

Overcomers Outreach

“Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches”

Winter 2014/15 Newsletter



From the Director – The end of 2014 just “snuck up” on us, didn't it? It has been fast in passing and faithful in blessings. We have seen many

new groups start and also have had increased participation. Outreach and events have increased, and many have been helped.

As the new year unfolds we see the approach of our 30 year anniversary. That's right, Overcomers have been meeting all over the world for 30 years! Just as the hours of daylight are increasing with each new day, so is our hope renewed. Men and women, young and old, are finding strength and comfort in the study of God's word and renewal in the practice of the steps, one day at a time. We carry this message of God's Grace as we share our experience, strength, and hope with others who are suffering as we once suffered and urge them to do likewise with still others. But there is so much more to do and so many more to reach.

Jeff M

Events:

Annual Gratitude Dinner

On November 24, members and family gathered at the San Fernando Bible Chapel for a pot-luck and a time to share our gratitude. People from 6 nearby groups enjoyed fellowship and praise.



Pauline B thanks everyone

Over 40 friends and family were blessed with an abundance of great food and loving fellowship, with raffle and prizes. The proceeds were

donated to the Central Office. We thank God for such faithful service to others, and for His Grace, by which we are healed!

2nd Annual Overcomers World Convention – Jan 16 & 17, 2015

Once again, Overcomers from across the country came to Cedar Hill Church of Christ, in Cedar Hill, TX. This year's theme was “Back to the Table” (building family and relationships). Speakers from NJ, TX, OK, IL, CA, MO, LA, and Washington DC talked about



addiction, pornography, overeating, healthy living, single parenting, codependency, spiritual warfare, and much more. There was live entertainment and a host of children's activities. Food was served both days. Thank you Karl B. and Cedar Hill Church of Christ for such an amazing and uplifting event. Next year will be at Bethel Acres Assembly of God in Shawnee, OK, January 22-23, 2016. Save the date!

The Mailbox – Australia writes:

At a recent meeting in the city a young man attended who became clean from a life of drugs in NA. He had not attended church for five years but had been baptized in his early 20s hoping that would help his addiction. His joy at finding those in Christ at OO who welcomed him and offered to journey with him in a relationship with Jesus gave him great enthusiasm.

Please pray for him to find the peace he is searching for in Christ.

The city group last month was attended by over 25 people, with a variety of needs. Chris A. encouraged us all with this scripture: “Forget the

former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!

“Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”

“I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:18-19

It was Step 1 (We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable). This is our step of surrender to a new life in recovery. It cannot be done alone - thus the 'WE' in the first step.

All were encouraged and prayed with - keep joining us in prayer - prayer works!

Penny W

New Jersey writes:

I pray and hope all is well with you and your household. We haven't spoken in a while and I apologize for my part in that. I am being deployed to Sierra Leone/Africa the second week of January and I am asking for prayerful support during the 4 or 5 months that I will be there. While that is a war torn country and some battle is still taking place I will not be in any war zone, or direct contact with Ebola. Yet, I still request prayer for safety and good health for the entire team of 48 people made up primarily of doctors, nurses and social workers. There are only a hand full of people like me 'crisis counselor, disaster recovery specialist, FEMA' so I will be doing the foot to ground work with those that have been affected by the disaster of the war. We will not be in the war zone or in direct contact with Ebola (praise God) and we will stay in a hotel in Freetown and be transported daily. I will attempt to give occasional updates via email of what the Lord is doing through us. If you care to put this on the OO website, be my guest. Thanks again for your support and God bless you

Ralph M

N Carolina writes:

Are there any meetings in Charlotte NC? I need it. I'm not using drugs but now I feel empty. Please help.

Michael

Iowa writes:

Greetings from Iowa – We want to send a portion of the 7th tradition income we have collected from our OO meeting at Walnut Creek Community Church here in Des Moines. Most of the regular attenders are part of a life recovery program in our city. Their generosity has been amazing and we have just finished our 1st six months of meetings!

As we began our group with 5 people, the Lord has blessed us with an average weekly attendance of 20. We are so very thankful for the OO program and I am personally amazed at how our Lord uses our small group in the lives of our members.

