



God's Great Love

By Wendy T., Used with Permission

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."*

Lamentations 3:22-24 (ESV)

This past week, my Bible study readings were all about the great love God has for each one of us. I cannot remember a time in my life when I did not know about God's love for me. Still, this set of readings and reflections caught me up short. Two Bible stories I have known for years came alive in a new way.

First came the story of Hosea and Gomer. Hosea was a prophet of God, and God instructed him to marry and remain faithful to a woman – Gomer – who would be repeatedly unfaithful to him. Hosea's marriage was a physical picture of God's faithfulness to and love for His people, Israel. In chapter 3, Hosea has to buy Gomer back from slavery. He does so willingly, redeeming her debt and restoring their relationship.

Second was the story of Israel being given the law. The writer focused on the verse where God says "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God" (Exodus 20:5, CSB). God is not jealous of Israel, but jealous for Israel. God knows that no other thing in all creation will provide what the people need. God's great love leads Him to remind them to worship only Yahweh, that they may be satisfied recipients of God's faithful love for generations.

As I reflected on these stories together, the eyes of my heart were opened anew. I was overcome with the sense of just how great God's love is for me. There are hardly words to describe the fullness of that moment. It was truly stunning.

God's love for me is so great that He will pay whatever it takes, willingly, to bring me back to Himself. I may pursue other gods by giving my time, talents, and treasure to fleeting things. Yet God continues in loving me. God goes so far as to

willingly pay off my debt that I might be redeemed and restored to relationship with Him. And this willingness comes directly from that great love. The God who created me and knows me best also knows that I will not be fully satisfied by any created thing, no matter how good that thing is. Only relationship with God is able to bring me an abundant life that Jesus spoke of in John 10:10.



This abundant life—alternatively rendered as "life to the full" in the NIV—is a life that is fully redeemed, healed, and restored. God is not in the business of doing things half-way. Rather, God is in the business of taking us from death to life. That is, God heals our hurts, repairs our brokenness, and restores us to wholeness.

In my life, God's restoration came once He revealed the great fear I had of being fully known by other people. It turned out that I truly believed that if people really knew

me, they wouldn't like me, and they certainly couldn't love me. I spent many years hiding my true thoughts and feelings from everyone around me. Sometimes I even hid them from myself. It was too painful to face my hurts, so I tucked them away under lock and key. To the outside world, I presented a false version of myself. This false version was always okay, had everything together, and could always find you the right answer for whatever question came up.

Of course, our pain never does stay completely hidden. Eventually my pain came out in the form of a major depressive episode. I could no longer avoid having my true thoughts and feelings known by others. Thankfully, God had given me a church, a Bible study group, and a house of prayer filled with people ready and willing to love me like God does in the midst of my pain. Through many hours of sitting with God and with God's people, I was able to really hear God's great love for me. And that love poured into all the hurt places, washing away the pain and putting the broken pieces back together again.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Through the healing process, I also learned the goodness of sharing my true thoughts and feelings with those who love me. While I still struggle in this area, the experience of being truly known and loved by God and God's people has brought me freedom to walk in a more abundant life than before. And I look forward to continuing to heal as I am rooted more and more in God's love.

This hope that I now have—that wholeness and abundance are God's intention for me—is the hope we offer to everyone who comes to Outpost. No matter the pain, no matter the struggle, no matter the brokenness, God's love for us gives us the hope of healing. Even life-dominating issues like unwanted same-sex erotic/romantic attraction and confusion about identity are within God's power to heal. Lamentations 3:22-24 provide one of my favorite summaries of God's love. God's love and mercies are new every morning. They never cease or come to an end. God is faithful to bring about what He has promised: life to the full. This is truly good news.

Maybe this is hard for you to believe right now. I know I spent many years not really believing that this good news was for me. Let me encourage you: this good news is for everyone. Jesus reminds us in John 3:16-17 of this fact:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him." (NASB)

The world is not everyone except you and me. The world is everyone including you and me. This is the truth of the Gospel. God loves each and every one of us. He created you, knitting you together intentionally, and is calling you to follow Him. May we each be willing to receive this great, unceasing love and allow God to heal our hurts, repair our brokenness, and restore our lives to the full.

Join us for more stories of God's great love at the spring banquet on Saturday, March 25. Come hear how God is moving in the lives of our participants. Be encouraged by their testimony and by an evening of fellowship, worship, and vision-casting. Registration is open through Tuesday, March 21 on our website. See page 3 of this newsletter for more information.

Wendy is the Operations and Events Manager for TCJHOP and Outpost Ministries, coordinating events, speaking engagements, and seminars. In her spare time, she enjoys playing games and doing puzzles with her family. Wendy has been on staff since 2015.

