

OUTPOST



MINISTRIES

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

Constant Change, Unchangeable God

By Jonathan M., Used with Permission

As you already know, Outpost has been through several changes in the past few years. We have a fun new change for you: a new logo! Heraclitus said, “The only constant thing in life is change,” but, unlike this Greek philosopher, we Christians have a deeper understanding that God is the constant over and above any change.

There is a paradox in this, though. During the Christmas season, we remember that God was and is incarnational through Jesus Christ. The changeless God and His changeless Word took on flesh and experienced human growth. There is a mystery in how the infinite and always-the-same God sought to make Himself known and communicate His eternal message to us finite and ever-changing humans.

Changeless, yet Dynamic God

While God is changeless, He is not static—He’s dynamic! His Word and Truth never change, even as our culture and society do. What does change from time to time, era to era, culture to culture, person to person, is the packaging and style of communicating God’s Truth and Gospel. Again, God and His Word are incarnational—meaning somehow His Truth remains the same even as it is expressed differently in order to be understood in many diverse contexts.

Simplify and Clarify

All of that to say—we are still the same ministry with the same focus. With this logo change, we hope to communicate our message in a clearer way! A lot of my role here as the director of Outpost has been to simplify and clarify who we are and what we do. That was the main purpose behind the core values—Honor, Humility, Honesty, and Healing—as well as behind articulating our mission “to love God, declare freedom, and establish outposts of restoration for the sexually and relationally broken Body of Christ.”

Our new logo is, likewise, meant to help us communicate who we are more effectively. Part of the impetus for the change was a desire to make a more memorable logo. We want people to think about us and pray for us often! The basic design shows the letters “O” and “P” combined as “OP,” which is usually our abbreviation for “Outpost.” The black “O” is meant to represent the kingdom of darkness where sin keeps people trapped in an endless loop of despair. The red shape that turns the “O” into a “P” is meant to represent a house of refuge or “outpost of restoration” for those that have been called out of darkness. The Cross is the bridge that breaks us out of the endless cycle of sin and brokenness.

We also have a new slogan or way of articulating our mission: “Encounter. Equip. Establish.” or “Encounter God. Equip the Church. Establish outposts of restoration.” Each of these ties directly to part of our mission statement, articulating it in a succinct and memorable way. Now let’s talk about this slogan, and how it specifically relates to each part of the mission statement.

Encounter God

This ties to the phrase “love God” in our mission statement. We believe loving God ought to lead to encountering Him, and encountering Him to loving Him. Encountering God’s love is essential to starting and sustaining the healing journey, which is why we emphasize it and try to create spaces for our participants to encounter God.

Equip the Church

The longer form of this phrase could say, “equip the Church for a deeper evangelism” (if we wanted to add yet another “e”). This is another way of saying “declare freedom,” since we are seeking to equip churches, ministries,

and Christians to proclaim the Good News of God’s transformative power—that there is hope and freedom from sexual and relational brokenness!

Establish Outposts (of Restoration)

Another way to say this is “establishing transformative community.” The reason we are called Outpost is because an outpost is a waystation, the furthest reaches of a territory or kingdom. We are meant to be a place of refuge for those defecting from the kingdom of darkness as well as those who have wandered or are wandering away from the kingdom of light. An outpost is not someplace where you live forever. Our goal is to see participants learn and grow in this transformative community for a time, but ultimately be sent forth into what God has for them.

Speaking of being sent forth, there is another major change coming—I (Jonathan) will be stepping down from my position at Outpost in April. I am following God’s leading and call to an executive pastor position at a church in another state. This decision was not easy since I believe Outpost is such a gem and a treasure—there really is nothing else quite like it! And I’ve loved the ministry I’ve been able to do here. Still, I’m trusting God knows what He’s doing, both in my life as I walk in obedience, as well as for this ministry of His. I have always felt my role here was a transitional one, and it’s been such a blessing to serve alongside the staff and volunteers. They are amazing and are more than capable of ensuring Outpost continues serving the brokenhearted through this transition of leadership and beyond!

