

VICTORY OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL®

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NEWSLETTER

"Creating A Legacy Of Hope
In The Inner Cities Since 1967"



Article by:
Sonny Arguinzoni
Founder and President of
Victory Outreach International



VICTORY OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL®

"United We Can..."

P.O. Box 210068 • Chula Vista • CA 91921

Phone (909) 599-4437

www.victoryoutreach.org

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"A Generation who Seeks After God's Heart..."



Sermon Excerpt from Founder Sonny Arguinzoni, Sr.

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."

~ II Chronicles 16: 9

"Your sons will take the place of your fathers; you will make them princes throughout the land." ~ Psalm 45:16

"What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us, we will tell the next generation of the praise worthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done." ~ Psalms 78:3-4

When God imparted this great vision to Victory Outreach over 43 years ago, little did we know He had chosen us to be a movement that would make an impact all over the world. As we look forward to the future, there are many doors of opportunity open to us, as well as different challenges.

Historically, a ministry or organization comes to a crossroads after 30 or 40 years, and Victory Outreach is no different ... Either we'll stay on course with the vision and purpose of our existence or we'll go off like many other ministries have done. The challenge we face is, "Who will be the next generation that will lead this ministry into the future? Who will be the "sons and daughters" that will replace the "fathers" of this ministry? Who will carry the vision and ministry of Victory Outreach another 40 years? What kind of generation is God looking for to carry on the great vision of this ministry?"

These are just a few of the characteristics which I believe God is looking for in the generation that is going to carry on the ministry of Victory Outreach for another 40 years.

1. God is Looking for a Generation of People Who are Going to be Close to Him. You can't substitute an intimate relationship with God. If you want God to be able to use your life, you have to come into an intimate relationship with Him. Individuals who are close to Him have certain characteristics in their lives.

A Person who is close to God has a clear conscience. A guilty conscience will keep you in bondage. If your life is not right with God, you can dance, jump, shout and go along with the program, while deep inside your heart you know you're not right with God. There's still a guilty conscience. There's still a conviction within, inside of you, that your life is not right with God.

Other people might not know your spiritual state as far as your relationship with God, but you know. And not only do you know, but I have news for you, God also knows! God sees everything in our lives and He knows everything about us.

When you have a guilty conscience, it keeps you in a state of bondage. You may laugh now, but when you walk out of the church house, you once again feel that same bondage in your life. If you're not right with God, your own heart will condemn you. You will continually be living under a life of condemnation. But when you're close to God you're free from all guilt.

That's why you'll find that when people first have an experience with Jesus, they begin to shout; there's a new glow within their lives because they've been totally set free. Free from guilt and condemnation because Jesus has forgiven them and He has set them free. Just as the scriptures say, *"You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."* And *"He who the son sets free is free indeed!"*

There was a sign at a gas station that said, "A clean engine produces more power." And that's true within our lives. A clear conscience will produce power within our lives. That's why the devil will try many times to bring up your past and bring up the mistakes you've made. But once God has forgiven you, you need to tell the devil, "Old devil you're a liar! I am a new person," and quote II Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creation. Old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new."*

A good example of someone who did not live in the past was the Apostle Paul. This is what I had to tell the first generation of believers in Victory Outreach, the pioneer generation of this ministry. Many of them came in so bogged down with sin. They

committed so much sin within their lives in their past that they felt a deep sense of guilt. They had to understand that God had forgiven them and they needed to look forward and not look back. They needed to put the past behind them, and look forward to the great things that God had for them.

The Apostle Paul is a good example of a man who didn't live in the past. If Paul would have lived in the past, he would have lived a life of bondage. But he knew that he was forgiven.

Today, God is looking for people with a clear conscience. Many of today's individuals are so sophisticated and professional; they're gifted with technology, creating videos and all the visuals that are so fantastic to see. Those of us from the "Pioneer Generation" didn't have all that. All we had was a pulpit made out of a television set!

