

# Overcomers Outreach

## *"Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches"* *Fall 2015 Newsletter*

### **From the Director** – Overcomers



celebrated a 30-year milestone this past May. Our Board Chairperson, Bette K, organized a "Walk to the Cross" event in Simi Valley. Small attendance, but a mighty message. Co-founder Pauline B sent a letter of gratitude to many of our supporters, as they too have expressed their gratitude through giving and support. Our annual campout was a great time as always, and we enjoyed mild weather, good fellowship, and God's Providence - blessings all!

At a recent 12 step book study, I was especially moved by a passage from the AA text: *"These men had found something brand new in life. Though they knew they must help other alcoholics if they would remain sober, that motive became secondary. It was transcended by the happiness they found in giving themselves for others."* The men referred to were the first members of the first group of AA, and in the spirit of "giving themselves for others" people had found release from bondage then began to help others. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."* (2 Cor. 1:3-4). His comfort is our happiness.

I was humbled recently by a note from an inmate at a federal facility. It read "not much, but all I can give", with a \$10 check from the inmate's account. We are not much, but we can give much, through the power of the Gospel. Our walk to the cross is not for us, but for giving ourselves for others. And it is not about us, but Him, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

– Jeff M.

### **Events**

#### **Germany 'C12-Life 2015'**

Dear Jeff, friends in OO, and brothers and sisters in Christ - With God's Help we could overcome some health and personal problems last minute to hold our 'C12-Life 2015' in the Northern region of Germany surrounded by a typical rural landscape to dive into the Peace and Freedom of Christ. We started with a visit of the ancient monastery of Ihlow which belongs to the first facilities of the Christianization coming from England to Belgium, the Netherlands, and German countries in the 13th century AD. Next day performing our Marathon-Meeting from Step 1 to 12 with our FREED



booklet – in the room next to us raged a 'Halloween Party' but God's Spirit supported us to demonstrate that *'HE that is in us is indeed greater than he in the world.'* Praise the Lord - the Holy Spirit gripped us even more in our sharing and prayer! We really had a very good time sharing our experiences, strength, hope, faith and love and trust in God alone. Finally some of us had a chance to visit the sea-side nearby and we had a very good starting with breakfast then touring the sea-side together until evening time. When we left we tried to find words to describe our C12-Life-Meeting and we all decided that *'God's Love in Jesus Christ in us and our humility in Him'* would describe our experience best. Our Thanks, Blessings and Greetings from all C12-Friends here -

Rolf, Boris et al



### **Washington, DC writes:**

This is Pastor Charles B from "Church of The First Born" located in Washington, D.C. I want to report in and let everyone know that the York, Pennsylvania area of Overcomers Outreach Ministry recently celebrated an event in York, PA. There were a lot of great people in attendance, and the speakers were awesome. We will be having our event here in D.C. on the 28th of November. Keep us in your prayers. God bless you all.



*Ready for marshmallows*

**The 2015 Morro Bay Campout** was a lot of fun! Special thanks to Joe and Lori B for all their help planning the meals, and to everyone else for pitching in and making the gathering such a success! We are planning the next one for August 5 – 7, 2016

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Overcomers 12-steps Gospel Explosion**

3:00 pm, November 28th, 2015  
Young's Memorial Church  
2590 Alabama avenue  
SE Washington, DC 20029

#### **Overcomers Outreach World Convention**

January 29th-31st, 2016 Bethel Acres  
Assembly of God, 18509 Bethel Rd.,  
Shawnee, OK

Mark your Calendar. Program and details to follow on the [Events](#) page of the website.

### **The Mailbox –**

#### **Philippines write:**

Greetings! I am 53 years old from the Philippines. I am a recovering addict. I am clean and sober for 24 years through NA. I went into a treatment center 24 years ago and after a year and a half, I turned over my life to

Jesus Christ. I am writing this letter to ask help from you on how to share what I have. I started a 12 step group in a small community in our area. This community is one of the poorest, and resources are quite limited. I have 10 to 12 people in my group meeting once a week. These people are so poor that they do not know where their next meal will be coming from. I share with them what little I have. I want to transform this group from the traditional N.A. / A.A. group into an Overcomer's group and share Jesus in their lives. I am hoping that you could provide me with anything that can help - old newsletters, Old Books, Pamphlets, Literature, Meeting Guides, or a Manual on how to convert my traditional N.A. / A.A. group to Overcomer's Group.

Rei U

#### **Kenya writes:**

I am a lady from Kenya, Africa. I found your contacts by searching the internet for Christian support groups. I feel a lot of pain inside. I need someone to share my pain with. Is there somebody there who can give me a shoulder to lean on? Am begging you to listen to me as I have no one to listen. I am afraid of talking to someone face to face or even to make friends with anyone. Everyone who I have ever made a friend have always backstabbed me - even pastors - to the point that I now fear people. That's the reason why am seeking help online. All am asking from you is to listen to me nothing more. Just a shoulder to lean on.

