

Crossing The Bridges God Builds Encouraging Households And Church Ministries In Loving Our Neighbors

[#God's guidance bridges](#) [#household ministry support](#) [#church outreach neighbors](#) [#christian family encouragement](#) [#loving community engagement](#)

Explore the transformative journey of crossing God-built bridges, empowering both households and church ministries to cultivate genuine love and active service for their neighbors. This initiative fosters stronger communities and spiritual growth by embodying compassion and outreach in everyday life.

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Crossing the Bridges God Builds

God is a bridge builder. He is connecting people. We should expect that He will give us bridges to cross. If we truly believe that God is sovereign, then we should expect Him to connect us to the people He is calling us to love. And in creating those connections, God uses us as we are and where we are; even in our frailty and weakness. Sometimes we stand up as a leader, an example of courage and strength. Other times we connect with people who are hurting and in pain, or who feel lost. Sometimes it happens when our children score the winning goal in a soccer game. Sometimes it happens when we are afraid, as in an emergency room, or when we are deep in grief at a funeral home. God weaves all of this together-the bridge building; our mental, emotional, and spiritual condition; our circumstances-to place us in the right place at the right time to love our neighbors.

God Loves You Circle

About the book: God Loves You Circle is an uplifting series of short stories based on the life of the author and her family. Learn to find God in unlikely places, and draw miraculous encouragement from daily life. You will laugh; you will cry; but most of all, you will draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Come rest in the arms of the Lord and learn how God Loves You Circle. FROM THE BOOK: The older woman was dark-skinned and her ragged appearance spoke of a hard life. She walked toward me with slight limp and her back was stooped from age. Her thick, wiry hair was unkempt and stuck out everywhere in unwashed clumps. It was parted in the middle, and two streaks of silver-white hair led me to believe she was in her mid-sixties. She had many layers of dirty, drab clothes on, and a blanket on top of them. Her dark, fingerless gloves were tattered and torn, with strands of weathered yarn hanging from them. Everything about her said she was homeless and alone. "Do you have any spare change?" came her shaky voice as she looked at me with pleading eyes. My heart broke knowing I had nothing to give her. Lord, what have I to give this child of yours? Softly, the childhood hymn, "Silver and Gold Have I None," drifted across my mind: but such as I have give I thee... "Oh, honey," I said tenderly, putting my hand

on her arm, "the only thing I have to offer you is the Kingdom of Heaven." "Oh," she gasped, her eyes welling with tears, "Oh, how could I ask for more than that?"

Crossing the Bridges God Builds: Encouraging Households and Church Ministries in Loving Our Neighbors

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The Bridge

"The Bridge" is about a middle-class church that chose to move across town and into an unsafe urban neighborhood where fatherlessness, drugs, crime, prostitution, dropouts, and brokenness prevailed. This little group moved into this neighborhood to build God's bridges of agape love between all people young and old. Bridge Ministry of Acadiana, a Christian Community Development organization was birthed in 2003. The Bridge is guided by their theological framework and 8-key components that were developed prior to taking any actions and are detailed in the books Acknowledgements and Forward. These key guiding components describe "why" Bridge does what it does, and is followed by many short stories that hopefully explain "what" Bridge does. These short stories tell about people in the neighborhood and community that come from all denominations, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, businesses, and organizations that have relationally joined with this inner-city movement of relocation, reconciliation and redemption by either volunteering, investing and/or praying for our neighborhood and community. It tells how the church and volunteers initially went door-to-door listening and learning about our neighbor's dreams for safer streets and better lives. The church learned from our neighbors that relational development is the greatest need in our inner city. By first listening and then responding to our neighbors 'Bridge' became a development-type organization and not a relief-type organization. The Bridge learned how to develop and empower people by not doing "for"

Focus on the Family with Dr. James C. Dobson

A compassionate, shame-free guide for your darkest days "A one-of-a-kind book . . . to read for yourself or give to a struggling friend or loved one without the fear that depression and suicidal thoughts will be minimized, medicalized or over-spiritualized."—Kay Warren, cofounder of Saddleback Church What happens when loving Jesus doesn't cure you of depression, anxiety, or suicidal thoughts? You might be crushed by shame over your mental illness, only to be told by well-meaning Christians to "choose joy" and "pray more." So you beg God to take away the pain, but nothing eases the ache inside. As darkness lingers and color drains from your world, you're left wondering if God has abandoned you. You just want a way out. But there's hope. In *I Love Jesus, But I Want to Die*, Sarah J. Robinson offers a healthy, practical, and shame-free guide for Christians struggling with mental illness. With unflinching honesty, Sarah shares her story of battling depression and fighting to stay alive despite toxic theology that made her afraid to seek help outside the church. Pairing her own story with scriptural insights, mental health research, and simple practices, Sarah helps you reconnect with the God who is present in our deepest anguish and discover that you are worth everything it takes to get better. Beautifully written and full of hard-won wisdom, *I Love Jesus, But I Want to Die* offers a path toward a rich, hope-filled life in Christ, even when healing doesn't look like what you expect.

