

# Overcomers Outreach

*“Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery and Churches”  
September 2009 Newsletter*



*Some Happy Campers!*

## From the Director ...

Summer is about gone ... that was fast! I thank God for the freedom we have in and through Jesus Christ. His blessings never end, and neither do our opportunities to share them with others.



*John & Judy H.*

New opportunities to carry our message continue to come up. I am encouraged by the efforts put forth by groups across the nation and around the world to make known the true healing power of Jesus Christ. Here's the latest.

## Recent Events

### Mailbox

### Literature Update

### HIM Advances

### “Lighten Up”

## Events ...

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Campout

We had a higher turnout than expected, yet there was room and food for all. In addition to campers, we had several visitors who stayed nearby as well as several locals who attended the meetings and meals. An excellent workshop on “Forgiveness” was led by Don and Carla B. We had as many as 50 participants at some of the gatherings. The general consensus at the end was that “we should fill the whole campground next year!”

### Concert in the Park

An annual outreach to the streets of Elizabeth, NJ and surrounding vicinage features:

Free food: Sandwiches and water are donated

Live music and speakers: we use recovery speakers between each musical set. Many are introduced to the 12 step recovery process because of the sharing.

Free Children's Carnival: clowns, puppeteers, magicians, candy, skits, games, gospel hip-hop artist, a crew from “Sesame Street”, literature and more. This is a tremendous prevention opportunity.

Health Fair: We invite agencies and organizations to partner with us to provide: any clinical service for the whole family that can be offered to make this a day of hope and blessing for everyone in attendance.

Prayer Tent: Throughout the day, we make invitations for salvation via music groups, speakers who have been set free from addiction and everything that goes with that lifestyle, and the MC, through a sound system that can be heard blocks away. People in their homes have heard invitations and ran down to the tent to surrender. We also pray for anyone that would like us to lift up their needs. Through

volunteers, we erect canopies and small tents for the “kid's carnival” the morning of the event. There are always plenty of opportunities for volunteers to serve in many areas (sound crew, stage crew, set-up, clean-up, security, food serving, and face painting, etc).

This annual outreach has allowed us to feel the pulse of the community and attempt to meet their needs. It is an outreach into one of the neediest areas of our city plagued by drugs, vicious dealers, gang violence and death.

What makes this day so special besides a day of activities and giving is the loving outreach to those who are so often forgotten by our society.



*Freedom Festival “Booth”*

## Freedom Festival

At this year's event we had a café style table and chairs under an umbrella. It was definitely the most relaxed display booth. Setting up right next to the entrance got a lot of visits. We gave away some seventy Bibles and talked with a number of people. Event turnout was a bit low, but we got a chance at everyone! Many people were surprised to discover the scope of our ministry as well as how many meetings we have around the world.

## Tulsa Conference

Pastors and faith community leaders were introduced to OO's “method of recovery” at the recent citywide conference, hosted by the Tulsa area Overcomers groups. The

theme "Equip and Empower" was well received as guests heard a powerful opening presentation by the District Attorney, focusing on the recent rise of Methamphetamine use to epidemic proportions. The following day a workshop was held by Overcomers to address possible solutions and foster more participation locally.

### **20 Years of OO**

The Chicago group at LaGrange Bible church celebrated 20 years of Overcomers in the Chicago area Thursday, August 6, with a potluck dinner and meeting. Congratulations!

### **The Mailbox ...**

#### **Australia Writes:**

We've developed a logo for Sydney and we are in the process of also creating a booklet to use as a meeting format. I was hoping you could add some more details for the Australian meetings. I've attached the details of our 3 meetings that are now all successfully running. We also have our first international visitor from the UK coming next week.

God is good...

#### **Kenya Writes:**

My name is Pastor Josphat Charagu. I pastor Patmos church in Nairobi Kenya. I am also the National Youth Coordinator for our churches in Kenya. The problem of substance and drug abuse and addiction in Kenya is becoming a serious problem even among Christian families. I am currently involved in counseling and helping such addicts. In Kenya, we have very few rehabilitation centers which are very expensive. I am in the process of starting a cheaper rehab for the less privileged. I have managed to buy a piece of land. What remains now is to put up the facilities. Since this is a big challenge, I am appealing for assistance in whichever form or information of how I can network with like minded people. Any assistance will be highly appreciated. Thank you.

### **San Jose, CA Writes:**

My husband and I were asked to lead an OVERCOMERS OUTREACH group in San Jose at Crossroads Bible Church. As I was reading the newsletter, one of the stories caught my attention. They are all good and inspiring but the one from Lexington sounded familiar. As the lady spoke about her husband being the only man, it made me look at our group. When I first started, there were 5 men and I was the only woman. I prayed and prayed for our group to grow for God's glory and that God would touch hearts and give the strength to those who need to walk into one of our meetings or ask about our OO group. We all know how faithful our God is; now, more women are showing up at our meetings from time to time! So by keeping the faith our group has grown from 8 to 12 and 15 people participating every Thursday night. Like I said we must have faith and God will move. (LOL) I'm still the only lady sometimes....

