

Overcomers Outreach

*“Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches”
March 2013 Newsletter*

From the Director –As I was walking this morning, I noticed the carcass of



a small rattlesnake with a crushed head, and I was reminded of the passage in Genesis. 3:15 - “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring

and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” I considered the fact that there may be other snakes nearby, and gave thanks for the “passive” reminder that we all need to watch for signs of danger (enmity) in our surroundings. These “serpents” may come in many forms – anger, fear, insecurity, addiction, codependence – and we may feel the effects when they “strike our heel”, but God promises that He will be victorious when we “crush their head” as we look to Him for our salvation.

I also saw insects devouring the snake carcass, which showed me that this world was reclaiming its own, and that, unlike the snake, we have a future beyond “ashes to ashes, dust to dust” - a future of joy with our Lord, free from all enmity and strife, or moth, or rust, or decay. This future is also based on another of God's promises; that Christ came and died on the cross for each one of us, and just as He was resurrected from the dead, so shall we also be raised, forgiven of sin and beloved by God.

1 Cor. 1:18 says, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” As we trust in the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit within us, we are being saved by the power of God. As our “old self” is crucified, these bodies will perish when this world reclaims its own, but the new creation we become through our faith in Christ will be given glorious bodies so that we may give glory to God forever, for He has overcome the world!

– Jeff M.

Events

Texas Speaker Jam

On January 19th, 7 speakers from different parts of the country shared their experience, strength, and hope with a group of about 150 people in Cedar Hill, TX. In the stories from NJ, PA, RI, and TX, the healing power of the Lord was revealed, and God was glorified. This has become an annual event. It was an example of what can take place when groups work together and meet in unity.

“Family Talk” Radio Broadcast:



With Dr. James Dobson

What an amazing privilege it was for Bob and I to be interviewed by Dr. James Dobson on “Focus on the Family” back in 2000! It was even more amazing to listen to the re-broadcast of that interview on Wednesday, March 13, on Dr. Dobson's new program, “Family Talk.”

Our prayer at OO is that many people who may have listened to the program will reach out if they are in need of help for their addictions— or if a loved one is adversely affected. There is genuine help and hope available!

If you missed the radio program and would like to hear [this interview](#), just go to OO's [website](#) where it is posted in its entirety! Everything we said then is still true today!

OO is offering its new 3rd edition “big book” titled “Overcomers Outreach — A Bridge to Recovery”. The book contains over 30 stories of recovery through the power of Christ, and is available from the OO Office.

Pauline Bartosch

Coming up-

1st Annual Northeast Overcomers Conference will be held Sat., April 20, 2013 from 9:00am-3:30pm, at the M&M Recreation Center, 116 Holt St., Hackensack, NJ, 07601. Check our [Events](#) page for flyer and details.

5th Annual OO Campout

June 21st-23rd, 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 –

South Africa writes:

Hi Jeff

Thank you so much for your reply to my letter. I shall certainly obtain the “A Bridge to Recovery” book. I will also keep checking out your blog. My Pastor wishes me to start the group in our 2nd quarter. That is the end of April. Please keep me in your prayers as I have many reservations about starting such a group, none of which compare to the wonderful opportunity the group will afford for the proclamation of the gospel. May our Lord keep growing you in love for Him and for others.

In His love

Lucille

Guatemala writes:

Hi Jeff

Thanks a lot for your quick reply. Well I already talked to some friends that like myself have been rescued by the Lord from the jaws of alcohol and drugs through 12 steps recovery programs. We have a place to do our meetings, you mention in the email that we need some books right? Now my question is how we can obtain them, I was glancing at OO website and could not find any literature available in Spanish, so I would like to get your assistance in that matter. God bless you. - Marco We “found” the Spanish literature and in January, we received this:

I hope you have a wonderful and blessed New Year. I'm also writing to let you know that we are starting the

group this month. We are looking for places and we will rent a small one, we are very excited about it. I already ordered the freed pamphlet that you have translated in Spanish and will order your Big Book soon. Now I have a question - we really want to study and apply the twelve steps in our meetings. In fact, we want to set certain days to study specifically the twelve steps.

