

Overcomers Outreach

"Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches" *Spring 2017 Newsletter*

From the Director – Some time has passed since our last newsletter, not due to a lack of news but rather because of more duties, praise God! Many new groups, events, and opportunities to help others have stretched the office hours thin, but we are reaching new places and new people with our message of hope in Christ.



Since last fall we have had over 17 new groups start. The website, some booklets, and pamphlets have been revised or updated. The Central Office has moved into a smaller, efficient, more professional location. We are looking to employ part time staff to better serve the needs of the groups and to handle the increased participation and outreach. Although volunteers have helped in the past, it is time to move forward in faith, trusting that God will use the groups to maintain the office through regular 7th Tradition contributions along with literature and personal donations to the Central Service Office.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

Our "fellowship" consists of the groups, which meet to pray and study God's word, to help others, and to offer God's healing through the 12 steps to others who suffer as we once did. The Central Service Office exists to serve the groups, and thus, our fellowship. This office develops and provides our literature and meeting supplies, maintains the website and group directory, provides information and help via email, phone, and surface mail. As we are a tradition-based fellowship, our office should be funded by tradition-based donation income from the groups and individuals.

Jeff M.

Events

2017 OO World Convention:

Overcomers from across the nation gathered in Washington, DC to praise God and share in recovery. This was in January at Prayer and Praise Ministry. The weather was beautiful and the Holy Spirit was upon us. Those in attendance were deeply moved by the honesty and humility of so many who have overcome addictions and worldly behaviors by the Power of the Cross. Speakers from GA, CA, DE, PA, NY, TX, MD, and OK shared experience, strength, and hope. Our host was the Church of the Firstborn, a congregation small in number and big in faith. God used a small group to encourage and enhance this world wide ministry in a mighty way.

Upcoming Events:

The 2017 Morro Bay Campout will be a lot of fun! Plan on camping with us August 18-20, 2017
[Campout page](#)

"Overcomers Breakout Conference 2017

Friday, Sep 15 – Sunday, Sep 17 at the Freedom Biker Church of Oklahoma, 803 W. Walnut, Duncan, Ok 73533
For more information Contact:
Jimmy Bingham (580)658-8435 or
Melodie Bingham (580)641-6523

Registration and details are available for these and other events on the [Events](#) page of our website.

The Mailbox –

OO Germany Writes:

Dear friends in the Fellowship of OO, our dear brothers and sisters in Christ - On the 6th of March, 1999, our brother and friend Bob T. started from Salisbury to Cuxhaven to carry the good message of OO to us. In the afternoon Uta, Bob and I started our first OO meeting in Germany bestowed by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Next day on 7th June, after Sunday church service Bob was to officially

introduce Overcomers Outreach to more than 25 interested persons. But Bob lay sick in bed because of an infection he caught during his flight from London to Bremen. So as real 'green horns' we tried to pass this wonderful message of Christ's Healing Power on to the public – it worked like it does still today: *if any afflicted person will become open, honest, real, ready and willing to go to any length, as the programs of AA and OO have shown, then they will receive Jesus' Great Promise written in the Scriptures.*

Our first OO group arose from this meeting and later on in April 2004 our broader network started spreading the message wider to the German speaking countries of Austria, Switzerland and Germany through our internet pages.

Meanwhile we are reaching more friends in Eastern Europe (especially Russia) as well as France and Italy. We cannot comprehend why more than 50 percent of visitors to our German website are coming from Japan, China, and via Europe to Canada and the US to see our message, but we simply trust in Jesus who is our Lord and Savior and our daily Guide and Helper in all our affairs ... **Only by God's Grace and Only for His Glory!**

Now with 18 years we are grown up and hoping for the Best to come in Jesus Name. Amen & Praise the Lord for ALL HE HAS DONE! Thanks to all for your friendship, support and love in Jesus Christ! Greetings, prayers and blessings to you. - Rolf & Friends

PA writes:

Hello - Just wondering if our group can have our own Facebook page. We started a meeting in Lewistown, PA and have not had good attendance so we are trying different ways to get the word out.

Blessings,
Karen G

Some groups have a Facebook page. Remember that we need to maintain the anonymity and confidentiality of other group members when posting pictures and names. Ed.

Liberia writes:

My name is Rev. Nelson S. Boegbah, the founder and general overseer of the Overcomer Outreach Church in London Hill, Congo Town, Monrovia, Liberia. After a time of prayer and fasting, the general board of the six churches in and around Liberia, seek your hand of fellowship. Be our covering and mentor in Christ. The fellowship was founded in 2002, in the market place, the place of gangs, and drug dealers of which some key persons have been saved and are serving the Lord, Jesus Christ. We now have six churches in two counties and an Ebola Victim Orphanage program as a mission program. We are praying for boarding missionaries to volunteer their services in Africa. We run a yearly youth and kids' camp and Home Bible Study in villages and big towns across the country. I hope this letter will attract your attention to this mission in Liberia.

