

Overcomers Outreach

*“Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches”
June 2012 Newsletter*

From the Director – I was replying to an email from Penny W in Australia, when the phone rang. Simon K was calling from Kenya. This was just after I had



read the latest newsletter from OO Canada. When the call ended I had to stop and ask God “what is going on here?” Weeks earlier Boris, from Germany, had visited us. He was in between flights and wanted to know more about the Office and what we do, so we went to a meeting then met with others to fold and mail out newsletters. When Penny visited later, she spoke at meetings and an OO event. Tradition 5 says *“The primary purpose of each group is to serve as a Bridge between traditional 12 Step groups and the church. We carry the message of Christ’s delivering power to individuals and family members both within and without the church who still suffer.”* Getting together, having events, sharing at meetings - that is how we “carry the message”- together! Jesus prayed: *“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one — I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.”* -- John 17:20-23

I stand in wide-eyed wonder of the good at work whenever children of God combine their gifts in service at home and in travel to spread the Gospel. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. -- Eph 4:3-6

New Heartland District

When a few, or even several OO groups want to work together, they may form a “district” for a local area. For example, we recently received this email:

“Good morning Jeff, Jeremy is going to be forwarding you our district Fact File as soon as he gets the final edits complete. So we have formed a district in Kansas (just 2 counties at the moment) that has 4 groups and a fifth forming in Kansas City, MO. We call ourselves the Heartland District and are basically the Kansas City Metro area and we will grow as groups develop to cover the region better.” Rick D

Several groups in Birmingham, AL, seem to be networking as well, and the Elizabeth, NJ groups have been doing so for years.

By getting together regularly, and visiting other groups, resources can be “pooled” to start and maintain HIM and other outreach ministries. Events and activities, service to the community, and other functions can be planned and carried out much to the benefit of all, and districts or the more informal group networks are a great way to get people into service. Not to mention the fun we have at picnics, outings, movies, bowling, or other group activities - miniature golf, water parks, snow parks, museums, etc. The possibilities are exceeded only by His blessings!

Carry the Message Groups are another way that groups are getting together. Members of the groups in northern LA and Ventura counties meet once a month for a potluck and also to exchange a few ideas and plan events to grow meetings and fellowship. The 1st “OO Picnic”, on June 2nd, is the first event put on by this group network.

Working together, we can make a difference in the lives of others. We hope other CTM groups will start up to carry our message of hope and healing through faith in Jesus Christ.

Telephone Meetings -

Our first weekly “conference call” meeting has been up and down, with as many as 9 and as few as 2 participants, but they have been very good. To join in, dial (530)881-1300 on Thursdays at 6:30pm Pacific time, then enter access code 209992 when prompted, and listen in or participate as you like. It is free and confidential. The call is “hosted” once a week by a person serving as the meeting secretary. This allows those who cannot otherwise attend a group to “be” at a meeting. Also, as more meetings are started, there will be more opportunity to “get to” a meeting. The “leaders” rotate, so everyone can participate if they wish to. For more information, see our website [“Meetings”](#) page, or just call the Central Office.

Events - 2012 Morro Bay Campout

August 3rd-5th, Morro Bay State Park, Morro Bay, CA. \$25 Registration includes campsite for Friday and Saturday nights, plus Barbeque dinner Saturday night. All speaker meetings, talks, and workshops are free to everyone. We have some sites left but they are going fast so register now. Sites are for tent camping and have restrooms and showers. We have space for up to 4 RV's or trailers. For more details, call us toll-free (800)310-3001 and come camping with us! There are some nearby hotels, too (the campground is just outside of Downtown).



Women praying at the 2010 event

We had 27 campers last year and another 10 participants who chose not to “rough it”.

The Mailbox –

Hi Folks, Thanks for passing on the good news about the phone meetings. What a great idea for us blessed god's kids in recovery. All going well here in bonny Scotland as we have another meeting up and running in the town of Troon in Airshire. So glad as Glasgow not the only one in Scotland now. Sending you all much shalom and every blessing,
Love and Best
Brian – OO Glasgow

This program just blows me away – we have a meeting once a month in Sydney and focus on a step each month – last night we had our step 4 meeting and the wisdom shared and the encouragement to newcomers was just awesome. I photocopied the columns and pages 66&67 of the big book and clearly explained this is how step 4 is done. So many said how grateful they were for a simple instruction. Our minister, Chris from the Healing Service at St Andrews gave a brilliant talk on psalm 32 and the problem of guilt, encouraging us all into Easter with a powerful message of grace and forgiveness.



