

Overcomers Outreach

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

June 2014 Newsletter



From the Director –

Overcomers Outreach was incorporated as a ministry on May 9th, 1985. Over the years since, many groups have grown and prospered, while others have struggled or closed, yet many new groups have started all around the world. It is by the Grace of God that His family continues to meet to help and support so many, and that we are there to help others. May we continue to be blessed with the honor of serving and sharing with others - others just like us - once lost, but now found. Indeed we have found the Truth. Jesus is Lord!

Although we have been challenged, God is sovereign, and He apparently wants us around a little longer. We have had 20 new groups start up since the first of this year, with many more inquiries and starter kits sent out. The chaplains and inmates of many institutions are bringing our message of hope in Christ to various institutions, and treatment and rehabilitation facilities are introducing our literature to their respective clients. We now offer signs, posters, key tags, and other meeting supplies to groups that were not available a few years ago. Our literature has been expanded, updated, and reduced in cost, while our internet presence through our website and social media links increases, thus reaching more of those who suffer as we once did. When our former publisher went out of business and caused our book to be out of print for a time, our prayers were answered with a greater distribution network and direct dealings with our printer, which in turn lowered the cost of our primary text drastically. Our needs continue to be met, all to His glory, so I stand in awe and wonder before the Providence of God, and I pray you join me as we rejoice in our Savior, our Lord, and the new life we have in Him, now and forever.

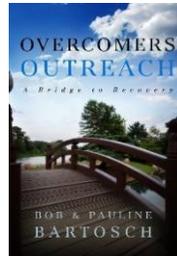
Jeff M

Events

Join us for the 25th Anniversary of Overcomers Outreach “Christians in Recovery in Illinois” Saturday, August 2, 2014, 5pm – 8pm. Featuring the New Hope Band, Speakers and Dinner. Location: LaGrange Bible Church, 850 S. Seventh Ave., LaGrange, IL. RSVP: Becky B. 630-842-1244 (Please leave a message or email). Be sure to check our “Events” page for the latest listings, and we can post your event information, too.

We had a good response and participation in the “National Day of Prayer” on May 1st this year (see responses in the “Mailbox”).

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, and the history of the start and growth of the early Overcomers Outreach groups, this is a “must read” for everyone seeking recovery. New prices start at \$12 with volume discounts. 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.



The Mailbox –

Australia writes:

Praying with you Jeff - loving our OO groups - so grateful for the gift of this bridge - leading to so many other contacts - we had 4 new ones from AA in our bible study today - we are starting a new section on Joshua - very exciting - leading by following God's lead to serve a bunch of whingers! Great job - need all that strength from the Lord that he so willingly provides. Much love - Pen

UK writes:

Thank you Jeff. Ronnie and I have been fasting on the first day of month since we heard about National Day of Prayer a few years ago from you. Yesterday was a busy day and we couldn't do it, but we will fast today for it. Maybe you're still fasting because of the time difference.

I praise and thank the Lord for who He is and what He is doing in our lives individually, nationally and worldly. We have such a faithful God! Hallelujah! Lots of love from May and Ronnie B

Jeanne writes:

I believe a member of my family is an alcoholic. To get help for myself, which would be better to attend, Overcomers Outreach or Al-Anon? I am a Christian.

David writes:

This past January I accepted the responsibility to start an Overcomers style group at our church. As a recovered alcoholic thru the AA program, I am familiar with the 12 step approach. My pastor wants us to use a Christ centered approach instead. Can you please explain your program and how we may start it at our church? Brother David G

Iowa writes:

I am writing to inquire if there is any information or literature that you could send to assist in explaining what Overcomers is and how we could approach our pastoral staff. I am attempting to start an O.O. meeting at our church. I have begun talks with church staff and after much prayer and thought, I strongly feel there is a real need for this kind of meeting here, not only in our church, but our community as well.

Some of my background might give you some idea of how helpful O.O. has been to both my faith and my recovery. I am a recovering addict and praise God I have just celebrated

two years clean and sober as of April 9th 2014! In 2012 I entered a recovery program called Journey of Hope at Hope Ministries in Des Moines, Iowa. The journey of hope is a 12 month life recovery program based on the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ. During my year there, O.O. meetings were held in house (resident lead, closed to outsiders) and it was instrumental to my recovery and a great help in edification through fellowship. The meetings at the Door of Faith (facility name) were stopped a few months after my graduation from the program.

