

A Pure-Hearted Generation

By Jon Craig, used by permission



For the past couple of months I have been thinking about how I want to be remembered when I die. What a morbid question to ask oneself, right? But what a crucial one. Although I am a mere 24 years of age, I know that the person I choose to be now will have a major impact on the kind of person I will become in my latter years. Who I am now will dramatically impact the kind husband I will be to my wife and father I will be to my children in future years. The kind of person I choose to be now will not only affect my future, but obviously my present as well. It will affect all the people I am blessed to have in my life at the moment. So I have found the question of “if my legacy could be summed up in one characteristic” to be a vital question to ask myself.

As of January 1, I officially became the Vice President of Student Ministry at Outpost, which means I will be overseeing and leading the department formerly known as the Youth and College-Age Department. I will oversee the development of young men who come to Outpost who are between the ages of 18-28. Before I was offered the position I had already begun to think about my question, “What characteristic do I desire to leave as my legacy.” This question has now gone beyond my legacy to “how do I want to impact an upcoming generation? What characteristic do I want to leave to a lost and confused generation?”

“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love” (Psalm 103:8). Any of these God-like characteristics would do. To live a life remembered by being consistently loving, authentically compassionate, enduring in patience, or full of mercy would be a beautiful accomplishment. *But I found myself not satisfied by just pursu-*

ing one characteristic of God. Many in the world make it their life mission to demonstrate one of these characteristics. Even the gay agenda is based on one of these characteristics, abounding in love. Although the definition of steadfast love may look different than God's, the intention is still to be remembered by doing acts of love.

I have discovered what distinguishes a life that leaves a holy legacy from a life that leaves a well-intentioned legacy is not the pursuit of a certain characteristic, but it is the pursuit of a person. The legacy I desire to leave is one that reveals my God. For it is only by His characteristics in Psalm 103 that I can become anything of substance. My life and ministry can no longer be about merely pursuing love, kindness or even holiness for the sake of holiness. My life and ministry need to be about pursuing my Jesus. My life can only be about Him. For in all sincerity, nothing else is worthy of a life's pursuit.

This pursuit is a whole new way of living. It is contrary to any kind of well-intentioned living that even the holiest of Christians can do. Jesus Himself talks about this lifestyle in Matthew 5:8, “Blessed are the pure in heart.” I believe this beatitude speaks about a heart motivation. The heart's pure motivation is to see and know God in all things. Another way of saying this is if someone is pure in heart it is their desire to know God and to make Him known at all times. It is our desire for God that leads us to live lives of sexual, emotional and mental purity. This kind of person pursues a

My life can only be about Him.



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

lifestyle of holiness not for the sake of being good or making the world a better place. The pure in heart pursue holiness because they know that it will lead them and others in finding what they ultimately desire, God Himself. Jesus goes on in that same verse to reveal a promise: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God". Ultimately, that is what a "pure in heart" person desires—to see God. They desire the will of God and the worship of God for they know nothing is better than God.

The people I know who most clearly reveal this beatitude are those who in their deepest weakness have experienced God as steadfastly loving, compassionate, slow to anger, and merciful. For they know the true beauty of God. They know that nothing else is better than a God who responds to them in all those ways in the midst of their depravity. The pure in heart are the ones who risk truly experiencing God.

When I die I do hope it is said of me "Jon loved really well, Jon was thoughtful, and Jon was compassionate." But most of all I want it to be known about me that my life was ultimately about Christ, that my mission and purpose was to personally know Him more and to lead others to know Him more. For that kind of legacy is the kind of legacy that lifts people's eyes off themselves and points them directly to God, to look at God, to know God and therefore to love God. Again, there is nothing better.

Pray for me and Outpost as we raise up a pure-hearted generation—a generation that seeks not to be good or kind or even loving, but a generation that seeks God! **ON**



*Jon Craig,
a graduate of Northwestern
College (St. Paul, MN),
has been on staff at Out-
post*

Healing Prayer Nights

STARTING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Join us at UMHOP, Sojourn Church, on the U of M campus, for PRAYER and INNER HEALING.

Day: Second and Fourth FRIDAYS

Time: 7-10 PM

Sojourn Campus Church, 310 18th Ave SE

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403



Farewell, Luke!

We are sad to say goodbye to Luke Wittkop. From his first day in *Joshua Fellowship*, to his participation in the *Encountering Jesus Young Adult Internship* and his two and a half years with the Admin and Youth and College-Age Departments, Luke's passion for Jesus was contagious. He blessed everyone with his wit, kindness and encouraging words. We will miss you, Luke! Best wishes to you, wife Jessica and baby Aaron as you do life together!

James 1:2 "Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds."