Best Regards and Blessings -Marco

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:

Donna writes:

Please keep my boyfriend in prayer. He is an alcoholic and I love him. I have had a hard life and been through a lot. I am happy with him...when he is not drinking but when he is drinking, I am fearful for him. I do not want to see him killing himself with alcohol but that is what he is slowly doing. He constantly says he wants to get married and he wants to quit drinking and have a life with me but I cannot marry him the way he is right now. I want to marry him if he will really quit. Please keep him in your prayers and pray that the desire of drinking will leave him.

On Face Book:

Having the "right" view on many things changes the world all the way around us...I had Jesus first, but He led me to the rooms and that is where I truly began to heal...Praise you Lord! I TRULY know who I am in Christ today! Christ, on the solid Rock I stand!

Diane R

I found hope in Overcomers... before I began Al-Anon.

James D

Just found an OO meeting and was so blessed by it tonight! I love being able to share my faith AND my recovery with others! Thank you for keeping the door open and the lights on at Serenity Hall, Chapman Avenue, Garden Grove, CA. Come join us next Thursday at 5:30PM.

Donna W

OVERCOMERS OUTREACH:

The best kept secret in Cayman!

Ed. Note: the following is from an article published in “Christian Lifestyle Magazine” in the Cayman Islands. The article, written by the group leader on Gran Cayman, appeared in the January issue.

Overcomers Outreach is a Christ-centered 12-step recovery support group addressing addictions and compulsive behaviours, and those affected by them. Our first meeting was held at Cayman Islands Baptist Church on January 10, 2011, with meetings continuing on Mondays at 7pm.

As the OO “Big Book” states, “we meet to praise the Lord, study the Bible along with the 12 Steps and relevant recovery subjects, candidly share our experience, strength, and hope in strictest confidence; and to conclude in a circle of mutual prayer. Even though OO groups avoid doctrinal issues at all costs, the meeting’s focus is specifically based on commonly held tenets of historic orthodox Christianity. Without a doubt, the incredible power behind the success of those in OO groups is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God’s Holy Word, linked with the proven tools of the 12 Steps, is the dynamite that helps combat the fear, guilt, loneliness, confusion, and frustration that accompanies chemical dependency or compulsive behaviour and their total effects upon the family unit.”

The vision that God put into the hearts of OO’s founders, Bob and Pauline Bartosch, has grown into a much-needed bridge that connects traditional 12-step groups and

churches of all denominations. It is not a substitute for church, Bible studies or traditional 12-step groups. In fact, we encourage continued attendance at these life-saving programs. People within traditional 12-Step programs are offered a fresh look at the “higher power” they have been seeking, in the person of Jesus Christ. This spiritual experience can pave the way for their return to the church of their choice. OO brings recovery tools to the church and points people in recovery programs to Jesus Christ as their Highest Power. Christians are not exempt from addictions and compulsive behaviours, nor are their loved ones. Jesus said, “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 Individuals within the church who have kept their problems hidden or have been reluctant to attend recovery groups in the community can come to Christ-centered OO groups and due to rule of anonymity, they find a safe place to share. Pastor Randy may recommend someone to OO but unless he or she lets him know, he has no idea whether the person becomes involved.

Since its first meeting at Cayman Islands Baptist on Pedro Castle Road, Savannah, just over two years ago, OO has attracted more than two dozen adults. Members of this OO group often refer to it as their “home/family group” although most are actively involved in traditional AA or Al-Anon groups meeting across Grand Cayman. Anonymity and confidentiality are closely guarded. Through the recommendation of OO members, “Tried n True” or “TNT” program was introduced at a local high school with the endorsement and support of the National Drug Council, as one of the pro-active responses to the 2012 Drug Use Survey. This program is based on a 12-step Guidebook that has been adapted for teenagers, and already positive results are evident in the changed lifestyle of more than just a couple “at risk” high school participants.

Virginia C

From the Pamphlet "Surrender":

Step 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

"Trust in the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Decision - The act of reaching a conclusion or making up one's mind.

