

Letters From Outpost



JANUARY 2025

Prayers & Praises

- **Praise God** for providing new and updated technology solutions that help us be effective in ministry.
- **Praise God** for all He provided through our supporters prayers and financial gifts during 2024.
- **Praise God** for another year to share His love and truth with people.
- **Pray** for our in-house support groups and discipleship meetings as they restart after the holiday break. Pray that participants would hear God's voice clearly as they continue to walk out their healing journeys.
- **Pray** for all our staff as they undertake new tasks and learn new office processes, that they would pick up information quickly and be able to settle into the new tasks well.
- **Pray** for renewal of the ministry's relationships with area churches, that God would lead us into new partnerships for Kingdom impact.

Events Calendar

- **Dec 8:** Scott taught during the Sunday education hour at Antioch Community Church on "Theology of the Body & The Incarnation."
- **Dec 16:** Joshua Fellowship held a Christmas party, baking cookies to give away to friends and family.
- **Dec 20 – 30:** Staff took time off to celebrate the holidays.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for help **assembling and labeling Banquet invitations**. Come help us for an hour or two at the end of January and get a behind-the-scenes look at how we accomplish such a big project.

We'll be working on the task starting Tuesday, January 28. Come anytime between 10am and 3pm to help out on Tuesday or Wednesday, or from 1pm – 4pm on Thursday.

For more information and to sign up visit www.outpostministries.org/serve

Not That Different

Dear friends,

When I first joined Outpost at the start of 2019, I was broken and despairing. I had already resigned myself to a life of being crushed by my unwanted same-sex romantic/erotic attractions. I felt like my struggle was super unique and that no one could really understand what I was going through. I had well-meaning friends, mentors, and family who loved me a lot, but they really didn't know how to support me in my struggles with same-sex attraction. They wanted to see me whole, but a distinct lack of personal experience made it hard for them to understand what I was experiencing and how I was hurting. I thought I would live my life being completely different from my friends who didn't struggle the way I did, doomed to loneliness. How wrong I was!

Joshua Fellowship (JF) was a space of tremendous freedom and openness. One of the things that struck me when I began attending meetings was the solidarity. Being in an environment where people actually "got it" was so helpful. Having leaders who were overcoming same-sex attraction meant I had people who could actually relate to my experience. I was more truly known in community. The leaders could also call out things in me that I had never seen before—such as emotional dependency—because they had struggled with those things before. JF was a tremendously healing environment for me.



As I kept participating, I began to take to heart the phrase "not that different." This phrase is important to me—and to the ministry of Outpost. It turns out that I am not that different from you, and you are not that different from me. Let me explain.

Prior to Outpost, I had read a few books from "gay Christians." These were people who—despite being followers of Jesus who believed in God's design for marriage and sex—saw their same-sex attraction as innate to their identity. Same-sex attraction, they said, felt like a huge cross they would have to bear for their entire life, a cross heavier than those carried by people who didn't struggle that way. I could relate with those feelings. At JF, however, the leaders talked about how my struggles were really not that special. My particular form of sexual and relational brokenness was only different from my friends' forms of brokenness on the surface. I began to see that I am a man among men seeking to overcome the same deep-down struggles and hurts as other men have. I actually belong to the world of men and get to be a good gift as a man to the men and women in my life, even as I continue to grow. I no longer see my overcoming same-sex attraction as some unique—and extra crushing—cross to bear, but simply a slightly different surface form of how we are all sexually and relationally broken. This has brought a lot of freedom and relief. I am not that different from you.

As I've continued my journey of transformation, I can also now confidently say that you are not that different from me. One thing I have noticed from conversations with people at our Distinctions seminars is that a lot of Christians are skittish and scared when it comes to talking about LGBTQ+ issues. People feel very uncertain of how to have conversations with those who identify as LGBTQ+ or with Christians who are struggling in their sexuality or identity. This uncertainty comes, in part, from our culture building sexuality and identity into things they are not. The truth is, even if you have never struggled with same-sex attractions or your identity as a man or woman, you still have a ton in common with people who have struggled or who have embraced an LGBTQ+ identity. Why? Because you bear God's image just as much as they do. Furthermore, all of us are sexually and relationally broken. The particularities of your story don't detract from how much you have in common with people who have different stories from you. The Holy Spirit resides in us Christians, and we have the Word of God and safe Christian community to help navigate difficult relationships or conversations. Do you see? You are not that different from me.

Part of Outpost's mission is to be one piece of people's safe Christian community. We are humbled to be able to come alongside individuals and churches to point them to God and equip them in navigating hard conversations. Regardless of your story, God wants you to be humbly emboldened to connect with those who need Jesus—whether they are Christians or not. God wants you to preach and demonstrate the Gospel through compassion without compromise. By God's grace, your continued discipleship to Jesus can be a witness to a world in need of a Savior. All of this, along with your faithful prayers and financial partnership, is how you can participate in the ministry of Outpost. May God Himself lead you in your next step towards receiving His loving-kindness. And may God strengthen you to enter your relationships and our culture with bold humility and a desire to see lives transformed by the Gospel. Amen.

Scott

Scott has been on staff with Outpost since 2020. He ministers through one-on-one discipleship meetings, writing, teaching, and speaking.



OUTPOST MINISTRIES

PO BOX 22429 • ROBBINSDALE, MN 55422-0429

Inside:
Not That
Different

Save the Date!

FROM GLORY TO GLORY

SPRING FUNDRAISING BANQUET

APRIL 5, 2025



Let's stay connected!

Return the slip below with your gift and/or a note to our staff. You can also use it to update us about any changes to your address, email, or phone number.

If you would prefer, follow this link to donate using our secure online form:



Thank you and God bless!

The Banquet is Coming!

Planning is underway for the 2025 Spring Banquet, and we can once again use your help to make it a success. We're planning a fantastic night of fellowship, worship, testimonies of God's work this past year, and vision-casting for the future. All we need now are the people to come share the evening with us. That's where you come in.

Would you take a moment and consider who you could invite into the community of Outpost-TCJHOP supporters? And could you also plan to pay for their meal? Single tickets will again be \$55, and a table of 8 is \$400 (a discount of \$5/person). New this year: early-bird discounts for those who register before March 1. Watch for more information in the February newsletter!

The banquet is being held Saturday, April 5, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Minneapolis Marriott West. We are hoping to raise \$30,000 toward continuing to bring hope and healing to those who seek our help. Registration opens online February 15 at www.outpostministries.org/register

We will also need plenty of volunteers to help us with various tasks starting already in January. Check out the details at www.outpostministries.org/serve and consider how you could help.

If you have questions about the banquet or the volunteering opportunities, please call the office at 763-592-4700 or email events@tcjhops.org.

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To support the ministry of _____ (List staff name or other designation)

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I authorize Outpost to charge my credit card for the above amount. Should I choose to change or cancel this transaction, I will contact the Donor Relations Manager within 24 hours at 763-210-2636 or donations@tcjhops.org.

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Staff will shred the bottom portion of the form to protect your privacy.