of sins was accomplished at the Cross. Christ said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Our redemption was complete – praise the Lord and thank you, Father! But where do we go from here? We are now forgiven sinners. Our past is wiped out and we have the opportunity for a new beginning. So how do we start? Or do we just run around saying, "Hooray! My sins are forgiven and now I am a forgiven sinner." Right? If so, all you are is a forgiven sinner building up more sins! We have no power in our mortal bodies to live our lives as a redeemed sinner. Where does the power to live as a child of God come from?

Yes, Christ died for our sins. BUT the precious truth is that He came back to life the third day after He was buried. He remained on earth for forty days and then went into heaven, where He lives at the right hand of God the Father. The day we call Pentecost is the day we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit to indwell us and give us the power, by His life, to become His children.

YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON YOU. (*Acts 1:8*)

Thank God we don't have to wander aimlessly about just being forgiven sinners.

THROUGH HIS LIFE WE ARE SAVED. (*Romans 5:10*)

By His Cross comes redemption. By His resurrection comes life. Now His power is in us. We are able to pray and experience answers. If we "goof up" or commit a sin that we think would end all sins (the mother of all sins?), we can confess and receive forgiveness. We are made alive and we live in His love.

Let's take ourselves out of that car seat, where we condemn ourselves because we feel, "God doesn't want us crossdressers, transgendered, or transsexuals." He DOES want you to return to the love He has for you. Walk out into the spiritual light of His freedom. Enjoy Him and the privileges we have

as His children. Now, I'm not advocating you necessarily come out of your crossdressing closet and display yourself. What I am saying is to put that load of guilt on Christ where it belongs. Enter into a full life of faith and trust in Him. Go to church guilt-free. Worship Him with your family and friends. No need to tell them you're a crossdresser. Keep that between you and God. There's nothing hypocritical about keeping secrets from people. If you knew **their** secrets – well, I'll say no more. Hold your head high. Look up to Him. He loves you as no one else does. He died for you and came back to life, so that you might live together with Him.

Feed on His word. Enjoy his freedom.

Peace and love.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
May 15, 1994

MORE ABOUT G&LL

by Lee Frances Heller

IT'S NOW TEN DAYS PAST THE DEADLINE FOR THIS May 15 issue. I started off by not feeling too well the first two weeks in May, so I didn't get any work done. Anyway, I got inspired today to go through some letters we have received and to excerpt them for this issue. "Letters" will now become a regular feature.

So that all who read this will understand, I just want to say a word or two (or 200) about the policy of *G&LL*. I started regular mailing of *G&LL* in the fall of 1991. It will continue to be mailed free. CD, TG and TS have a hard enough time with the misunderstanding, homophobic "church". As a very dear Christian lady friend tells me, "I don't care what you say, the Bible says CDing is a sin." I keep asking her, "where do you find in the Bible CDing is a sin?" I feel strongly the time is here for us to take a stand in favor of our God who loves us, and to present His love for us every three months. You'll never see us writing on hell's fire and damnation. We can get that any day of the week from many sources when they find us out! As long as the Lord provides the quarterly expense, you will enjoy *G&LL* as free as God's salvation is free.

We do not solicit any money, but I do get letters occasionally stating the writer would like to help us in some small way. I've received three such letters in the last six months (and one check) but I'm thankful for the good intentions and offer of help.

If this is your first copy of *G&LL*, then you are on our mailing list to receive it quarterly unless you otherwise specify. If you have a negative reaction to this concept, you are welcome to ask your name be removed from our lists; we will be grateful to you for looking over our efforts. Our paper is not for everybody and we fully realize that. Our name lists are confidential and under no circumstances are they rented, sold, or loaned to anyone for *any* purpose.

G&LL is always free. We have nothing to sell. We will be offering a copy of *From Prison to Praise*, a book by former prison chaplain Merlin R. Carothers, in our next issue, and it is free. I have the copies here now; but please don't ask for one until the August 15 issue arrives with a review of the book. From time to time we will offer various papers and books at no cost.

If you have friends you would like to send *G&LL*, send along their addresses

and we will mail them a copy. Perhaps you would like to have a copy sent to some church person or pastor who doesn't understand CDing from the Biblical perspective. We will NOT use your name in mailing it to them. If you want them to know, then you tell them you requested it for them. We also mail to persons in prison: God loves them as much as He loves you and me.

If you write a letter to the editor, we will print it if you request: we will only identify it by state unless you say we may use your name.

I receive letters asking for guidelines for authoring an article for G&LL. They are very simple. Just read any issue, and you discover we are Evangelical in theology. The dictionary says that means we "emphasize salvation by faith in Jesus". Nothing complicated about that. We have used, and are using, articles by an Episcopalian, a Pentecostal, a Roman Catholic, a Presbyterian...even a Baptist crept in! Anyone, regardless of denomination, whose salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ, meets the guidelines. There are many CDs who do not follow any theological creed, but who have a deep and abiding faith in God. They are welcome also! Write your article and send it along for consideration. We have already published one such person. No church, and no group such as ours, has a corner on God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The "church" can neither get you into heaven nor keep you out of heaven. *G&LL* is to support you in your faith in God as the transgendered person He made you.

Enjoy God's blessings. I love you!

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
May, 1994

By the Grace of God

WHAT AM I TO DO?

by Lee Frances Heller

Deep within us is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a Holy place, a Divine center to which we continually return. It is a dynamic center, a created life that presses to birth within us. It is a seed stirring to life if we do not choke it. It is the presence of Christ in the midst.

-From A Testament of Devotion, Thomas Kelly, a 15th Century Mystic.

“...the core of the soul. In that core is the Central Silence, the pure peace and abode of the heavenly birth, the place for this event: this utterance of God’s Word. By nature the core of the soul is nothing but the Divine Being unmediated. Here God enters the soul with all He has and not partly. He enters the soul through it’s core and nothing can touch that core except the love of God.” (As St. Paul said in *Romans 8:37-39*, NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD.... ed. note)

-Meister Eckhart, 14th Century Mystic, Trans. by Raymond Blakney.

“Man is God’s temple. Innermost behind the veil lies the Holy of Holies into which no human light has ever penetrated and no naked eye has ever pierced. It is the secret place of the Most High, the dwelling place of God. It is man’s soul. Here man unites and communes with God.”

