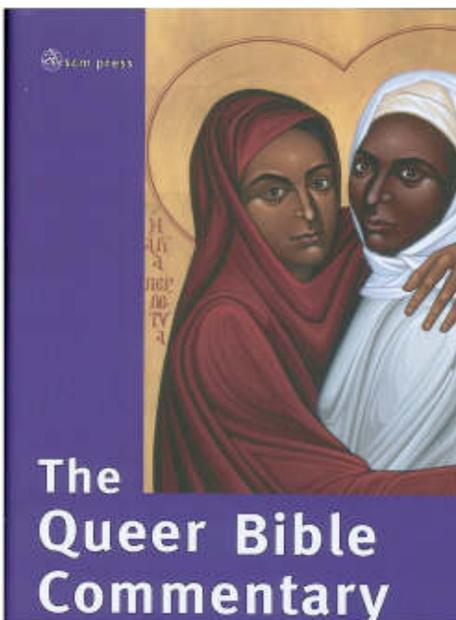


**Reception-Celebration
for *The Queer Bible
Commentary* at
AAR/SBL,
November 2006**

by Tom Hanks. Buenos Aires

Our long-awaited volume, *The Queer Bible Commentary* (London: SCM / Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2006), with my chapters on Romans and Hebrews, arrived in the USA just in time for the convention in Washington, DC of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature, where we had a special reception-celebration and sales went very well. If it does as well as *The Women's Bible Commentary*, it will prove to be a significant pioneering work. In the USA it may be ordered from Westminster John Knox, Louisville, and should be available in many seminary book stores.



**Steve Parelli and
Jose Ortiz
Travel to the
Southern Cone,
July & August
2006**

by Steve Parelli
Bronx NY



Jose presents Steve's paper on the "ex-gay" movement as Steve looks on.
Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 23, 2006

During the months of July and August, 2006, Steve and Jose traveled to Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. In Buenos Aires (Argentina), Montevideo (Uruguay) and twice in Asuncion (Paraguay), they presented a two-hour seminar on the USA evangelical "ex-gay" movement (see article on page 4, "Executive Director Critiques 'Ex-Gay' Movement"). In addition to these meetings they shared their personal testimonies and information on Other Sheep in seven other group settings, including a Roman Catholic house ministry in Buenos Aires and a young MCC church in Santiago, Chile. In Mendoza, Argentina, Steve and Jose spent two days visiting with an evangelical Baptist pastor of a congregation of 500 who had just resigned a month earlier after openly coming out to his staff and congregation. For about a year he had been in touch with Other Sheep in

Argentina, looking for support in his coming-out process. Steve and Jose's trip to Argentina occasioned his request for a personal supportive visit.

Two gay journalists interviewed Steve and Jose for their respective publications, one in Buenos Aires and one in Montevideo. In addition, Steve and Jose participated in a live one-hour national TV talk show in Asuncion, in which Steve's "ex-gay" paper was featured as a voice-over to four clippings of the movie "Brokeback Mountain." In Montevideo, Jose and Steve were interviewed live on a national morning TV news show.

Steve and Jose's Southern Cone trip can be viewed in more detail on their website at

www.othersheepexcite.com

Your financial gift to **The Steve and Jose's 2007 Summer Ministry Fund** will allow Steve and Jose to invest July and August 2007 in visiting LGBTs in Africa. Your Gift to **The Executive Director's USA Travel Fund** will help Steve promote Other Sheep at conferences and churches. Use the enclosed Gift Card and return envelope to give your financial support to the vital work of Other Sheep.

Other Sheep Argentina Foundation Adds Portuguese Documents to Its (Primarily Spanish) Website and Inaugurates Annual Lectureship
by Tom Hanks, Buenos Aires



Rev. Dr. Thomas Hanks is Other Sheep Theologian and Director of Mission

Learn more about Tom Hanks at
http://www.othersheepexecsite.com/Tom_Hanks_in_Buenos_Aires.html

Our foundation in Buenos Aires, *Fundacion Otras Ovejas de Argentina por la no discriminacion*, has its own website (www.fundotrasovejas.org.ar) with documents and books in Spanish, English--and now Portuguese, thanks to the translation efforts of Rev. Gelson Piber, MCC's coordinator for church planting in Brazil. Recent additions include my commentaries on John and 1 Corinthians, with a longer treatment of the whole book of Romans than was possible for *The Queer Bible Commentary* (which focuses just on

Romans 1:18-2:16. In 2007 the foundation is planning to inaugurate an annual lectureship, co-sponsored by the MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) and CEGLA, a local gay Christian group. We already have a fantastic list of well known lecturers-authors who are eager to come (more on this soon). We have already translated the books of a number of key theologians and hope to get them published and/or circulated online in connection with their lectures.

