

Letters From Outpost



JULY 2024

Prayers & Praises

- **Praise God** for the opportunity to attend the HOPE conference. It was an amazing time of encouragement and connection with other ministry leaders, as well as a great chance to minister through our workshops.
- **Praise God** for a wonderful Called Out of Darkness event. As usual, it was amazing to hear the testimonies of God's transforming grace.
- **Pray** for Dennis this month as he travels to Kansas City for Living Waters leader training, that he would be equipped and encouraged in his ministry roles.
- **Pray** that God would continue to direct Outpost as we press into new ministry opportunities.
- **Pray** for the men attending Joshua Fellowship and CalebSpirit this summer as they pursue Jesus in fellowship and discipleship.

Events Calendar

- **Jun 3:** Joshua Fellowship began its Summer Intensive.
- **Jun 19-23:** Wendy and Scott were able to travel to California for RHN's HOPE 2024 conference. Both taught workshops during the conference.
- **Jun 21-23:** Dennis attended a Janet Boynes conference in Lake Elmo and had a booth.
- **Jun 27:** Outpost held its 20th annual Called Out of Darkness event.

Summer Hours

Due to the federal holiday and staff respite, the Outpost office will be closed:

Tuesday, July 2—Sunday, July 5

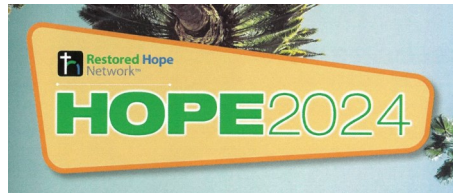
Regular office hours will resume July 8.

Support groups will continue their regular schedules during this time.

Thank you for your understanding as we enjoy this mid-year Sabbath to rest, reset, and recharge for the remainder of 2024.

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The Witness of Courage: RHN Reflections



A couple weeks ago, I had the privilege to attend my first in-person HOPE Conference. The HOPE conference, which is held by Restored Hope Network (RHN), is a wonderful time of worship, testimonies, and receiving from the Lord. As one of the attendees put it, it is quite the experience

to be somewhere where everyone understands each other and is able to go deep with one another.

One of the most impactful experiences for me, though, was the pre-conference RHN member's day. We had the opportunity to come together as members of the network for business, sharing, and prayer. What really stuck out to me was when one of the pastoral affiliates got to speak. His main message was affirming the courage of what ministries like Outpost do. He reminded us "that kind of courage is contagious."

The courage to be compassionate without compromising is a key issue when it comes to Christians and our relationships with those who identify as LGBTQ+. It takes a lot of courage, and great security in God, to engage with people lovingly in the truth of God and His Word. Rather than passively doing what is the most comfortable or "safe," we choose to speak life into the lives of men and women walking out of sexual and relational brokenness.

It also takes courage to meet people who are seeking God after having walked a life contrary to His will. One of the keynote speakers had a very powerful, and convicting, word for us: "If we are praying for those who identify as LGBTQ+ to come to Jesus, are we ready for those walking away from that identity to come in our church doors?" We may pray that many who identify as LGBTQ+ repent and come into right relationship with God through accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But are we ready for someone seeking Jesus who appears non-conforming, or who appears or acts a bit different from a "typical" man or woman, to come in our church? Do we have a compassionate but clear bathroom policy? Are we willing and ready to have conversations with our kids or grandkids who ask about someone's appearance? Ultimately, are we willing—by the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit—to embrace discipling those who have walked a different path than us? And are we willing to embrace the messiness of discipleship, sacrificing our own comforts for the sake of seeing Christ grow in others?

It is my prayer that the Church grows in bold humility, excelling in compassion without compromise. It is my prayer that the Church steps out of passivity into joyful obedience to its Savior. The question is, how is God calling you into deeper faith and action rooted in the Gospel? What is your next step to follow God at any cost, knowing that it is only in the Cross that you are free? May we come together as the Body of Christ and walk as the redeemed whom God uses to share His truth of His immense love and sacrifice.

Scott

RHN is the national network of ministries like Outpost. We gather once a year for teaching, encouragement, and fellowship. Next year, the conference will be held online in the early part of June.



20 years of Called Out of Darkness

A precious group of friends and supporters gathered at the end of June to help us celebrate the 20th annual Called Out service. Testimonies of God's great love, mercy, and power to transform lives were shared, highlighting how God brought them out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

We heard the story of Jeremy, who found salvation through Jesus and healing for the deep hurts of his soul in recent years. We heard anew from Jason, who shared at our very first Called Out, about how God has been continuing to work and move in his life. And we heard from a new friend from Agape First Ministries, Gracie, about God's faithfulness to bring her back to the truths she knew as a young girl.

In addition to these encouraging stories, we also spent extended time singing our praises together, through songs old and new. We had the privilege of being led by the same team from last year, who debuted a new song called "Still Power in the Blood," which reminded us of our freedom in Christ and the renewal we experience daily through ongoing forgiveness.

Thank you to all who joined us for the service, and so many who stayed for a sweet time of fellowship afterwards. We look forward to hearing even more stories in 2025!



OUTPOST MINISTRIES

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Inside: Restored Hope Network Conference Recap



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Thank you and God bless!

Fall Auction Help

We're getting ready for our fall auction and can use your help. We need some key items to help us build some exciting baskets for everyone to bid on. Here's what we are looking to gather by the middle of August:

- \$35 gift cards to Minnesota State Parks, Red Robin, Barnes & Noble, Mad Hatter Tea Room, and AMC or Emagine movie theaters
- \$25 gift cards to Bill's Imported Foods, Cost Plus World Market, area grocery stores, and fast-casual restaurants like Chipotle, Qdoba, Panera, Noodles & Company, and so on
- \$15 gift cards to fast food restaurants like Chick-fil-A, Wendy's, Culver's, Jimmy Johns, and the like plus \$10 gift cards to Sencha, Caribou, and other local coffee shops
- 1,000—10,000 Marriott Bonvoy reward points that can be transferred to the TCJHOP account to help us purchase other gift cards

If you are able to help, please pick up one or more items from the list and contact us to make arrangements for drop-off at the office. Alternatively, you can mail them in to us. Drop us a quick note at outpostinfo@outpostministries.org or call the office at 763-592-4700 and leave a message with us so we can be watching the mail. Thank you so much for your support!

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