And the crusades we had back then were some tough crusades ... we had "bouncers" everywhere, rough looking guys - if you didn't get saved and come to the altar, they would make sure you came to the altar and gave your life to Christ!

Look at how tremendously we have grown over the years, how far we have grown as far as knowledge. But I want you to know that it's not knowledge that's going to get the job done.

The ministry of Victory Outreach came about, because a group of young men and women were willing to put their lives in the hands of Jesus Christ. This pioneer generation possibly didn't have a lot of knowledge, but one thing we did have was that we loved God. We knew God had forgiven us. We knew He had placed a calling upon our lives and even though we didn't have much, we were willing to do whatever God wanted us to do.

A person who is close to God is a person that is totally surrendered to Him. Surrendered people are broken

people, and God takes and uses broken people ... individuals who are yielded and open to God, willing to do whatever He may ask, willing to surrender their all to Him.

We find in the Word of God that Jesus was able to feed the five thousand when, *"He took bread and He broke it."* God takes us and He breaks us, then He blesses us and uses us.

In Psalms 51:17 David said, *"A broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, I will not ignore."* God uses broken things. Jesus was broken. In Luke 22:42 He said, *"Father if you're willing take this cup from me. But not my will but your will be done."*

What He was actually saying is, "Father it's not my will, it's not my ambition, it's not my desires but it's your will that I want to be done within my life."

When you are broken of self-will and self-dependency, then you are ready to be used of God. Our prayer needs to be, "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." We need to be broken over a lost world.

A good example of people that needed to be broken was: Jonah when he was called to Nineveh; Peter after he had denied Jesus; even Samson's greatest victory came after his brokenness; and Jacob walked for the rest of his life with a limp because he had wrestled with the angel of the Lord. God says His strength is made perfect within our weakness. What we need today are people who are totally broken by God. God desires you to be broken before Him.

2. God is Looking for a Generation of People Who are Going to be Focused. In other words, people of vision. God is looking for individuals who are not only looking to the "now" but who are also looking to the future. It is important to have a vision that God

has given to you; God's purpose that you can focus on.

The ministry of Victory Outreach was birthed out of vision. That is why we speak a lot about vision. God called us to do something that had never been done before. And even today we're just scratching the surface. There's still much more that needs to be done.

Just like God gave me a personal vision when He said to me, "I want you to open up a church and I'm going to raise up a great ministry out of that church and it's going to glorify my name around the world."

The same way God spoke to me, God wants to speak to you. God wants to impart vision within your life.

Proverbs 19:20 says, *"Many are the plans of a man's heart, but it's the Lord's purposes that prevail."*

Today, God is looking for people who have a clear-cut identity, who understand the reason for their being. People who know what God has called them to do; people that have a sense of direction, that know where they're going.

A clearly defined purpose and vision of what God wants you to do will always reduce frustration and allow you to concentrate on God's purpose in your life. There's always a power spot that God gives you, an anointing He gives you to be able to fulfill the ministry that He has called you to in Victory Outreach.

Even for us as a ministry there are many needs, and we need the anointing of God to meet those needs. Have we reached the entire world yet? No, we haven't. Do you know that there are over 2 million drug addicts around the world? And most ministries throughout the world are not reaching them.

What about the gang members? There are millions of gang members

within the inner cities of the world and most churches do not want to reach out to those types of people.

We're a group of people that have a wide open mission field. God has called us and He says to us as a ministry, "Go out and take the world, the world is yours!" How we going to do that? We're going to do it with people who have caught the vision of going out and reaching the inner cities of the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There's nothing more discouraging for a person than to not have a clear-cut vision of their existence. **If you're discouraged or frustrated today, then you need to rediscover the vision God has for you, rediscover God's purpose in your life.** God has a work for you to do.

3. God is Looking for a Generation of People who have Faith. The Bible says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."* That's one thing the Pioneer Generation had - they had faith. You see, faith is not analyzing everything to see if you have all the answers and all the details. God is not a detailed God.