Key Lesbian/Gay Evangelical Pastors and Leaders Come Out in the Southern Cone, South America, Over Recent Years

by Tom Hanks, Buenos Aires

Our ministry in the Southern Cone of South America has been enormously blessed in recent years by the decisions of key evangelical pastors and leaders to step out of the closet and face the consequences.

First were a number of Southern Baptists: **Armando Pastor**, a **Peruvian** with a large church in Buenos Aires, is now pastoring with his Lutheran partner in New Jersey near New York; **Victor Bracuto**, for many years director of the Baptist theological education extension program in Argentina, was the next Baptist to contact CEGLA and continues active as a leader of that group and also working with our foundation; then a **well-known pastor, age 72** (with a wife 82) visited CEGLA and is seeking to start a similar group in his small town where he is in contact with many still in the closet and seeking counseling; after that, **Ruben** came out to his large church in Mendoza and expects to move to Buenos Aires soon.

Most recently **Katie and Esther**, two IFES (InterVarsity) staff (who were responsible for some 10 university groups each in Chile and Paraguay) fell in love, contacted our Argentina Other Sheep Foundation and requested and received a service of blessing for their union here in Buenos Aires, August 1, 2006. After Christmas 2006, they returned to Buenos Aires to live and minister. They presently reside in an Argentina Other Sheep Foundation apartment in Buenos Aires.

The Foundation has been grateful to have apartment space to help those who have needed a place to live while they come out, reorient their lives, seek new employment, etc. Prayers for each are especially needed—and for other brave souls who may follow in their train.

For photos of Armando, Victor, Ruben and Katie and Esther: Go to Steve and Jose's web pages on their trip to the Southern Cone, 2006, at

http://www.othersheepexecsite.com/South_America_Trip_Summer_2006.html

**Plans to Distribute the
book
*The Children Are Free
to Africa*
Are Made by NYC Other
Sheep Committee
by Jose Ortiz, Bronx NY,
Coordinator for Africa**

Other Sheep and Jesus Metropolitan Community Church of Indianapolis, Indiana, are working together to distribute the book *The Children Are Free* by Rev. Jeff Miner and John Tyler Connoley to contact points in Africa. In the spring of 2006, Steve Parelli, OS executive director, met and shared the book with many individuals from around the world at the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) in Geneva, Switzerland (see related article at right).

Upon returning to the States and with the help of Jose Ortiz, Other Sheep coordinator for Africa, a committee was formed in New York City to work together with the co-operation of Jesus MCC in the distribution of the book. The committee is in the process of assessing the best way to distribute the book by speaking directly with contact persons in Africa. Distribution should begin sometime in 2007.

Fr. Donald Doherty, M.M., who served as Pastoral Minister in Tanzania, Africa, from 1968-1985, and did pastoral work in Nairobi between 1997 and 2000, serves on the committee with Steve, Jose and an anonymous advisor.

**Attendees of the 2006 Geneva, Switzerland,
International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) World
Conference Respond to Other Sheep's Presence
by Steve Parelli, Bronx NY**

With tears in her eyes, Alice Nkom, an activist lawyer of Cameroon, West Africa, thanked Steve as he placed in her hands three different books from Other Sheep. When he gave her *The Children Are Free* her remark was unforgettable: "This is just what we need," she said. "My country is torn apart over homosexuality because of religion." To her the battle for equality must be fought along lines that include addressing the errors that the church propagates. Steve met Alice at the 2006 ILGA (International Lesbian and Gay Association) World Conference meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in March last year.

Other attendees also responded with much appreciation. A psychologist from the Philippines told Steve that her gay and lesbian clients from evangelical homes would be given this book for their personal reading. "I have nothing like this in print to give them," she said. She eagerly received the book. A transgendered Australian lawyer received the book, promising to deliver it to a clergy friend in ministry. In addition to Africa, the Philippines and Australia, copies of the book went to individuals from China, Europe and Japan.