Thanks, Rev. Nelson

Online writes:

Hope you are well. I've been referred by the 700 club and wish to share my concerns as a parent with you regarding my son and daughter's addiction. This addiction spans over 15yrs of continued abuse of various different drugs. Crystal Meth, Legal High, Alcohol, Cannabis, crack cocaine etc. They both have been to different rehabs for help but this would last only for a short period. Physically and mentally it has taken its toll on my family, granddaughter and grandson. They both have resorted to stealing, taking my property and selling it to get a "Fix". I believe that your prayers can help my family and come in agreement with your ministry for a miracle of salvation and complete deliverance. Many, Many Thanks for people like you. Regards,

Brother Peter W

Please uphold my partner Eugene for he is abusing drugs and alcohol for years and the cycle is ongoing

because he borrows money on interest to do drugs and we spend all our income paying back those drug loans every month.

Thaslima P

Hello - I had been attending a Coda group in my city for several years. Recently my church that has a men's addiction recovery group was looking for someone willing to run a women's group. I know the traditional 12 Step Group meeting well and appreciated many of the aspects of their format but wanted to be able to be accountable to my church and have their support and prayers in this outreach. My understanding of the traditional 12 Step organization is that if you want to use any of their materials, your group must be registered with them and adhere to their tradition of not being affiliated with any sect / denomination etc. Is this correct? I so appreciate their affirmation / introduction pages and pamphlets on codependency that clarify what it might look like to a codependent.

To use the OO materials is there a requirement to be registered with your group or it is sufficient that my church leadership supports me in beginning this group? Thanks so much for your guidance.

Nikki

We do not require registration but suggest it. It costs nothing, allows the central office to direct people to the group if they call from your area, and if the group is registered it is usually recognized as a valid signature on court ordered meeting attendance records. We list our meetings on the website, so people looking for help can find the group, if the group wishes to be found by other than church members. Ed.

Who we are:

Overcomers Outreach is a unique lay ministry which was originally born out of an expressed deep need for a support system for individuals and families within evangelical Christian churches who were wrestling with the disease of alcoholism and other addictions and compulsions. Powerful, proven tools are offered to combat the fear, guilt, anger,

loneliness, confusion and frustration which accompany chemical dependency or compulsive behavior and their total effect upon the family unit.

These support groups are designed to provide a place where those who believe that Jesus Christ is their "higher power" may meet together in His Name and deal with the problems which surround the disease of alcoholism and other addictions and compulsions. It is also a place where those in traditional 12-Step groups can discover their "higher power" through study of God's Word. We stress continued attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous, (for those who cannot stop drinking), Al-Anon (for family members of problem drinkers), Narcotics Anonymous (for people hooked on drugs), Families Anonymous (for family members of drug abusers), and other appropriate 12-Step programs. This way, we derive the most benefit while also becoming familiar with "The Twelve Steps."

The OVERCOMERS purpose is to praise the Lord, to study God's Word relating to the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and relevant subjects, to share with one another in strictest confidence, and to pray specifically for one another's needs.

Our Board of Directors



Shown from L to R: Colleen Southern, Pauline Bartosch, Jeff MacLeod, Louie Loy, Peggy McGinn, Bette Kackert, and Jeff Morser. Not pictured-Leonard Esse. In the spirit of rotation of leadership, the BOD held elections at the last meeting. Jeff Morser relieved Bette as Chairperson, Peggy serves as interim Treasurer, and Colleen remains Secretary. All directors are volunteers except the Executive Director, who receives modest compensation for service as Office manager and worker.

Welcome New Groups:

The Rock Church, Greeley, CO; First Church of God, Las Vegas, NV; SHARE, Culver City, CA; Salvation Army Church, Hemet, CA; Calvary Chapel Crossfields, Jamesburg, NJ; Trinity United Methodist Church, Lewistown, PA; Open Door Ministries, Elizabeth, NJ; Brazos Trails Cowboy Church, Weatherford, TX; Webb Chapel United Methodist Church, Farmers Branch, TX; Cross and Spurs Cowboy Church, Madill, OK; Georgetown Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, DE; Still Waters Church, Jackson, WI; Columbiana First Presbyterian Church, Columbiana, OH; Bethel Baptist Church, Citronelle, AL; and Independent Bible Church, Port Angeles, WA.

Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery:

Robert T, Santa Paula, CA – 5yrs, Peggy M, San Fernando, CA – 8yrs, Rocky J, S. Lake Tahoe, CA – 10yrs, Bob B, Lockport, IL, - 15yrs, Jochen A, Romiley, UK – 22yrs, Frank R, Prescott, AZ – 26yrs, Dan B, S. Lake Tahoe, CA – 27yrs, Rita A, Burley, ID – 28yrs, Vern K, West Valley City, UT – 27yrs, Ed J, San Juan Capistrano, CA – 29yrs, Annie H., Cypress, TX – 31yrs, Elayne B, Tulsa, OK – 31yrs, Jim B, Tulsa, OK – 32yrs, John H, Cathedral City, CA – 36yrs, Don B, Sun City, AZ – 45yrs, Lon A, Colorado Springs, CO – 47yrs, and Don B, Canon City, CO – 48yrs. 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: Monessen, PA – 1yr; Rochester, NY – 3yrs; Sandy, UT – 3yrs; DeSoto, KS – 4yrs, Burbank, CA – 4yrs, Colorado Springs Pike's Peak group, CO – 5yrs, Overland Park, KS -6yrs, Baton Rouge, LA – 6yrs, Savannah, Grand Cayman – 6yrs, New Beginnings, Simi Valley, CA – 7yrs; Lockport, IL – 16yrs, Woodmen Valley, CO – 18yrs, Cuxhaven, Germany – 18yrs, Elizabeth, NJ – 20yrs, Ventura, CA – 22yrs, Lincoln, NE – 25yrs, S. Lake Tahoe, CA – 27yrs; Yorba Linda, CA – 27yrs, and Tulsa, OK - 29yrs. 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.

Office News - Directory Update:

Once again we are asking for your help with our online group directory. If you are able, please go to the “[Meetings](#)” page of our website and check the information for your group – time, day, leader, etc. - and others in your area. Changes can be emailed by clicking the link at the bottom of the web page, or call us.

Our New Office:

We have moved the Central Office to



6528 Greenleaf Ave., Ste. 223, Whittier, CA 90601. Phone, email, and website remains the same. Although much smaller, we still have a place for meetings or gatherings, and we welcome visitors during regular office hours.

Special Thanks

Sig and Evelyn Esselstrom were key to the start of Overcomers Outreach. Their encouragement of the founders and service for the ministry made it possible for OO to share our message of healing through Christ with thousands of individuals suffering from the guilt and shame of active addiction. Years later, their daughter, Lenore Remland, graciously let us use her parent's house for the past 8 years, while Overcomers continues to grow. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for Lenore and family, for being “good and faithful servants” to the Lord by helping so many.

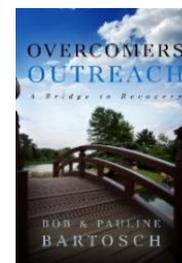
“Oh, this website ...”

In an effort to be a bit more “mobile-friendly” for our visitors, we have an ongoing project to enhance and (we

hope) improve our website meeting directory and online shop. In this way we wish to make our best resources available to the most people. The [Groups](#) and [Supplies](#) pages are reformatted to different size viewing screens to make scrolling through content easier. Also, we added the [Group Network](#) back to the menu. This link takes the visitor to the site for leaders and facilitators, where guidelines, tips, and free forms are available to new and growing groups. All pages on the website feature our logo at the top of the page. Just tap or click the dove logo to return to the home page of the main website. We welcome any and all comments or suggestions for improvement. Take a look and let us know.

Literature

What makes for a successful group, and what makes us different from 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 as we prepare our latest brochure, “**The OO Group**”.



Our OO “big book”, *A Bridge to Recovery*, is an excellent resource for a “book study” and has guidelines, formats, with 36 stories of hope and strength plus the history of OO.

The Group Discount price for orders of ten or more books shipped directly from the publisher is \$11 per book (shipping included). Visit our [Books](#) page in our online shop. We are happy to help your group find the literature they want at a good value. Literature donations help fund the Central Office.

Our sincere condolences to Bill Deichler and family for their loss of his wife Bertie Deichler, who went home to be with the Lord in March. She gave many years of service to Overcomers and local recovery groups, helping many find the way to a better life. We will miss her but are grateful for the time God shared her with us.

A Prayer for the Servant

The world today seems to be a never ending contest for our attention. The media is filled with reports of violence, death, and threats at every level. We are told that we are not safe traveling, at work, or at home. Praise God we are not of this world. Our hope is in Jesus Christ and He is mighty to save. So we need only ask for His strength and guidance, then walk in confidence as we obey His commands to love all while sharing the Good News of salvation. Let's pray now:

Father God, we praise you for the opportunities you provide for us to serve you. We ask for open eyes, that we may see your image in those around us, open ears that we may receive your instruction, and open hearts that we may convey your love and mercy to others. May our hearts be humble to receive your providence through others as well, so that all increase is from you, Lord, and may you be glorified in all we do and all we receive in and through your precious Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Amen

If you would like to donate to Overcomers Outreach, Inc. to help defray the costs of this newsletter and other operating expenses, please visit our website overcomersoutreach.org or send to Overcomers Outreach, 6528 Greenleaf Ave., Suite 223, 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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