In the following months I approached staff with not only my concerns for the brothers still going through recovery but also how much this meeting and fellowship has meant to me. After much prayer and a lot of patience, I have been able to get this meeting restored as an alumni function. I have been facilitating this meeting since Nov 2013, and it has blessed both myself and the residents. O.O. has impacted me so much that I now have a desire to reach out to our church and community with an open meeting at one of our church buildings here in Des Moines. There is a strong need for this type of meeting in our community, and I am convinced that O.O. would benefit many people and perhaps lead those who struggle to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks for your time and any assistance, I look forward to hearing from you. Blessed to be FREED,

Michael S

Lincoln, NE writes:

Praise Be to God our Father for O.O. and may He continue to Bless all who are involved as well. We have had a meeting going for 20 Plus years. He is an Awesome God!!!! - Chuck M

A Chaplain writes:

I got some of my information about your organization from an inmate. Do you have videos and books for students? Teaching syllabus? I'm the chaplain at a Federal Facility in SE GA, with a 2400 inmate population. The majority speak Spanish, but a lot of recovering addicts and users. Any help would be appreciated. Looking for extra material. Serving Him, Jim

An inmate writes:

My name is Raymond G and I am currently incarcerated at San Quentin Prison and will parole sometime in November this year. We have had an Overcomers group here for the past 5 years. I recently wrote to 5 churches to ask if I could become a member of their group when I get out, but 2 were closed, and the others have not answered, so I am asking for any help you can send. Any groups in the LA area? Any help would be appreciated – thank you and God Bless. - Raymond

Pennsylvania writes:

As a member of The Salvation Army I was the Administrator (ordained) of 2 Adult Rehabilitation Centers for 12 years (Altoona PA and Trenton NJ respectively). Part of my ministry as an ARC Administrator was Pastoral care for the people in our program. It was wonderfully dynamic...we had Jews, Muslims and Atheists in our program (as well as many Christians). I was ardently passionate about helping our clients come to see Jesus as The Higher Power through personal testimony and example of myself and Staff. It was my privilege to assist over 2000 of our residents to accept Jesus Christ as their Higher Power. Embracing the 12 Steps as an evangelistic tool helped us to see many Muslim and also Agnostic conversions.

Now I am a member of the Salvation Army Levittown Corps. While I was working in Trenton, I became very familiar with the Southern Bucks County Region which is where I now reside. There are many good 12 Step meetings in the area but none that are "warm" to Christianity or any Orthodox faith for that matter. In this region the meetings are dominated by academics and various new age devotees. Though I am grateful these folks have a place to seek God and for that reason I don't think Christians should abandon the 12 Step Community, I do see the dire need for Christ-centered recovery in this area. There are many Christians who have addictions and obsessions, and do need fellowship in recovery, but what is available is not appealing.

I am in Recovery (18 years on July 1) myself and have a passion for this ministry. I have the support of the local Salvation Army where such a meeting could be held or at the least supported off site. I would like to talk with you about starting an OO group in this area. In His Service - Philip D

Illinois writes:

Hi - Finally getting to you. Fell and broke my knee cap in February and I finally feel like I am beginning to make a comeback. Our 25th anniversary of meetings in Illinois will be held the first Saturday in August. I will send a flier out to all the groups in Illinois. We are not getting as many people these days and not taking in much money but will send a donation to you soon. Could you please make a change to the meeting list? On Thursday and Friday nights, our meetings now start at 7PM. We hope the celebration will attract more people. Blessings, Becky B

More than I can handle

We often hear it said that "God never gives you more than you can handle", but I'm not so sure about that. The first of the twelve steps clearly states "We admitted that we were powerless over ____", which tells me I can't handle it – I need help!

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Cor. 10:13

The temptation I wrestle with the most is to "handle it myself", whatever the challenge might be, yet God provides the way in Jesus, and only asks us to seek Him. But I seem to have to worry, work, and fight as I struggle to do it myself, until I am either disappointed or overwhelmed. Will I ever learn? When faced with any trouble or trial, no matter how severe, I need only seek my Higher Power, Jesus!

I am the Lord God of all mankind. Is there anything too hard for me?

– Jeremiah 32:27

From the pamphlet "Cleaning House"

As we sort through our past, we look at what has helped us as much as what has hurt us. We are searching for where we were wrong in word, deed or perception. We seek God's **wisdom** in what is revealed to us while we list and then confess to another the exact nature of our wrongs, so that we may gather up "the trash" (those flaws we have discovered) and get ready to have it taken away. Now our house is nearly ready to receive the "makeover" we so desperately need.

