

Done in 2020

# THE LIFELONG JOURNEY

King

## INTRO BY THE STORYTELLERS

COME ONE, COME ALL, WE ARE HERE TO TELL YOU ALL A-BOU  
AND HIS LIFELONG JOURNEY TO BECOME A WORTHY PERSON  
PIL-GRIM

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Julian: I was born in Meridian, Miss. in 1936. My granddad was a urologist, my grandmother a former teacher, and my father a pharmacist.

Guardian Angel

Patricia: Tell them about your mother.

Julian: Oh, my mother never went to college because her mother died when she was 15.

May Sayer

Sharon: I think she was just afraid of leaving home.

Julian: Anyway, my parents lived next door to my grandparents, so I grew up in two happy homes and my early years were filled with piano, art, the Methodist Church, and scouting. But by the time I was 11, I had a huge problem...I knew I was gay, but I knew I could never, ever let anyone know it!

DD

When you're born in Mississippi, you just can't be gay!  
You just cover up your secret in some other way.  
Keeping busy, being macho, asking Jesus every day  
To give you strength to make it happen.  
When you're born in Mississippi you just can't be gay.

Angel

Patricia: Jesus can give you strength. After all, you were born gay.

May Sayer

Sharon: Don't tell him that! You make it sound so easy, but it's not!

Julian: My Scout Master was a big help. Mr. Frank was a 32 year old man who was a splendid leader. His Scout Troop ~~was~~ had 65 members

SINGLE

Wally

~~strong~~, and every month he had 5 adult helpers and some of us kids meet at his house to plan for the next two months. I loved being there in his house because I had a secret crush on him, and he had given me lots of responsibility. One night my parents were working late at the drug store, so Mr. Frank offered to take me home. While I was waiting in the next room, and out of boredom, I opened the drawer in the table next to me and BANG! There were several porn magazines! I quickly closed the drawer. My heart was beating like a drum, and on the way home, I couldn't control myself. "Mr. Frank, I saw the magazines and I'm so happy! You're gay just like I am." He was terrified, and pleaded with me to keep our secret between us. We did, and as the months passed, we slowly fell in love and became a secret couple for 3 years.

*e c F | A G FF | DD - D e AA G*  
Holding hands, stealing kisses, hiding our hearts beating love  
together. *this is love. Really love e*  
*e c F cc*

We knew that when I finished Junior College, I would be going to Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss., so we agreed that we would part since we knew we couldn't keep being together.

HAVE TO

When you're born in Mississippi, you just can't be gay.

*Angel*

Patricia: I know that breaking up was difficult for both of you.

*May Bayer*

Sharon: But you were headed for college and new experiences!

Julian: *I want to be like Jesus, to live the way he did; to do good deeds, try to be humble, and be kind because I want to be like Jesus.*

So Millsaps, here I come! I had felt good about being with Mr. Frank because I knew that both of us were born gay, but I knew that being in college is something else entirely. Millsaps was a great school, and I became a fraternity member and got involved in the Millsaps Singers, acted in plays and participated in the Methodist Youth Group.

*Angel*

Patricia: In his second year, Julian was elected his fraternity's President.

May Sayer

Sharon: And that's when the trouble started.. He and his roommate at the fraternity soon realized that they were both gay and were in love. Here we go again!

Julian: <sup>CE F</sup> Holding hands, <sup>FAA</sup> stealing kisses. <sup>FFF</sup> Hiding our hearts <sup>D D C</sup> beating love <sup>AA E</sup> together. *This is love This is love*  
<sub>F G A    C C F    CC</sub>

ln G

EXPLANATION FROM THE STORYTELLERS

COME ONE! COME ALL WE ARE HERE TO TELL YOU THAT OUR PILGRIM  
will find himself in trouble.

Angel

Patricia: At a fraternity meeting one night, one of the brothers announced that one of the pledges was gay. The group went crazy, and they demanded that the pledge be black-balled immediately.

Julian: I insisted that we check out the situation, but the group insisted on black-balling and voted me down. I resigned as President that night and learned the next day that the pledge left Millsaps for good. I never went into the Chapter Room again.

STORYTELLERS:

*Come one, Come all. Our Pilgrim fell into a deep depression. Down hearted and bewildered, with thoughts of suicide. Gloom, Gloom, Gloom*

Angel

Patricia: Pilgrim, you need to pray to Jesus. You need his help.

May Sayer

Sharon: If you don't you're going to crash and burn.

