



October 2016

Personal Message from Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Our mission seeks to relationally extend God's grace to all adults, helping them to explore and mature in their faith. Why? Because God has called us. He has shown us how ripe the harvest is among adults. We know many adults who have left the familiar traditional church, lost their way in their faith, are listening for the first time, or are longing to lead their friends towards true faith. We believe the number of adults who have never heard of God's grace is growing rapidly.

I hope you noticed the new icon for our ministry with adults at the top of this letter. Do you know what this is and why we might have chosen this image? I will give you a clue – What is the story line of the book of Jonah? If you are thinking that it's just about a big fish or even a whale, you may misunderstand our choice of this image. Our image and the book of Jonah are not about a great big fish but about a Great Big God! We anticipated the opportunity to explain it.

Gospel Message

The theme of the book of Jonah is grace and the sovereignty of God. Here is a simple story line: The Lord is concerned about all of the men and women in the great city of Nineveh. He sends word to His prophet. His prophet rebels and gets on a ship going in the opposite direction. The people of Nineveh were wicked and hated enemies of God's people. Jonah later explained why he fled: "I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster." Jonah didn't want to be used by God to extend

God's grace to the people of Nineveh. The Lord sends a storm after him, and the lives of the sailors on the ship are threatened. Jonah tells them the storm is because of his rebellion and instructs them to throw him overboard to calm the storm. The Lord sends a great fish to save His prophet; and the fish vomits him upon the shores of Nineveh. The great city of Nineveh repents. Why all this drama? There are three primary reasons and we derive our ministry from these three themes.

First, the teaching of Jonah pierces the hearts and consciences of believing adults because it is a story of a man (a believer) who was on the run from God. He has little understanding of the grace of God in his own life. Jonah hated the Ninevites. He thought of them as his enemies. Why is this important? I have met Jonah! I've met him in my church, my ministry, my seminary, my small groups, and my conversations with adults. You might be surprised by the excuses believing adults give for not speaking about the hope that is within them. Jonah learns in his flight from God that He is a God of grace and He is sovereign. He saw God's heart for his enemies – then who can be outside God's grace? The Lord wants to use His people (namely believing adults) as instruments of grace in the lives of others. He desires all adults to see all of life from the Vantage Point of His grace!

Second, the book of Jonah displays in living color

God's love for all men and women everywhere and how He will pursue them with His love to the ends of the earth. In the sovereign purposes of God there was revival in Nineveh. We stand in need of such a revival and awakening today. Nothing short of this would seem to leave any hope that the multitudes of men and women outside of churches will ever hear and respond to the grace of God.

Third, in the Gospels Jesus replied to the demands of the religious leaders for a sign, with these words: "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." Jesus explained that as Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and nights, so the Son of Man would be in the heart of the earth for the same time. He spoke about His crucifixion, substitutionary death, and resurrection.

Vantage Point is symbolized by the great fish in the story of Jonah, as we understand God's call on us to be an instrument of His grace to reach adults and help them to see God's heart for the great harvest of adults. Our mission has chosen the sign of Jonah to remind us of God's call on His people, His heart for the lost, and His prophet greater than Jonah – Jesus!

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

The Adult Life Ministry



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Mission Update

Adult Life is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry relying on private support – and your generosity. Your gifts are investments in the biblical counseling, discipleship, and evangelism of people who may have little hope, and need more faith. Please consider joining us now with a monthly investment. Adult Life is now doing business as Vantage Point Ministries – Enjoying Life from the Vantage Point of God’s Grace. Use the enclosed coupon and envelope and make checks payable to “Vantage Point” or “Adult Life.”

Thank you! We are blessed by your friendship and support.

Eric Johnson, M.Div.



Celebration!!

We enjoyed a great evening at Brad and Carolyn Dunham’s with friends and investors in our ministry! We hope you too can join us next year. Thank you.

Prayer for local mission with adults...

Eric and Jenny Johnson

Extending God’s grace to all adults and helping them explore and mature in faith

Men and Women meeting in small groups will grow in grace

Our ministry to the prisoners on Monday morning at Northampton County Prison

Thankful for your partnership in this important ministry with adults

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P.S. Special thanks to Kari Keyock at Imagevolution for our icon!

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