

“Lead Us, Lord!”

Direction, Vision and Provision by the Power of the Holy Spirit

(Exploring where we’ve been, where we are,
and where He is leading now)



Freedom Outreach International
(Ministry to the Military)
Prayer and Fasting Initiative 2018

THE VISION COMPASS – We Must Focus on Where We’re Going

DAY 15 – January 21 – Connecting – Net to Net

Read: Luke Chapter 5:1-11

Have you ever wondered what the Lord is thinking during those times He watches us stress and strive, doing all we know to do, yet not getting the result we thought we would achieve? How often is He standing on the shore, waiting for us to come to the end of ourselves, the end of our strength, so that He can give us the right-now word, “Let down your nets.” A moment earlier, the fish would not have been ready, congregated and waiting. A moment delayed in disobedience and the fish would have scattered. He teaches to carefully heed His voice so that we can enter into His miraculous workings!

There are more principals in this short body of scripture that we could glean here, but let’s focus on the other boat. Jesus could have commanded just enough fish to fill Simon Peter’s boat, but He intentionally caused the catch of fish to be so miraculous that they would need to call their co-laborers into the miracle. The point? We are called as a Body to serve together. We were never meant to do this alone.



The Freedom Outreach International (Ministry to the Military) Core Mission is: **“To connect military, veterans and their communities with a missional Christian family.”**

If we are to serve at maximum efficacy in the years to come, we must be intentional on three essential connections: people to God; people to the local missional Christian family; and the connection of centers and fellowships to one another and to the core leadership, organization and ministry. We can fish alone and we may catch something here or there. But, if we desire the miraculous, we must listen for His leading and be intentional about connecting. Pull your boats up side by side and let’s be miraculous fishers of men!

Our Prayer: Lord, we are seeking You for miracles! Ordinary life and ministry will not do in a dark and broken world! Oh, Jesus, give Your word now that we may know when to let down our nets and where. Thank You for building connections through FOI/MTTM and in our personal lives. Forgive us for Lone-Ranger-mentalities! We choose to follow Your ways instead, for You are always right. Bring us into a future filled with the miraculous and with the greatest “net-work” possible.

We join now with believers around the world who are praying today for Nathan and Eva Burton in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Grant them a fresh anointing and the divine open doors to reach the lost in that area. We believe it is done by Your will and power, Jesus. Amen.

Day 16 – January 22 – Vision – I Can See Clearly Now

Read: All of Acts Chapter 10

All we know about him is that he was a soldier on deployment. We don't know when or how, exactly, his heart was turned away from the idols of Rome and to the God of Israel. But, the Lord heard his prayers and took note of his alms giving and sent none less than the Apostle Peter himself to preach salvation in the Name of Jesus to his household. Then, even while Peter was still speaking, the Holy Ghost fell upon those who heard the word. This soldier and his family became the first Gentiles to receive salvation in Christ Jesus and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the earth today, there are “Corneliuses” – soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, whose hearts have been seeking God for more. They're waiting for someone to come to them, to explain the simple gospel, to pray with them so that they can receive the promised baptism of the Holy Spirit. *They're waiting for us.*



The Vision of Freedom Outreach International (a ministry to the military) is: **“To reach and involve armed forces personnel in a Cornelius-style ministry. From the time they take the oath of service, throughout all deployments, until returning to continued fruitful service in their home church.”**

Wherever they are now, wherever they go tomorrow, whatever the conflicts will be upon this tired old earth in the years to come, we will be there. For Christ in us, the hope of glory, will pursue these soldiers around the world with love, compassion and the hope of the gospel of Jesus. God, grant us Your divine vision to see as You see!

Our Prayer: Oh Father, don't let us grow complacent and lukewarm! Don't let our hearts go unbroken when these men, women and children are all around us, lost and without hope. May we rend our hearts today, not just our garments, and seek You for greater vision, for Your vision! We renew our commitment before You to reach and involve these military, veterans and their families. Be Thou our vision, O Lord!

We bring before Your throne Harry and Cristy Rodriguez in Baumholder, Germany today. They are asking for an open heaven over Baumholder and an anointing to win souls. Thank You for pouring out Your power and Your vision to them, in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Day 17 – January 23 – Core Values – Caring

Read: Matthew 25:35-40

On any given weekend in Kaiserslautern, Germany, you may come across an unusual sight in the long driveway that planks the side of the church building. It's a bit messy with boxes and bags and tables everywhere. Sometimes crates are stacked upon each other with bread, fresh vegetables and other locally donated goods nearly spilling out. Crowds gather – Germans, refugees, the downtrodden and forgotten. Among them are the people of City Mission, our service members, playing games with the kids, talking to the people, serving joyfully because it's just another day being the hands and feet of Jesus.