Julian: What could Jesus do? Here I am pretending I'm straight while I'm in love with my roommate, and I allowed a pledge to be kicked out of school, and I'm planning to enter Theology School next September. I'm a failure.

May Sayer

Sharon: And you just tried to commit suicide.

Angel

Patricia: But thanks to 3 of your brothers, they saved you!

Julian: But then, I flunked my final school test, which meant that I could not graduate.

F E D E F D F G A F E D G F E

This is what it's like to be a failure. What to do? Where to go? I wish I were dead, dead, dead! Jesus, where are you?

F E D F A D

Angel

Patricia: But the head of the Music Dept. begged you to come back to school for another year!

May Bayer

Sharon: And you really are a great musician. You can do it!

Clm

### STORYTELLERS

COME ONE, COME ALL, WE ARE HERE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT ONE YOU

PILGRIM WHO CAME BACK AS A good scholar, a great musician, and a strong Jesus boy!

Come one - Come all!

Julian: So I was headed off for Dallas, Texas and Perkins School of Theology. Being in Seminary was a great adventure. The younger professors were writing their first books, and the very open minds of the faculty pushed us as students to look at the Bible from different perspectives. Was Jesus really able to walk on water? Is there really a heaven or a hell? Was there really a resurrection? Or did Jesus's followers make a very persuasive man appear to be superhuman? In the second year of Theology, each of us students had to write our own beliefs and I really wrestled with "is it just what we wish was real?"

A B C A A B C D E D C A  
 Does it matter? Does it really, really matter?  
 Does it really, really, really, really matter?  
 A B C D E F E D C B C A

When I die do I go some other place, or disappear like flowers or animals?  
 Does it matter? Does it really, really matter?  
 Does it really, really, really, really matter?  
 Was Jesus the real thing, or just a very special human being that was deified, worshipped and adored? Sometime I pray to Jesus. Does he really listen? Or is it just a comforting thing to do?  
 Does it matter? Does it really, really matter?

I enjoyed my 3 years of Seminary so much that I decided to stay on for another 2 years for a degree in Christianity and the Arts. During that time, I met the woman who would become my wife, and I tried my skills on directing 4 plays and ~~wrote~~ <sup>writing</sup> a musical for my final requirement.

*angel*  
 Patricia: You were doing good work and loving it!

*May Sayer*  
 Sharon: And you were finally able to forget about darker things.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE STORYTELLERS

*clu G*

COME ONE, COME ALL - WE ARE HERE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT HIS  
 NEW LIFE HIS FAITH STUDIES AND HIS LOVE OF MUSIC  
 BOTH COMING TOGETHER LIKE A SONG, COME ONE, COME ALL

Julian: I was hired by First United Methodist Church, 4,000 members, in Fort Worth, TX, to serve as Youth Minister of over 250 active kids. I quickly decided that musicals would be a major attraction, so we began to put on small musical presentations for the congregation. During that time, I was married to a woman, a very outstanding Christian Education major, who turned out to be totally frigid.

*long ago*  
 Brought on by a drunken father who beat his wife

*about Jesus*

OUR

only intimate contact was 4 tries at getting pregnant with our first son, Jason, who is an absolute delight! During our 5 years in Fort Worth, I felt the need to get a Masters Degree in Theater, so our family of 3 moved to Denver, CO for a 2 year degree at Denver University. My graduation required putting on a show. I was able to obtain the first college okay to do "Jesus Christ Superstar" as a play. It turned out to be a huge success, which enabled me to become Youth Minister at First Church in Colorado Springs, a church of 2,000 members with a sizable youth group.

*who is also an absolute delight!*

We had our second son there, Joel. Our second try at intimate contact, this one totaling 5 times, was the end of our intimacy...9 times in a 14 year marriage.

Colorado Springs was where I wrote and directed my very best musical, "PT Was Here", about Paul of Tarsus, who spread the good news of Jesus. And after 6 years in that church, I was asked to come to First Church in Boulder, CO to be the Youth Minister, and there I wrote a play called "Jesus Song" and a hymn which was published in the new Methodist hymnal In the Midst of New Dimensions.

Angel

Patricia: Music just kept pouring out of Julian and he was very happy.

May Bayer

Sharon: Until unpleasant things started to happen.

