

## Death and Resurrection

By Wendy T., Used with Permission

*"We want to follow Jesus into the abundant life of resurrection, but we are less than enthusiastic about following him into the garden of Gethsemane."*  
Peter Scazzero, [Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day](#)

These words jumped off the page at me during my morning prayer time. The truth within them required reflection. Have I ever followed Jesus into the garden? What has God asked me to turn over to death? And what has God resurrected in its stead? Tough questions to consider, and yet I found myself drawn to these two truths: there can be no new life without resurrection, and there can be no resurrection without a death.



The idea of dying to self was certainly something I learned growing up. Pastors spoke of "taking up your cross" (Luke 9:23), which they said meant laying down my own desires and find out what God desired for me. Bible studies reminded me that unless "a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). Over and over again, the Scripture and my teachers showed me the necessity of dying to myself.

Still, it wasn't until my 40s that I really wrestled with God over the death of myself. Not my literal death, of course, but the death of the false identity I had built for myself up to then. Why did it take so long? Really, if I'm honest, it was because the false identity worked for me. Being the smartest person in the room, who always had all the right answers, was who I wanted to be, and I acted the part well.

A few years after I turned 40, however, my false identity came crashing down. The truth that I was not, in fact, the smartest person in every room, and that I did not, in fact, have all the answers became clearer and clearer. This realization, along with some buried medical trauma, left me sapped. I had come to the end of my own strength and knowledge. It even got to the point that I could not get out of bed each day without the help of God.

Thankfully, God's great mercy revealed where I was in error. I was able to relinquish the false identity, constructed of my own thoughts, feelings, interests, and passions. I knew it was time to put this identity to death and surrender it to God. Additionally, I needed to grieve this false identity. Grieve its death, and also grieve the fact that I had believed lies. Grieve the limits of my humanity. And grieve the hurt I had caused others through my own arrogance.

On the other side of my grief, God resurrected the true identity He has created in me. God gently reconnected me to the world of women as I listened to His words about me. Through time spent being with God and being with God's people, I was able to

### ***Inside***

- Financial updates: end-of-year 2023, plus the start of 2024
- Spring Fundraising Banquet info and registration details
- RHN HOPE Conference
- Prayer Requests
- Ministry Calendar

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hear God's voice more clearly. I could hear the truth of my identity and begin to walk in that truth.

My true identity, however, could not come to life until I had fully laid down my false one and allowed it to die. And I couldn't lay it down unless I was willing to follow Jesus into the garden of Gethsemane: the garden of grief and death.

This past month, I realized God is inviting me into another round of death and resurrection. Taking on the top leadership role here at Outpost was not a decision I really considered until last summer. But after much prayer and discussion with others, I believe God called me into this responsibility. It would be easy for me to do this job through my own strength and wisdom. After all, God has equipped me in many ways specifically for this type of role and its responsibilities. My resume reads as a handbook of how to prepare for this job.

In these first six months, however, physical health challenges have resurfaced. Changes in our schedule at home requires my time and attention throughout the day. These circumstances impact my natural abilities. And, upon reflection, I believe this is a good thing. It is time for my reliance on my own gifts and abilities to die. God is inviting me into the new risen life, a resurrection marked by my reliance on God's skill and wisdom in all things.

Admittedly, this will be hard to do. After all, I've spent over 50 years doing things under various amounts of my own strength and knowledge. Still, I trust that what God will raise up in me will be even greater than anything I can do on my own. Why do I believe this? Because I've seen Him do it before.

Maybe today you know what God is asking you to surrender. Maybe you don't. Either way, I invite you to join me. Let us set aside our pride and fear, and give God our dreams and plans. Let us surrender them to death, that God may bury them on our behalf. Then, let us abide in Jesus, listen for the Holy Spirit, and trust God with the outcome. After all, God is the one who created us and knows and loves us best.