The first Core Value of Freedom Outreach International (a ministry to the military) is:

“CARING: Expressing the love of Christ in practical ways – to others in our fellowship and in the community where God has called us to serve.”

The benevolence ministry in Kaiserslautern is one of many examples of how our people express the love of God through work in the community. The word of God says that the world will know that we are Christ's disciples by the way we love one another. But, the world will know Christ Himself by the way we love them. Caring for others, laying down our lives (free time, energy, finances), is the most practical witness to a world that is sick of religion and pretension. They're looking for the One that we say we follow, and when we care for others, they see the Jesus of the Bible -- the One they've been hoping to find.

Our Prayer: Lord, You told us plainly in Your word that love never fails. We can try to acquire bigger buildings, flashier marketing, better programs, but in the end, love is the only thing that is going to work every single time. Teach us to love in deed as well as in word. Teach us to express who You are through practical supports. Help us to grow now and continue growing in the area of caring for each other and for our communities.

As we focus on caring, we remember Greg and Michelle Perkins in SHAPE, Belgium. We thank You for the way they have loved on that NATO community and been such genuine examples of caring. They are praying for the landlord's heart to be turned toward the work and to make the needed improvements in the building, and if not, that You will lead the center to another facility. We also pray with them for clear direction in 2018. In Jesus' Mighty Name, we agree, and so be it – amen!

Day 18 – January 24 – Core Values – Cooperation

Read: Hebrews 10:24

My husband has always been a runner, and a good one at that. He tells a story of being on TDY in Paris, France, years ago and taking the opportunity to run up the famous Champs-Élysées to the Arc de Triomphe. Running at a conservative pace, he noticed a female runner catching up next to him. He admits, with some embarrassment, that male pride got the upper hand so he began to run faster. Then, she sped up too. Not one to be outdone (he's placed in several competitive events) he gave it everything he had and broke into a lung-heaving, heart-pounding, sweat-pouring full-on sprint! Not only did she catch up to him, but swiftly blew past like he was just on a casual jog.



2nd Core Value:

“COOPERATION: We seek to be a complement to the ministry and services of our military communities. We especially desire to work alongside of, instead of in competition with, like-minded organizations. This includes, but is not limited to, working alongside our military chaplains.”

This verse in Hebrews instructs us to provoke one another in a positive way – in faith and good works, not as competition but in provocation to have greater faith, do bigger things, and to be more sold-out for Christ. Somehow, in Christendom, many have fallen prey to a mindset that we are in competition with one another, as if there aren't enough lost and hurting people in the world that need ministry. But, Biblical provocation causes us to cheer each other on instead of competing and leads to teamwork instead of isolationism.

When we read and understand the vision for ministry together, we will run. In those long, weary miles let us look to the side and realize we aren't running alone. We have teammates in the greater Body of Christ, provoking us to godliness and perseverance, to run faster and longer and truer than ever before.

Our Prayer: Father, we seek the unity that comes from You, to work alongside our brothers and sisters in the Kingdom who are called to do what we aren't or are co-laboring in our communities. Forgive us for any prideful or isolationist attitudes. Help us see that we are on the same team and need one another. Help us to be intentional about praying for our military chaplains and working in cooperation with the entire Body of Christ.

We pray for partnerships in Brussels, Belgium as Peter and Tine Benson seek to minister there. Open hearts, open doors and anoint them to reach this city in Jesus' Name!

Day 19 – January 25 – Core Values – Reaching

Read: Matthew 28:19-20

There was almost a tragedy that night. An individual from a military family that we had just met reached out with a vague email that sounded ominous. Fearing the worst, we called their house, even though it was the middle of the night in Germany and we were in the USA. Someone picked up and answered, then hung up and disconnected the phone. Sensing we needed help, my husband got on one phone and called several FOI leaders within a two-hour drive from the family's home. I got on another phone with their local MP's. Just hours later, two of our ministry centers had surrounded this family and both the MP's and the German Politzi arrived at the home. The MP desk called, confirming that a suicide attempt had been thwarted and that the family would be receiving mental health supports, even as our local center reached out to them with care and help.

The relief and joy was mixed with heartbreak and prayers as I thought, "What about all those who haven't been reached?"



3rd Core Value: "REACHING: Through evangelism – to reach the spiritually disconnected soldier, sailor, marine, airman and Coast Guardsman and help them connect to a vital relationship with God through Jesus Christ; Through outreach – to discover and connect those deployed from their home or family and surround them with the support of a caring, local fellowship of faith; Through discipleship – everyone's ultimate journey is to discover and develop their God-given purpose and talents. This is best done in a community of faith."

