

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

The History Of Rivers Of Living Water Ministries And Outward Focused

In September 1983, a group of businessmen in Orlando, Florida asked Jim Newsom to relocate to their area to start a ministry that would minister to the least, the last and the lost.

In February, 1984, Jim established Rivers Of Living Water Ministries (ROLWM) to reach out to those men and women who were in prison and encourage them in their faith. This aspect of the ministry he called "Get Free." Because of Jim's past experience with drugs, he was then asked to come into schools and educate young people about the long-term dangers of drugs. As a result another aspect of the ministry was born called "Get Smart." Finally, because of Jim's effectiveness both in prisons and the schools, he received invitations to churches to equip Christians everywhere to be effective in reaching the masses around them. This ministry is called "Get Going."

In September, 1992, Jim relocated to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to establish a northeast branch of ROLWM. In August of 2003 Jim relocated to Louisville, KY and at the same time changed the name of the ministry to Outward Focused. The name change was made in order to better communicate the new emphasis of "equipping Christians & Churches to be outward focused."

Since 1984, ROLWM & Outward Focused has had a hand in establishing 5 churches, 7 prison ministries, and has helped train 14 men for full-time ministry. This ministry has had an impact in 155 schools, 500 prisons, and over 250 churches.

The mission of this ministry is to equip Christians and Churches to become outward focused. The Church is not to be a haven until heaven, nor a refuge until the rapture. It is an army whose focus is outward, whose soldiers are deployed in the malls, businesses, and neighborhoods where the lost live, play and work. **Proverbs 24:10-12** admonishes us and challenges us on this much needed mission. **Verse 10** out of the New American translation states, "*If you remain indifferent in time of adversity, your strength will depart from you.*" The adversity here is not speaking of adversity you are in, but adversity that others are in. The Hebrew word for strength is "Koach" which simply means "the ability to do something." It is the same word translated "*ability*" in **Ezra 2:69** which states, "*According to their ability (Koach) they gave to the treasury for the work 61,000 gold drachmas, and 5,000 silver minas, and 100 priestly garments.*" Therefore it is not just strength from physical attributes, but strength that comes from gifting, from knowledge, and from resources. The implication is, if you don't use all the things that God has given to you to help others, than you will lose them for yourself. It goes on to say in **verses 11& 12** - "*Rescue the perishing; don't hesitate to step in and help. If you say, 'Hey, that's none of my business,' will that get you off the hook? Someone is watching you closely, you know, someone not impressed with weak excuses.*" This passage condemns as criminal the non-intervention of the strong on behalf of the weak and distressed. This crime is committed for various reasons. For some it is purely indifference; there are many in the church who are at ease themselves, and never concern themselves about the sufferings of others; they are well fed, and it matters not to them who is hungry; and while their needs are being supplied, it matters not to them who is in want. For others, it is moral cowardice, laziness and an unwillingness to practice self-denial.

But this passage seems to deal especially with the ignorant, those who have never considered the claims which others have upon them. They are really ignorant of how many are perishing for the want of a helping hand. But this ignorance cannot be excused and is regarded as criminal by God Himself. As the Church we must consider how much actual wrong-doing on the part of some, is chargeable to the not-doing of others. We must consider how much sin might be prevented if the church, who has the power, would seek to deliver others from bodily, social, or moral death. **Outward Focused** is dedicated to rescuing the perishing by stepping in and helping others without hesitation, and training Christians and Churches to do the same.

This ministry came into being when Jim was challenged to turn a portion of what ministered to him outward to others. When he did, the drinks that ministered to his needs became rivers that have ministered to the needs of others. Therefore, this ministry is dedicated to teaching and training people to take that which has ministered to them and turn it outwards in order to minister and help others.

To that end **Outward Focused** has developed a three dimensional ministry that is designed to educate young people, to encourage inmates, and to equip the church.

1. "GET SMART"

The "Get Smart" Drug Presentation has been at the forefront of drug and alcohol awareness since 1984. Thousands of young lives have been impacted as Jim Newsom, takes his presentation into schools throughout the U.S. and Canada. Jim's own story, one of despair and new-found hope, has inspired many to face the reality of their situation and to seek help.

2. "GET FREE"

In this ministry, inmates learn that the Lord is not as interested in getting them out of prison, as He is in helping them "Get Free" of those things in their lives that got them into prison. Getting out is easy, but staying out is difficult.

Outward Focused ministers in county, state and federal prisons throughout the United States. "**The Lions' Den Seminar**," developed by the **Outward Focused** team uses the book of Daniel to teach inmates how to respond to both their captivity and their captors in a redemptive way. Instead of trying to get out of their captivity, they are challenged to deposit something into their captivity.

3. "GET GOING"

The third ministry of **Outward Focused** is called "**Get Going**." This is a ministry to the local body of Christ and is designed to move the church from a "maintenance mode" into a "mission mode."

Here's what some pastors have said about Jim's ministry to their churches:

"As an anointed evangelist, Jim Newsom has modeled and imparted God's heart for the lost within our church. Many of our families, including our teens, have received new courage and zeal for a life-style of evangelism through Jim's teaching and seminars. I heartily recommend Jim to anyone seeking to be equipped for the harvest." **Barry Wissler, Senior Pastor, Ephrata Community Church.**

"Jim is one of the most unselfish ministers that have visited our church in almost 20 years. His tireless attitude to minister to anyone, anywhere has encouraged our people to do the same." **Michael Pacella, Senior Pastor, New London Covenant Church**

"In our ten year relationship with Jim Newsom, we have greatly benefited from his teaching ministry, which has helped equip the body of Christ for the work of service in our midst. He has also blessed us with his ability to reach our youth in a dynamic and lasting way. We have found his ministry to be extremely practical in emphasis and is always tempered with a spirit of humility and encouragement." **The Elders, Farmingdale Christian Church.**

To schedule Jim to speak at a school, prison or your church, just write to or call the **Outward Focused** offices.

Equipping The Saints TAPES

You can also request a catalog of teaching resources available for purchase from **Outward Focused**.



A WORD CONCERNING JIM NEWSOM

Jim Newsom is founder and President of **Outward Focused**. Jim's life includes being expelled from high school, drug abuse, and criminal activity ranging from purse-snatching to armed robbery. Having been dishonorably discharged from the armed forces, Jim was ultimately charged and convicted of second-degree murder.

On July 26, 1972, Jim surrendered his life to Jesus Christ. The next morning, he turned himself into the local authorities, confessed to his crime and pled guilty to his charge. While in prison, he was instrumental in starting a prison church that is still in existence today. Having served eight years of a 30-year sentence, Jim was released in 1980. Since then, he has served as a youth minister and associate pastor in several churches.

In 1983, at the request of a group of Orlando businessmen, Jim relocated to Orlando, Florida where he began **Rivers of Living Water Ministries**. In September of 1992, Jim and his family relocated to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to establish a northeast branch of **ROLWM**. In August of 2003 Jim relocated to Louisville and changed the name of the Ministry to **Outward Focused**. Jim resides in Louisville, KY with his wife, Diane, and their two children.

ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS

Outward Focused, is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. The ministry is also registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations. The ministry functions under the direction of a Board of Directors, daily administration is carried out by Jim Newsom, the Executive Director.

Outward Focused receives no county, state, or federal funding; it relies on churches, individuals, and businesses as instruments of support.



Searching Outside Yourself To Help Others

Equipping Christians & Churches To Be Outward Focused

Informational Brochure

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