Pictures and comments from individuals who received the book can be found at www.thersheepexecsite.com. In addition to the book, individuals were advised of the Other Sheep website where additional material can be found.



**Founder and President of the
Association for the Defense of
Homosexuals (ADEFHO)
Alice Nkom, Attorney
Cameroon, Africa**

**Whitehall Memorial Fund established for Ministry in Latin America
by John Doner, Mexico City, Coordinator for Latin America, as reported to Steve Parelli**

The Whitehall Memorial Fund, for ministry in Latin America, has been established in memory of Don Whitehall, a long-time faithful supporter of the ministry of Other Sheep in Latin America. Don passed away suddenly on December 10, 2006, at the age of 71. In addition to supporting other aspects of John's ministry, the Whitehall Memorial Fund will assist Luis Baus, a gay Cumberland Presbyterian man in Armenia, Colombia, in his theological studies. Luis, an architect in his late 30s, is enrolled in extension study with the Latin American Biblical University in Costa Rica and PROMESA, its extension center in Bogotá, Colombia.

OS Executive Director Critiques the "Ex-Gay" Movement

by Steve Parelli, Bronx NY

In his recent article (June 2006), "Is There Really Such A Thing As 'Ex-Gay'?", Other Sheep Executive Director Steve Parelli makes a "smart and on-target analysis of the 'ex-gay' ministries" according to Wayne Besen, author of the popular exposé of the "ex-gay" movement *Anything But Straight* (2003).

Parelli's testimony and argument, woven together throughout his critique of the "ex-gay" movement, addresses questions about the movement's assumptions on gender roles, father hunger, male intimacy, physical touch, "life in Christ," and other related "ex-gay" topics and "disciplines."

To download the paper, go to the author's Other Sheep website at www.othersheepexecsite.com and click on the link "A Paper: An Evaluation of the 'Ex-Gay' Movement." The paper is also available in Spanish on the same website.

Financial gifts may be sent to Other Sheep

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Gay Marriage: A Civil Question to be Left to the Individual?

Parelli Presents Paper at ETS 2006 Annual Meeting

by Steve Parelli, Bronx NY

At the 58th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, Nov. 15-17, 2006, Washington, D.C., Steve Parelli presented his paper "How Baptist Doctrine May Obligate the Evangelical to View Same-Sex Marriage as Primarily a Civil Matter and a Matter of Individual Conscience."

After examining the Baptist teaching of soul liberty, that one's conscience is subject to God first, even above any and all ecclesiastical bodies, Steve's paper argues that same-sex marriage is a civil right to be left to the individual to choose or not to choose according to the dictates of one's own conscience.

A published author and journalist who attended (name withheld) wrote: "That was one of the bravest things I've ever seen. When they attacked you, you didn't give ground. . . you held your own. . . . Bravo!"

The paper is posted at www.othersheepexecsite.com

Steve and Jose Minister at Drexel Hill Baptist Church (American Baptist) in Philadelphia Area

By Steve Parelli, Bronx NY

At the AWAB (Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists) Northeastern regional meeting of February 2006, held at Madison Ave. Baptist Church, New York City, Steve and Jose were introduced to the pastors and a few members of Drexel Hill Baptist Church, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania.

Since that meeting, Steve and Jose have spoken twice at Drexel Hill Baptist Church's outreach ministry to gays and lesbians in urban Philadelphia and twice at Drexel Hill Baptist Church itself, both times presenting a study on the "clobber passages."

At their last meeting with Drexel Hill Baptist Church the pastors, having witnessed their ministry, approached Steve and Jose with the desire of re-ordaining Steve and licensing Jose to the ministry to which they have been called.

Materials referenced in Other Sheep News can be found at www.othersheep.org or www.othersheepexecite.com and may be freely copied or reprinted. Copied materials should indicate their source and be distributed free of charge.

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Other Sheep News is published quarterly by Other Sheep, a nonprofit, tax exempt Christian ministry. Other Sheep is Multicultural Ministries with Sexual Minorities, working world wide in an ever-expanding variety of languages, cultures and LGBT concerns, to share the good news that God loves all gay, lesbian bisexual and transgendered persons just as they are and calls them into inclusive, gay-affirming, Christian communities of faith.