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Pastor Connect

6th August, 2009

More To Do...

Sitting here in the office at Church it can be easy to lose sight of what is really going on in the world. There are times when we use these walls to keep us all within our comfort zones and reaching out beyond them can be tough. Recently I have been reminded just how necessary it is to reach out beyond the walls of the Church building, no matter how scary or confronting this may be.

The first part of this has been writing a series of columns over 6 weeks for the Sydney Star Observer, a LGBT community newspaper in Sydney. I have been excited and challenged writing these, and the feedback I have received has been quite positive.

The second part was more challenging for me initially as it involved face to face meetings. On Tuesday this week, Macquarie University organised for a living library to be held as part of their diversity week. A living library consists of human 'books' that people can select from a list to come and talk to. There were about 20 of us books, with myself there as a Christian Gay Pastor and a member of the Crave congregation there as a young Gay person of faith. There was also a holocaust survivor, a breast cancer survivor, Muslim people, Aboriginal and people from many different ethnic backgrounds.

The organisers had arranged around 50 year 11 students (16-17 year olds) from local high schools to come and to be readers for the living library. I was nervous about the questions that would be asked and the attitudes that they might have as the schools are in the 'bible belt' of Sydney. But I was wonderfully surprised. Over the three hours I talked to 8 students and all were inquisitive, respectful and willing to listen. And what struck home to me was although none of them had a problem with Gay or Lesbian people, all of them asked how I could be a Christian minister and Gay. Each one of them asked something along the lines of "how does that work?"

That really challenged me to think about how much more needs to be done to educate and talk to people to tell them that it can work; that you can be a LGBT person and Christian. And I encourage everyone to always be willing to tell your story because it is through stories that lives are changed.

Blessings

Gavin

Announcements

Tonight we have the first in a series of study groups in homosexuality and the scriptures. 7pm in the worship space.

As of last Sunday night, the Crave service is going weekly! This is an exciting event and I encourage everyone to pray and support the Crave team and the service.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

10am Service - Traditional



10am Service - Traditional

All are welcome at our 10am traditional service where we will be looking at what we make time for in our lives.

6:30pm Service - Crave

This week the theme of Crave will be 'being the Church'. Come along to find out more!

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