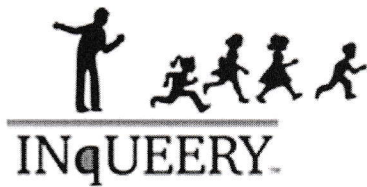


## New Ex-Gay School Outreach for Teens

By Chad Thompson



Today, more than 800 schools in 47 states have groups that offer those who have embraced their homosexuality a place to be understood and accepted. However, these school-based groups are often hostile to the idea that many young people today are overcoming homosexuality.

Students who are questioning their sexuality will often seek help from a schoolteacher or counselor. These students are instantly referred to their community's Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, or to their school's Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA). These groups sometimes encourage students to identify themselves as homosexual, neglecting to offer students information on overcoming homosexuality, or informing them about the ex-gay perspective.

I believe students who approach a teacher or school counselor with questions about their sexuality should be given information *from both sides of the debate* regarding homosexual orientation and development. They should hear the pro-gay and the ex-gay viewpoint. Furthermore, high school sex education courses and textbooks should include the ex-gay viewpoint as well.

### Ex-gays as a Legitimate Minority

Most of the materials that have been produced to address gay issues in schools do not present the ex-gay perspective. These materials are designed to combat intolerance of homosexuals and name-calling directed at lesbian and gay students, but the ridicule that ex-gays often face is not even mentioned.

Even though I oppose the bias in these materials, I agree with their overall message: lesbian and gay students should be treated with respect.

A few years ago I started an organization called Inqueery. Our goal is simply to facilitate the development of tangible solutions to the problems faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and ex-gay students on high school and college campuses, *while maintaining that the possibility of change must be presented for those who desire this path.*

To that end, Inqueery is producing materials that are designed to facilitate objective conversations about human sexuality on college campuses and in public schools.

### New Resources Available

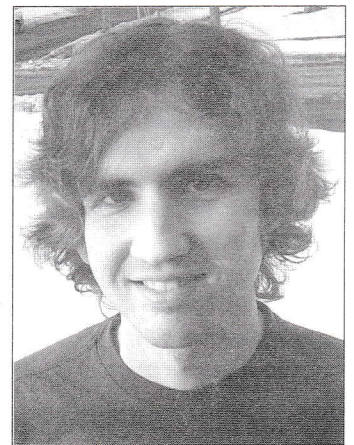
Our newest resource is a full-color, 20 page booklet called "The Homophobia Stops Here." This resource is designed to address the ex-gay perspective in public schools. The book talks about the importance of treating those who identify themselves as ex-gay with respect, and also provides a non-biased look at the research that has been done to find a "gay gene."

Furthermore, the book includes a look at the varying theories behind the development of sexual orientation and the potential that all students have to change their orientation if they so desire.

For more information visit [www.Inqueery.com](http://www.Inqueery.com) and then click on "Inqueery in the Classroom."

*Chad Thompson is an ex-gay author, speaker, and the founder of Inqueery.*

*As an outspoken voice against intolerance of homosexuals in the Christian community, Chad has appeared on local news broadcasts for the CBS, NBC, and ABC affiliates in Des Moines, Iowa. He has also been a guest on Christian and secular radio programs in the state of Iowa, and has been published in The Des Moines Register.*



Chad Thompson

*He makes presentations in public schools, churches and community groups, and represents the ex-gay viewpoint in public forums and debates about the issue of homosexuality.*