



**Jenny and Eric**

## **Personal Message from Eric Johnson**

We all want to live at peace, don't we? Recently, I asked our Thursday night group of men, "What does the Bible mean when it says believers are to be peacemakers?" I got a variety of responses: peace with yourself, absence of conflict, getting along with your neighbors, no problems, etc. A Biblical picture of peace requires a right relationship first with God and then with people. Peace is living together as a community in total harmony with Him. I also asked the men, "What hinders us from this kind of peace?" They acknowledged that their own self-seeking comfort, inadequacies, cowardice, and inexperience kept them from seeking peace. At the close of the evening I asked, "Do you have anyone with whom you need to seek peace?" Everyone responded affirmatively and, as they prayed for them, discretely mentioned only the initials of their "peacemakees."

***Our mission seeks to extend His grace to all adults and help them explore and mature in their faith.***

# Vantage Point

You were made for Him – known and loved!

**February 2015**

## **This Month's Gospel Message**

The apostle Paul gave us a Biblical view of a peacemaker: "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

It is through Jesus' death and resurrection that the foundation by which we may obtain peace has been accomplished. God has made the way of peace for us by means of radical and costly actions, not merely through words. God's goal in salvation, however, is not confined to just making peace between individuals and Himself. What He has done for us is intended to affect radically the way we act toward one another.

Someone asked me that Thursday night, "How do we do peacemaking?" They were concerned with how it might be taken if they were to approach someone with whom they were in conflict. It was a great question. We began to make a list that night of a variety of steps every adult might consider:

- Pray individually.
- Convene a group of individuals committed to pray for peace.
- Talk regularly about peacemaking.
- Highlight Jesus' peace for us.
- Take responsibility to make the first move.
- Confess our sins.
- Never settle for less than His peace.
- Encourage others to be peacemakers.
- Roll up our sleeves and get involved.

Can you imagine a couple, a church, a campus, a corporation, a community, or a country that strives for such peace? We would have been lost forever if Jesus had waited for us to make the first move.

Sincerely,

*Eric*

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

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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.*

## **Thursday Study Group**



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## **Prayer for local mission with adults...**

**Eric and Jenny Johnson**

**Adults would grow in their desire to be peacemakers**

**Men and Women meeting in small groups will abound in love**

**Counseling Clients will experience His power, love, and resurrection**

**Eric’s doctorate work on evangelism in the church**

**Thankful for your partnership in this important ministry with adults**

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