



VANTAGE POINT

Grace Changes Everything – August 2018

Message from Jenny and Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Our mission relationally engages all adults with God's grace. Our core values form the acronym BREAD and stand for Biblical, Relational, Evangelism, Adult Life, and Discipleship. These values inform everything we do. They are expressed through a variety of venues ranging from one-on-one conversations, counseling, relationship groups, weekend retreats, to life's daily activities. This letter will highlight one of our core values: Relational.

One pastor wrote: "Everyone has hit the wall called, 'Why bother with other people?'" We all have reached the point in a particular relationship where in essence we wonder if they are really worth it. I have counseled many wives who have decided to no longer open up emotionally to their husbands. I know parents who have shared that their teenager comes home from school, goes immediately to his room, closes the door, and needs to be persuaded to join the family even for meals. I hear adults explain how church attendance has become a formality with little or no attempt to engage in the lives of others, and no apparent concern if you leave. Neighbors can live next door to each other for years, but few of them know anything significant about the other. Believers want to help their peers come to faith, but struggle to know how and experience little positive fruit. I believe the pain in each of these

situations has gotten to be so great that many adults no longer want to put up with the grief and struggle. The lie we oftentimes accept is that we can change our relationships without needing to change ourselves.

Prolific English Professor C. S. Lewis wrote, "Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

The first chapter of the Bible teaches: "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....' So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.... Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him.'" This is fundamental to our understanding of humanity.

The creation account states that God created the heavens and the earth followed by a refrain like "God said...and it was so." However, in creating humanity, God refers to Himself in the plural saying, "Let Us." Scholars believe this identifies God as Father, Son, and Spirit.

God is a Community. He is a Relational God. He is in relationship with Himself. So, when God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him," He is not revealing a design flaw. Why is the first human lonely? Amazingly, it is because we are made in the image of God as an Us! God is a Community. He made us in the image of a community. He made us for a community. Our true self is a me and an us. We were made for relationships.

Therefore, personal relationships provide the meaning of life, the essence of humanity, and the reason we were created. Personal relationships are not a means to an end; rather they "are" the end. We need personal relationships because we were built in the image of God. Relationships are important because they are important to God. We need relationships! Our next letters will describe the kinds of relationships we need, and how we get them.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. We are very grateful for your relationship with us and in sending us to be with other adults.

Sincerely,

Eric

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

Grace Opportunities:

- Recommend us to a friend
- Join one of our 16 groups
- Help us start another group
- Financially invest with us
- Pray for us



August 2018

Ministry 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 envelope and make checks payable to "Vantage Point" or "Adult Life." Thank you!

Eric Johnson, M.Div.

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 relationship groups will grow in grace.

Our ministry to the prisoners at Northampton County Prison. Thankful for your partnership in this important ministry with adults.

New groups to begin.

Contact

Facebook – AdultLifeInc and
www.adultlifeinc.org
Adult Life, Inc. – 4416
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One Man's Faith

Here is a personal testimony by one man who attends one of our groups:

Grace, Grace, and More Grace!

“When I started reading the Bible and came across teaching on Christian conduct, it was a little overwhelming. I believed that this was the way that I had to be and failed every time. I became a little discouraged and frustrated. I couldn't understand why I failed, I then questioned my salvation.

Years later while attending one of Eric's groups, my life changed. Through his teaching of the Bible, he opened my mind to a different perspective. He helped me how to read and digest the Word of God. I learned that the Bible is not showing me how I should act and speak, but for me to realize I can not behave in this manner without Jesus. The more I look into the Bible, the more I know my need for Jesus. I can not act or speak in my own power faithfully, rather it's only by God's power increasing in me and myself decreasing that my behavior and conduct begin

to emulate Christ who lives within me. I am thankful to God for Eric's insight and instruction for removing a big weight off my shoulders. Now I have a new perspective, relief, and confidence in my Christian life, and I don't question my salvation any longer.”

~ **Anonymous**

You are Invited!

Vantage Point's Celebration Event

Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 6:30-8p.m.

Brad and Carolyn Dunham's

5218 West Hopewell, Center Valley, 18034

Please join our Board of Directors, investors, and friends to hear about this exciting ministry. Karen Hunter Catering will provide hors d'oeuvres, and beverages, music by Serene Green, and a short presentation of our ministry. You may bring a guest.

Please call Eric Johnson at 484-554-9129

The Adult Life Ministry