-The Spiritual Man by Watchman Nee. 1925 A.D. Chinese citizen who spent 20 years in a communist prison in China for his faith.

“What am I to do? I do not like the competitive masculine role I have to play. It’s difficult to maintain the perspective of my role of a Father, and my feminine desires.” (Letter received a few days ago.)

What am I to do? It’s a question that never dies because the dilemma goes on and unmercifully on. I point you back to the beginning quotes. Communion with God can bring relief from the pressures.

“ ‘Why, God, did You make me like this?’...I guess you could say I was born again at that time. Still, for some reason, I have not been able to believe that Jesus loves this part inside of me that wants to change what He has created”. (Recent letter)

Jesus loves EVERY part of us.

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND...IT ALWAYS PROTECTS, ALWAYS

TRUSTS, ALWAYS PERSEVERES. LOVE NEVER FAILS...
(1 *Corinthians 13:4,7,8*)

BUT WHO ARE YOU, O MAN, TO TALK BACK TO GOD? SHALL WHAT
IS FORMED SAY TO HIM WHO FORMED IT, "WHY DID YOU MAKE
ME LIKE THIS?" (*Romans 9:20*)

God loves what He made. Our problem is in not loving ourselves as He made us.

"I was born-again in my hope to purge the femme within. To my heartbreak this was not to be. I did not turn from the One who saved me. What I learned was to seek even deeper that love and grace of God through Christ, His Son. I no longer live under the condemnation of the Law. I live within the unflinching love of God." (Recent letter)

The above is the solution a lot of us have employed.

Maybe we can't solve the CD/CG (crossgendered)/TS problems of this body of flesh but every body of flesh has a soul/spirit and as the three quotations at the start of this letter tell us, we have a part of us where God dwells that no man can take away from us. This is our place of retreat within ourselves. This is God to whom we turn and keep turning, and keep turning, and keep turning to regardless of our circumstances. "My wife is leaving me if I don't stop CDing." "I'll get fired from my job if I get caught." "My Children have disowned me." Mine have too. My prayer for them is simply, forgive them in their ignorance, Father. For our own peace of mind and to keep from losing our perspective we have to turn to the only One who understands us and knows every fiber of our being. St. Paul tells the Ephesian Church,

I PRAY OUT OF HIS GLORIOUS RICHES HE MAY STRENGTHEN YOU
WITH POWER THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN YOUR INNER BEING. (*Ephesians 3:16*)

Fill it. Ask Jesus Christ to come in and take up residence.

... THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED TO THE MEASURE OF ALL THE FULL-
NESS OF GOD. (*Ephesians 3:19b*)

Make no mistake, I have no panacea for gender problems and I don't want you to think I do. I can't help you change in one letter or phone call what is part of your being. Thru *G&LL* all of us are simply supporting you, loving

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you, and pointing you to the One that loves and understands you perfectly. Our motivation is His love in us and for us and reaching out to you through us. God does love you EXACTLY as you are.

The church has, for too long, rejected us. But then, I don't want to get into that. And I don't want to get into "preaching".

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
June, 1994

BECKY IS BACK

by Lee Frances Heller

You'll note that Becky is back in this issue with an article on Sacrifice. Dr. Jaye writes on the inclusiveness of us in Christ, and we are happy to present the first chapter of *THE CROSS & THE CROSSDRESSER* by Vanessa S. Enjoy these and the other fine features of this June issue coming out in August. To excuse our lateness I invite you just to take any excuse or explanation which *THE FEMME MIRROR* or *TAPESTRY* have ever offered for being late and apply it to this late issue of *G&LL* and it will save me time by not having to explain.

I NEED ARTICLES by you on how God has blessed your faith in Him regardless of crossdressing. Let us help you to tell others that God loves us. YOU use the pages of *G&LL* for your Christian message of comfort to all of us. Stop hiding your light. "*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it SHINE!*" as the song says.

I have not contributed an article to this issue because I have not been well and what "up" time I have had has gone into trying to get this issue together and do what typing had to be done. I'll put my thoughts in the next four-page "interim (between *G&LL* issues) letter" I send. I have a staff of one, me. I could use a volunteer to type the next chapter of *THE CROSS & THE CROSSDRESSER*. To answer the question; no, I do not have it on computer disc. I'll send you the pages. I will begin serializing *AMBI-GENDERED, God's Special Gift*, in the next issue. Dana Cole, the author, sent me a diskette which I have forwarded to the sister who will handle the serial project for me.

I am so grateful that God has enabled us to bring these books to you as this is what we are here for. Presently, we are a clearing house to publish Christ-honoring material and I only wish someone else would start a Christian paper or magazine which would also put Christ's salvation and God's love for us forward as I am not going to live forever. Christianity is a billion dollar competitive enterprise today. All I have ever asked God for is the dollars it takes to put *G&LL* in your hands, and if He ever saw fit to raise up another evangelical Christian paper in our community there is no way I could view it as "competition", but would see it as the arm of God reaching further into our crossdressing/crossgender/transsexual community. You say you've had the idea of doing it? Praise the Lord and I am praying for you.

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I am praying for all of our readers and our community. I ask your prayers for me and especially that God gives me the strength to carry on in this work of His. Keep your little light shining until it sheds it's light in the lives of others. All some people know of God is what they see in you. Show them how much God loves you. Need I say I love you? I do!

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
Summer, 1994

DEAR FRIENDS,

Reverend Kim Lee Brown and I were talking the other day. She and Lynn Elizabeth Walker are going to share in the non-sectarian worship/meditation period each morning at the IFGE Atlanta convention, March 12-19. The subject we discussed was the spiritual need of our community. Just what is the first need we have? Certainly to know Jesus Christ as our Saviour is prime in any element of humanity, including ours. How are we to accept a Saviour that we have been told looks on us as an abomination? Since its inception, *Grace & Lace Letters* has been devoted to telling our Christian gender people that God loves us and to pass the Good Word on to those whom God has been a stumbling block because a dear, well-meaning preacher has told them that they are an abomination to God. I can in no way fault them, as they are, as we all are, the product of what they have been taught and have blindly accepted. In turn, many gender people have blindly accepted the final decree of that authority. Today they suffer spiritually because of it. God has raised up *Grace & Lace Letters* to say this to you.

