

Connecting to the Gospel

But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

Acts 20:24 (CSB)

Last week in Bible Study, our group looked closely at this statement from Paul of how he saw the “why” of his life. Here, Paul clearly states that his overall motivation was to testify to the gospel. It seems like a very broad statement, and yet the broadness makes this motivation all the more powerful. No matter what situation Paul encountered, no matter how comfortable or painful, his way forward was always clear: share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Whether or not we identify it, each one of us lives life with a core motivation. Perhaps that motivation for you is avoiding pain, or feeling loved, or achieving control over your circumstances. For many years, my primary motivation was to never be seen making mistakes or not knowing an answer. On the outside, my life looked great. But on the inside, I was always afraid of being found out and known as a fraud.

Thankfully, when we claim Jesus as Savior and Lord, we are redeemed completely, including our motivations. The inward focus of our old thinking keeps us isolated and disconnected. In our new life, however, we find a “why” that looks outward, encouraging us to bring ourselves and our stories out into the world. I’ve known for many years that God designed me as a connector. I am made to connect people to the things they need, whether that is relationships, information, or resources. The more I walk in the newness of my redeemed identity, the more I get to do that in the service of the gospel.



Here at Outpost, I have the privilege of connecting people to hope and healing for their relational and sexual brokenness. Even though my job title has changed multiple times since coming on staff, I’ve consistently been able to participate in making these connections. I love to see and hear people’s reactions when a connection is made and they take the first step to encountering God in this area of their lives.

The first way I make connections is through our seminars and speaking engagements. When someone calls looking for teaching and training for their church or ministry, they talk to me. I get to help them figure out what their group needs, and how we can best meet that need.

Sometimes, I direct people to one of our already created seminars. Our Distinctions seminar is a great overview to help people understand and respond to issues around LGBTQ+ identities and questions. Our Foundations class, taught every month in-house, gives an introduction to how we understand our created being and what the healing journey entails. I love to help groups tailor the content for their particular audience, whether young adults, leadership teams, or multi-generational congregations.

In some cases, the best option is for two or three of our staff members and volunteer leaders to visit and share testimonies of transformation through Jesus. After sharing, we hold an extended Q&A time with the group we’re visiting. Our stories of God’s work are powerful. The stories encourage and teach and remind the listeners that no one needs to walk the path of life alone.

The second way I make connections is by keeping our recommended resources list updated. While we primarily use the list when we visit churches or attend conferences, the list is also available on our website. At the top of our “Resources” page, you will find a link to a pdf file of book titles and video resources. The list is organized by topic and includes titles and videos for all age groups, including young readers and their parents. We love to help people find more ways to learn and be encouraged by the authors and video hosts.

The third way God is using me to make connections is through planning our special events. Whether planning a fundraiser or a worship service, my goal is always to bring people together to encounter the love and truth of the living God. It is through these types of encounters that hearts are softened and lives are changed.

What a joy it is to have traded my old motivation for a new mission. Whatever my job tasks, and wherever God leads me to serve, my mission remains: to connect people to what they need most. That is, to connect people to the living God, that they, too, may experience hope and healing in Jesus’s name. Won’t you join me in sharing the good news with others? I pray you find (or are reminded of) your new motivation today. And may you be empowered by God to walk out your mission in love and truth.

Wendy

For more information on seminars or other training, call the office and ask for Wendy. Also, be sure to join us for our next special event, Called Out of Darkness, at 7:00 pm on June 22 at Cornerstone Church Crystal. More information on all these items is also on the website, www.outpostministries.org.

Stepping into True Strength



Are you asking questions like these: Why do I struggle? Why can't I just get over depression, anxiety, fear, porn, lust, and other life-dominating behaviors? What does it mean to “be a man”?

Join us for a summer of learning how to **strive** for more as you are equipped to wage war against passivity and find wholeness in your identity as a man of God. This course is designed for men ages 18-35.

Sessions are Tuesdays May 30 - August 15 from 6:00 pm - 9:15 pm. Cost is \$325. Registration ends May 19 so we can plan and assemble materials. To register or ask questions, email strivesummercourse@gmail.com



OUTPOST MINISTRIES

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If you'd like to help us get the word out to your church about these events, call the office or email outpostinfo@outpostministries.org with your name and the name of your church. We'd love to supply you with posters and other publicity materials to distribute.

Calendar of Events

- **Apr 27-29:** Outpost had a booth at the Minnesota Assemblies of God District Council & EQUIP Conference.

Upcoming Events

- **Late May-Early August:** Encountering Jesus Discipleship Intensive
- **Jun-Aug:** Summer STRIVE Course
- **Jun 9-10:** Restored Hope Network's HOPE 2023 Conference. Visit www.restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf for more info and to register.
- **Jun 22:** Called Out of Darkness at Cornerstone Church Crystal (see ad above)
- **Sept 9-16:** Fall Auction (online Sept 9-16, in person Sept 16)

Prayer Requests

Praise God for many conversations at the MN AG District Council & EQUIP Conference. It was wonderful to connect with so many.

Praise God for two new staff members: Dennis, Living Waters Coordinator; and Sean, Joshua Fellowship Coordinator.

Pray for new connections and ministry opportunities from the conversations we had at the AG District /EQUIP Conference, for new participants and additional speaking engagements.

Pray that God continues to minister to Outpost's support groups and participants as they wrap up the spring semester.

Continue to pray for Outpost leaders as they plan for summer ministry, for God's guidance and wisdom in their preparation.

Continue to pray for Dan and the Board as they seek to fill our other open ministry and leadership positions.

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