Will - The mental faculty by which one chooses or decides upon a course of action

Understood - to comprehend and know the nature or meaning of

Having come this far, we now know that we cannot control or change on our own, but a power greater than ourselves **can**, so it is time to stop trying to do it ourselves and let someone help us that **can** help us. We decide to put our thoughts (our will) and our actions (our lives) under the care of God. Most of all, we begin to trust God as we never really had before!

Just as our belief in our "Higher Power" [Jesus] grows, so does our understanding of God, as we draw near to Him and come to rely on His direction of our lives. In faith, we grow to rely on God's providence and see He has a plan for us to follow.

We have reached the conclusion that we are no longer in control of our lives. Our actions, based upon the false assumption that we would regain control of our problem, have resulted in making at least some aspects of our lives "difficult to keep under control or within limits" (unmanageable) and that we need a source of strength, which will give us the ability to regain soundness of judgment and exercise good sense. We accept the existence of that power as real and that it is available to us directly. We then put our thoughts and actions under the care of that power, trusting that by applying the principles of honesty, hope and faith, more desirable results will be achieved. We can now surrender.

Office News

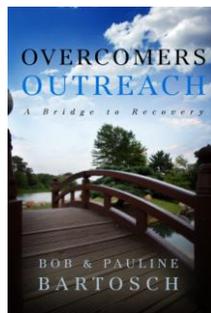
We welcome the new groups in Salt Point, NY, Hobart, IN, Novato, CA, Pittsburg, PA, Spotsylvania, VA, and Westlake Village, CA. We are very grateful to God for these new groups and pray that they may touch many lives.

Our Face Book page features daily devotional and inspirational posts, along with current events and announcements. With new "likes" and "shares", our outreach has been increased by 40% to friends and "friends of friends". Be sure to visit [Overcomers Outreach US](http://Overcomers-Outreach-US) and click "like page" 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 has information about literature, groups, and many other resources for help, and our weekly "[Phone Meeting](#)" is going well. Our blog site – [The Bridge](#) – serves as an online meeting resource and features much of our literature, too.

Our latest project is an online "workshop" resource that we hope might further serve to "bridge the gap" between 12 step groups and churches. By comparing passages from some of the literature of various 12-step fellowships with like passages from the Bible, we offer the study of Scripture as an important part of any recovery program. Though very early in development, see some material at new.overcomersoutreach.org. We intend to feature NA, AA, and other literature resources.

Literature



A Bridge to Recovery

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 now offer a Group Discount on orders of ten or more books shipped directly from the publisher for \$17.50 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 in soft cover and personal size editions.

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.

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: Peggy M, San Fernando – 4yrs., Frank R, AZ – 22yrs., Ed J, San Juan Capistrano, 25yrs., Don B, Sun City, 41yrs., and Lon A., Colorado Springs, CO 43yrs. They have made donations (\$1 for each year of their recovery) to the Central Office to express their gratitude.

The following groups celebrated anniversaries so far this year: Pike's Peak Christian Church in Colorado Springs, CO – 1yr., Baton Rouge, LA – 2 yrs., Lockport, IL – 12 yrs., "Spiritual Change" group, Elizabeth, NJ – 16 yrs., Ventura, CA – 18 yrs., Lincoln, NE – 21yrs., Cypress, TX – 22 yrs., and South Lake Tahoe (Tuesdays), CA – 23 yrs. These groups make regular 7th 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 for Trust and Faith

"Trust God" - We hear it all the time, along with "have faith". How do we do that? We turn to Him. He is so powerful and loving that just talking about Him can lift us up. When we are caught up in this world and life seems to be against us, or our loved ones, we look to God the Father, and trust that He will see us through whatever fear, challenge, or trouble confronts us. Our "woes" are removed when we seek Him - *"Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him."* - Psalm 32:10

Talking about God, in praise or in the study of His Word, builds our trust in Him, but talking to God is how we build our faith. When we pray, we get answers – not always the answer we want, but a real answer nonetheless. Answers mean that our prayers are heard, and since He listens, He cares. It is by faith that we know He hears, He answers, and He cares. – *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* - Hebrews 11:6. Let's pray:

Father God, we praise you as the source of our faith. May our trust in You help us walk in obedience to your statutes. Thank you Lord, that you hear and answer our prayers. We rejoice in the knowledge of your Love, Your Grace, and 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 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 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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