Friday, April 20, 2012

7 pm

Northbrook Alliance Church
6240 Aldrich Ave North

**PURE JOY!
CELEBRATION**

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ENCOURAGING DRAMA
AUTHENTIC TESTIMONIES
by those impacted by homosexuality

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or call 763-592-4700

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NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Ministry & Other Events

- 1/8 David H. spoke to youth leaders at First Ev. Free Church, Mpls, MN
- 1/13 Dan P. and Brad B. spoke at AFLBS, Plymouth, MN
- 1/28 Outpost "Thank You" Pancake Breakfast, Outpost Offices
- 2/9 Nate speaks at MIBC Network of Youth Pastors, Mpls, MN
- 2/11 & 12 David H. and Daniel B. will speak at First Evangelical Free Church, Minneapolis, MN
- 2/12 Dan will speak at Hibbing Alliance Church, Hibbing, MN
- 2/18 Nate speaks at *Love Won Out*, Atlanta, GA
- 2/19 Dan speaks at Northbrook Alliance Church, Brooklyn Center, MN
- 2/27 Nate speaks at U4C, Mpls, MN
- 3/9 Nate speaks at Bethany School of Missions, Bloomington, MN
- 3/18 Dan speaks at Vision of Glory Lutheran Church, Hopkins, MN
- 3/26 Dan speaks at AFL Seminary, Plymouth, MN

Wish List

- ◆ We're still in need of secure, dry storage for office items for which there's no space in our office.
- ◆ Display booth for showcasing *Outpost Ministries* at various ministry and community functions (\$2600). One donor has stepped forward to partner with another donor or two to provide this special need.
- ◆ A small office building with meeting space for groups as large as 100 people, and private offices for at least five individuals with conference spaces for small groups of 2-8 people. There should be ample parking.
- ◆ We have a great need to upgrade our current database software program. As technology has changed, we must, too! A one-time charge to upgrade our current software will cost about \$2500. We have daily breakdowns in this area, causing delays in everything from mailing list reports, to processing donation receipts. Please pray for a donot to come forward for this need. Replacement software costs between \$5000 and \$10,000 if we go with a completely different software system.

A Call to Prayer

- Pray for us as we transition into our new roles. Pray that God's grace would abound and pray for unity among us as a ministry team
- Please pray that 2012 would be a year of financial abundance for Outpost. Pray that all staff would be fully funded by the end of 2012.
- Pray for the **Exodus freedom Conference** which will be in the Twin Cities in 2012. Our staff is gearing up for strategic spiritual warfare to take place during the next seven months. Already we've seen an increase in attacks. We're reminded that the founders of Outpost, back in 1976, defined our name as being "a place of fortification to guard against the Enemy's *sneak* attacks." Pray against enemy infiltration and friendly-fire betrayals. We need to be unified.
- Pray for our groups and participants that God would continue to pour out His love and strength to heal them.

If you are interested in participating in a parents' prayer group, please contact David Hall: DHall@OutpostMinistries.org. We have a mother who would like to bless us in this way. Details forthcoming.

Join us for Prayer

Starting February 6th
our corporate prayer times
will change.

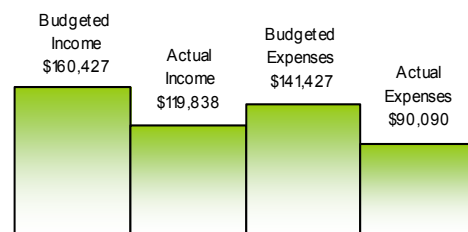
Monday-Thursday
7 AM to 11 AM

Please join us in the fight!

A Word About Finance

Greetings! Last month I reported that we wanted to raise \$70,000 in December to reach a challenge goal for year-end giving. We received about \$50,000, bringing our fiscal year-to-date income to about \$120,000 (budget-to-date was \$160,000 to December 31). Now, the budget is our goal. That is, we set our sights on gen-

Income vs Expenses as of 12/31/11



erating that amount of income so that we can run the organization full-funded. Knowing that our staff is in "fundraising mode" to increase their personal missionary support means that we are not yet fully funded. We are not running at full capacity; we are not doing as much as we could do if all our staff were able to work full-time.

As you can see by our ministry and events calendar on the left, we are busy! After the typical lull in activity surrounding the Holidays, we will pick up our pace in February. All our ministry programs will be up and running, meaning we'll also increase our public speaking events and planning for our spring event, *Pure Joy!* Looking forward to summer, we see the **Exodus Int'l freedom Conference** coming to the Twin Cities. We'll be up to our elbows in that event as well. Pray for full funding so that we can be fully present for the work to which God has called us.

Now having said that, the "year-end giving" numbers are not fully in yet. We often get "annual" gifts in January from folks who plan ahead to give X-amount during the calendar year 2012. This adds to the blessing of Christmas giving for us. I'll have those figures for you next month. Meantime, we bless you!

Dan



PO Box 22429 • Robbinsdale, MN 55422-0429

Insider!

Vision for This Generation

022



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Card Number: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Name on card: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Signature: _____

E-mail: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____
(MM / YY)



Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Outpost Ministries has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Your gift designation preference will be honored up to the amount needed for that designation. All funds received in excess of need will be applied to the general fund. No goods or services are provided in connection with donations. All gifts to Outpost are tax-deductible per IRS code 501(c)(3). Outpost is a 2012 member-in-good-standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (www.ECFA.org). The ECFA seal is visible evidence to donors that ECFA member organizations adhere to the highest standards of financial integrity and Christian ethics. We are a charity you can trust.