



Vantage Point

You were made for Him – fully known and truly loved!

April 2015

Personal Message from Eric Johnson

Thank you for your investment in Jenny and me. Here are a few things that are happening:

- 100 adults meeting weekly
- 10 groups for maturing in biblical faith
- Dozens of contacts with adults for outreach, discipleship, or counseling

For believing adults the front lines for evangelism will be first the family and then the workplace. Here's a recent example: I have been meeting with a friend for the past couple of years. He is a successful businessman and an investor in our ministry. Over a year ago he introduced me to one of his managers with whom he had often shared his faith. I began meeting with his employee every other week over lunch the past year. We always speak about our lives and faith. Recently this employee asked if I would speak with a female employee's boyfriend who had had a serious accident that left him paralyzed and struggling with depression. I agreed. I started doing "contact work." Meeting with this unbelieving paralyzed man on a weekly basis, I quickly began to explore faith with him. He began to respond. The female employee was so encouraged by the change in her boyfriend that she asked if she could join us. She has joined us and enjoys hearing for perhaps the first time about Jesus.

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

This Month's Gospel Message

Jesus is more willing to extend His grace than mankind can imagine. On one occasion, Jesus walked by a pool called Bethesda in Jerusalem. Multitudes of invalids – blind, lame, and paralyzed – lay under five roofed colonnades.

"One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, He said to him, 'Do you want to be healed?' The sick man answered Him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.' Jesus said to him, 'Get up, take up your bed, and walk.' And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.... Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.'"

Jesus extended healing grace to this paralyzed man who had no one to help him. He was not able to help himself. He was disabled, alone, and without friends to help him, and yet Jesus reached out to him. He was not deserving or even asking. But though he didn't even know yet who Jesus was, this man was healed. At

the temple, religious leaders reviled the man because he was not adhering to their beliefs and traditions. He was outside their religious box that prescribed how things were to be done.

This man provides a paradigm for all humanity:

- We are all helpless and hopeless apart from the grace available to us only in Jesus.
- We are all paralyzed by sin.
- We, too, look to other "pools" – work, money, family, relationships, sex, sports, success, and church – to heal us.
- We are all stuck in "ruts," perhaps not for thirty-eight years, but maybe for thirty-eight days.
- Jesus revealed the grace that is available to everyone. It is a gift.
- Grace was extended before any change was expected.
- Jesus, however, spoke to the man's greatest need when He told him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you."
- God's grace changes us so we are no longer enslaved to sin, so we don't even want to sin, and so we can begin to overcome it.

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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.

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 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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