



"In a hermetically sealed environment, the gospel becomes lifeless"

- A. Grant

## Welcome Back!

Our last newsletter was in July 2011. Too much time as gone by and how wonderful things have been! We have lots to share this quarter.

## Bullet Points

In the July 2011 newsletter we visited actions that come out of the bullet points of our lives, we'd like to encourage you to investigate the costs, impacts and benefits associated with

your actions, borne of the bullet points. How is the gospel perceived? How is Jesus made tangible? Are relationships strengthened? Are you promoting closeness or distance?

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## Take care what you ask of me

- G. Gough

One important aspect of feeling part of a community is feeling respected. So often, care and respect have seemed to be thrown out the window after someone has laid their bleeding heart in the hands of others in the community. Being very committed to Christ, I have found it difficult to simply abandon His community of people for the sake of feeling disrespected by His people. I say this because Christian LGBT persons, like myself, desire to share the realities of their lives with the hope for encouragement in Christ, the one which is our center. Prescriptive advice to LGBT people can be met by them with either adversity or open,

welcoming arms. What's of more concern to me is the seeming unconcern for the realities resulting from following such prescriptions. This can be anything from strongly encouraging people to come out before they are ready to, pressuring those who feel uncertain of themselves into a marital context, or even encouraging turning from social constructs associated with LGBT people.

In the end, someone is losing.....

## Conversations @ the well

- D. Hartig & G. Gough

*"Nobody said it was easy, it's such a shame for us to part. Nobody said it was easy, no one ever said it would be this hard."*

- Coldplay



In October, Bridge Evidence Group presented the workshop Conversations @ the well, which was developed to provide pastors and church leaders in the local community an opportunity to come together and explore the topic of faith and sexuality. Wendy Gritter, of New Direction Canada, did an amazing job communicating the concept of creating gracious space in an environment where, too often, this topic is accompanied by hostility and divisiveness. She explored a diversity of Christian perspectives on the topic and brought focus to how we evidence Christ to each other amid any disagreement.

Having spoken with a good number of pastors and church leaders, we have wanted for some time to create a valuable opportunity for them to engage together in what one participant said is "such an important topic and it's never discussed in the way that we have been able to today".

The phrase 'cognitive dissonance', and the desire to resolve that

dissonance, was brought up a number of times during the workshop. With a diversity of perspectives both presented and held by those participating, we encouraged an attitude of listening to the other, with the goal not being

**How do we evidence Christ to one another in the midst of any disagreement?**

movement of belief, but rather growth in understanding and embracing both grace and humility. We see this as promoting curiosity about others, living with a sense of wonder rather than a sense of obligation to judge.

We look forward to more of this kind of engagement, with a strong hope for greater connection in Christ.

## 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. Much of 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.

*"When you love you walk on water. Just don't want to stumble on the waves. We all want to go there something awful, but to stand there it takes some grace."*

- R. Mullins & Beaker

## Second/Third Quarter 2011 Financial Statement

Previous balance	\$810.13
Total gifts:	\$3370.00
Total expenses:	\$1941.65
<b>Fund Balance:</b>	<b>\$2238.48</b>

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