

OUTPOST NEWS

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Loving God, Declaring Freedom



A Voice in the Wilderness

By Dale Fredrikson, Used by Permission

For those of us who cling ferociously to what we call “traditional biblical values”—that is, families which have two grown-ups in charge, a him and a her—the modern age has grown bewildering. The gay lobby now exerts immense influence in the public sphere, the LGBT community has taken the place of the Christian church as ambassadors of all that is considered right and moral, and Facebook members will find that their profile page now offers them 51 gender options to choose from.

Does all of this seem to you like something you'd rather not talk about? It did to me too. I found this whole topic to be depressing, frightening and generally unpleasant. Until, that is, I got to know Outpost Ministries.

Outpost is an outreach to men and women who are choosing to confront unwanted same-sex attraction. I've known about and supported Outpost for many years without thinking about it very much because a staff member is a close friend. It seemed a viable, worthy cause—you know, like the Food Shelf or Toys For Tots. A niche ministry among many.

But more recently, my understanding has deepened and my tune has changed, to the point that I've just accepted an invitation to join Outpost's team. I've come to see Outpost as one of a small group of Christian organizations which are taking a stand and leading a charge against a strategic, global campaign of our Enemy. I believe now that what they (we) are doing is vital and urgent. It is so central and important to our Church as a whole. In fact, if they or somebody like them don't do the kind of work they are doing, then our nation is headed pell-mell into chaotic darkness.

That's a very large claim. It is either grandiose or true. To defend it, I must beg a little patience while I explain. Here's how it works: we humans exist to love

and be loved by God. That was God's purpose in creating us. It is His great risk because in order to stand a chance of receiving back the kind of love He gives us, He had to make us like Him—able to choose.

And because we are like Him, we have the same choice in loving one another as we have in loving Him. God put us on the earth and gave us each other to love so that, in doing so, we may learn to love Him. That's where the fun starts.

The human creature begins as a baby, a cute, little cherub full of needs but with absolutely no idea what love is or how to do it. He/she must be taught. By whom? Obviously, those people on whom the little tyke must depend for his/her every need, the caregivers. Ideally, a mom and dad.

As God does with the Church, the parents reach out in love to their little one. This begins on day one, and even in the womb. Baby responds in kind, and a mutual bond of trust, affection, identity and ownership begins to grow. And from this essential, primary bond, the child can then branch out to loving others and God.

But this scenario presumes that the parents in question live in a perfect world. They know what love is, how to do it, and are capable of teaching it to their child—perfectly. If they don't, then even though the child may get fed and clothed and outwardly seem well-adjusted, one possible result when he/she grows up is—you guessed it—same-sex attraction.

At Outpost what we've found is that our clients come to us with versions of this same story. The result

Outpost carries a very public banner which says that all is not lost.



Outpost, Inc. was formed in 1976 to meet the needs of men and women seeking freedom from unwanted same-sex attractions. We offer teaching, encouragement and support to individuals and families impacted by homosexuality in the Twin Cities area of Minneapolis-St. Paul and address the Church in the Upper Midwest on related topics. Outpost also offers help to those dealing with sexual and relational brokenness related to the opposite sex. Partnering with God the Father, we welcome the broken-hearted and hurting. For more information visit us on the web at www.OutpostMinistries.org or write: Outpost, Inc., PO Box 22429, Robbinsdale, MN 55422. Phone: (763) 592-4700 Fax: (763) 592-4701 E-mail: OutpostInfo@OutpostMinistries.org

is that those children grow into adults who have a desperate need—because we're all made that way—to love and be loved, but they can't because they lack the ability to bond. They are often well-versed in social skills and forms of religion, but on the inside they are brutally isolated—from others and from God.

Well, that's a sad story, but how is it a large-scale catastrophe? What makes it a battlefield (in what we loosely call "spiritual warfare") is that through stories like this, our Enemy gets what he really wants: human beings who, through their inability to bond, are cut off from God, functionally unable to respond to His love. And because of this, the Enemy has moved every resource he can find in support of this dynamic.