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.

Financial Update

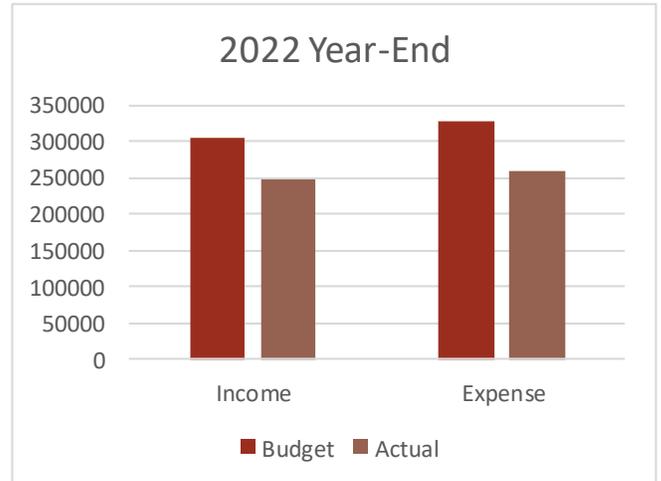
2022 Year-End Report

Income

Budget: 304,343 Actual: 246,964

Expense

Budget: 328,916 Actual: 260,606



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all those who provided financially for Outpost during the 2022 year. As you can see from the numbers above, our budget projections from about 16 months ago were off significantly, by about \$57K for income and \$68K for expenses. However, we ended 2022 overall in the black, thanks to the cash reserves we had on hand.

A word of explanation: these differences are due to a lot of unanticipated personnel changes. With the changes, our actual expense needs came down, but so did the number of financial supporters, reducing our overall income.

We still need your financial support to move successfully through this year. We are entering another year of several personnel changes. We trust that God will continue to provide for all our needs, according to the richness of His mercy.

Staffing Update: We wish Craig N. all the best as he heads on to new endeavors. We are grateful for his service to Elijah Company over the past year and look forward to seeing how God uses him in this new season.

NEWS AND NOTES

Spring Banquet—Register Now!

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**.

Join us **Saturday, March 25, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm** at the Minneapolis Marriott West. Come be inspired by joyful worship and testimonies from participants whose lives have been transformed by the power of Jesus. Additionally, be encouraged by our vision for this coming year. We are hoping to raise \$50,000 this year to support the ongoing ministry at Outpost.

Want to invite people who would be interested in what God is doing at Outpost? Consider sponsoring a table. We look forward to seeing many new faces this year!

Tickets: \$55 per person / \$400 to sponsor a table of 8

Registration closes soon, so act now to secure your seat!

RSVP online by Tuesday, March 21, at our events page on outpostministries.org

Questions? Email events@tcjhopp.org or call the office at 763-592-4700.

FROM GLORY TO GLORY

SPRING FUNDRAISING BANQUET

MARCH 25, 2023



Prayer Requests

Praise God for the men and women who have served Outpost over the years.

Pray as we seek people to serve as program coordinators. Pray for wisdom for Dan and that God would lead us to the right people.

Pray as we prepare for the Spring Fundraising Banquet. We are excited to spend time praising God and listening to testimonies of transformation of identity.

Pray for new people to connect with us through the Banquet, that more people would see how God is using Outpost for His glory. Pray also as people consider donating to God's work through Outpost.

Ministry Calendar

Feb 20: Living Waters wrapped up for the year with a celebration meal.

Feb 24-26: Joshua Fellowship held their Winter Retreat at Koronis Ministries.

Mar 1: Wendy and Matt spoke at Friendship Church Shakopee's 6th-12th grade groups, sharing testimonies and doing Q&A with the students.

We encourage all our supporters to consider attending this year's Restored Hope Network annual conference

ONLINE
HOPE2023
FRIDAY & SATURDAY JUNE 9 & 10
STRUGGLERS • LOVED ONES • COUNSELORS
FAMILY MEMBERS • PASTORS • LAYPEOPLE
THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR YOU!
Register online at RestoredHopeNetwork.org/HopeConf **COST: \$100**

Join us for two days filled with powerful biblical teaching and inspiring life stories of former LGBTQ identified individuals transformed by the love of the Living God. Your registration fee includes access to the livestream keynote sessions, in addition to the live and recorded workshop sessions. Live sessions will be available from 10am - 4pm CDT on the conference days, and recordings will be available at your leisure. Hope to see you there!

Restored Hope Network is the national network of ministries like Outpost. They gather, either online or in person, once a year for teaching, encouragement, and fellowship. It's a great way to connect with other believers proclaiming God's healing power.

INSIDE

Remember to register for the Banquet!



**OUTPOST
MINISTRIES**

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