Penny W - Sydney, Australia

I have been living in New Zealand for 25 years, and attended an O.O. group about 30 years ago in Santa Barbara Ca.

Since living here, I have been to Al-Anon and A. A. meetings, and attended church, but I feel, through much 'prompting and prayer, that maybe O.O is a solution for our small church in a rural community to reach out to hurting, confused individuals.

The 12 Step Programs I have attended surely have helped guide me in life. I have a Recovery Bible that I enjoy. I now feel I would enjoy buying one of your daily readers or meeting books. Also, I may be able to attend the Morro Bay campout. Is there currently an O.O. meeting anywhere in New Zealand? Hope to hear from you. From a very grateful mom, wife, and grandmother,

Cathy T

Hi Jeff, I am back in Germany and want to express my gratitude. I was and still am overwhelmed from our meeting.

When we drove in your car together I felt somehow special, but all in all, it was the human contact there. The folding of the letters was more important than anything else together with you guys. Please give Pauline a big hug from me; and tell Edie that next time she is in a Chinese restaurant she should order jasmine tea. Usually they have it in these restaurants. I checked in the supermarket, and yes, no jasmine tea.



I guess I need some time to read all the brochures and look forward to it. I tried to request the Los Angeles flight for April, but it was not possible. What a pity. So only god knows when we'll see again, I hope it is not in the too far future. All the best from Germany -
Boris

Thanks Jeff. We have another new member bringing us to a faithful total of 4.
Linda C, Yorba Linda, CA

I enjoyed the newsletter. I would like to say I started our first Overcomers group Feb 1st 2012 at New Hope Ministry, 2715 Alcott Rd. in Richmond VA 23237. We started with only 4 persons; the word says where 2 or 3 are gathered in his name, that he will be in the midst. So we are expecting God to do great things in our church, community and the lives of those desiring to overcome. We can be reached 804-307-8502 or contact the church at 804-271-6931. Keep us in prayer. We are Pathway to Recovery Overcomers Outreach.

Faithful in service - Elluree H

Posted on Face Book:

Anyone out there that is suffering with an addiction of any kind or has been affected by the addiction of someone else - this is an excellent group. I'm 'breaking' my anonymity but I don't care. If it will be of help to someone else struggling as I was, it is well worth it!

Overcomers Outreach was my first exposure to recovery and the 12-Steps. I thank God everyday because without this program I would not be where I am today or the person that I am. And I have to admit that I was ashamed - yes, ashamed because I had Christ in my life first as my Lord and my Savior! Yet I struggled to get through each new day. Today I am no longer ashamed that I knew Christ first and then entered into Recovery, because it is this program that God used to save and complete my life! And I am not ashamed to say or share it, because it is the truth!!! Praise be to God. If you are a fellow Christian who is struggling with an addiction, do not be ashamed because I am here to tell you that there is HOPE! Praise be to God!
Diane R

Thanks so much Jeff for your lovely replies. We are waiting for God to help us move on. I am happy finally we can now write each other via email. We love you and are praying for you as we work as one in Christ. We are waiting to hear more from you soon.

Thanks-Pastor Simon Kamau, Kenya

One Day at a Time

By Bob Bartosch (1927-2006)

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry; two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is YESTERDAY, with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.

Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot erase a single word said – yesterday is gone!

The other day we should not worry about is TOMORROW with its possible burdens, its large promise and poor performance. Tomorrow is also beyond our immediate control. Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds—but it will RISE! Until it does we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

This leaves only one day—TODAY! Any man can fight the battle of just one day. It is only when you and I have those burdens in those two awful eternities—YESTERDAY and TOMORROW—that we break down.

It is not the experience of TODAY that drives men mad—it is the remorse or bitterness, for something which happened yesterday and the dread of what tomorrow may bring.

Let us, therefore, live but ONE DAY at a time!

Brokenness – to Letting Go

By Pauline Bartosch

Many years ago, my husband Bob, and I were given a little plaque, which read: *“As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend, I brought my broken dreams to God because He was my friend. But then instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone, I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own. At last I snatched them back and cried, ‘How can you be so slow?’—‘My child,’ He said, ‘what could I do? You never did let go!’”*

After many years of dealing with alcoholism and codependency, we learned that during our struggles we had never really “let go.” Totally trusting God to catch us in our shameful free fall seemed unrealistic. We figured He had given up on us years ago and we probably didn’t deserve His intervention anyway. After all, we were both Christians and should have known better. We had been desperately searching for answers but usually hiding the real truth, especially from our church friends. We had always been under the impression that if help should ever arrive, it must have a “Christian” label on it.