“I love you. Come unto Me. Relieve the spiritual stress and strain you are under. Learn of Me. Rest in Me. Then when you call upon my name I will save you. I created you. I love you. I gave my Son Jesus Christ to die for you and I raised Him up from the grave to live forevermore with Me so that you could live forevermore with Us.”

We are in that party of which St. Mark spoke to our Saviour and is recorded in his gospel:

MASTER, WE SAW ONE CASTING OUT DEMONS IN THY NAME AND HE FOLLOWS NOT US AND WE FORBADE HIM BECAUSE HE FOLLOWS NOT US. BUT JESUS SAID, “FORBID HIM NOT; FOR THERE IS NO MAN WHO SHALL DO A MIRACLE IN MY NAME, THAT CAN LIGHTLY SPEAK EVIL OF ME. FOR HE THAT IS NOT AGAINST US IS FOR US.”
(*Mark 9:38-40*)

I could go on and on right now, but time prevents me. Maybe I'll use the above paragraph and quotation and expound further in another *Grace & Lace Letter*. I'm due for a salvation article anyhow. Salvation is a beautiful experience. I'm saved. The staff and authors in *Grace & Lace Letters* are saved. We are serving Him who saved us.

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Thanks to Michelle Kelly who bought, paid for, and installed a new floor in my trailer entranceway, kitchen and hallway last year. C'mon by, Michelle! Also heartfelt thanks to Melanie Cuevas and the good Reverend Kim L. Brown for installing a new floor in half of my bedroom and all of my bathroom. Again – gratis. Lotsa thanks due to Becky Lynn of Dallas for her help in using her computer to copy articles, etc., in a uniform manner for *Grace & Lace Letters*. She has put in many hours helping us. And then Barbara Jean Jasen whom I have known for six or seven years and who has been a constant source of encouragement and help. Thanks to Layla Roxanne in Kansas for volunteering her help and I'd love to list the names of those who have helped us financially but can't, due to security. Thank you so very much.

I had a heart attack on June 28, 1994. I'm doing just fine now, with a heart that beats at the rate of 42 beats per minute. The only drawback is that I tire very quickly, which means the March issue of *Grace & Lace* will go out in April. I'll be mailing it as I turn 76 years old! Better than any party. I asked for help in stuffing and mailing *Grace & Lace* and the Lord has sent me Margaret Flanagan who is my next-door neighbor and the mother of Joan Flanagan who was one of the best friends I ever had. Those of you who used to come here knew her. She was a friend-plus to all of us. She always insisted on using the proper pronoun and would sternly correct those who would address us as "he." She was an addition to all of our meetings. She was a beautiful girl and brought out the "boy" in our girls! Joan was killed in a car crash October 22, 1993. Why am I so long in writing about it? Because I wanted to write a whole tribute to her and will yet. She was a friend you never knew you had. Anyhow, dear Margaret is as tolerant and accepting as Joan was, and is a definite and real help. Kim Lee said she was surprised at how well Margaret and her husband Hank accepted her. Thank you Lord for your servants, the Flanagans.

OH! My heart attack... yes. It takes long to answer letters also. I chose not to have a pacemaker for personal reasons. I have to take a diuretic daily and stay away from salt. There was no hospital time involved. I just haven't got the time for it. The whole episode cost me a total of \$63.46. Someday I'll write about my \$63.46 heart attack. Thank you Lord.

Just what is the purpose of *Grace & Lace Letters* and how are we doing?

Grace & Lace, as I have said many times, was started to serve the purpose of encouraging Christian gender people. We have been told by ninety percent of the visible church in this world that we are wrong and have no right to worship God until we clean up our act and put on men's shoes, socks,

shorts, undershirts, pants and shirt and then we may have the privilege of attending and worshiping God each Sunday at 11:00 AM. And what does God see when He looks at us there? He sees a crossdresser/transgender/transsexual who is attempting to fool Him! By doing this we are discrediting Him. He made us the way we are (*Psalms 139:13-16*) and now the church is at work on us, destroying a segment of His creation. If we conform, we are afforded the privilege of sitting in a pew and worshiping in an order of service that was started by John Calvin somewhere in the early sixteenth century. It has been suggested it was between 1538 and 1542. If you have ever wondered where our present order of service came from, John Calvin is credited with the invention. Bet a lot of you thought the Baptists invented it. So where am I going with all of this? Simply to say the church in this world is not the final authority in the question of gender people. We pose a problem to them, but not to God. Their treatment of us is a problem for God. In His infinite wisdom He foresaw this day and this problem so He became a man in the person of Jesus Christ. *Deuteronomy 22:5* is the scourge used upon us by the church to label us an “abomination!” Our avowed purpose for *Grace & Lace Letters* is to tell our community that God loves us and that Jesus Christ died for us also, and those who have taken Him as their Saviour are His children. The most damning piece of evidence against those who would place us in hell as abominations do not understand *Deuteronomy* has some ordinances which were designed to keep Israel in check because they were in the midst of, and exposed to, pagan practices. God loved them and wanted their undivided worship. The evidence of His love is as follows in *Colossians 2:13-20*:

WHEN YOU WERE DEAD IN YOUR SINS AND THE UNCIRCUMCISION OF YOUR SINFUL NATURE, GOD MADE YOU ALIVE WITH CHRIST. HE FORGAVE US ALL OUR SINS, HAVING CANCELED THE WRITTEN CODE THAT WAS AGAINST US AND THAT STOOD TO OPPOSE US. HE TOOK IT ALL AWAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS. AND HAVING DISARMED THE POWER AND AUTHORITIES, HE MADE A PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF THEM, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM BY THE CROSS.

In your devotions, read on from verses *16 through 20*.

To the representative of the church who would tell me I am an abomination because I am crossgendered, I say, “The self-appointed power and authority by which you state that, was destroyed the day Christ died, so you’re carrying the dead corpse of your power and authority. Get outta my life!” Herein is the calling of *Grace & Lace*. Perhaps I have presented it a bit rough-shod but we are going on with that message of God’s love for us. I could say a lot

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more and a lot rougher, but I'll spare you. I just get so very upset with those who would write us off as something God hates and wants nothing to do with. He loves you just as you are NOW! My love for you is in following God's call to establish *Grace & Lace Letters* and get it into your hands. I love you.