The reason we as a ministry were able to go out to different parts of the world is because we had a Pioneer Generation of men who were willing to go. Not only was our Pioneer Generation of men willing to go, but even our Joshua Generation followed the same vision. They started going out and they went to countries they had never been in before. The only thing they knew for sure was that God placed a calling upon their hearts and they were willing to go in the name of Jesus. That was faith in action! It's easy to talk about faith, but we need to act in faith, believing God. *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."* God has called us to live a life of faith.

Whatever ministry God has given to you, it's going to take faith to accomplish it, because it's going to be a God-sized task.

It was William Carry, the famous missionary, whose motto was, *"Expect great things from God, Attempt great things for God."* He knew he had a big God and he believed in a big God. He said, "I'll let the size of my God determine the size of my vision - A big God, a big vision." It's natural to feel inadequate at times because of the great task that is before us.

When we set out in the beginning, did Julie and I have all the details? No, we didn't have all the details. All we knew was that God had called us. God called a humble young couple. We didn't know much, we just went out on the word of God by faith. God called us, and if He called us then He was going to be a faithful God, and He was going to see us through. It was a humble beginning. But has God been faithful?

He sure has. Do you know that Victory Outreach is one of the biggest inner city ministries around the world? From a humble beginning in East L.A., we're one of the biggest ministries around the world.

It's all because there was the Pioneer Generation and the Joshua Generation that said, "Yes, I will believe God. If God said it could be done, it could be done. If God said to take the city, then we'll take the city. If God says to take the country, we will take the country. If God says to take the world, we will take the world!!"

That's what has brought us where we are today. It was faith. You see God is looking for people that will believe in Him, and people that will be able to move out by faith. The Bible says, *"Be instant in season and out of season."*

What's exciting about the ministry of Victory Outreach is that you

never know where you're going to be tomorrow - that's exciting.

Take a look at some of the "Joshua Generation" in Victory Outreach. Al and Georgina Valdez had other plans but God had plans for them. I told Pastor Al, "Just come and hang out in San Diego for a while." He had been overseeing the Urban Training Centers and that was pretty nice, being with all the young people and visiting churches.

It was kind of nice because he wasn't in one place; he didn't have to be counseling people; didn't have to deal with rebellious disciples and rebellious sheep. I told Al, "Just come up to San Diego. Just give me a hand over here and bring some of the guys too." So along came Miller, then "Computer Tim," then came Andre who was up in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They all came to "just hang out with us in San Diego."

Little by little, God was forming a team. Until finally, after a number of years, when a team was already formed, I said to Pastor Al and Georgina, "Goodbye, I'll see you later." And do you know that they are now the pastors of Victory Outreach in San Diego.

What about Sonny Jr.? Sonny Jr. had plans of going out and evangelizing the world; hanging out with Tim Story, signing autographs, and traveling all over. God said, "Put this young man in La Puente, train him and let him take over the ministry." And sure enough, after a period of time I said, "Sonny, come here. I want to train you for the work of the ministry."

Then before he knew it, he became the pastor of the Victory Outreach Mother Church. He's from the Joshua Generation. And now he's taking another step of faith and is building a building. Watch and see, I guarantee you, when that building is built, he is not going to be able to accommodate

the crowds within that building but there's going to be a Holy Ghost breakthrough like they have never experienced before.

I can go on of many others from the Pioneer Generation and Joshua Generation. Fernie from Oxnard who became a youth leader within his church, and now look at him, he's the pastor of a thriving church right there in Oxnard, California. What about Brother Cal from San Bernardino? He was one of my right hand men from the Pioneer Generation. He's gone home to be with the Lord but before he did, he spotted a young man by the name of Rick Alanis and started imparting of himself into Rick as young person. Before you knew it the Lord took Bro Cal home and guess who took over the church? It was Pastor Rick.

