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Synchro-blog: “Bridging the Gap: Christians & Gay Neighbours”

Wednesday, June 24, 2009 – a time to break dividing walls

(Waterloo, ON) Noting the heightened divisive rhetoric as Toronto’s Pride Week kicks off, Canada’s New Direction Ministry will be offering a unique, groundbreaking opportunity for open online discussion between Christians and their gay neighbours. Bloggers from various backgrounds and perspectives across North America will be ‘synchronized’ to participate on Wednesday, June 24th.

“Our prayer is that this synchro-blog would model an opportunity for multiple conversations, from multiple perspectives, with a commitment to hear one another with grace, humility and respect” says Wendy Gritter, National Director of New Direction Ministry. “We need other Christ-followers to share the heart of the gospel in the midst of this conflict. We need those beyond the walls of the church to share their thoughts on how the church can reach across the divide and build bridges.”

At press time, 37 bloggers were confirmed for participation in this landmark event.

The list of synchro-blog participants includes:

- **Donald Miller**, Bestselling author of “Blue Like Jazz” <http://donmilleris.com/>
- **Tony Jones**, Emergent Village <http://blog.beliefnet.com/tonyjones/>
- **Lorna Dueck**, Listen Up TV Executive Producer & Host <http://lornadueck.blogspot.com/>
- **Melanie Heffern**, Mother & High School Teacher <http://deepermoments.ca/>
- **Chris Wignall**, Catalyst Foundation, <http://www.catalystfoundation.ca/>
- **Karen Keen**, blogger <http://pursuegod.wordpress.com/>
- **Justin Lee**, Gay Christian Network <http://www.gaychristian.net/>
- **Pernell Goodyear**, Pastor <http://www.frwy.ca/blog/>
- **Warren Throckmorton**, Psychologist & Professor, <http://wthrockmorton.com/>
- **Anthony Venn-Brown**, Life Coach <http://alifeofunlearning.blogspot.com/>
- **Mark Petersen**, Executive Director, Bridgeway Foundation <http://markpetersen.wordpress.com/>

Some synchro-blog participants will be offering a review of New Direction’s new DVD resource called, “Bridging the Gap: Conversations on Befriending Our Gay Neighbours”. Others will simply offer their own thoughts on what is needed to break down the dividing walls that continue to wound, alienate and obscure the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In affirming the synchro-blog efforts Tony Campolo says, “I hope that you do much good in building the bridges between conflicting parties on a controversial issue that is destroying the church of Jesus Christ today. What you are doing is of vital importance. My prayers are with you.”

Greg Paul says, “Trying to bring together two groups of people who really don't want to like each other isn't easy. Try to imagine building a bridge across a turbulent river, in the midst of a raging battle - with both sides shooting at you... Such radical reconciliation efforts come only at a cost, but so does the Gospel itself. New Direction, many years ago, was one of those Christian organizations that gay, lesbian and transgendered people loved to hate. In the intervening years, it has become one of the few true bridge builders between evangelical Christians and the gay community.”

For more information & to sign up in advance to join the synchro-blog:
www.btgproject.blogspot.com or www.newdirection.ca