The March issue will be out between the first and the fifteenth of April. We have a great issue for you, but we are presently operating in deficit and need money to get it to you. The Lord says He has the money available, but it is still in your pockets.

In Christian Love,
Lee Frances

January 1995

WHY ME, LORD? (II)

by Lee Frances Heller

Why did you have to make me a crossdresser? I, and most of us, have asked that question of God too many times to recall and gotten no answer. St. Paul sought the Lord three times for deliverance... well, here,

TO KEEP ME FROM BECOMING CONCEITED THERE WAS GIVEN ME A THORN IN MY FLESH, A MESSENGER OF SATAN TO TORMENT ME. THREE TIMES I PLEADED WITH THE LORD TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME BUT HE SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS" (2 *Corinthians* 12:7).

Would you settle for an answer such as that?

YET O LORD, YOU ARE OUR FATHER. WE ARE THE CLAY AND YOU ARE THE POTTER, WE ARE THE WORK OF YOUR HAND (*Isaiah* 64:8).

Again, St. Paul:

BUT WHO ARE YOU, O MAN, TO TALK BACK TO GOD? SHALL WHAT IS FORMED SAY TO HIM WHO FORMED IT, "WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LIKE THIS?" DOES NOT THE POTTER HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE OUT OF THE SAME LUMP OF CLAY SOME POTTERY FOR NOBLE PURPOSES AND SOME FOR COMMON USE? (*Romans* 9:20-21)

...SHALL THE POTTER BE CONSIDERED OF NO MORE ACCOUNT THAN THE CLAY? SHALL THE THING THAT IS MADE SAY OF ITS MAKER, "HE DID NOT MAKE ME," OR THE THING THAT IS FORMED SAY OF HIM WHO FORMED IT, "HE HAS NO UNDERSTANDING?" (*Isaiah* 29:16)

Is one of our transgender rights the right to question God? Yes. God has patience with us, but that doesn't alter the fact of how He made us, nor will it change that fact. We can pray for God to deliver us from how He made us or we can go to a Holy Spirit conference or meeting and have some sizzling evangelist press on our forehead and give us a spiritual jolt, but all we will do when we get up off our knees is stand there a jolted transgenderist. A well-meaning Christian worker will then ask if you have been delivered. Not wanting to be

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subjected to any more, you answer, “Yes,” and go on your way, wondering why God didn’t deliver you from the way He made you. You may as well ask Him to make you 5-foot-2 and 95 pounds, thereby delivering you from your present 5-foot-10 and 250 pounds (my dimensions – ed.).

“A person who believes he is a victim of life’s circumstances sits pouting in self-pity, childishly asking why things (transgendered state in our case) have to be this way. They ride an endless merry-go-round of, ‘If only things were different’ (borrowed quotation from a friend’s book). To put an end to this merry-go-round ride, we must get off the ride and sit down and rest to dispel the dizziness of our past thinking and self-pity. We have to start thinking about acceptance of ourselves as God has made us. The first thing is to realize He actually did make us transgendered. That’s the fact of the matter, and from which there is no escape. Face it head-on. “I am a crossdresser/transgender/transsexual for the rest of my life.” Face it! There is no escape from it. These are hard things to say and I know I will probably lose some friends before I end this article. To take away hope from those who live in hope of the day they will be completely delivered from transgenderism is not a very nice thing to do, but I would be less than honest if I fed that misleading and baseless hope. I could never face myself if I did that. However, I do thank God there are therapists who can help you to cope with your life situation. It’s not as dark as one might think it is. Therapists will work with you on accepting yourself as you were made. They can’t answer the “Why me?” questions.

Accepting yourself? Yes. Actually accepting myself as God made me? Yup. Of course that’s a big order right now. Most are mad, put out, or disappointed with God. Many have had discouraging experiences at the hands of well-meaning people who call themselves Christians and are church members. Some have been forced out of fellowship and have had to leave the church they were attending. Some are just plain afraid to go to church in the fear of being exposed. There are others who feel God is mad at them and therefore against them. At this point let me suggest you send for a new Scripture portion the American Bible Society is distributing titled, “God Is Not Mad At You.” I have 100 copies. Write and I’ll send you one free and postage paid. God is not against us, nor is He mad at us. Even though I was a missionary to skid-row for twenty years, it still took me until I was 68 years old for the Holy Spirit to crack my cranium and holler into its vast network, “God loves you exactly as you are!” And when that happened, I put down my weapons and accepted that love in what I thought was my disgraceful condition. In yielding to His love, I fully accepted myself and swore to be the purveyor of that love to the transgender community. There is no way we can accept ourselves

as we are without realizing God does truly LOVE us exactly as we are. Exactly as He made us. We are His creation, and God makes no mistakes.

It looks like I have tackled another book-length subject and treated it in just a few words. I'll be back to the self-acceptance-as-you-are theme a few more times. It's far from exhausted.

I hope you enjoy this issue. It has been long enough getting to you, but I'll keep trying to get it out on time. Never give up hope in anything. I have finally worked out a program whereby I feel just fine every morning and can do things, including writing, until noon. After that, tiredness sets in, but at least progress is being made. I get up between four and five A.M., so that gives me a few productive hours. I do sincerely thank you for your prayers. I really believe in the power of collective prayer and it helps even if you only say, "God bless Lee Frances today." I have many of you on my prayer list.

God bless every reader. Let's together look to Him who created us and then created Jesus Christ in a miracle birth and who subsequently died for our sins, was buried, rose again in three days, ascended into heaven and today sits at the right hand of God. Open your life and heart to Him.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
July 1995

By the Grace of God

BECAUSE OF WHAT I AM

by Lee Frances Heller

*It's strange, Lord, but I never thought
that I should finish up being thankful for what I am.
I am thankful Lord because I realize
that rather than not being able to serve you
because of what I am;*

BECAUSE of what I am I can serve you in a unique way.

Prayer from *The Both of Me*, Jan Goddard.

The above prayer is on the title page of *Changing Channels*, a booklet by David Horton about whom you will be reading much in the pages of *Grace & Lace Letters*. He is a rector in the Church of England. (Note: This booklet is included as the introduction of this book.)