Please accept this small amount to assist the ministry. We are honored to be able to send it in faith as we give back for all we have been given. In Christ -

Michael S

Georgia writes:

I am David M from the OO group in Dalton Ga. We had a pastor from Chattanooga, TN to visit our meeting last evening. He may be contacting you for info and material. His name is Apostle Willie Jones of the Dunamis Task Force Ministries Church. He truly is a man of God wanting to help people with addiction and compulsive behavior problems. We gave him hand out leaflets and printed material. We gave him your phone number and web site. Praying God will help their ministry. God is blessing OO at City View, we are averaging 50 in attendance. There are testimonies of God's blessings of deliverance weekly.

Yours in Christ

David M

Email

Hi, my name is Alexandra I am interested in a 12 step program to stop love addiction.

Ashley asks:

My brother is addicted to drugs & alcohol. Need to know some information about it & how to pray.

Facebook:

Wow tonight my heart is full. A person came to our overcomers outreach meeting, who 1st came for his own problem 25 years ago. Tonight he came after going to the [overcomers outreach website](http://overcomersoutreach.org) and seeing that we are still meeting. He brought his son

who is having a problem. That means that we have now been there for a family for 2 generations. It is amazing to realize that next month we celebrate 27 years of overcomers outreach in Tulsa. To think we were around 15 years before celebrate recovery. Tonight it just reaffirmed that we are still around for people and families who are suffering. If you've never heard of this program, go to overcomersoutreach.org

Q and A

We often receive questions of all types here at the Central Office, so we thought we might share some.



Could you please email ideas for promoting OO in church bulletins? Our organizational meeting is Monday.

Melissa

I discovered OO via the bulletin of the church I joined in recovery. The announcement read:

"12 Step Meeting - Overcomers Outreach, Tuesdays, 6pm, Little House" (the little house was the location on the church campus). I was new in recovery and hungry for anything and everything that could help, so I went. Still here!

Jeff

Hello. I was wondering how the Overcomers Outreach international ministry you are facilitating relates to the Overcomers Recovery Support Program that was started by Charles and Sharon Burton. Thanks and God bless you!

Ed B

Our ministry began in 1977 when a group of church members seeking recovery began meeting in our founders' home. The group grew and multiplied rapidly as there was no "Christian recovery" yet in existence. It did not take long, though, for others to serve the need. We became a 501(c) 3 corp. to serve and build the network of groups that were being started. Our groups serve as a "bridge" between 12 step recovery groups and churches of all denominations. We use the Holy Bible as our "text"

along with the 12 steps of AA. We welcome anyone suffering from addiction or compulsive behavior as well as their families and loved ones. We have the same solution for all presenting problems, and that is Jesus Christ.

As we are modeled after the 12 step fellowships, we are tradition based rather than pastoral based. Our groups are a place for people who want help to meet people who can help. Working with others is the key to continued, happy recovery. The groups that follow our traditions continue, while those that do not may still help others if they remain open. The study of God's Word always heals.

I am not very familiar with the Burtons' work other than an occasional phone request for their literature. Apparently we are listed as the next step after completion of the course offered through Recovery Support. I have heard a lot of good things about the workbook and classes offered by them, and we are happy to be a bridge to them as well as other Christian recovery programs such as Celebrate Recovery and others.

In other words, we are not really related, other than in Christ and wanting others to know Him. Thank you for your interest, and if I can be of additional help, please let me know.

In love and service,

Jeff



Hello. We have undergone all of the steps listed on your website to start a meeting! How do we get the meeting listed on your website? Thanks!

Jennifer J

You can send me the information on the "Group Information" form, email me with the details, or call me. I can get your group listed pretty quickly.

State, city, location name and address, day/time of meeting, and optional, leader or contact person and contact phone number, location phone number, any other info

(room#, child care, etc.). I would also need the date of the first meeting for the records. I am here to assist in any way I can. Thank you and God Bless you for helping others. Jeff

Doing it Right

We hear it all the time. In church: "the music was too loud", "I wish the other pastor spoke – He's really good." After church: "I'm missing the game", "how long do we have to wait?" In meetings: "that guy talks too much", "she'll never make it", "this coffee is awful." Seems like everyone is a critic. Criticism is double edged. It cuts both receiver and giver.



"Escaping Criticism" - Borrel

In the picture above, a young man is emerging from darkness – fleeing the critics perhaps? Or perhaps breaking free from his own character flaws. When we hear condemnation or complaining from others, darkness begins to close in. Before we know it, *everything* in the world seems wrong. Soon we join in with complaints of our own. Then we begin to fault ourselves – "I should have"– and the darkness deepens. Our anger, guilt, self-pity, and other forms of negativity begin to grow – they really like the dark! But guilt, shame, pride, and judging will all pass. The darkness will fade to the background to be only a contrast to the brilliance of God's Grace and then banished by the light of His eternal Glory!