It wasn’t until we were completely broken and at the very end of our rope that we were challenged to “let go and let God.” As terrifying as it seemed at the time, we had hit bottom and became willing to take our first feeble steps toward the gift of recovery that He had provided through His Word and 12-Step programs.

What an unexpected gift – sobriety, even some sanity--eventually arrived,

thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon. We quickly learned never to decide the methods God might use to rescue his children from addiction. What a wonderful surprise it was to discover that those 12 steps came directly from the Bible!

How exciting it is to welcome new individuals and family members to OO meetings who are or have been broken in addiction, and to know that God has the answers that we so desperately need! He has provided His Word, and the tools of the 12 Steps. It is our job to allow Him to work in His time, in His way--if we can just “let go!”

Office News

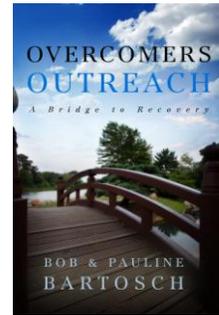
More new groups have started in Sandy, UT, Tempe, AZ, Kansas City, MO, Eagle River, WI, Idaho Falls, ID, North Fort Myers, FL, Graham, WA, and in Atlanta and Dahlonega, GA. Update or list your group information by calling the office or email the Information to us and we will post it. This allows us to direct people calling from your area to your group. We need your help to keep the directory current.

Penny W visited the Office while traveling from Sydney to Europe. After speaking at a local 12 step meeting, she spent the day sharing about how and what OO Australia is doing and some of the blessings taking place “down under”. Her husband Andrew joined Pauline and I for an event hosted by the San Fernando group – speaker meeting and dinner. It was a good turnout for a delightful evening of spirit-filled fellowship, with members from six groups from four cities and two countries!



Our Face Book presence is steadily growing, with more new “likes”, shares, and subscribes, resulting in the potential outreach to over 82,000 friends and “friends of friends”, according to the page data. Be sure to visit [Overcomers Outreach US](http://OvercomersOutreachUS) for posts of devotional readings, events, and news, and feel free to share!

We hope you will visit the website soon, too- overcomersoutreach.org - for information about groups, literature, and many other resources for help. We also have a blog site – [The Bridge](http://TheBridge) – which serves as an online meeting resource and also features much of our literature.



Our “big book” *A Bridge to Recovery*, 3rd Edition

Literature

We are still working on scriptures pertinent to our Traditions, to expand and improve the Group Tradition study guides. As with the FREED book project, we welcome any input and suggested verses you may have to contribute. We hope to have this ready in the next few months.

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 yellow FREED books ordered are printed with the insert included.

Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery: Mario V, 5 yrs., Dan B, 22 yrs., Rita A, 23 yrs., Jim B, 27 yrs., Verda B, 28 yrs., and John H, 31 yrs. They have made a donation (\$1 for each year of their recovery) to the Central Office to express their gratitude.

These groups are celebrating anniversaries so far this year: Pikes Peak Baptist Church, CO, 4 yrs, Cuxhaven, Germany, 13 yrs, and Greensboro, NC, 22 yrs.

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

A Prayer for Unity

Since the fall of man, society has been on a path leading away from God. Throughout history, we have split apart over doctrines, beliefs, rituals, and customs. We continue dividing over racial, ethnic, gender, and social issues. Division takes root in the family, spreads through the community, often attacking the church, then local government, and man begins to legislate, and as society rises, it turns from reliance on God to self reliance, and is soon humbled in collapse. Divide and fall, whether family, church, or nation, is the pattern which overwhelms so many.

God calls us to come together before Him, to fellowship with each other in love and brotherhood, and to worship and glorify Him. This is true unity – God and each other together – and it is made possible through Jesus. *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.* (John 14:6) *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* (Matthew 11:28) Overcomers seeks to bring people together from churches, families, recovery groups, ministries, and treatment programs, so that we may share in the healing power of Christ, and has been doing so for over 27 years now – what unity does! Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, we come to you with open arms and hearts filled with love, as we humbly ask that you show us where and how to share this amazing love with everyone we meet. May you be known by the love we share together through the perfect unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

If you would like to make a donation to Overcomers Outreach, Inc. to help defray the cost of this newsletter as well as other operating expenses, please visit our website or use the enclosed return envelope. All donations are tax deductible.

If you would like 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, or 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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