What a comforting thought and fact. BECAUSE of what I am, I can serve the Lord in a unique way. The Holy Spirit is not disqualifying you from Christian ministry, but you are. The Holy Spirit has not shut the church door to you because of what you are. You have disqualified yourself and slammed the church door on yourself. There are no gender police stationed at the church door to run you off. Mere man has scared you away with his condemnation. How much negative activity goes on in our minds that fosters utter condemnation of ourselves. Give yourself a Christmas gift that God will bless and use. Accept yourself exactly as God has made you and then let Him use you in the unique way He has made you. "God designed you to live in your situation to give you an opportunity to be His witness EXACTLY where you are" (borrowed – ed.). One of God's transgendered servants is starting a transgender Bible study in her home the first of the year, and there is a transgender group in Florida which has been doing the same for almost a year now. They are using their God-given uniqueness to serve Him.

Serve Him who took upon Himself the form of a man (sorry, N.O.W., but facts are facts) and lived for thirty-three years among and in His creation, and then died for our sins and rose again on the third day and forty days later ascended into heaven and fifty days after that He came back in the person of the Holy Spirit to indwell all who would put their faith and trust in Him. I will never stop admonishing you to take Jesus Christ into your heart and life, realizing you are like all humanity: born in sin and in need of a Sav-

ious. We are no different, in that sense, than anyone else. We have the same spiritual need all humans have. Give yourself the Christmas gift of Christ in you and the hope of Glory.

I have used up the space I wanted to use to thank EACH ONE who has had a hand in the publishing of *Grace & Lace Letter* this year. Some have typed for us, many have sent stamps and contributions and many are praying for *Grace & Lace Letters*. I can honestly say that the transgender community has made *Grace & Lace Letters* possible this year and enabled me to add a new publication, *Love Story*. I love each of you dearly.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
December, 1995

By the Grace of God

LAW = DEATH. HOLY SPIRIT = LIFE.

by Lee Frances Heller

THE CODE OF THE LAW KILLS BUT THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES LIFE. (*2 Corinthians 3:6*)

DEATH IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR CURSING YOUR FATHER OR MOTHER. (*Exodus 21:17*) **CANCELED**

IF YOU KNOCK OUT A SLAVE'S TOOTH THEN THE SLAVE GOES FREE. (*Exodus 21:27*) **CANCELED**

IF ANY OF YOU MEN HAVE SEX WITH ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE BOTH YOU AND THE WOMAN WILL BE PUT TO DEATH. (*Leviticus 20:10*) **CANCELED**

IF YOU DISOBEY ANY OF MY LAWS AND IF YOU BREAK OUR AGREEMENTS, I WILL PUNISH YOU TERRIBLY AND YOU WILL BE RUINED. (*Leviticus 26:14-16*) **CANCELED**

WOMEN MUST NOT PRETEND TO BE MEN AND MEN MUST NOT PRETEND TO BE WOMEN. THE LORD YOUR GOD IS DISGUSTED WITH PEOPLE WHO DO THAT. (*Deuteronomy 22:5*) **CANCELED**

IF A MAN'S PRIVATE PARTS HAVE BEEN CRUSHED OR CUT OFF, HE CANNOT FULLY BELONG TO THE LORD'S PEOPLE. HE SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE CONGREGATION OF THE LORD (*KJV*) (*Deuteronomy 23:1*) **CANCELED**

Contemporary English Bible unless otherwise noted.

CANCELED! YES!

AND WHEN YOU WERE BAPTIZED, IT WAS THE SAME AS BEING BURIED WITH CHRIST. THEN YOU WERE RAISED TO LIFE BECAUSE YOU HAD FAITH IN THE POWER OF GOD, WHO RAISED CHRIST FROM DEATH. YOU WERE DEAD BECAUSE YOU WERE SINFUL AND WERE NOT GOD'S PEOPLE. BUT GOD LET CHRIST MAKE YOU ALIVE, WHEN HE FORGAVE ALL OUR SINS. (*Colossians 2:12,13*)

GOD WIPED OUT THE CHARGES THAT WERE AGAINST US FOR DIS-

OBEYING THE LAW OF MOSES. HE TOOK THEM AWAY AND NAILED THEM TO THE CROSS. (*V.14 KJV translates it: BLOTting OUT THE HANDWRITING OF THE ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US, THAT WAS CONTRARY TO US, AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS.*) THERE CHRIST DEFEATED ALL POWERS AND FORCES. HE LET THE WHOLE WORLD SEE THEM BEING LED AWAY AS PRISONERS WHEN HE CELEBRATED HIS VICTORY. (*Colossians 2:14-15*)

DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU WHAT YOU MUST EAT OR DRINK. DON'T LET THEM SAY YOU MUST CELEBRATE THE NEW MOON FESTIVAL, THE SABBATH, OR ANY OTHER FESTIVAL. THESE THINGS ARE ONLY A SHADOW OF WHAT WAS TO COME. BUT CHRIST IS REAL! DON'T BE CHEATED BY PEOPLE WHO MAKE A SHOW OF ACTING HUMBLE AND WHO WORSHIP ANGELS. THEY BRAG ABOUT SEEING VISIONS BUT IT IS ALL NONSENSE BECAUSE THEIR MINDS ARE FILLED WITH SELFISH DESIRES. THEY ARE NO LONGER PART OF CHRIST WHO IS HEAD OF THE WHOLE BODY. (*Colossians 2:16-19a*)

YOU DIED WITH CHRIST. NOW THE FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE DON'T HAVE ANY POWER OVER YOU. WHY DO YOU LIVE AS IF YOU HAD TO OBEY SUCH RULES AS, "DON'T HANDLE THIS. DON'T TASTE THAT. DON'T TOUCH THIS?" AFTER THESE THINGS ARE USED, THEY ARE NO LONGER GOOD FOR ANYTHING. SO WHY BE BOTHERED WITH THE RULES THAT HUMANS HAVE MADE UP? (*Colossians 2:20-24*)

For five years I have been trying to tell how much God loves us and how He made us as we are. The big thing being emphasized today is to take responsibility for our decisions. Our being a crossdresser/transgenderist/transsexual was not a conscious decision on our part. How we present ourselves is a decision we make and therefore we are responsible for that part of us. God made me a transgender person. I went to the store the other day and upon returning I went to the bedroom to change clothes and looked in the full length mirror and I looked exactly like a "bag lady." God was not responsible for that. I was. When we carry the burden of guilt because we are crossdressers/transgenders/transsexuals, we are carrying a load that is too heavy to bear. If you think you made the decision to be a crossdresser and you feel it was a sinful decision, then reread the foregoing Scripture again and add it to what King David says in *Psalms 139:13*.