The result is that in recent years the gay lobby has steadily gained in political, social and moral ascendancy; to the point that now, in the US and even in the Western world in general, to disagree—to advocate for biblical values—is considered virtually indistinguishable from a hate crime.

And the outcome—what the Enemy gets out of all this—is the destruction of the family as the foundational institution of human existence. And without a family, primarily a loving mom and dad, how can children learn to respond to God's love?

I grew up in a small town called Bemidji, MN, and I miss it, partly because it's such a safe, rational, sane place. If you live in a place like that, or go to a church like that, it probably seems like a very normal place. But it isn't. Not any more. It is now one of many, shrinking pockets of relative sanity in a larger culture which seems grimly intent on shredding itself into meaninglessness.

A sad part of this story is that throughout this macro upheaval, the Christian Church has remained largely silent. In fact, many main-line denominations, responding to political pressure, have begun to waver and have even made declarations against biblical values. And many church leaders, while privately sticking to their beliefs, are unwilling to take a visible stand because they fear the storm of invective which may come their way if they do.

Outpost is one of the very few Christian organizations—a voice crying out in the wilderness, as it were—which is in the business of saying "No!" to these designs of the Enemy. And yes, we've paid a price. We've been misquoted, maligned and vilified in the press, vandalized, etc., but in the process, we've seen many men and women walk a path of humility and healing which results in new hope, restored gender identity, and families where their own kids are learning how to love.

But of course, Outpost is bigger than that. It has to be. Whether we really wanted to or not, by default Outpost carries a very public banner which says that all is not lost, the family as an institution is not an outmoded myth, and God still works through moms and dads to raise up children unto Himself.

That is why I think Outpost is so important. This isn't just a worthy cause, this is vital. The need is vast and urgent, and we need workers.

And we need you too. We need you to open your hearts to the tearing need which inhabits the world outside our homes and churches. We ask only one thing from you: that you get with God and ask him what part he wants you to play. Will you do that? ☩



Dale Fredrikson is Outpost's Pastor-in-Residence and is currently fundraising to join as full-time staff.

Save the Date!

Our annual *Called Out of Darkness Celebration* will be held on **Saturday, October 11, 7:30 PM, at **Bethlehem Baptist, Downtown Campus, 720 13th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55415.****

Join us for an evening of passionate worship, inspiring testimonies and heartfelt thanksgiving to the One who has called us out of the darkness of homosexuality into His wonderful light!

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Candace Oylo, Editor

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Justice House of Prayer Hours:

Monday—Thursday 8 AM to noon

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NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Praises & Prayer

Praise God for all He has done in the lives of our participants this summer, especially in the *Encountering Jesus* interns, the *Joshua Fellowship* men and the *CrossCurrent* attendees!

Pray for our returning and new participants as some return to college and as we begin fall programming in mid-September —to continue to encounter Jesus and embrace the healing journey with perseverance

Pray for the protection of our big events this fall, the *JHOP Launch Party* and our *Called Out of Darkness Celebration* and that God will draw to these events the people who need to hear our message

Pray for more singers, musicians and sound technicians for our *Justice House of Prayer*

Pray for the *Humility 2015 Outreach* to the LGBT community. Pray for the Church to continue to awaken to God's heart for this unreached people group and for salvation, healing and deliverance

Pray for the other outreaches across the nation this fall, including an outreach to the Gay Olympics in Akron, Ohio and a large LGBT gathering in Los Angeles that kicks off Trinity Works' *Love LA Outreach*

Events

8/5 JHOP Solemn Assembly, 10 AM-10 PM, Northbrook Alliance Church, Brooklyn Center, MN

8/17 Dan spoke at Northbrook Alliance Church

8/19 Outpost's 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk, 5:30 PM, Northbrook Alliance Church

9/2 JHOP Solemn Assembly, 10 AM-10 PM; Ariel speaks at 8:00 PM, Northbrook Alliance Church

