



*"When you judge someone you have no time to love them"*

*- Mother Teresa*

*"Judgment gets in the way of listening and truth and relationships."*

*- Dr. Nancy McKay*

## Meet our friends.....

From time to time we would like to include the voices of those we come in contact with as individuals who care

deeply about the Christian and LGBT communities. M Kelley is one of those voices we would like you to hear.

## SuperChristian!

**- M Kelley**

I remember being petrified at the thought of coming out as transgendered in a Christian environment. Was I going to be an outcast? Was my faith, respected by my peers, going to be doubted by all I came in contact with?

was my faith suddenly less easily evidenced just because they now knew I was transgendered? This caused me to struggle with my faith, but I couldn't struggle in honesty with my community because if I struggled it would be blamed on being transgendered, not because of the response of Christians. Luckily I clung to the hope of my identity as a child of God, and made it through coming out with an even stronger faith.

When I was coming out, it seemed that I had to be a "super Christian" if I wanted to have a chance of convincing the naysayers that an individual can be transgendered and Christian. I was lucky that my faith and character were well respected before coming out, which gave me room to err. Yet one of the first few questions that I was asked by people after coming out was "how does that work with you being a Christian". That question hurt. Why

***Why was my faith suddenly less easily evidenced...?***

It is vital for the Christian community to truly engage LGBT persons. Don't judge our faith. Engage us. Create bridges.

## In Memoriam

We dedicate the space here and on the following page to LGBTQ individuals, and those perceived as such, who have given up hope and taken their lives because of bullying and other pressures. We ask that you take a moment of silence to honor these lives, and to consider both their contributions and the impact of their loss. *This list is not comprehensive.* If you have known other individuals who have taken their lives through suicide, we encourage you to write their names into this list. We encourage you to share this list, your additions, and your thoughts with others.

***Tyler Clementi***

***Asher Brown***

*"Judgment is always prevalent in our society that touts itself as Christian.... The loss of these poor souls is a testament to how far we have yet to go. God is the Judge." D. G.*



*"The recent suicides among gay youth serve as an alarm to society and specifically the gay community; that the constant negative pressure on young adults is immense. However, there is one ray of hope, it will get better. As bad as things may seem right now, it will get better." - Justin Ward*

**Billy Lucas**

**Corey Jackson**

**Justin Aaberg**

**Seth Walsh**

*"It's not my business to decide how good you are for me, how valuable you are, in what the world can see, only that you try to understand me and have the courage to love me for me."*

*-M. Ciccone  
-S. Pettibone*

*"Growing up in a small town and dealing with being bullied for years I can understand the anguish and grief these kids have gone through. I believe we need to come together as a community to make sure these atrocities stop, that these kids have positive support for going through hard times." - yeti*

*"Terrible, the notion or idea of young kids being bullied or picked on for being confused about who they are and no adult caring... We care more about other countries and people everywhere else but we let confused youth kill themselves because they are different and misunderstood by their peers. I'm kind of sickened by society as a whole to allow this" - Robert Helm*



## Could we ask you for financial support?

If you're reading this, you may have some interest in the conversation between the LGBT and Christian communities. In light of this interest, we'd like to ask you to contribute financially to Bridge Evidence Group's efforts to improve this conversation. Our work is dependent on contributions. We are able to do more or less according to the financial support we receive. If you would like to join in this effort, you can make contributions securely, online via Paypal, from our website.

## Third Quarter 2010 Financial Statement

Previous balance	\$990.28
Total gifts:	\$1650.00
Total expenses:	\$1887.40
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Fund Balance:	\$752.88

Bridge Evidence Group is a 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to financial transparency and accountability.