I Love Jesus, But I Want to Die

CELEBRATING HUMANITY We are a divided people; We are a divided planet. What would it take to see a world transformed into a place where when we see one another, our first thought is; this is my brother; this is my sister; this is a member of my family? Jack Bloomfield, author, columnist and humanitarian believes that our divided world is rooted mainly in unchallenged prejudice, ignorance and intolerance. In *Celebrating Humanity*, Jack shares his insights through an assortment of his columns on: The many faces of prejudice most often found in areas of race, religion, politics, social status, and

sexual orientation. The importance of getting closer to those we don't know, don't understand or who we are afraid of. The need to educate ourselves when it comes to our racial, religious, cultural or sexual differences. The hope that it is possible to change and that unity and understanding among all people is possible. He suggests that we must take our own personal inventory to see where prejudice, ignorance or intolerance are alive in our own hearts and lives and do whatever it takes to root them out. Bloomfield says, "For some, it will be little more than self awareness and a commitment to change while for others it will take a much deeper study of themselves. At whatever level, we all must take a look within and when we do, healing will be possible and unity and understanding among all people can become a reality.

Church of God Evangel

Monthly current affairs magazine from a Christian perspective with a focus on politics, society, economics and culture.

Outlook

In order to find an authentic understanding of the Christian faith, Bell frees readers to consider God beyond the picture someone else painted.

The Christian Union

Seasoned church consultant Edward H. Hammett shares his latest insights and suggestions for churches seeking to serve all generations. This is an updated version of Hammett's 2007 book *Reaching People Under 40 while Keeping People Over 60* that expands the reach another decade and emphasizes diversity with insight from new contributors Paul L. Anderson and Cornell Thomas. A TCP Books title.

World Vision

The Gospel Coalition Book Award What does the good news of Jesus mean for economics? Too often, Christian teaching and ministry have focused only on the gospel's spiritual significance and ignored its physical, real-world ramifications. But loving our neighbor well has direct economic implications, and in our diverse and stratified society we need to grapple with them now more than ever. In *The Economics of Neighborly Love* pastor Tom Nelson sets out to address this problem. Marrying biblical study, economic theory, and practical advice, he presents a vision for church ministry that works toward the flourishing of the local community, beginning with its poorest and most marginalized members. Nelson resists oversimplification and pushes us toward more complex and nuanced understandings of wealth and poverty. If we confess the gospel of Jesus, he insists, we must contend anew with its implications for the well-being of our local communities. Together we can grow in both compassion and capacity.

Celebrating Humanity

The Advocate is a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) monthly newsmagazine. Established in 1967, it is the oldest continuing LGBT publication in the United States.

ThirdWay

Best Life magazine empowers men to continually improve their physical, emotional and financial well-being to better enjoy the most rewarding years of their life.

Velvet Elvis

This report from the Faith and Order Commission explores the idea of 'witness' in the life of the church. It is intended as a theological resource to encourage Christians to think of themselves as witnesses, ready to speak of what they have seen and heard, but also to listen with humility. With practical case studies from church communities around England, it offers examples to inspire readers to go further, imagining how they and their churches might witness more richly, as well as put their dreams into action. Designed for churches and small groups to study together, it also includes reflections on the case studies and questions to help readers put their thinking into practice.

Reaching People under 30 while Keeping People over 60

Atlanta magazine's editorial mission is to engage our community through provocative writing, authoritative reporting, and superlative design that illuminate the people, the issues, the trends, and the events that define our city. The magazine informs, challenges, and entertains our readers each month while helping them make intelligent choices, not only about what they do and where they go, but what they think about matters of importance to the community and the region. Atlanta magazine's editorial mission is to engage our community through provocative writing, authoritative reporting, and superlative design that illuminate the people, the issues, the trends, and the events that define our city. The magazine informs, challenges, and entertains our readers each month while helping them make intelligent choices, not only about what they do and where they go, but what they think about matters of importance to the community and the region.