Now more than ever we need your continued prayer and support. We are actively looking for my replacement, so please pray that God will call the right person to help lead this ministry in its vital work. Thank you for your prayers!

Welcome Craig!

An Introduction from Craig, the New Elijah Company Coordinator!

“I started my journey with Outpost Ministries two years ago as a part of Elijah Company (EC) along with my wife, Debi. We have been blessed immensely by EC under Jean’s leadership. EC has really helped us with our healing process. Ministry has always been something of a priority for us through our local church—where we are currently involved with the prayer and altar ministry. I am excited to serve EC by being faithful to a ministry that is so important for bringing healing to families. In 2021, I completed the leadership training through Desert Stream and am currently blessed to be a Living Waters leader.”

Ministry Calendar

Dec 12: Outpost was featured in the Ministry Moment at Emmaus Lutheran.

Jan 26: Dan and Jonathan spoke at a class at the Free Lutheran Seminary.

Feb 6: Jonathan spoke to the Youth Ministry Leadership team at Grace Church Roseville.

Feb 7-9: Dan, Jonathan, and Scott manned Outpost’s booth at the Bethlehem Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Feb 17: Wendy speaks at the Marie Sandvik Center in a Chapel service.

April 2: Spring Fundraising Banquet

Outpost Ministries was originally formed to meet the needs of men and women following their convictions and seeking freedom from unwanted erotic same-sex attractions. Since then, our ministry has expanded to offer teaching, encouragement and support to individuals, families and churches impacted by all forms of sexual and relational brokenness. We are located in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota, but our ministry reaches throughout the Upper Midwest.

Outpost News is published 11 months a year and is sent free upon request. An annual donation of \$30 is appreciated to cover printing and postage costs. An electronic version is available through our website.

NEWS AND NOTES

Spring Banquet

You believe in the **transformational power of the Gospel**. You believe in the **power of encountering God**. Help share the truth with the broken by joining us for our spring fundraiser. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is freedom** to be **transformed from Glory to Glory**.

Our annual fundraising banquet will be in support of the ministry of Outpost. We are hoping to raise \$30,000 through this event.

Event is Saturday, April 2 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Minneapolis Marriott West. Attend in person or join us for a special livestream of the program. Come be inspired by testimonies from participants whose lives have been transformed by the power of Jesus. Additionally, be encouraged by our vision for this coming year. Want to invite people who would be interested in what God is doing at Outpost? Consider sponsoring a table of 8 in-person seats or 10 livestream logins.

- In-person cost: \$56 per person / \$448 to sponsor a table
 - Livestream cost: \$10 per household / \$100 for a group of 10 logins to share
- RSVP online by Tuesday, March 29 at our events page on outpostministries.org

Prayer Requests

Praise God for His provision through gifts and prayers of supporters like you.

Pray for new staff and leadership as they come on board.

Pray blessing over the staff that are leaving as God calls them to new ventures.

Pray for our finances, that we would fully trust God to move on our behalf according to His Will. Praise God for new opportunities for Him to do something amazing.

Financial Update

Dear Friends,

Thank you again for your **magnificent generosity** over this past year. Our giving in December was the most it has been for years and was \$8,000 more than what we expected!

However, over the course of 2021, we had a total of \$40K less in ministry contributions than we budgeted. While we saved about \$20k in expenses, our operating costs were \$20k in the red for 2021 as a whole.

Thankfully, we have enough in reserves to cover us for the immediate future. We have also made adjustments in our operations moving forward to help Outpost be a lean-mean-inner-healing-machine! All the staff have been and continue to be amazing, with hearts dedicated to this ministry work. Thank you for continuing to partner with us.

Jonathan
Outpost Director

FROM GLORY TO GLORY

SPRING FUNDRAISING BANQUET

APRIL 2, 2022



INSIDE Our Spring Banquet is April 2!



**OUTPOST
MINISTRIES**

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