Julian: Our marriage was not a happy one. My wife had decided she wanted a Ministerial Degree, and had found a Seminary in Northern California that offered the degree, which requires 2 full summers and 4 major papers in between. After she left for the first summer, the 2 boys and I had a peaceful time alone, and into the second summer, I knew that I had to divorce her. She insisted on getting a counselor, so I let her choose one — Anne Schafert, and the counseling began. Immediately, Anne insisted that she see the 2 of us separately, and right away she told me that my wife wanted to save the marriage, but that I ~~was~~ needed to save my life. And then Anne asked me how long I had been without intimacy. "23 years," I answered, and then I said "I'm gay." I must have sat in Anne's office and cried for over an hour, but when I left, I felt free.

*in that she returned*

*needed*

*she would tell anyone but*

So I started planning for our divorce. My wife and I used the same lawyer (a church member) and the deed was done and the dust settled quickly.

*Angel*  
Patricia: But then the worst thing happened!

*May Sayer*  
Sharon: The very worst!

*Angel + May Sayer*  
Patricia and Sharon: Our Pilgrim was outed!

Julian: (screaming) ~~Jesus! Where are you?~~ No! No! No! Jesus, where are you now?

### EXPLANATION BY THE STORYTELLERS

*elm E*

Handwritten musical notation on a five-line staff. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "COME ONE, COME ALL - WE ARE HERE TO TELL YOU ALL A-BOO! ONE".

*Pilgrim being outed, followed by a job loss, being saved by the Methodist Bishop, and entering the world of youth prostitution - a brave new world*

Handwritten musical notation on a five-line staff, showing the beginning of the melody. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "COME ONE, COME ALL -".

*But 7 years later, the Boulder Church became an open door church*

Julian: I was happy to be free, but I had to endure a Pastor/Parish meeting, which then led to 5 congregation meetings, the last one including the Bishop and his 8 District Superintendents (all supportive) and then a final meeting of the Boulder Church committee. They couldn't fire me because the Bishop had appointed me there, so the committee just decided to stop paying me. ~~Wasn't that nasty!~~ Thanks a lot and out with the garbage!

In the meantime, the Bishop found me a Sunday morning <sup>church</sup> position in Denver, and allowed a Sunday afternoon church group of 75 people from the Boulder Church who supported me. ~~And~~ I was lucky to find a 9 to 5 weekday job working with teenagers who were involved in prostitution. Lost kids who needed help.

*Angel*  
Patricia: During that time, Julian met Larry, a gay man from Kansas, and the two made many visits and finally decided to be together in Kansas for a year to escape the relentless press. At that time, Julian had become a national name because he was the only outed United Methodist minister who wasn't kicked under

the bus. Julian's Bishop found a way to save him, and the press throughout the country made him hot news, especially the New Yorker magazine.

*May Sawyer*

~~Sharon~~: But Julian was called back to Denver. The Gay and Lesbian Center, led by Carole Lease, wanted Julian to start the Colorado AIDS Project. Julian was a popular person in Denver now, and getting the Project started was easy.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE STORYTELLERS

*In E*

*Pilgrim's 17 years with the Colorado AIDS Project - caring for sick and dying young men with AIDS, holding their hands as they died, <sup>preparing</sup> ~~doing~~ their funerals, and trying to educate people about the disease in Colorado.*

COME ONE, COME ALL

Julian: When I arrived in Denver and we opened our doors, we were flooded with sick people, mostly very young gay men, and all needing some kind of help. So we put out the word, and within a week we had over 30 more volunteers. But the sad reality was knowing that all of the sick people coming through our doors now would be dead within the year. And the ones not yet ill were treated like lepers. The Bishop had appointed me to Colorado AIDS Project, which had now become MY CHURCH!

*c* *0000* *c d e d e c e f e c*  
*This is God's revenge on this kind of people. They're getting just what they all deserve.* *e d e*

*Conservative "so called" Christians started sending me hate mail just for trying to help the ones whom they despised, and the hate mail kept coming every week for 13 years!*

As leader of the Colorado AIDS Project, I tried to be helpful to all, and turn the other cheek to nasties and just keep moving. When I started at the Colorado AIDS Project, there were ~~15~~ *only* of us. But that



small group grew into a 3 million dollar operation with a staff of 75, a volunteer group of 150 and an ever growing number of patients. We always had an outstanding counseling department, and the leader was a psychologist who allowed me to come to him at any time, which kept me on an even keel most of the time.

And through all these years, I always made time for both of my sons. The ups and downs during my war with the Boulder Church hit them hard, and neither one of them has ever had anything to do with the Church since then. But we remain a close family. When I came back to Denver to start the Colorado AIDS Project, Larry came too, but Denver was too big for him, so in 1990 he returned to his small town in Kansas, and later that year, I met Michael. In 1992 he and I had a holy union, and we're still together.