YOU PUT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB AND I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE OF THE WONDERFUL WAY YOU CREATED ME. NOTHING

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ABOUT ME IS HIDDEN FROM YOU. I WAS SECRETLY WOVEN TOGETHER IN THE EARTH BELOW, BUT WITH YOUR OWN EYES YOU SAW MY BODY BEING FORMED. EVEN BEFORE I WAS BORN, YOU HAD WRITTEN IN YOUR BOOK EVERYTHING I WOULD DO. (*Psalms 139:13-16*)

I carried that load all my life and even during my twenty years as a missionary. At the age of 67, I got weary of carrying it and diligently set about to find some scriptural answers to my dilemma. When I discovered the books of *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy* were laws designed to keep Israel in check and to prevent them from going after pagan gods, and then discovered in *Colossians 2:14* that Christ nailed all of these laws and ordinances to His cross, taking them out of the way by canceling them, I was released from that load of guilt and was born-again a second time! There is no need to carry all of that guilt brought on because of crossdressing. Sure, we do go against the “norms” of society, but society is not going to provide my spiritual needs. God is. Society doesn’t love me. God does. When society finds out I am a transgender person they are likely to reject me. I am God’s creation and He accepts me. You are God’s creation and He accepts you. Why do you reject Him? Can it be because you feel you are rejected by Him? Do you say, “I want Him but He doesn’t want me?” All of the foregoing is written to show you that He DOES want you.

The Holy Spirit comes into you when you take Christ as your Lord and Saviour and releases you from all bondage and gives you new life.

NOW THAT GOD HAS ACCEPTED US BECAUSE CHRIST SACRIFICED HIS LIFE’S BLOOD, WE WILL ALSO BE KEPT SAFE FROM GOD’S ANGER. (*Romans 5:9*)

THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL GIVE YOU LIFE THAT COMES FROM CHRIST JESUS AND WILL SET YOU FREE FROM SIN AND (SPIRITUAL) DEATH. (*Romans 8:2*)

These are the things I wanted to say to you had I been able to be at the *Texas “T.”* My mission today is a simple one: to tell my sisters they are made by and accepted by God. Now accept Him in the person of Jesus Christ. To all of which I say AMEN!!! Was born-again 49 years ago, but only since my discovery at age 67 have I been a happy Christian. I’ll be 77 in April, so I can say I’ve had ten happy years out of 77! Don’t wait till you’re 67 to find real happiness in Christ. He’s waiting for you now.

May God's love and blessings be on you and your families. Some are at the Texas "T" and I sincerely pray that you have a good and relaxing time. Cynthia and Linda have worked a whole year to bring this to you and may God give them the blessing of a successful event and subsequently a lot of rest! If you have picked up *Grace & Lace Letter* at the "T" and want to receive it regularly then drop me a note. Snail mail only and mention the "T." And to our regular readers, "Hi!" and "Bye!" and I'll send an Easter edition of *Grace & Lace Letter*. You will enjoy it. I have articles for it by Terri Main, B.J. Jasen, Dr. Jaye Reviere, and as of this writing (2/15/96), I am looking for one from Becky and I'm sure we'll have one. YOU write an article and send it along for consideration to be in the Easter issue. I love all of you affectionately.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter
February, 1996

By the Grace of God

THE RESURRECTION

by Lee Frances Heller

THE RESURRECTION is the epicenter of belief. It is, says C.H. Dodd, “not a belief that grew up within the church; it is the belief around which the church itself grew up, and the “given” upon which faith was (is) based.” (*From “Jesus I Never Knew” by Philip Yancey*)

**Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was His body;
if the cells’ dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.**

*-Novelist John Updike (Also from the book, with
apologies of author Philip Yancey)*

The Words of St Paul:

IF WE PREACH THAT CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM DEATH, HOW CAN SOME OF YOU SAY THAT THE DEAD WILL NOT BE RAISED TO LIFE? IF THEY WON’T BE RAISED TO LIFE THEN CHRIST HIMSELF WASN’T RAISED TO LIFE, AND IF CHRIST WASN’T RAISED TO LIFE, OUR MESSAGE IS WORTHLESS AND SO IS YOUR FAITH. (*1 Corinthians 15:12-15 Contemporary English Version CEV*)

THE GOVERNOR’S SOLDIERS LED JESUS INTO THE FORTRESS AND BROUGHT TOGETHER THE REST OF THE TROOPS. THEY STRIPPED OFF JESUS’ CLOTHES AND PUT A SCARLET ROBE ON HIM. THEY MADE A CROWN OF THORN BRANCHES AND PLACED IT ON HIS HEAD, AND THEY PUT A STICK IN HIS RIGHT HAND. THE SOLDIERS KNELT DOWN AND PRETENDED TO WORSHIP HIM. THEY MADE FUN OF HIM AND SHOUTED, “HEY YOU KING OF THE JEWS!” THEN THEY SPIT ON HIM. THEY TOOK THE STICK FROM HIM AND BEAT HIM ON THE HEAD WITH IT. WHEN THE SOLDIERS FINISHED MAKING FUN OF JESUS, THEY TOOK OFF THE ROBE. THEY PUT HIS CLOTHES BACK ON HIM AND LED HIM OFF TO BE NAILED TO A CROSS. (*Matthew 27:27-31 CEV*)

The soldiers nailed Him to the cross where He hung for 6 hours suffering and dying and fulfilling what God had decreed,

THE SOUL THAT SINS, IT SHALL DIE (*Ezekiel 18:4 KJV*)

This was God incarnate fulfilling His decree in the person of Jesus Christ.

He died. He was buried.

On the morning of the third day, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus.

Mary. Mary Magdalene. The Mary from Magdalene, a town on the southwest coast of the Sea of Galilee. Mary Magdalene, of no notoriety, but simply being one of certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities.