We must focus on evangelism and outreach! The Great Commission offers us no alternative! We must reach the spiritually disconnected and be the hands, feet and heart of God to our military communities. He has sent us His Spirit to empower us for this very work and He will not cease His work in us until no one is out of reach.

Our Prayer: Father, you have called us to be soul-winners and disciple-makers and have granted us the power of Your Holy Spirit to be effective. Put into each heart the urgency to evangelize. Give each Director divine strategy and resources to be more effective than ever before. Make 2018 a greater year of reaching and connecting our service members, veterans and their families than at any season before – by the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

In Osan, S. Korea, we pray for Brian Johnson as he leads that congregation. He is seeking You to help replace the 20+ workers who have PCS'd over the past few months. Thank You for bringing the right people into the center there at the right time. Help those who attend to be supportive and committed, that the work there can flourish and grow – in Jesus' Name.

Day 20 – January 26 – Core Values – Diversity

Read: Revelation 7:9-10

An old folk tale that many of us heard as children is, “Stone Soup.” A hungry traveler journeys through a poor village. No one has any food to spare, so he builds a fire, borrows an enormous pot, and commences to prepare a great “feast” with just salt, pepper and one carefully cleaned stone. All the villagers are eager to try this wondrous soup and the clever man is willing to share. The price for each family is small -- just one little item – a scrap of meat, a bit of vegetables, or some herbs from the garden. By the end of the day, the entire village is gathered to partake this wonderful stew.

Our ministry centers are located in military communities where there are great needs. Soldiers are exhausted from deployments and shifts. Families are often overwhelmed by carrying on under stressful conditions in foreign environments. Our FOI centers often find themselves with few people, even fewer resources, trying to “feed” the souls of those they are called to. Yet, as in the story, when each person brings the little time, talent or treasure that he or she has, something amazing happens (and it’s better than soup!)



4th Core Value: “DIVERSITY: All People -- In the body of Christ there is no preference between race, rank, sex, marital or socio-economic status. Our fellowships should reflect the people and needs of our community.”

Our Prayer: Lord Jesus, we give You all the glory and thanks for the incredible diversity in this ministry! For each center and each milcom, we ask You to gather the village. Bring in the people and resources to make each location even more effective. Make us an even greater “stone soup of ministry” to feed the masses that are hungry for You.

We also pray for Alejandro and Dinorah Valesquez and the faith family at New Life Christian Center in Puerto Rico. We agree with them for saving faith coming to those who have been helping in the benevolence and post-hurricane rebuilding process. We are asking for Your help in restoring damages from the storm. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for moving on their behalf as they serve the community.

Day 21 – January 27 – Core Values -- Training

Read: All of Acts, Chapters 1 & 2

Three Years. It can seem like forever when you're stuck at a less-than-desirable overseas assignment. The first year alone is spent finding a house and making it a home, getting acquainted with a new job and possibly a new country with all of the customs, figuring out where to shop, where to get your car fixed, what to do with a house full of restless kids on a 4-day weekend, and so on. By the time an individual or family finds and gets grounded in a church, they may be a third or even half-way through their tour. For the Center Director there, the clock starts ticking.

FOI Center Directors are, essentially, church planters, perpetually planting in the same community and serving people who will not be around for long. But, as our Heavenly Father always does, He turns a challenge into an asset. As our people are disciplined and trained, they go out to



5th Core Value: “TRAINING: We are on an assembly line of recruiting, training and deploying workers for the Kingdom of God and His church around the world. Folks involved with our fellowship should learn to worship, serve and lead – whether in a military chapel, deployed to a war zone or involved in a local church.”

their next assignment grounded in the Word and eager to serve.

This work would be impossible and ineffective if not for the lasting promise of Power From On High. The Holy Spirit makes the yoke easy and the burden light. It's always been His role to do the leading and our role to do the following. The most essential training we could ever do is to encourage believers to seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost and the continual “free refills” He offers! Though our time with each individual and family is limited, it only took Jesus three years to change the world!

Our Prayer: Lord, focus us, as a movement, on intentional discipleship. Help us, more than ever, to cultivate the most devoted and fruitful followers of Christ possible. Thank You for bringing us teachers for every age group: nursery, children and youth ministry, singles ministry, Spanish-language ministry and those who can effectively reach and disciple veterans. We ask You to stir up the gifts that are within us, as a ministry, and multiply those talents. We thank You for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and for the signs and wonders following which confirm Your word.

As we pray for Holy Spirit-empowered teachers, we lift up Cris and Mieko Reyno and the center in Okinawa, Japan. They have been asking for these laborers to help them disciple the children and youth. Thank You for sending new people to help and thank You for

encouraging the people who are there to trust You to work through them, that by Your power they can disciple others – in the Name of Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.