Monique M

*And also from Kenya:*

Greetings in the name of our Lord Christ Jesus - I have come across your organization, Overcomers Outreach, and I have actually been able to read through the various activities that you undertake to help people who have been tied up in addictive behavior. As result I have realized that we could possibly work together or maybe I could start a group in the Embu area to facilitate an outreach to the various people who are trying to stop drinking beer in my area. Alcohol has been a major problem in Kenya until the President declared war on all unregulated alcoholic

drinks. The ban left many people, especially addicts, very frustrated and some have tried to stop drinking altogether. It is this category of people we have been working with so that they can completely stop drinking. I am writing to ask for you guidance in starting an Overcomer group in Embu since your approach is more advanced than ours .We have been praying for these people, some of whom had their social lives completely destroyed so that they are now ready to start all over again. Some even want to marry and raise a family while others are looking for gainful employment. I look forward to your advice on this work. Thank you. Yours sincerely - Brother Joseph

#### **Canada writes:**

Prayer for Forgiveness of Mistakes: Dear Lord, Please forgive me for the sins of the flesh and cut me off from the physical effects of those mistakes for I was younger than my current age of 28, stupid and naive because I would like my childhood problems to stop visiting me in the day and night. Please give me a second chance for what I am asking. Help me find the strength to overcome the guilt and regrets I am feeling about the decision I made. Please help me and my partner find the love and passion we once had for each other and help us grow together and not grow apart. Guide us away from the anger and resentment we may still have for each other from problems we had in the past. Help us through this challenging and confusing road in our relationship to a happier and healthier relationship with each other. Please lead us back into each other's arms. Thank you God for hearing my prayer and for everything you have done for me and the people in my life. I love you. Amen. Kevin W

#### **Maryland writes:**

Hope the campout event was fun. Too bad we are on opposite coasts. There's only a few O.O. groups in this area. Be nice to have more & have some large events. Perhaps one day I'll head your way & we can meet. Thanks for running O.O. We may be a small group, but the Lord has sent us who HE sees fit & HE has saved more than a few souls doing so. Tuesday

night a member celebrated 6 years. I remember the night she showed up & she is not the same woman. God Bless you.

Dennis B

#### **San Quentin writes:**

I am currently incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison in N. California. I have been a part of an Overcomers 12 Step group for the past 2 years. We have weekly about 30 men and 2 outside sponsors attending. This group has really been a blessing for me in moving forward in recovery. I am a Christian and all the material we discuss comes from the Bible - "Overcomers is my group". I write as I will be paroling back to LA County in 2016 and I want to continue going to meetings in my community. I need a list of meetings in the county so I may start corresponding with a home group. Thank you for your time in this matter. God Bless

Darell F

#### **Welcome New Groups:**

Monessen, PA - Newness of Life Ministries Church - 489 McKee Ave. Mon. 7pm

Cody, WY - Cody Mission Project Bldg. - 2020 Loewer Ave. - Sat. 6pm

Pendleton, OR - LWCC - 501 Northgate, 97801 - Tue.6pm

Redlands, CA - Crosswalk Church 10421 Corporate Dr. Wed. 6:30pm

Brooklyn, NY - New Testament Church of God - 904 Myrtle Ave. - Sat. 1pm

Colonial Heights, VA - Life Church 16801 Harrowgate Rd., - Thu. 7pm

Saugus, MA - Grace Ministries - 101 Main St, Thursday 6:30pm

Prescott Valley, AZ - Living Waters Church - 7367 E. First St. - Fri. 6pm

Bakersfield, CA - New Life Church of God - 8510 Weedpatch Hwy. - Tue. 7pm

Totowa, NJ - Whole Life Community Church, NJ - 105 Church St. - Sun. 7pm

Cleveland, OH - Joshua House 3359 E. 137th St., 44120 - Sat. 5pm

Sheffield, IL - Cornerstone Community Wellness - 302 N. Mason St. - Wed. 6:30pm

## Humble

We may view "humility" or "humbling oneself" as becoming less, lowering one's expectations, goals, desires, or physical station. "God humbled himself, became flesh, died a horrible death" and "Jesus humbled Himself as a servant, washing the feet of the disciples" are examples we often use to show that we should not think ourselves "better" than others, as we all too often do. But when we try to "be humble" we are really fueling our own pride. Giving a "hand up instead of a hand out" is a wonderful concept, but who does the discerning? As soon as we offer help "up", are we not declaring that we are better, or at least in a "better" state? Even more, when we don't give because it won't be used the way we think it should be, or we give or serve with any condition attached, are we not beginning to play God? The life of a beggar is a life of abasement and shame, even for the legendary "professionals" - they are still beggars, just as a convict, even the "big man", is still living life behind bars.