#### **Lexington, OK Writes:**

Thank you for praying for our Lexington meeting. I almost forgot that I had asked for prayer and you'll never believe it! They have already been answered. We have had as many as 13 attending and the Lord has brought three men to join my husband. The meetings are going well. Praise the Lord and God bless you in our ministry.  
*We do believe it! Ed.*

***"Will you settle for the world you can create? Or Will you lay hold of the world you were created for?"***



### **Literature Update**

As we continue to revise and update our information pamphlets and booklets, as well as adding new ones, existing stock is being replaced with updated material. The introduction pamphlet has been translated into Spanish and is now available. The next translations will be *Steps with Scriptures* and a new testimony.

Currently, we have updated or revised eleven pamphlets and created five new ones. *Heroin, Group Traditions, Practicing Principles, Methamphetamines*, and the Spanish translation mentioned above are the newest pamphlets, while the *Steps with Scriptures, Sharing Jesus, Sponsorship, Cocaine, Alcohol, Working the Steps, Marijuana Maze, Hooked on Prescription Pills, Introduction, A Personal Letter* and *Winning over Gambling* have been revised. The cost of pamphlets has been reduced in an effort to make more of our literature available. All pamphlets are now 35 cents each, with volume discounts available. Combinations totaling 50 or more results in a cost of 30 cents each, and 100 or more are 25 cents each. An "update kit" of 4 each (total of 60) is available for a donation of \$10. The new layout of the pamphlets offers a crisp presentation of information and looks great displayed in a rack. We hope to make information available in Church lobbies and other locations.

Our FREED booklets are getting a "makeover" as well. For now, we are just changing the cover layout to conform to the rest of the literature. If 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition donations improve just a little more, we will be able to reduce the cost of booklets substantially as well. We have revised HIM literature and now have a *Group Traditions Study Guide* on hand. Some groups have started a "tradition study" with these new booklets. More than 20% of the Central Office operating costs were funded by literature sales last year.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of "Overcomers Outreach – A Bridge to Recovery" is at the publishers! It will be available late this fall and pre-sales orders will be starting soon.

### HIM Advances

The Lake Tahoe groups have done it again. Now they cross both county and state lines to bring the Good news to the inmates of Douglas County Jail. "We are starting with a women's group one week, then a men's group the next, and alternating throughout the month" says Dan B., one of the jail ministry leaders in the area. "We were shocked to find that no one else is bringing in the Word". A few people committing one or two nights a month and God will use them to make an impact on the "system". Did you know that 75% of the inmates who don't return to jail after release are those who "get religion" (as the guards put it)? They adopt a faith based lifestyle and don't go back!  
*14How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? Romans10:14*

Over one million people are incarcerated or on parole/probation in the United States. That's 1,000,000 people in the "Land of the Free"! With government budgets what they are and the average age of inmates rising (which indicates higher medical treatment expenses) any money that would go for rehabilitation services and facility expansion is used up by prison hospitals and temporary measures. The solution is not to build bigger jails, but to reduce the population by "breaking the cycle". The same principle applies to drug and alcohol treatment centers, hospitals, rescue missions and other institutions. This work must fall to volunteers. Call or email the Central Office to let us know what you need to get into this most rewarding and vital field.

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I*

*was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'* Matt. 25:35-36

### News from the Office ...

New groups have started in Alabama, New Jersey, Texas, Ohio, Tennessee, Florida, California and Nevada. We continue to update our national meeting directory. If you get a chance, please visit our website and click on "groups", then check the information for your listing. If there are any changes needed, please drop us an e-mail (you can do that right from the website under "contact us"). We are also approaching groups to consider forming districts, or at least getting local meeting schedules put together.

A new link on our website is "OO Media" which features some "pod casts" of speakers and topic meetings, as well as some photos of recent events (the campout). If you would like to post some photos of your group event, just email them to the Central Office. We are currently working on DVD presentations of narrated slideshows for PI, HIM and group startup. These will hopefully be available for viewing on the Media site soon. We would also be happy to post your upcoming event on the website, just email it to us a few days in advance.

Inquiries continue from all over as to how to start a group. Look for the new "Quick Links" feature on the upper left corner of the website, where a few handy "shortcuts" are now available, including a "what's new" link for the latest changes and updates.



"The Office"

### Lighten Up

We are a fun-loving bunch! We hope you enjoy these items of trivia. "So I saw that there is nothing better for a man than to enjoy his work, because that is his lot." (Eccl 3:22)

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'

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Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only ... Ladies Forbidden'... and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

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Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

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The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska

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The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28% (now get this...)  
The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%

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The average number of people airborne over the U.S. In any given hour: 61,000

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Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

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The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments

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Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:  
Spades - King David  
Hearts - Charlemagne  
Clubs - Alexander, the Great  
Diamonds - Julius Caesar

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If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

## Service ...

Service is a blessing whether given, received or shared. So many ways to serve, all too often we don't even realize we are in service. Will Rogers said "We can't all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by." Whether in the parade or watching it, we are part of the event, as long as we show up. Our obligation is to be available to others so that God may use us to help others, for His Glory. Jesus commands: "*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven*"(Matthew 5:13-16). Salt preserves and enhances. Being of service to others enhances awareness of God's blessings upon us, both for us and for those who are around us. All good is both from God and for God. His love, whether given, received or shared, results in service to Him. Now let's pray.

Father in heaven, we ask You now to show us how to serve Your good purpose. Guide and direct us to use the gifts You have given us to help one another, all for Your Glory. We give thanks to you, Father, for your love and all the blessings you pour out upon us to share with others. May we be transformed to servants in the likeness of Your Son. In Jesus' precious name we pray for this, 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](mailto: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