

# Overcomers Outreach

**"Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches"  
December 2012 Newsletter**



## From the Director

– Our past year has really been active. We have had some groups close, but many more are opening, and the bridge of Overcomers Outreach continues to share the healing power of Christ with those seeking a solution to the disease of addiction. The focus of our Central Office is to make OO better known, and we are "becoming" just that.

The season of good cheer and glad tidings is upon us yet again. This can also be a time of stress and anxiety for many. It is very important for us to keep our eyes on Jesus, and seek His guidance, power, and love, as we "become" the hands and feet of His ministry. Our witness is our walk with Him.

We celebrate the presence of God at this time of year. He became one of us - *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us ... (John 1:14)*, then became a sacrifice for us - *But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (Rom. 5:8)*, so that we might become like Him - *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. (Phil. 1:6)*

When we come to Christ, we begin a transformation -*When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things (1Cor.13:11)*. As we grow in Christ, we help others -*He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us (2Cor.1:4)*. This is the time to comfort one another, to reach out to the struggling, and invite them to share in the Good News! *I plead with you, brothers and sisters, become like me, for I became like you (Gal 4:12)*. It is the season of giving! – Jeff M.

## Events - 2012 Gratitude Dinner

This year we gathered at Trinity Church, in San Fernando, CA, for worship, fellowship, and a wonderful meal. To be part of a group of over 70 men, women, and children sharing our gratitude for our awesome Savior was a very special experience. Singing, praying, and a well-appointed buffet brought the group into a festive and loving time of sharing hearts and healings.



*Praising God at the Gratitude Dinner*

Everyone had a great time, and a 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donation was made to the Central office as well.

## Coming up - Dinner/Speaker Meeting

Sunday December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012

6:30 Dinner - 7:30 Speaker

And:

## Speaker Jam

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Both at:

Cedar Hill Church of Christ  
535 S. Clark Rd, Cedar Hill, TX 75104

Visit our "[Events](#)" page for details.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual OO Campout

June 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. Morro Bay, CA

Register early! We fill up every year, so mark the date! Visit the [website](#) or call the Central Office to sign up.

## The Mailbox - Australia writes:

Hi Jeff

A huge hello - I cannot tell you how much fun it was connecting with you all in May – seems like a lifetime ago. God has so enriched Andrew and me that I feel I have a family there in the north hemisphere and another down here but the reality is that it is too far away up there!

Anyway, the good news is that OO down here is growing and growing.

There is so much need and so few workers. I have spent most of the year in a wrestle with God about his will for me in running OO - I feel so incredibly inadequate for the task. Yet he has not raised up a Jeff for me yet and so I am still doing it. Your encouragement in May was invaluable in that process

My biggest challenge still is the admin systems. God provided a girl to come onboard and she's done a few months of service and got some things in shape but of course it is never enough and now she's heading into a full time job.

I'm still praying for my church family and that they become a part of OO – I just don't see the point of doing the work without them – God has again provided some hope in this line and a chap is coming to see me this afternoon who may be that answer – so I continue to live in hope.

Penny

## South Africa writes:

I thank you for responding to my email. God Bless you and your group. We ourselves meet as a small group to pray and ask God's hand to guide us in addressing the evil of drug abuse in our community. I live in a small rural town called Paarl. My neighbourhood consists of very poor people living in very poor economic circumstances, with unemployment rife among the youth. Young people are caught in the vicious cycle of drug trafficking and abuse.

Currently we are supporting families in cases where their children are hooked on drugs. Our main drug problem is methamphetamine, commonly known in South Africa as "Tik". We ask and pray for God's guidance to the following dilemmas that we face:

1. Families are destroyed virtually overnight where children are hooked to drugs.
2. Children have access to these drugs on a daily basis. Drugs are manufactured in the backcourts of neighbourhoods.

3. Unemployed youth are targeted by merchants to sell these drugs for an income.
4. Our seamless borders allow for easy smuggling of the drugs into our country.
5. Our government's inability to stem out the gangster problem whose core business is the drug trade.

We ask your group to pray for us here in South Africa. He promised us in His word that no principalities, forces of darkness or worldly kingdoms are greater than His. His word motivates us every time when we meet to pray for His guidance. Thanks again for your response.

God's Blessings Joseph

**Malawi writes:**

I am happy to hear from you here in Malawi. There is a big change in terms of ministry. We have now been provided a new room and furniture from All Nations Theological Seminary in the heart of Lilongwe. Still, we are lacking some orientation from experienced help in training group members. We are but growing fast and are now linked to many government officials to counsel their family members. We are also trying to develop our own newsletter. We are also lacking teaching materials. Have a blessed and wonderful time. My regards to all group members.