And I can go on and on. What about Philip La Crue, Sr.? Philip was a skinny young man when I took hold of him and said, "Philip, God wants to use your life." I started discipling him; he would be the master of ceremony for me at our early crusades, big crusades at the East LA College Auditorium. After all these years he's still out there as an evangelist. His wife Cindy La Crue, was one of the first little teenage girls in the church. And look how God has now raised up their son, Philip Jr., to be part of the Joshua Generation and he's taking over to help oversee the G.A.N.G. and help disciple and raise up God's Anointed Now Generation.

I look at all this and I get so blessed because I see we have a tremendous future ahead of us. But it's going to take a people of quality. A quality generation of people is what God wants. A generation of faith, who has faith to be able to step out on God's word.

4. God is Looking for a Generation of People Who are Going to Be Persistent.

Individuals who are not going to be wimps and wimpy, people that the devil can come and smack them upside the head and they're not going to get scared and run. Not people that are up one day and then backslide the next day; not those who are always up and down, in and out, back and forth. Those types of people will never do what God has called them to do. God can't use people like that.

God is looking for people who will never give up. People that are not easily discouraged; people that are going to be diligent; people that are going to be persistent; people that are going to be determined.

Galatians 6:9 says, *"And let us not get tired of doing what is right for after awhile we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up."* The Bible has lots of examples of people who got discouraged. II Timothy says, *"Dimas has forsaken me and loved the world."* Dimas got discouraged and backslid. He started out right, but then he gave up.

D.L. Moody said, *"I've never known God to use a discouraged person."* Because every time you are discouraged it's because you have chosen to be discouraged, because you're looking at the problem instead of looking to God.

It does not matter what your problem is today. No matter what you're going through today, I have news for you - God is bigger than your problem!

I don't determine a person's greatness in Victory Outreach by his or her talent or their wealth, but by what it takes to be able to discourage them. Remember, God will never let you go through something you can't handle. So whatever the situation, whatever the temptation, God is able to handle it.

Look at the Apostle Paul, the secret of his success was that nothing could get him down; nothing could discourage

him. Paul said, *"We are pressed on every side by trouble but not crushed or broken. We're perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We're hunted down but God never abandons us. We are knocked down but we get up again and keep on going."* That's why the Apostle Paul was a great man of God, because he just kept on going. What does it take to discourage you? Is it just a word of criticism somebody spoke about you? I have news for you; the more God uses you, the more of a target you become. Not everybody is going to love you. People are going to disappoint you. People are going to misunderstand you. People are going to criticize you. But you need to love them anyway. You need to keep a tough skin and a tender heart.

I have three words for you today, Never Give Up! Be persistent and put your trust in God. Are you ready to do that? Are you ready to be that "Now Generation?" Are you ready to be that "Future Generation" that is going to continue to fulfill this great calling upon this ministry that God has given us?

Or are you going to give up? Are you going to compromise? Are you going to be afraid? No! Say, "I'm going to stand up and be a mighty man of valor, a mighty woman of valor; I'm going to be the young man, the young lady that God can use. If Sister Julie can do it, I can do it. If Pastor Sonny can do it, I can do it."

Today God is looking for a generation of persistent people, people who will never give up.

Recently I had the privilege of going back to New York; back to my stomping grounds, back to my roots in New York City. I was able to go back to the Teen Challenge Center. It was there where I gave my heart to God. That's where God reached me; right there in the

Teen Challenge Chapel. I will always be thankful for Teen Challenge and give honor to David Wilkerson and Nicky Cruz because God used David Wilkerson and Nicky Cruz in my life.

We were right in the heart of New York City at the Time Square Church in Manhattan. We were there at David Wilkerson's church along with all of the Teen Challenge Directors from all over the world. They were celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

All of a sudden Dave got up; both Nicky and I were there because we both were speaking that night. They had planned a "double header" with two of us preaching.

When Dave went up to introduce me, he said, "I know that there are a lot of you here that are my spiritual grandchildren and great-grandchildren. But tonight I have the privilege of presenting my sons. Sometimes we take for granted what is happening here. You have to be careful not to get so familiar with it that you take it for granted, this isn't happening everywhere, I want you to know that. I went to one of Sonny's conferences and I saw the greatest manifestation of the grace of God that I've been able to see in all of my years of ministry."