MARY, CALLED MAGDALENE, OUT OF WHOM WENT SEVEN DEMONS;
AND JOHANNA, THE WIFE OF CHUZAS, HEROD'S STEWARD; AND
SUSANNA AND MANY OTHERS WHO MINISTERED TO HIM OF THEIR
SUBSTANCE. (*Luke 8:2-3 KJV*)

She was also at the crucifixion. See *Mark 15:40*. She is not to be confused with the sinful woman who anointed Jesus' feet in *Luke 7:36-50*.

Could not the Apostles hold an "executive Council" meeting and appoint a committee to greet Jesus as He arose from the tomb and congratulate Him on a successful resurrection? No, they couldn't. They had no faith, nor did Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Johanna and other women (*Luke 24:10*) when they went to anoint Jesus' body at the tomb with some spices they had brought with them for that purpose. Their first eye-opening discovery was that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance to the tomb. They had been concerned about who they would get to roll it away for them so they could anoint Jesus' dead body. Their second discovery was the body was gone! Mary called for Simon Peter and John to come and see what happened. They came and checked out the tomb. None of them knew Jesus was to rise from the dead. Perplexed, they went home. Mary Magdalene stayed on, wondering who had taken Him and where they had laid Him. She turned around and saw a man whom she took to be the gardener and asked him where he had put Jesus and he said "Mary!" She immediately recognized Him and addressed Him, "Master!"

Better believe it! He Arose! And He lives! Ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart and I don't have the exclusive on it. He lives in your heart, His salvation to impact you the very minute you cast your sin-laden

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soul upon Him. I must write about the sin question as it applies to us; although our soul is no different from any other human being. Our soul is the God hole in us and never rests 'til God fills it and He can, by His Holy Spirit when you call upon Him. I have an empty root beer can or bottle. It says "root beer" on the label but it can never fulfill its destiny until it's filled with root beer and then its contents can satisfy. Then it is a root beer can or bottle. Our soul cannot fulfill a soul's destiny until it is filled with what it was designed for. The life of God in Christ as imparted by the Holy Spirit. It's God's home in us.

Quote: "Little or no real journey into wholeness and healing is done without the inner work of God. He helps us in deep meditative reflection, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to reflect on the mystery of our own lives. Those who continue to live without the release of the true self risk making externals (do's and don'ts) the badge of a Christian lifestyle which has no correspondence to inner truths. Living the Christian life has become a burden — a matter of duty more than love. That life of do's and don'ts has not become authentic within. It only conforms without."

Wholeness is a plunging into our inner sanctuary where the true inner self can be gradually released in Christ; where we can come to terms with the true self in Christ; where the power of the false self can be diminished; where the shadowy dimension of our lives can be healed by the power of the Holy Spirit". Unquote.

In *1 Samuel 16:6-7* you will find where I am going with all of this:

. . . AND WHEN THEY HAD COME, HE (SAMUEL) LOOKED ON ELIAB AND SAID, SURELY THE LORD'S ANOINTED IS BEFORE HIM. BUT THE LORD SAID TO SAMUEL, LOOK NOT ON HIS APPEARANCE OR AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS STATURE, FOR I HAVE REJECTED HIM. **FOR THE LORD SEES NOT AS MAN SEES; FOR MAN LOOKS ON THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE, BUT THE LORD LOOKS ON THE HEART!**
(Samuel 16:6-7)

Lee Frances Heller
Grace & Lace Letter
Spring, 1996

BROTHERS ? YES!

Dear Sisters, Brothers & Friends,

Brothers?? Yes, F to M. Alright? Alright. In *G&LL*'s masthead you will find "New Women" and those are post-op M to F who are trying to find their place in society as the new women they are and my very best wishes and prayers are with them.

So what else is new? We now have 33 paid subscriptions which I think is real good for the first shot at trying to get a subscription policy off the ground. The Gulf Gender Association gave \$25 for subscriptions for those who can't afford it as did The Tennessee Vals and their gift was \$24. So our subscription fund stands at \$248.00 less \$85.75 expenses to date=\$164.73 left for operating expenses of our subscription list plus the cost of sample packages of which I have 4 requests staring at me @ between \$1.23 - \$1.47 each for postage. I am very grateful for those who see our need and included \$ gifts with their subscriptions which have made it very likely we will be able to run the up coming 4 issues comfortably and this includes the cost of 48 complimentary issues to Prisoners, a Library, Care Providers and other Publications. We also are working on a British section in *G&LL*. I send 12 copies to one address in England for distribution. As subscribers, I will keep you well informed as to what's happening here.

I had a great experience yesterday (Sunday 8/25). I went to St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral here in Jax with a friend who is not a CD. It was an experience my fundamentalist background never afforded me. It was wonderful and I enjoyed every minute of it. The altar was big and filled with priests and attendants, altar boys, etc. The choir was on vacation but I look forward to when the ears of my soul can be blessed with their singing. The congregational singing, accompanied by the huge pipe organ gave me the joyful shivers. The communion was led by a lady priest and it was the most beautiful part of the service. The Procession and Recession were (to me) of an inspiring nature and the sermon was great!

What impressed me and filled my Spirit with you was the congregational singing of *Psalms 1:38*. The Psalms were written in the neighborhood of 1000 BC and many were sung by congregations in those days but it didn't stop there. It has followed to this very day. Just a very small portion of congregations sing *Psalms* today. The singing of *Psalms* has never ceased. Back in the Charismatic Renewal in the '60's I remember singing *Psalms* in a small

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church I attended until I moved. In those days it was hard to find a charismatic church whose emphasis was not on speaking in unknown tongues and I loved the movement but never have been a “tongues speaker”. Anyhow, this little church was great and we’d sing 2-3 *Psalms* in a service. However at that time I was not impressed with it. It took an additional 30 years before, finally in my old age I discovered yesterday that I was not only impressed with it but in singing the *Psalm* the Holy Spirit brought to my mind that this is exactly what congregations did 3000 years ago. I was doing something they did then and here I stood 3000 years later doing the same as they did. I wept. I was so overwhelmed inwardly that tears of joy came to my eyes. Here was a practice that man had not nor could not interfere with. The 138th *Psalm* is a song of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord written by David as the Holy Spirit inspired him. There is nothing in any church today as simple and as rewarding as standing and singing the inspired words of praise and thanksgiving in an untouched-by-man *Psalm*! I am *so happy* I discovered this yesterday.

