

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciation for Frances Menlove

Note: The following letter was first posted on Dialogue Paperless, <http://www.dialoguejournal.com/content/?p=27#comments>.

I have been an ardent reader of Frances Lee Menlove since reading her "The Challenge of Honesty," republished in the thirty-fifth anniversary issue of *Dialogue* (34, nos. 1-2, [Spring/ Summer 2001]: 2-9). Hence my delight in finding her essay "The Unbidden Prayer" tucked away in the final pages of the recent issue of *Dialogue* (39, no. 1 [Spring 2006]: 188-91). As I read, I found myself privately overwhelmed by the power of her message and, in an admittedly unscholarly manner, commenced planting tear-moistened kisses on the final, long-awaited paragraphs.

It has been three decades since my sibling was returned prematurely from an LDS mission. Since then, I have sought answers to the problem of same-sex attraction and Church policy, reading everything I could, keeping a file, and joining support groups.

At long last comes Menlove, like an angel of mercy, enlightening my understanding, lifting me above the chronic heartache and family wrenching with insightful perceptions of the larger context and the commonality of the problem: "Reality has a knack . . . for trumping false certainties," she assures, and further: "In each generation, issues arise in which Church authority is held in tension with the demands of an informed conscience" (191). And one of

the manifestations of our informed conscience is: "Members are realizing that people they know and love have been given labels that are supposed to equate with sinfulness but that the labels don't fit" (190).

It is immensely gratifying to me to finally have the nature of the beast clearly defined in a manner that resonates with my religious experience.

So now I'd like to offer my own heartfelt prayer:

Thank you, thank you, God, for the insightful wisdom of Frances Lee Menlove.

Susan Lee Andersen
Salt Lake City, Utah

An Issue Reflecting Balance

Kudos to Bob Rees for again putting it right and articulating things so well ("An Open Letter to Nathan Oman," 39, no. 2 [Summer 2006]: 173-77). The entire issue reflected the balance that both Rees and Oman yearn for. Another instance was the pairing of essays by Molly McLellan Bennion ("A Lament," 115-22) and Carrie A. Miles ("Patriarchy or Gender? The Letter to the Ephesians on Submission, Headship, and Slavery," 70-95). In her lament Bennion speaks for many, not just for sisters, while Miles reminds us all that grace and good will, not contention, are the proper stance in all sacred relationships.

Tom Rogers
Bountiful, Utah