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or worthy of praise—think about such things.

– Philippians 4:8

We "do it right" every time we look to Jesus, for He cares for us.

Office News

Group leaders will be hearing from us soon as we continue to work on updates to our online directory. We

are asking group members to please look at the information listed for their group and email changes if needed. Thank you for your help.

Visit our [Face Book](#) page soon for posts and devotionals, and be sure to share any group news or events.

Our blog site – [The Bridge](#) – is a great place to share online and a good resource for some of our literature.

Our [Group Network](#) link provides information for starting and growing groups, and ways to reach out to the community. A discussion of our Group Traditions and helpful forms, like bookmarks, group information cards, court cards, and other useful templates are on this site, too.

Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery: Mark T, Cathedral City CA, 6yrs, Peggy M, San Fernando, CA, 6yrs, Rocky J, S. Lake Tahoe CA, 8yrs, Darla W, Burley ID 11yrs, Boris L, Fulda, Germany, 17yrs, Ralph M, Elizabeth NJ, 25yrs, Jochen A, Romiley, UK, 20yrs, Bill D, Porter Ranch CA, 25yrs, and Linde C, Colorado Springs, CO, 27yrs. They made donations (\$1 for each year of their recovery) to the Central Office to express their gratitude and help us "carry the message".

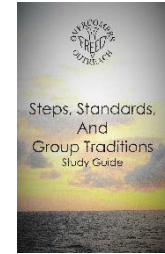
The following groups celebrated anniversaries recently: "Lost and Found" group, Rochester, NY and Sandy, UT, 1yr each, Burbank, CA, 2yrs, "New Beginnings" group, Simi Valley, CA, 5yrs Cornerstone Church group, Simi Valley, Ca 14yrs, Porter Ranch CA, 19yrs, and the very first group, Whittier, CA, 37yrs. 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.

Welcome new groups:

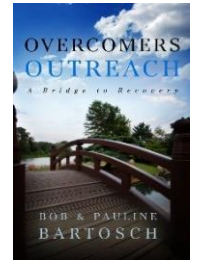
Welcome to our newest groups: Daytona Beach, FL, Lake Placid, FL, Kalama, WA, Hellertown, PA, Java Village, NY, Duncan, OK, and a new listing in Staten Island, NY. We have had over 42 new groups start over the past year.

Literature – Revisions to the **Steps, Standards, and Traditions Guide** study guide have been completed.



Added questions for personal inventory and relevant Bible passages for study serve to offer a Biblical approach to understand and apply the 12 step program in daily life.

Our OO "big book", **A Bridge to Recovery**, is now self-published, which means we can offer the book to all at a much lower cost. The book can be used for a "book study"



meeting. With guidelines, formats, 36 stories of recovery, this is a "must read" for everyone seeking recovery. New prices start at \$12 with volume discounts.

We now have the Life Recovery Bible in large print format. 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 Spanish editions.

Office Fundraising Campaign

The Central Office needs support, so we are asking a donation for our laminated bookmarks featuring the Serenity Prayer on



one side and the Twelve Steps on the other. A suggested donation of \$1 per bookmark, or any amount, would be most helpful. Just let us know how many you or your group would like when you make the donation, [online](#), by phone, or mail. Your gift will help many others and any amount will help and is deeply appreciated.

"The Holy Supper is kept, indeed, In what we share with another's need,— Not that which we give, but what we share,— For the gift without the giver is bare; Who bestows himself with his alms feeds three,— Himself, his hungering neighbor, and me." - James Russell Lowell

A Prayer for Vision

In order to see, there must be light. When we dwell in the darkness, we are prone to stumble and hurt ourselves and others. We were made to live in light:

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. -2 Cor. 4:6

Our health, both physical and emotional, improves in light. If we do not see, we cannot follow.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12

Jesus provides guidance and light, so that we may follow Him out of the darkness. Let's look to Him now:

Heavenly Father, we approach your throne of Grace to thank You for Your blessing in all things, and the light of Christ. Help us Lord to look to You first and always for guidance. Help us to see and follow the wisdom of Your Word. We ask our paths to be to Your Glory and our steps to be guided by the light and love of Jesus as we seek to do Your Will in His Name.

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

Overcomers Outreach
12828 Acheson Dr.
Whittier, CA 90601