First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Matthew 23:26

Each step we take builds on the previous step and we draw ever nearer to God as we continue on our journey. The past begins to look not quite as bad as it did, and the future is looking just a little better than it did. What we have done or used to be like begins to lose power over who we are now. What we should be or could be loses power over who we are now as well. We are learning to look less at our past or our future and we begin to live as we are now, today. We have much to do still, but we are already halfway through the steps. We have begun to emerge from our guilt and shame of our past while also reducing our expectations of the future. Our focus is on the here and now, looking to do the very next right thing indicated, secure in the knowledge that God is in charge of all outcomes.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

Welcome New Groups:

Welcome new groups in Cerritos, CA, Smyrna, DE, New Milford, CT, Forest, MS, Texas City, TX, Lewisburg, PA, Clarendon Hills, IL, Chelsea, ME, Schaumburg, IL, Bailey, MI, and Wadena, MN.

From "The Four Standards"

Fourth Standard: Unselfishness - We should ask ourselves "How will this affect the other fellow?" when

considering what we are about to do, say, think or decide. Our motive should be to serve God by serving others. Our unselfishness must include not merely that which we do for others, but that which we do for ourselves. We are helped on our long journey to unselfishness by our great mission of understanding, which includes more than just doing for others. We must be unselfish even in our pursuits of self-preservation. This includes all that we do, since much of our help to others comes through our own example. When we strive for unselfishness, we are removed from fears of what others might think of us, our reputations, or our feelings by thinking of them instead of ourselves. In freely giving of ourselves we walk in the truth of God's pure love for all of us. We are blessed in ever growing measure by His grace.

Literature - We now have [wall posters](#)

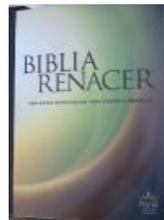
- "12 Steps with Scriptures" and "OO 12 Traditions".



They are 20 inches wide and 30 inches long, with dark green letters on white vinyl,

with hanging grommets. Contact the office by phone or email for further details.

NEW -Life Recovery "Biblia Renacer - RVR" (Spanish). We also have the **Revised Group Traditions Guide** (traditions only) or the **Steps, Standards, and Traditions Guide**



Office News

We continue to work on updates to our online directory. We are asking group members to please look at the information listed and email changes if needed. There is a link at the bottom of the directory page for this. Corrections can also be phoned in. We need your help.

Please subscribe to our [Face Book](#) page. Visit the page for posts and devotionals, and be sure to share any group news or events you care to. Our weekly [Phone Meeting](#) is still in need of a leader, but is "off and on" for now. Just call and check in to see if

others are on, Thursdays 6:30pm Pacific time. 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 helpful information for starting, growing, and improving group attendance or outreach 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.

Our website is averaging over 500 visitors a week. About 85% are new visitors, and the average time spent viewing is almost 5 minutes. We average 1500 page views a week.



Board of Directors - 2014
(not pictured: Louie and Bette)

Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery:

Jack E, Burley, ID, 5yrs, Kevin M, San Fernando, CA, 6yrs, Mario V, Whittier, CA, 7yrs, Fred D, Burley, ID, 8yrs, Dan B, S. Lake Tahoe, CA, 24yrs, Cecelia F, Sequim, WA, 26yrs, Annie H, Cypress, TX, 28yrs, Elayne B, Tulsa, OK, 28yrs, Jim B, Tulsa, OK, 29yrs, Verda B, Scottsdale, AZ, 30yrs, and Shirley B, Canon City, CO, 33yrs. 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: Pikes Peak Baptist group, Colorado Springs, CO - 6yrs, Crosspoint Community group, Oconomowoc, WI - 10yrs, and Greensboro, NC, 24yrs. 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 Renewal and Restoration

Summer is the season of travel, vacation, renewal, and restoration. We make our plans, endure travel hardships, adjust our plans, and make the most of our time, renewed by enjoying rest and recreation. The time almost always ends sooner than we would have liked, but we, find upon returning home, that we are glad to be home, and we are renewed and restored to our joy in life. A part of God's plan for us is like this – to journey through trials and challenges, with many blessings along the way, restored and renewed, enjoying life with others as we “make the most” of the time granted us here, and when our time here ends, we return home to our Lord, rejoicing as we are renewed and restored in Him.

Heavenly Father, as we live our days by your decree, may we know the blessing of Your presence in all things. We thank You for every moment, and ask You renew our strength when we tire, and restore our spirit when in distress, for all hope, comfort, and joy is from You, Father. We praise You for calling us to do Your will and giving us our life in Jesus Christ, now and forever - 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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