The path to new life is hard. Death requires mourning, and mourning often lasts longer than we want. And yet, what God will raise up out of the ashes will be beyond all that we could hope or imagine. Let us join Jesus in the garden, ready to say together, "Not my will, but yours be done, Lord." Amen.

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*Wendy is the President of TCJHOP and Outpost Ministries. She is recently licensed as a minister by her home church, Cornerstone Church Crystal. In her spare time, she enjoys playing games and doing puzzles with her family. Wendy has been on staff since 2015.*

## Financial Update



<b>Income</b>	Budgeted: \$202,287	Actual: \$242,915
<b>Expense</b>	Budgeted: \$248,176	Actual: \$273,775

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for God's provision in 2023. Through all the changes, we had manna for all that God asked of us. In fact, God provided above and beyond what we had planned. And due to a healthy set of cash reserves, we were also able to cover the extra expenses that came up with staff changes, a new location, and a retirement party.

While our plans for 2023 did include using our cash reserves to cover anticipated expenses, we ended up only needing to use around \$25K instead of \$40K of those reserves. And that is thanks to the consistent giving of our support community. And while our expenses ended up going over our initial budget, we were able to keep those extras from becoming overwhelming.

For the coming year, the board has approved a balanced budget with no deficit spending anticipated. As we embark on rebuilding programs and launching new endeavors, we trust God will continue to provide all we need to walk in the path He is leading us down. Thank you in advance for your support and partnership in the coming year.

Yours in service,

Outpost Ministries was originally formed to meet the needs of men and women following their convictions and seeking freedom from unwanted erotic same-sex attractions. Since then, our ministry has expanded to offer teaching, encouragement and support to individuals, families and churches impacted by all forms of sexual and relational brokenness. We are located in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area of Minnesota, but our ministry reaches throughout the Upper Midwest.

*Outpost News/Letters from Outpost* is published 11 months a year and is sent free upon request. An annual donation of \$30 is appreciated to cover printing and postage costs. An electronic version is available through our website.

# NEWS AND NOTES

Registration  
Now Open

## FROM GLORY TO GLORY

SPRING FUNDRAISING BANQUET

APRIL 6, 2024



We are just over one month away from the spring banquet and looking forward to a great evening. We're excited to welcome Marco Casanova, Associate Director of Desert Stream Ministries\*, as this year's keynote speaker. Marco oversees Living Waters programs in the US, and is working closely with Andrew Comiskey as his successor. He came to Living Waters as an intern, seeking healing and freedom from unwanted same-sex attractions. Now, he works to help others find transformation and healing in their own lives. Marco and his wife, Ania, will be joining us for the evening and look forward to meeting and talking with many of you.



*\*Desert Stream Ministries is one of our sister ministries within the Restored Hope Network. Outpost offers their Living Waters course regularly for anyone seeking further healing of their identity, sexuality, and relationships.*

Which brings us to the question: have you registered yet? Have you invited a friend? If not, five weeks ahead is the perfect time to check calendars and make your plans. We've got plenty of space to fill and would love to set a place for you and yours.

Join us for an evening of good food, meaningful worship, and inspiring testimonies. We are so excited to share with you what God has been doing in people's lives through our work here at Outpost Ministries.

This is an in-person event on Saturday, April 6, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm and costs \$55 per person. Invite some friends and get a whole table of 8 seats for just \$400.

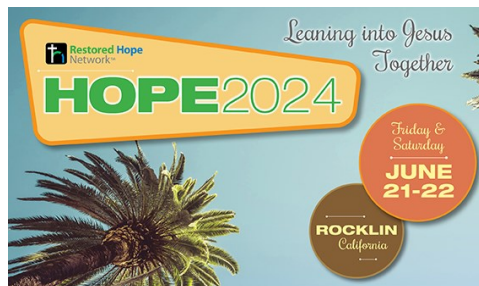
Details and links to the registration page can be found on the Events page of the website: [www.outpostministries.org](http://www.outpostministries.org)

### Call for Volunteers: Help with the Banquet

We will need plenty of volunteers to help us with final details, setup, and cleanup both during the week before and the afternoon and evening of the event.