Henry M. Chikafa

**Baton Rouge writes:**

My name is Joshua R and I am the youth pastor at a church in Baton Rouge, LA. As a recovering addict (6 years clean) who got clean from a blend of the 12 steps and my own personal salvation, I was excited to hear about Overcomers Outreach. I am interested in starting an O.O. meeting at our church and would appreciate any kind of information packet you can send us so that I can present it to the elders and pastor. In Christ,

Joshua R

**California writes:**

Hi! My name is Phillip. I was recently released from Los Angeles County Jail with 3-year probation on charge of DUI and I am in dire need of locating a 12 step Christian program close to my residence. I am not required to do this but I am tired at what alcohol has done to my life,

family, and ministry. Please advise me as to my recovery outreach.

Thank you Phillip

**Posted on our Blog – "The Bridge"**

*Our [blog site](#) is intended to offer sample material from our literature, while also serving as an "online meeting". Here are some recent posts to the topic pages mentioned:*

**Charlie says:** (Step 1)

Hello to all my fellow recovering and struggling addicts/alcoholics. My name is Charlie and thanks to Jehova Rapha (My Healing God), I will be clean 7 yrs in March. It does me wonders to hear your comments and I am so glad there is a place for people to release on line. If you are in Marshall county area (Alabama) we have a small group meeting at Solitude Baptist Church Tuesday nights at 630 where we have small group and study the twelve steps though GODS word. It has been awesome and it is anonymous. Come join us if you can and if you need to talk to someone contact me at [charlie@howardbentley.com](mailto:charlie@howardbentley.com). May you see that if you let God take over you will start praising Him through your addiction for your addiction.

**Johnna says:**

I have been clean for almost a year. I have no sponsor. How can I get into a meeting and sponsor here?

*We suggest you begin attending 12 step meetings regularly and listen for someone who shares about their life being "improved". Talk with people before and after meetings, mentioning that you want to work the steps and are looking for a sponsor. If you find someone that has the peace and serenity you seek, then ask them to be your sponsor. The worst is they say no, though they may very well say yes, and can probably help you regardless. – Ed.*

**Diane says:**

To Heather - seeing the date of your writing - how are you today? I hope you have progressed towards healing. I am in a bad spot again, due to my own stupidity, but I know this program helped me many years ago and it is in thanks to this program I am who I am today. I am not perfect but the program has given me many helpful tools and a place to go and share when I feel as

though there is no place to go and no one who I can talk to. Where do I go Lord? I have my faith and I have my hope, but when I am in the mist of the battle it is not always so easy to keep my cool because I do have a short temper and I have suffered too much abuse in the past to put up with it now. Only thing is, I have gotten myself "involved" again and have wondered if I have got any brains at all. So just for today, after a beautiful day, and a night of argument, I have chosen to go to my room, pop in a movie, sit here, and write. Thank God for this program too. God Bless you all and pray you have a good night.

**John says (Sharing Jesus Pamphlet):**

Found this article when trying to help a buddy who's Dad has healed due to the 12 steps but denies that his Higher Power is Jesus or God. You cite Acts 17:25, which I also found to be telling. To organize my thoughts I made a list of how the 12 steps mirror the steps to salvation. Kind of seems like a slam-dunk, but I come at it from another direction.

It has occurred to me that many 12 step followers have a more personal, reliant relationship with God than many who profess to be seeking Him; a real first- hand knowledge of just what God can do.

**On Face Book:**

I thank God for Overcomers Outreach program. I am what I am because OO came to Uganda. Thank you Jesus who works through OO. – Ezra

What A powerful Night Again at the Tuesday Meeting in San Fernando. The Love In the Room and Acceptance and Word of The Living God - Wow! Celebrating a Birthday of 20 years. God Is Awesome and he works in the Life of His Children. I Love being a part of this fellowship - Thank You Lord! - Lydia

I am grateful for being involved and being rebuilt from the inside out. It is always a pleasure to find others in Overcomers Outreach that have been where I have been. This is only the beginning of my new life. Thank you. – Wanda

## Tradition Seven

### "Every Overcomers Outreach group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Independence – we pay our bills so that we are not reliant on anything other than God.

*An OO group should be supported solely by its membership, thus maintaining autonomy and preserving the identity and primary purpose of Overcomers Outreach.*

Practice of this tradition keeps the group responsible for itself. To be self-supporting is more than monetary in nature. The meeting room needs to be set up and cleaned up. Literature should be available and rent or other expenses met. Of most importance, the commitment to support each other is maintained by members consistently showing up and participating.

The financial needs of the group are met by voluntary contributions from the members, thus adding to the group's identity and unity, while also guarding against outside agendas, requirements, or motives that may divert the group from its primary purpose. As members unite in bearing the responsibility for the operation of the group, we become "fully self-supporting" spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

Just as the group meets its obligations, the individual learns responsibility. The blessing of service begins to generate new levels of gratitude, while giving in anonymity builds humility. By declining outside contributions, we grow in faith, which glorifies God, and we become self-supporting as we take direction from God. We recognize that the contributions of time, energy, and participation by others are equally important contributions to the benefit of the group. Through fulfillment of our personal commitment to the group, our integrity grows. As we see the simple needs of our group met, our cooperation with others will continue to grow in all areas of our lives.

