



What asking can create

Sometimes, all you need to do is ask someone a question in order to understand them better. In June this year, we did just that. We created large banners with the question, “What do you wish straight Christians knew about you?” and put those banners up at Pride. The result was amazing. We discovered many areas of common ground in faith and commitment as well as a desire for community centered around Christ. This is no big surprise to many people and it’s very encouraging to see so much positivity surrounding Christian faith, when Christians have not always carried a loving message to the LGBT community.

People wrote all day. Many returned throughout the day to show their friends what they wrote, and even got their friends to write something. People wanted to continue writing even as we were running out of time and had to take things down. Our friends in Lexington, KY, graciously shared the banner idea with us, as they had used it the prior year at their Pride event, also with amazing results.

Curiosity is a great way of honoring the dignity and humanity in another.

What do you wish straight Christians knew about you?

Obviously people connected to the LGBT community have much to say on this topic.

Prior to the event, protesters were outside speaking words of condemnation toward the LGBT community, a stark contrast to our open request for LGBT folks to tell us something about themselves—an opportunity they may seldom get.

Later in the summer we used these banners in discussions with another local organization. We had extremely valuable conversation about dynamics, barriers, and opportunities that exist when addressing faith and sexuality. We were encouraged by the curiosity shown by this organization, whose people simply wanted to learn and grow in order to participate more positively in the conversation. Curiosity is a great way of honoring the dignity and humanity in another.

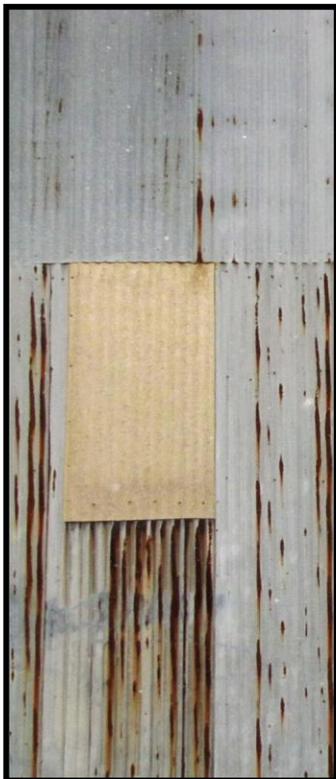
We are looking for other venues to use these banners to stimulate further conversations. Contact us if you’re interested in creating opportunity with these banners.



Looking for more

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

—Galatians 5:22–23



When BE Group works with other organizations, we often find a common thread in what we are asked to do: We work to help people become more conscious of the messages they may carry regarding homosexuality so as to not further a message of hate and ostracism. This is vital when they work with youth, so that they can help young people gain a more positive understanding of themselves. The core principle: To offer the youth encouragement in their relationship with God and a place in community with other believers.

For one local organization whose volunteers advocate for those in foster care, a need arose to develop a workshop to help people navigate the complexities surrounding youth who identify as LGBTQ. This same organization saw a need to bring the workshop to their statewide conference later in the fall. Another local organization sought training as they struggled to create good space for staff to begin a conversation surrounding LGBT and faith issues. For some students preparing for youth ministry, growth in understanding those who identify as LGBTQ would help them connect more effectively.

Bridge Evidence Group worked to meet the specific needs of each group, including the interactions they have with others networked through them.

Part of our training included practical ways to address knee-jerk reactions that can often accompany these types of conversations. Zeroing in on the dynamics between parties that engage with each other can create hope in both parties for more positive conversations.

Do you want to offer youth encouragement in their relationship with God and a place in community with other believers?

We are well aware that those who attend trainings and workshops may be looking for more than what is listed in the description of the event.

Such an event can create a safer space for people to gain understanding of things that have become, for them, very personal. Often we hear questions related to brothers, sisters, friends, parents, and children.

Whether working to create a more positive conversation with ourselves or with those around us, Bridge Evidence Group has sought to demonstrate the connection we all have with each other as beings created in the image of God.

For those who want things to be better

If you're reading this, you may have some interest in improving the conversation between the LGBT and Christian communities. We have greatly appreciated the ongoing financial contributions many of you have made and continue to make to Bridge Evidence Group's efforts. Much of our work is dependent on contributions. We are able to do more or less according to the financial support we receive. Please join in this effort. You can make contributions securely online via PayPal from our website. Or send your check or money order via US mail to: Bridge Evidence Group, PO Box 888160, Grand Rapids, MI 49588.

“There is a difference between trusting God and trusting one's understanding of God.”

—B. McLaren

Second & third quarter 2014 financial statement

Previous balance	\$4841.68
Total gifts:	\$2800.00
Total expenses:	\$2387.71
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Fund Balance:	\$5253.97

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