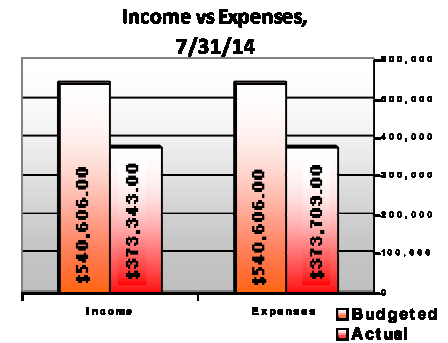
9/4 Inspire Q & A for worship leaders with Cory Asbury and Laura Hackett, 7 PM, Northbrook Alliance Church

9/5 JHOP Launch Concert with Cory Asbury and Laura Hackett, 7 PM, Plymouth Covenant Church, Plymouth, MN

10/11 Nate O. speaks at Sojourn Church, Minneapolis, MN

10/11 Called Out of Darkness Celebration, 7:30 PM, Bethlehem Baptist, Downtown Campus, Minneapolis, MN

Financial Picture



A year ago, the Lord gave us an idea to establish a 5K run/walk fundraiser. Last year, we raised over \$6,000. This year, the Outpost summer interns were again charged with planning the event over the summer. God blessed our “planting” and “watering” by bringing growth to our laboring.

We watched in amazement as God called forth more laborers to be a part of the race. For this, we are so very grateful! He called over 250 individuals to donate to our ministry by supporting different team captains. As a corporate body, we raised \$15,000! (Due to the timing of the printing of the *Outpost News*, these numbers will be reflected next month.)

As we partner in unity with the Lord's strength, He continues to confirm the words He has spoken to me over many years, “The strength of the event depends on the strength of the team.” We aren't intended to be alone in the healing journey, and that is also true of the administrative and financial side of Outpost. As we join together and link arms, we can go so much further than if we were a “one man show.” We want to go far and reach out to the broken, needy and confused hearts of the Twin Cities and beyond. We need you as a vital part of the Body of Christ to partner with us and to carry out the work of the Lord!

Linking Arms,

Brad Baar,
CFO

Groups Beginning This Fall

Living Waters is a 21-week closed group for *any* men and women seeking Christ's healing in their lives. Applications are now being accepted with a \$35 non-refundable application fee. Interviews will begin in September; programming will run October 2 through the end of March. Upon acceptance to the program, books and programming fee costs are \$400; financial assistance may be available. For an application, contact us or visit desertstream.org/apply-to-group/ and register for our program. Questions? Call Dan Puumala, 763-592-4700 X101.



Pure Desire is a recovery program for men with *any* type of sexual addiction. A minimum of six men is required to begin in September on Monday nights (we have one commitment so far). The group will meet throughout the school year. An intake interview and our *Foundations* class is required. Contact Dan Puumala as above.

PURE DESIRE

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM: LAURA HACKETT | CORY ASBURY

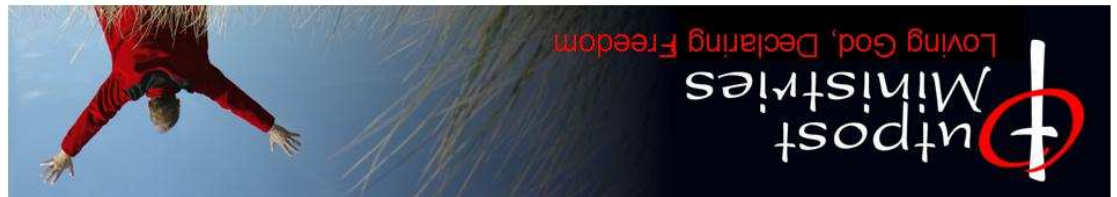
LAUNCH PARTY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th
Plymouth Covenant Church



JHOP Launch Party, Plymouth Covenant, 4300 Vicksburg Ln, Plymouth, MN 55422-0429

PO Box 22429 • Robbinsdale, MN 55422-0429



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