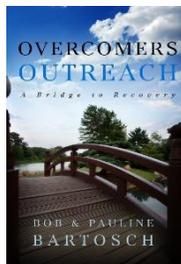
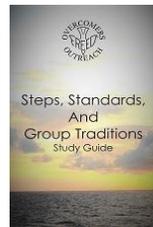
*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.* What if Jesus was not saying we must go to any depth, even this most disgusting task of washing the travelers' feet? After all, He taught in parables, and used examples of action to convey His lessons. What if the point was that everything is important to God - not "lowering" Himself, but actually elevating the act to one worthy of the attention of God Himself! Think about that. What makes washing feet disgusting? Is it the dirt, smell, the position? Or is it our view? Being so important or so unworthy are two sides of the same coin - pride. The humble one is free of self and serves not for recognition or even outcome, but as an act of love, doing something that needs to be done. Did God become flesh to "lower" Himself? How is that possible - He is Almighty and can be nothing "less", and only He, through humble sacrifice, could raise us to eternal

salvation - it needed to be done. Jesus said *"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."*

## Literature

We have revised the "**Marijuana Maze**" pamphlet to include recent findings of studies on long term use. Once again, this world has offered a shallow solution to a spiritual malady, another "instant fix". As with alcohol, we do not take a position "for" or "against" the legal use of any substance, but we do offer the solution to the abuse of any substance or compulsive behavior, namely life abundant in Jesus Christ. We now are asking for input for a new pamphlet, "**The OO Group**". What makes for a successful group, and what makes us different than other 12 step groups? How do we make new people feel at ease in our group? We hope you will send your suggestions or comments to the Central Office.

**Steps and Traditions Guidebook** has been revised and enhanced with study scriptures, questions for personal and daily inventory, prayers, and additional material, in a spiral bound booklet. We are offering the new guidebook for \$6, with special volume discount pricing starting at 10 copies or more. We also have the **Revised Steps and Standards Guide** (steps only) and the **Revised Group Traditions Guide** (Traditions only) for \$3 each. [Available now.](#)



Our OO "big book", *A Bridge to Recovery*, is an excellent resource for a "book study" meeting. It also has guidelines, formats, 36 stories of recovery and the history of Overcomers Outreach.

We offer a Group Discount on orders of ten or more books shipped directly from the publisher for \$11 per book (shipping included). Visit our [Books](#) page in our online shop, where we also offer discounts by the case for the Life Recovery Bible. 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 books and Bibles by the case.

## Office News

We are transitioning to permission based email which is the latest anti-spam standard as well as the highest level of privacy. This means that if you wish to receive email bulletins, announcements, or updates, please visit our [Face Book](#) page or the [Home](#) page of our website and "sign up" or "join our mailing list". Our new "[Online Workshop](#)" is available on the "What's New" page, and we also have a link to our "[Study Page](#)", featuring step, topic, and "Four Standards" studies, with some pamphlet material as well. Also, be sure to share any group news or events you care to. Our [Group Network](#) link provides helpful information for starting, growing, and improving group attendance or outreach to the community.

## Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery:

Jack E, Burley, ID - 4yrs, Maryann V, Monterey Park, CA - 7yrs, Mark T, Cathedral City, CA - 7yrs, Darla w, Burley, ID - 12yrs, Jennifer B, Lockport, IL, - 14yrs, Helen R, Fountain Valley, CA. - 15yrs, David T, St. Helens, OR - 17yrs, Boris L, Fulda, Germany - 18yrs, Ralph M, Elizabeth, NJ - 25yrs, Bill D, Sylmar, CA, - 27yrs, Linde C, Colorado Springs, CO - 28yrs, Judy H, Cathedral City, CA - 33yrs, and Bette K, Simi Valley, CA, - 34yrs, They made donations (\$1 for each year of their recovery) to the Central Office to express their gratitude and help us "carry the message".

The following groups recently celebrated anniversaries this year: Sandy, UT - 2yrs, "Power Source Group" of Santa Paula, CA - 3yrs, New Beginnings in Simi Valley, CA - 6yrs, Yorba Linda, CA - 26yrs, and La Grange, IL - 26yrs. These groups 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.

## A Prayer of Thanks

*This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24*

Let's pray:

**Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the blessing of life itself. You meet our every need, at all times. You hear our every prayer, spoken or not. You guide our footsteps and make our paths before us. You are always with us, and you love us. Our hopes, our joys, and our futures are in You alone, Holy One. May we spend our every breath in praise and thanksgiving for Your grace as we share with those about us. 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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