Coming from a man like David Wilkerson, a man that God has called to the streets of the world; who's been all over and has seen inner city ministries all over the world; for him to say that in his 50 years of ministry he's seen the greatest manifestation of the grace of God in Victory Outreach is saying something.

Then as they introduced me, they played a video of one of our world conferences. There were all kinds of people in the video raising their hands and praising the Lord; then the Twilight Treasures women's choir came on singing for God. It just blew the mind of every in that church to

see so many transformed lives! I just said, "Thank you Jesus for what You've done."

When I see these things take place; it makes me feel small because I know that I haven't done it. My wife hasn't done it. It's just hard to explain. People ask me, "Give me the details, give me the concept and strategy you used to raise up this worldwide movement." I can't give it to them; it's hard to explain, hard to describe.

It all comes out from the Holy Ghost, just like the Book of Acts when they were gathered together for prayer. All of a sudden the Spirit of God came upon them and they began to speak in other tongues.

Then they went out and turned the world upside down and right side up!

This is just what has happened with our ministry. God has raised us up because He has chosen us and He has ordained us. He has anointed us so that we can go into the inner cities of the world and proclaim the Gospel to people that are in bondage. That's why more than ever I'm believing God to raise up some of you. Be ready to go into another country.

One of the young men that I get excited to see how God is using isn't a professional clergyman. He's in South Africa and revival is taking place. And who is God using? I didn't even know the guy before he went to South Africa. He wasn't in any of our leadership meetings. I don't even know if he had a title. All I know is that he was in his church in Northern California when his pastor said, "We need somebody to go to South Africa." Pastor Jose laid hands on him and said, "Go in the name of Jesus into South Africa." And he went.

I don't even know if he knew all the strategies of raising up a ministry. Now, all of a sudden God has given him revival. God has given him a

breakthrough. I try to figure out how in the world did it all happen?

He was just a young man excited about Jesus. I think he went to South Africa and said, "Praise the Lord, Hallelujah! Jesus is going to raise up a church. Jesus is going to raise up a movement." I think he didn't take no for an answer; he believed it so much that before he knew it there was a revival that broke out.

I spoke to him on the phone the other day and he was so excited. I said, "How are you doing?" "How am I doing?!" he responded, "Oh Pastor Sonny, you have to come and see what's happening! We have a brand new building and now we have about 600 people in our congregation. God is moving. We have our rehab homes and we now have a waiting list of over 2,000 young people wanting to come into our homes."

I told him, "I want to send some guys

that can help you with the rehab and help you with the ministry but you need to get a bigger place so you can accommodate more guys in the rehab."

That's all I had to say. All of a sudden he called me up and said, "Pastor Sonny, do I have news for you. Hold on to your seat. God has opened up a door and we have a building that has between 40 to 50 bedrooms, with several kitchens. The man wants to turn it over to us and we're going to be paying less than what we're paying right now in our little rehab home. We'll be able to accommodate at least 200 men!"

This is all the work of God. Here's a guy **God** raised up. It's not by having position. It's by being right where you're at and God choosing you. God is looking at people's hearts. He's looking for hearts that are after His heart. He's looking for broken people. You could be the next one.

Is there still room to do great exploits for God? Or has everything been done already? Is there still room to be another Sonny? To be another Rick, to be another Fernie? To be another Al? Is there still room? Are you ready to be that person God wants you to be? Are you ready to go all out? Are you ready to be broken by the Holy Spirit? Are you ready to step out by faith and say, "Here I am God, use me."

God is looking for a generation of people that are going to say, "I'm going to be that person to stand in the gap. I'm going to be that woman; I'm going to be that man that God is going to use. I'm going to be that person that's going to surrender my life to God. I'm going to be that person that's going to be available to do whatever God wants me to do. I want to be that person that's going to take the torch and continue to take it forward, in the name of Jesus."



Victory Outreach International
P.O. Box 210068, Chula Vista, CA 91921

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