Our Central Office serves the groups by providing the website, directory information, literature, and meeting supplies, along with Email, telephone

communications, and surface mail. We depend on individual and 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition group donations.

... for the worker deserves his wages.  
Luke 10:7

## Office News

We welcome the new groups in Bastrop, TX, Bellflower, CA, Loveland, CO, Topeka, KS, Middletown, RI, New Burn, NC, Simi Valley, CA, Barstow, CA, Warrick, OK, and Albuquerque, NM. We also welcome new Missions groups in KS and new jail ministry in Rushville, IL.

Our Face Book page features daily devotional and inspirational posts, along with current events and announcements. With new "likes" and "shares", our potential outreach could be increased to friends and "friends of friends". Be sure to visit [Overcomers Outreach US](http://Overcomers Outreach US) and click "like" to receive daily posts of devotional readings, events, and news. We would love your input, too, so feel free to comment and share.

Our site [overcomersoutreach.org](http://overcomersoutreach.org) has information about literature, groups, and many other resources for help. Our blog site – [The Bridge](http://The Bridge) – serves as an online meeting resource and features much of our literature, too.

## Literature

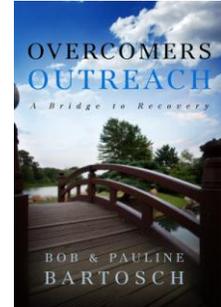
A new, free pamphlet is available online for download and printing, or contact the office and we can mail some. The pamphlet has information on why we give and how we model self-support to the newcomer.

Our work on scriptures pertinent to our Traditions is nearing completion. We are expanding and improving the Group Tradition study guides. As with the FREED book project, we welcome any input and suggested verses you may have to contribute. When finished, we will work on "Steps and Standards", and be offering the revised "Steps and Traditions" booklet this spring. In the meantime, we have copies of the current guide booklets available at half price.

The new "Appendix" to the FREED booklet is available for download and copying from the website, or by request to the Office. New topics and scriptures (along with additional scriptures for existing topics) have

been added. All references to page numbers stay the same, and the insert is easy to add to the booklet if desired. All new FREED books ordered are printed with the insert included.

Our OO "big book", *A Bridge to Recovery*, is an excellent resource for a "book study" meeting, and contains guidelines, formats, and the history of Overcomers Outreach.



*A Bridge to Recovery,*

Literature sales help fund the Central Office. We are happy to help your group find the literature they want at a good price, and offer discount prices on some books and Bibles by the case.

## Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery: Mark T, Cathedral City – 4yrs., Rocky J., S. Lake Tahoe, 6yrs., Darla W., Burley, ID – 9yrs., Ralph M., Elizabeth, NJ – 23 yrs., Bill D., Simi Valley, CA – 24 yrs., Linde C. – 25yrs., and Lon A., 42yrs., both from Colorado Springs, CO. They have made donations (\$1 for each year of their recovery) to the Central Office to express their gratitude.

The New Beginnings Group in Simi Valley, CA celebrated their 3rd anniversary in November and the Yorba Linda, CA group saw 23 yrs this past September. They make regular 7<sup>th</sup> tradition donations to the Central Office and continue, through their love and support, to help many people.

If you or your group would like to be added to our list, please visit our [Birthday Page](#) or call the Central Office for details.

## In Loving Memory

A donation was recently made in memory of Naomi Watson, a willing servant now with Jesus.

## A Prayer and Thanks for Change

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

2 Cor. 5:17

The Creator of heaven and earth loves you. He loves you so much that He came to earth, born of a woman, in humble setting, and for one purpose – **that you could know His love!** Once we meet Him, our hearts and minds are changed forever, just as life on earth was changed forever on that day, the day our Savior was born. Moreover, hearts continue to change, as His love is shared in us and through us.

*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"*

Rev. 21:5

Let's pray:

**Lord, we thank you for hearing our prayers and making us new. We praise you for the beauty of this life in which You direct us. As You bless us with each new moment, may we serve your children in love, without fear, as You would have us do. May we walk in obedience to your statutes, and rejoice in the knowledge of your providence through Your Grace, all to Your Glory, forever. In Jesus name we pray.**  
**Amen**

*If you would like to donate to Overcomers Outreach, Inc. to help defray the cost of this newsletter as well as other operating expenses, please visit our website [overcomersoutreach.org](http://overcomersoutreach.org) or send to Overcomers Outreach, 12828 Acheson Dr., Whittier, CA 90601. All donations are tax deductible. To be added to our mailing list, or removed from it, please so indicate, along with your donation, or call us at (800)310-3001. You can also email us at [info@overcomersoutreach.org](mailto:info@overcomersoutreach.org) and we will be happy to accommodate your request. We also welcome any news articles or testimonies you would care to submit for future newsletters. God Bless*

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