

Contributor Bio's:

Sonia Balcer has integrated her experience of same-gender attraction and faith in a commitment to live a chaste single life. She leads a small supportive community for same-gender attracted Christians called "Safe Passage."

Ron Belgau is a celibate gay Christian. Ron is completing his ph.d work in philosophy, and writes and speaks regularly on the topic of homosexuality. You can find Ron on the web at: www.cityofgod.net

Tony Campolo is an internationally known author and speaker. Tony has been an outspoken advocate for gay and lesbian people for more than 20 years. His book, "Speaking My Mind" offers more of his thoughts on homosexuality.

Bruxy Cavey is the teaching pastor at a large, multi-site church in the Toronto area. Bruxy has also written the book, "The End of Religion: An Introduction to the Subversive Spirituality of Jesus." You can download Bruxy's sermons at: <http://www.themeetinghouse.ca>

David Colpitts is a celibate gay Christian. David is completing ph.d work in counseling, and has served in ministry with same-gender attracted people for many years. You can read more of David's story at: <http://www.reconnecting.ca/content.xjp?id=356>

Johanna Finnegan was an atheist and identified as a lesbian. She came to Christ, in part, through building a friendship with Sonia Balcer. Johanna, much to her surprise, is now married and at the time of the filming, she and her husband were expecting their first child.

Wendy Gritter is the Executive Director of New Direction Ministries. Wendy blogs at: www.btgproject.blogspot.com and is working on her first book.

Baxter Kruger is the Director of Perichoresis, an international ministry sharing the good news of our adoption in Christ. We recommend his book, "Across All Worlds: Jesus Inside Our Darkness." His ongoing thoughts can be found on his blog: <http://baxterkruger.blogspot.com>

Justin Lee is a gay Christian. He serves as the Executive Director of the Gay Christian Network which runs an online community for gay Christians of diverse theological perspectives. Justin writes and speaks extensively on the topic of homosexuality. www.gaychristian.net

Brian McLaren is an internationally known author and speaker. He has been both criticized and applauded for his thoughts on the church moving forward and navigating this topic of homosexuality. Brian can be found online at: www.brianmclaren.net

Greg Paul is the founder of Sanctuary Ministries and author of, "God in the Alley." You can learn more about Greg's ministry at: www.sanctuarytoronto.ca

Brian Pengelly is a "gay youth pastor married to a bisexual woman" and serves as Youth Specialist at New Direction Ministries. Brian breaks stereotypes with his willingness to be personally vulnerable through sharing his story, teaching youth, and equipping youth leaders. He can be contacted through: www.newdirection.ca

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why do you sometimes use the word gay and other times the phrase same-gender attracted?

R: Some people do not want to identify as gay but prefer to use the descriptive phrase, same-gender attracted. So we use this phrase to be inclusive. When we do use the word gay, we are simply referring to a person who experiences same-gender attraction but are not making any statement about whether they are or are not engaged in same-gender sexual behaviour.

Q: Why is there so much art in the DVD and who are the artists?

R: We have always felt that art can communicate a message that goes beyond words. The creation of art is a mysterious and powerful process out of which emerges beauty. The work of bridge building is more an art than a science. Some will see the beauty in it, gratefully appreciate it, and aspire to be part of it in their own context. The artists featured in the DVD can be contacted through their sites:

- Tina Newlove, painter: www.tinanewlove.com
- Elizabeth Henstock, sculpter: www.burntofferings.ca
- Cynthia Stevens, potter: www.burntofferings.ca

Frequently Asked Questions: *continued*

Q: What do gay people think of this DVD?

R: We are really grateful to our gay contacts who have helped us in developing and reviewing this resource. Some identify as Christian and others do not. Their input and support has been invaluable to us. This is no guarantee that every gay person will appreciate this resource, however we have intentionally included gay people in the development process.

Q: Why didn't you talk more about what the Bible says about homosexuality?

R: In the past 30 plus years, many books, articles, and resources have been developed addressing theological issues surrounding homosexuality. Often this results in very polarized discussion with a focus on the rightness or wrongness of one side or another. What can get lost in such discussion is the real lives of gay people who are trying to navigate journeys of faith. Bridging the Gap intentionally focused on real life realities of our gay neighbours rather than theological positions.

Q: The DVD seems to be saying that there is no healing for gay people but I've heard stories of people who were gay and aren't anymore. Why didn't you include those stories in this DVD?

R: When people ask about healing, what they are often wondering about is the question of reorientation. The question of reorientation is extremely contentious and may be offensive to gay people. The discussion about reorientation is often a great distraction from what we believe to be the more fruitful conversation about discipleship—growing in our relationship with Christ. The most recent research suggests that some people may experience some fluidity in their sexuality, but that complete orientation change is extremely rare and difficult to demonstrate. We have found that an undue focus on orientation change can be harmful to a same-gender attracted person in their journey.

Q: Why aren't there interviews with non-Christian gay people?

R: This particular resource focuses on the Christian community. We would like to hear more from non-Christian gay people in future resources.

Related Links & Contact Info:

The following links and resources are offered for your exploration and represent diverse perspectives on homosexuality. The opinions and views expressed on the sites below are not necessarily endorsed by New Direction Ministries.

Bridging Resources:

www.btgproject.blogspot.com—New Direction's blog
www.bridges-across.org
www.freetobeme.com
www.gaychristian.net
www.love-is-an-orientation.blogspot.com
www.startingdialogue.blogspot.com
www.twoworldcollision.blogspot.com

Conservative Perspective:

www.wthrockmorton.com
www.sexualidentityinstitute.org
www.moremusingson.blogspot.com
www.exodus.to
www.reconnecting.ca
www.pursuegod.wordpress.com
www.disputedmutability.wordpress.com

Gay Affirming Perspective:

www.aaiiieeee.blogspot.com
www.beyondexgay.com
www.sisterfriends-together.org
www.myheartgoesout-carol.blogspot.com
www.ecwr.org
www.queermergent.wordpress.com

To contact the producers of Bridging the Gap, to book Wendy Gritter or Brian Pengelly for speaking engagements, or to inquire about additional resources:

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Books: all available on www.amazon.com

- Adventures in Missing the Point—Brian McLaren & Tony Campolo c. 2006
- Love is an Orientation: Elevating the Conversation With the Gay Community— Andrew Marin c. 2009
- No Perfect People Allowed: Creating a Come-As-You-Are Culture in the Church—John Burke c. 2007
- Peppermint Filled Pinatas: Breaking Through Tolerance and Embracing Love—Eric Michael Bryant c. 2007
- Reasoning Together: A Conversation on Homosexuality—T. Grimsrud & M. Nation c. 2008
- unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity... and Why it Matters—D. Kinnamon, G. Lyons c. 2007
- Tortured Wonders: Christian Spirituality for People Not Angels—Rodney Clapp c. 2004

DVD's:

- "Bringing Christian Love Out of the Closet" www.lovinghomosexuals.com
- "For the Bible Tells Me So" www.firstrunfeatures.com
- "God and Gays: Bridging the Gap" www.amazon.com
- "Save Me" www.firstrunfeatures.com
- "Through My Eyes" www.gaychristian.net