The Economics of Neighborly Love

Now available in paperback. The inspiring story of how a church showed God's love to a dying culture by building bridges to its neighborhood, community, and world.

The Advocate

Includes music.

Best Life

This bold book is an urgent call to parents—and the church—to return to biblical discipleship in and through the home.

Congressional Record

A journal for the farm, the garden, and the fireside, devoted to improvement in agriculture, horticulture, and rural taste; to elevation in mental, moral, and social character, and the spread of useful knowledge and current news.

Christian Register and Boston Observer...

The perfect gift! A specially priced, beautifully designed hardcover edition of *The Joy of the Gospel* with a foreword by Robert Barron and an afterword by James Martin, SJ. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus... In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." – Pope Francis This special edition of Pope Francis's popular message of hope explores themes that are important for believers in the 21st century. Examining the many obstacles to faith and what can be done to overcome those hurdles, he emphasizes the importance of service to God and all his creation. Advocating for "the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned," the Holy Father shows us how to respond to poverty and current economic challenges that affect us locally and globally. Ultimately, Pope Francis demonstrates how to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, "to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small." Profound in its insight, yet warm and accessible in its tone, *The Joy of the Gospel* is a call to action to live a life motivated by divine love and, in turn, to experience heaven on earth. Includes a foreword by Robert Barron, author of *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* and James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

Witness

"A treasure...a wise and entertaining book that should appeal to the spiritual pilgrim in all of us, no matter what the faith and no matter whether believer or nonbeliever." – Chicago Tribune The New York Times bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything* and *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* turns his attention to the relationship between LGBT Catholics and the Church in this loving, inclusive, and revolutionary book. A powerful call for tolerance, acceptance, and support—and a reminder of Jesus' message for us to love one another. In this moving and inspiring book, Martin offers a powerful, loving, and much-needed voice in a time marked by anger, prejudice, and divisiveness. On the day after the Orlando nightclub shooting, James Martin S.J. posted a video on Facebook in which he called for solidarity with our LGBT brothers and sisters. "The largest mass shooting in US history took place

at a gay club and the LGBT community has been profoundly affected," he began. He then implored his fellow Catholics—and people everywhere—to "stand not only with the people of Orlando but also with their LGBT brothers and sisters." Father Martin's post went viral and was viewed more than 1.6 million times. Adapted from an address he gave to New Ways Ministry, a group that ministers to and advocates for LGBT Catholics, *Building a Bridge* provides a roadmap for repairing and strengthening the bonds that unite all of us as God's children. Martin uses the image of a two-way bridge to enable LGBT Catholics and the Church to come together in a call to end the "us" versus "them" mentality. Turning to the Catechism, he draws on the three criteria at the heart of the Christian ministry—"respect, compassion, and sensitivity"—as a model for how the Catholic Church should relate to the LGBT community. WINNER OF THE LIVING NOW BOOK AWARD IN SOCIAL ACTIVISM/CHARITY.

Michigan Christian Advocate

Kingdom Calling offers a compelling theological grounding for the vocation, ministry and discipleship of the whole people of God. Building creatively on previous studies, it challenges all of us to change so that the whole church can serve the whole mission of God in the whole of life. *Kingdom Calling* provides a thorough diagnosis of the theological factors that have prevented such a vision being realised over previous decades. These factors are embedded in the social realities of our everyday life and in the sometimes hidden assumptions that shape our thinking in the church. By setting out a sustained proposal for the renewal of our theological imagination, the report points the way to address some deep running fault lines in our common life. Written in an accessible style, *Kingdom Calling* looks in turn at the vocation, ministry and discipleship of all God's people, asking what kind of theological thinking and imagining might most help us to flourish together. It affirms and celebrates the vital lay and ordained ministry roles that support the church in God's mission, and it identifies changes in practice that can better foster the vocation, ministry and discipleship of the whole people of God.

Atlanta Magazine

Some lay blame for poverty and need on oppression; others on laziness. Pastor Keller demonstrates that the biblical viewpoint is far more sophisticated than either extreme. He sets forth scriptural principles for mercy ministries, suggests practical steps to begin and persevere in active caring, and deals perceptively with thorny issues. Balanced and informative! Includes discussion questions.

The Church of Irresistible Influence

A parenting manual taking us through the major Bible principles for family life.

The Youth's Companion

Family Driven Faith: Doing What It Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk with God