During this time, both of my sons married. Jason, the <sup>elder</sup> ~~oldest~~ one, married a charming Vietnamese woman named Thao, and the two of them have 3 kids who are bilingual. Joel, the younger son, married a beautiful Japanese woman named Yumashee. Who would think that a little boy from Mississippi would end up ~~with~~ <sup>as an</sup> international ~~families!~~ <sup>family!</sup>

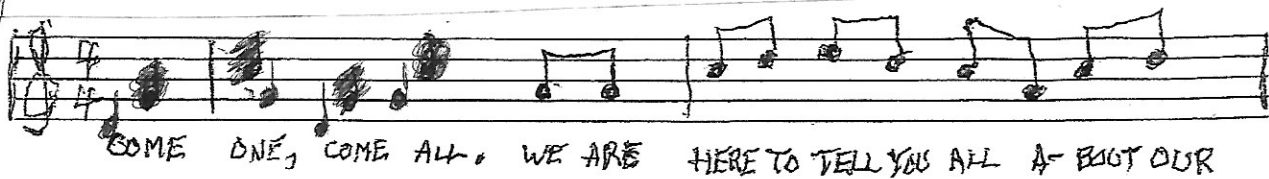
<sup>Angel</sup> Patricia: Well, your years at the Colorado AIDS Project were a high point in your life, and you were able to help thousands of people with AIDS.

<sup>Ray Sayer</sup>

~~Sharon~~: But those 17 years were difficult and you decided to look for a quieter place to work.

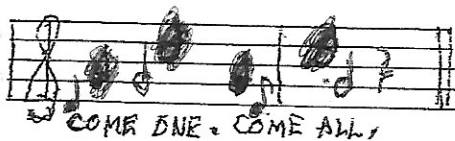
### MORE GOOD NEWS FROM THE STORYTELLERS

*sln G*



COME ONE, COME ALL, WE ARE HERE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT OUR

*a new job for our pilgrim with Compassion and Choices, a non-profit dealing with end of life choices*



COME ONE, COME ALL,

Angel

Patricia: You went to different states to train volunteers to work with people with incurable illnesses who wished to die a peaceful death.

Had

Julian: Yes, and I worked there for 6 years. I worked with so many dying people at Colorado AIDS Project that I was comfortable in this environment. <sup>too</sup>

May Sayer

Sharon: That was dangerous work you were involved in!

Julian: ~~Not really.~~ Well, maybe, but the good we were able to do was worth it.

JULIAN'S SONG

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP EEN-TLY, SOFT-LY. THIS IS NOT A

TIME FOR WEEP-ING, NOT TO-DAY NOT THIS WAY LET ME HOLD YOUR HAND

NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP, SLEEP

AND EVEN MORE NEWS FROM THE STORYTELLERS

eln 5

COME ONE, COME ALL. WE ARE HERE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT OUR

PIL-GRIM IN RE-TIRE-MENT

Julian: My partner and I decided it was time to leave the frozen north of Colorado and come south. And I had good friends from Seminary that introduced me to a large United Methodist Church in downtown Phoenix with a dynamic minister and a music director who was a jazz pianist, so on Sunday mornings the placed rocked!

*Angel*  
Patricia: He stayed there for 3 years, until the minister was sadly moved to another church.

*May Sayer*  
Sharon: And the great Church disappeared and our Pilgrim was left without a place to go.

Julian: I was very sad, but soon ~~stumbled onto~~ <sup>found</sup> this Church and all the lights went on again. I discovered that in my heart, I am actually a UU, and I think that Jesus would approve!

*Angel*  
Patricia: We know that LGBTQ people everywhere are opening the doors of the United Methodist Church.

*May Sayer*  
Sharon: An we are joining all of the caring people everywhere in spreading love.

Julian: I <sup>try to</sup> find people who disagree with me in many ways, and I ask them to tell me what they believe and why. And then I tell them that I love them anyway. And I spread that love everywhere I go.

*Angel*  
Patricia: And Julian finally knew in this heart, he was on the right path.

*May Sayer*  
Sharon: And we can all applaud that!

Julian: We are all finding our way along the road of life together.

ALL:

Musical notation on a staff with lyrics: WE ARE ON THIS ROAD TO-GETHER SPREAD-ING GOD WILL AND

Musical notation on a staff with lyrics: LOVE WHERE-EV-ER ~~YOU~~ GO YOU AND ME WE *sung 4 times!*