Dr. Jaye has written a splendid article asking the religious right what they are afraid of when it comes to us. It’s very enlightening. Also entertaining. Barbara Jean Jasen has written a fine article on *John 3:16*. The final paragraph boils down what our whole relationship with God hinges upon. Congrats, Barb. Joan Ann O. has provided a real nice piece on the religious movement within our ranks and let me underline her suggestion that you write of your religious experiences. I’ll give you voice in our columns unless you are coming from another planet. Danielle Meadows, MSW, LCSW, CAC has provided us with a real counseling session and I’d like your reaction to it as I plan on asking her for more. My thoughts are an article of this nature meets a need we have. And then, Dear Suzanne from England has an entertaining and informative article. She has hinted that she and another sister there may try to add a couple of pages to each issue. She distributes 12 copies, so far, of each issue in England. The page entitled “Gleanings” will be a regular feature and I hope you like it.

May you enjoy the abundance of the Lord’s blessings in your lives. We’ll pray for one another as God guides us. When well-meaning people put you down, just remember, God IS on our side!

My Love in Christ to you,

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter International
Summer, 1996

GRACE & LACE LETTER

Lee Francis Editor/Publisher

P.O. Box 31253 (note: Address no longer available)

Jackson, MS 39286-1253

Thank you for your request for a sample copy of *G&LL*. I am enclosing a back issue for you and it's important to understand that this is the only issue you will receive unless you subscribe to *G&LL*. We are no longer able to send it free as the costs are too high. The subscription cost is \$6.00 for 4 issues. Checks may be made out to Grace & Lace letter or to Lee Frances Heller. You may send cash or check.

We are a Christian publication. We believe that Christ died for our sins as we (the human race) are born in sin, and by accepting His sacrifice on the Cross as payment to God for our inborn sin and the outward manifestations of that sin, past, present and future. We (I) find no indication in the Bible that Cross-dressing, Transgendering or Transsexualism is a sin. God loves all of His human creation regardless of what kind of clothing they wear. In the Garden of Eden, God clothed Adam and Eve (NOT with fig leaves as we were taught) but with long coats or tunics of animal skins. There is no indication that Adam's coat buttoned on the right and that Eve's buttoned on the left. There's no indication that Eve's was styled differently from Adam's to indicate her coat was for a woman and Adam's was for a man. Today there is a difference in what the sexes wear, but the soul behind the clothing is a soul created by God and He knows who's who. He created male and female with no instructions on how to make a pair of pants for all the Adams or skirts for all of the Eves. Before you land on me with that *Deuteronomy 22:5* thing, please read the enclosed, *Is God Against Us* reprint. Bury forever the idea that God is "after" you because you wear skirts. It just ain't so!! I have not had on a pair of pants or a shirt since November 18, 1993, when I transgendered, I have dressed and acted in the female mode ever since then and God has done nothing but bless my life and He is waiting to bless your life the same way.

In closing, let me give you an idea of the "mechanics" of *G&LL*. God put it on my heart in 1987 but we never got going 'til November of '90 at which time I announced that I would publish every three months at no charge as long as I could work. I had to quit work in '93 but *G&LL* is still being published by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Enjoy your Sample Copy and the peace and love of God be yours.

Lee Francis Heller

(from a letter of response for a subscription, about 1997)

By the Grace of God

JESUS' OTHER SHEEP: YOU!

by Lee Frances Heller

O THER SHEEP I HAVE, THAT ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD; THEM ALSO MUST I BRING, AND THEY SHALL HEAR MY VOICE; AND THERE SHALL BE ONE FOLD AND ONE SHEPHERD. (*John 10:16*)

One of our greatest difficulties is the non-acceptance of our life style by the “churches”, which results in rejection of us by at least 95% of them. The only thing wrong is that they don’t read all of the Bible. The man-made legalism manifests itself in that little black book written by man, whose title is “Church Discipline.” It very often supersedes the Bible. It has no elasticity. It is iron bound, and so are its adherents. This is why we are often asked to leave a church and branded undesirable. They are all of the flock of Jesus, and when they have negative attitudes towards us, they simply set themselves aside as keepers of the house of God and the family of God in which there is no room for us, as we are not stereotypical and don’t fit.

Jesus says to them, “AND OTHER SHEEP I HAVE THAT ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD.” He wants to get us all together in one field and be our shepherd. I often wonder about my daughter who was raised to be the Christian she is. She is bitterly, almost violently, against me. How in the world are we going to get along in heaven? We’re both going there. We’ll do just fine, as when we die we lose all manifestations of the flesh. We don’t take our likes and dislikes with us. There will be no crossdressing needs. No gender dysphoria because,

FOR YOU ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. FOR AS MANY OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE PUT ON CHRIST. THERE IS NEITHER JEW OR GREEK, THERE IS NEITHER BOND OR FREE, THERE IS NEITHER MALE OR FEMALE: FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS. (*Galatians 3:26-28*)

That applies to life in this world also, but imperfections in the weave of the church society fail to make it a reality. I guess that’s why Jesus referred to the “THE OTHER SHEEP I HAVE”. Positionally, we are in the fold. Our wings are reserved for us in heaven. Each of us will be one of the heavenly host someday. It doesn’t feel like it now because of the battle we have with “SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES.” (*Ephesians 6:12*)

God loves you, and Christ died for you. He died to remove the blanket of sin you were born under. Open up your heart and life to Him and join us “other sheep”. As

Christ came into this world and went to His own people in this world He created and was rejected by them, the principle of rejection was made alive and real on a spiritual level.

BUT AS MANY AS DID RECEIVE AND WELCOME HIM, HE GAVE THE AUTHORITY (POWER, PRIVILEGE, RIGHT) TO BECOME THE CHILDREN OF GOD; THAT IS, TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN (ADHERE TO, TRUST IN, RELY ON) HIS NAME. (*John 1:12*)

“As many as,” nowhere in the Bible will you find an exception to any invitation which says, “except CD/TG/TS”.

We are the OTHER sheep. We are His sheep just as much as the finest, noblest, hierarchy or member the church can offer.

Lee Frances Heller
Grace and Lace Letter International
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By the Grace of God