

It is easy to miss the greatness of Jesus' final report. Well, our Bibles call it the 'priestly prayer.' I see it more as His final report to the Father. In John 17 Jesus said: "I kept the vision you gave me (*purpose*), I did not lose those you entrusted to me (*stewardship*), and I have prepared them to go on with the work (*projection*)." I now see that the first two only exist to make the third possible, so we have to continually ask ourselves: whose purpose am I helping achieve? Who has a mission to steward because of my influence in their lives? Who am I projecting to make a difference in this world?

After 25 years ministering in the 'front lines' via evangelism, apologetics, leadership development and church planting; I currently find myself primarily helping project individuals and churches for greater Kingdom influence. This is happening locally and internationally. Here are two examples:

The Blue Watch

At the beginning of 2017 my friend Burke Swearingen asked me to help sort out an internal stirring he was experiencing. Already in his fifties, he has thirty years of experience in the police department and several years in the private sector as well. Through coaching, God led Burke to create the 'Blue Watch,' an organization that provides emotional, spiritual and professional help to first responders and their families. The ministry's motto is "watching over those who watch over us." I serve with Burke as coordinator of leadership training for greater Birmingham and also as one of his advisors. This ministry is already in high demand bringing Kingdom values to our officers via conferences, mentoring, and leadership training.



Faith Fortress

Ed Vines was in law for many years, first as a lawyer then as a judge. When he asked me to help him, the idea for the initiative was already present. However, through coaching, he was able to clarify how the ministry was to be organized and projected. We have met almost weekly for a year and I have been blessed by seeing this idea flourish into a very promising apologetic and evangelistic ministry. Faith Fortress will not only impact the law community of Birmingham, but also help equip believers to correctly judge and address the ideas that are transforming our society. I look forward to greater involvement with Ed and this ministry.

Although I continue in the ministry of proclamation, preaching often in Christian and secular settings; I see great value in helping equip and project others like Burke and Ed. This is my way of continuing the prayer of Jesus in John 17.

Thanks for blessing Burke, Ed, and others here and abroad through your giving.

In Him, *Manuel & Sandra*