



## 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? Our mission seeks to reach adults who are beyond the traditional influences of the church, while we are still embracing it. We have now been asked by several churches to help in areas of congregational care, peacemaking, evangelism, ministry development, small groups, consulting, and personal and grief counseling. I also meet every other week with a group of pastors for study and encouragement.

We live in a time of crisis for the church. Adults are leaving churches at an alarming rate and for many reasons. One author in 2010 wrote: "Today, fewer than 20 percent of Americans have a positive view of church. Every week, forty-three thousand Americans are leaving the church for good. One hundred years ago, there were twenty-eight churches for every ten thousand Americans, and today there are only eleven churches per ten thousand." We believe the best way to reach those outside the church is to go to them! We have gotten to know a lot of people in a variety of ways, ranging from meeting in small

groups to one-on-one encounters. And we regularly meet with a number of those adults who have left the church.

## This Month's Gospel Message

In two of our thirteen weekly small groups we have been discussing the teaching in the book of James, written by the half-brother of Jesus. James wrote, "My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." God's Word is truth. The Bible teaches what we are to believe about God and our relation to Him, and it also reveals His will. James understood that believers could wander from the truth.

I remember years ago when Jenny and I lost sight of our daughter when she wandered away at the Lehigh Little League baseball field. Jenny searched frantically for her, enlisting the help of many bystanders. I had already left the park, but returned as soon as Jenny called. It was every parent's nightmare; but fortunately she had not strayed very far. As I was driving up to the parking lot, I spotted our daughter climbing down a huge, dense blue spruce tree.

# Vantage Point

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

April 2016

The Bible is packed with stories of those who had wandered from the truth with varied results, as early as Adam and Eve, Saul, David, Jonah, Peter and all the disciples, Ananias and Sapphira, and Demas to name just a few. The author of Hebrews explains that when a person neglects to meet together, as is the habit of some, they have already moved past the first signs of wandering from the truth.

What are we to do with those who have wandered from the truth? Jesus taught us in His dealings with Peter:

- He prayed for him.
- He spent time with him.
- He was gentle; but willing to confront.
- He was there when Peter was restored.

Imagine His love for wanderers. Jesus died for wanderers! Jesus left heaven to bring you and me home to His Father.

Therefore, believers are taught to get involved. We become instruments of His ministry to wanderers. I can think of no greater privilege than to bring back a wanderer. It has become a significant part of our ministry.

Thank you for joining us in this ministry to wanderers.

*Eric*

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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.*

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## 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 those who have left the traditional church

Eric’s doctorate work on evangelism in the church

Thankful for your partnership in this important ministry with adults

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