A full list of all the opportunities is available at [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) using the link [bit.ly/2024OPBanquetHelp](http://bit.ly/2024OPBanquetHelp) Please consider how you might be able to help.

If you have questions about the banquet or what's required to volunteer, please call the office at 763-592-4700 or email [events@tjhop.org](mailto:events@tjhop.org).



Registration is underway for the 2024 HOPE Conference. If you are interested in making the trip to California for this year's meetings, visit [restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf](http://restoredhopenetwork.org/hopeconf) to register. We are making plans for staff to attend and would love to connect with anyone else who is planning to attend. Call the office for more information.

## Ministry Calendar

- **Feb 6:** Outpost held its Foundations course for new participants.
- **Feb 9:** Volunteers helped to assemble banquet invitations.
- **Feb 12:** The Board of Directors held their quarterly meeting to review 2023 and look ahead to 2024.
- **Feb 15:** Registration for the 2024 Spring Fundraising Banquet opened.
- **Feb 27:** Wendy began meeting with individuals regarding the relaunch of Elijah Company.

## Prayers & Praises

- **Praise God** for the many people who responded to our year-end needs. Your generosity went above and beyond our expectations.
- **Praise God** for opportunities to share with local churches.
- **Pray** that many would respond to the opportunity to join us at our Spring Banquet in April.
- **Pray** that family and friends would respond to our invitation to the renewal of Elijah Company.

## Let's stay connected!

Return the slip on the back with your gift and/or a note to our staff. You can also use it to update us about any changes to your address, email, or phone number.

If you would prefer, follow the link in this QR code to donate using our secure online form:



Thank you and God bless!

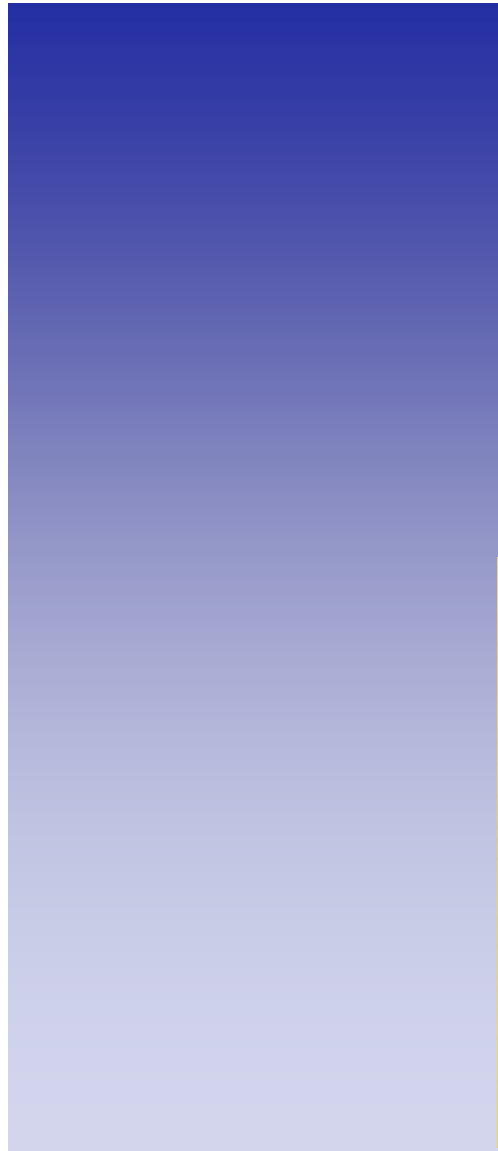


Register now!

# FROM GLORY TO GLORY

## SPRING FUNDRAISING BANQUET

APRIL 6, 2024



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Here's my gift of \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Outpost is a ministry of the Twin Cities Justice House of Prayer, which is incorporated under the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act. Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Outpost Ministries has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. No goods or services are provided in connection with these gifts unless otherwise noted.*

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