

Overcomers Outreach

"Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches"
September 2011 Newsletter

From the Director ...



Over the summer we have been "busy" and God has been in it all. His providence declares His presence. "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18)

Since the first part of this year, the Board of Directors has been in the process of establishing a "Reference Board" and an "Advisory Board" to help our ministry grow. These individuals bless us with their wisdom, time, and prayer in support of our efforts to carry our message of hope in Christ. We are continuing to recruit additional help in many fields of endeavor. Currently, Mr. Pat Boone is on our Reference Board. Our Advisory Board members include Dr. Stephen Arterburn, Dr. Kevin Downing, and Dr. Mark Laaser. We are truly blessed to have such resources available to consult with as we move to the future. Our next Board of Directors meeting will be the end of October, as we launch the new fiscal year. All Board memberships are volunteer positions and receive no compensation. "Let the one who is wise heed these things and ponder the loving deeds of the LORD." Psalm 107

We held workshops at this year's Los Angeles Area Southern Baptist Association Learning day. It was a blessed gathering of about 100 leaders seeking new avenues of outreach to their communities, and we were well received. We have had events from coast to coast, all for the gathering of Overcomers in His name. Jeff

News from OO Canada ...

Overcomers Outreach Canada partners with Promise Keepers Canada. Promise Keepers is one of the significant partners in the Overcomers Outreach Canada Ministry. One of the major issues that PK Canada deals with is men's sexual purity, especially the epidemic of addiction to pornography. PK has partnered with OO Canada as we establish Men's Purity Groups, across the country, with an emphasis on healing porn addicts. We have had a presence at 15 major PK events since November 2009. Promise Keepers has supported our presence with complimentary table space, mention from the platform, providing space for our breakout sessions, complimentary hotel rooms, and transportation for our Executive Coordinator, Ken S. This partnership has resulted in the opportunity for us to conduct follow-on training sessions beginning in January 2011. Ten training sessions were conducted across Canada between January and July, 2011 and two more are scheduled in September. These training sessions have resulted in us already establishing two new groups. Literature starter kits have been purchased by groups in eight additional locations. Serious interest has been expressed by groups in five other locations.

We thank Promise Keepers Canada for their on-going support and look forward to a continuing relationship at all major PK events in 2011-12.

Yours very truly,
Chris B
President, Overcomers
Outreach Canada Inc.

Events ...

2011 Morro Bay Campout...



Food, Fun, Fellowship, & FREEDOM!

Once again, Overcomers out west got together for a weekend of camping and sharing in God's providence. There is something about the campfire meetings that really keep us heart to heart when we share. We had many new campers this year, as well as "veterans" of the previous events, but we know that next year we need a bigger campground!



This year's group

We had 27 campers this year and another 10 participants who chose not to "rough it".

San Fernando Tostada Night...

The OO group at the Bible Chapel in San Fernando, CA, put on a "fund raiser" dinner and speaker - participation meeting in August. The event was well attended and the food was great!



Group leader addressing the group

Some members brought the food, some brought raffle prizes, and everyone brought a joyful spirit. Some much-needed funds were raised for the Central Office, and a lot of fun was had by all. Our gatherings are indeed special, as our fellowship in Christ blesses us and those around us.



And cake for dessert!

The Mailbox ...

Africa Writes:

Thank you for praying for the warm heart of Africa MALAWI, as the demonstrations were called off. May the Lord bless you for this wherever you are. AMEN!

Henry M. Chikafa

Henry has also written:

Overcomers Ministries in Malawi is in the process of registration with the Government. This will cause a new challenge of having a lot of people coming for assistance, as this is the only ministry of this focus in Malawi. Our aim is to have rehabilitation in Malawi for these people. So we are requesting help with Materials like 12 Step recovery books and Bibles, or any other books which can assist. God bless you as you seek God's guidance to take part in supporting the ministry.

(Contact this Office for details)

Texas Writes:

We have been very blessed so far with our new group, 12 first week, 9 the second and 15 last Sunday, What I love is to see new persons, every week, and that most come back. Keep us in your prayers; there is spiritual warfare with some folks - To Gods Glory!!!
Brother in Christ, in Recovery - Ted

Spokane, WA Writes:

I am so glad to find you, finally!! I was introduced to Overcomers by Naomi W, many years ago in Atascadero, CA. My Recovery Bible has Naomi's name in it and my married name. I think you came up from Whittier to speak at one of our meetings. I see there aren't any meetings in Spokane, WA where I now live. I will soon be ordering supplies. I still have my FREED booklet, which I use also. I am now in the claws of a gambling addiction. The former one was anxiety. Some things are stubborn and I need an OO group. Glad you are still there. It gives me comfort to know that. I will pray about possibly starting a group. Thank you,

Nancy

Klamath, WA writes:

We started an OO meeting in Kalama, WA, held at the Kalama Community Center, 213 Elm Street every Friday at 6:30.

Thanks, Jenne

Email

I'm 20 years young and am struggling with an addiction to marijuana. I've been smoking for 5/6 years. I've tried quitting over 10 times within the last year and it has been the hardest thing I've ever done. I'm a habitual user, smoke pretty much all day even while at work. I want to stop using and live a drug free life. It makes me sad that something so small has such a strong hold on me and prevents me from living a joyful life along side our Lord. I need help stopping, I need change. I can't take much more of this. It brings me down in everything I do. School, projects, LIFE...It prevents me from accomplishing my goals because I'm too high to deal. PLEASE HELP ME! God Bless. "meuripicasso"

Posted on Face Book:

We are home and exhausted! What an awesome weekend

God blessed us with! Our OO family is an amazing group.

Lori B♥♥

To all us Overcomers - Remember our joy in glorifying God-I'm at a John Piper conf. & I think I really forgot this at the beginning of this year. Recovery is hard work but is so joyful when I'm doing it to God's glory- keep at inventory taking, to keep at being unblocked from Gods Power!

OO Australia

Letting Go. . . (& Letting God!)

By Pauline Bartosch

Why is it, when we finally "let go" of a loved one or a pressing problem, we find ourselves gradually taking it back? I was recently fretting over some loved ones who have been struggling with addiction. I found myself trying to figure out ways to "help" them, as "codependents" do so expertly. When I attended my regular Al-Anon meeting that week, someone read (with tears in her eyes) a page out of one of the devotionals--*Courage to Change*--page 350:

"How could I turn my will and my life over to the care of God? I earnestly tried, but I always took everything right back into my own hands. It felt so scary to think that I was not in control. I found it hard to trust that God would be there for me if I let go completely. I wondered what absolute surrender would feel like, and how I would know if I was doing it.

Turning our will over is like dancing with a partner. If both try to lead, there is much confusion and little forward movement. There is awkwardness and bucking that result when both partners compete for control. But when the partner who is following can relax and let the other partner do the steering, the



couple flows easily across the dance floor.” (Amazing!)

My husband, Bob, and I loved to dance, so I can easily picture this in my mind! One of Bob's favorite phrases was: “I can't, God can, I think I'll let Him!”

“There are no guarantees that life will turn out the way we would like, but the (12 Step) program has shown me God's will is the ONLY way; it is up to me to work with Him and turn my life and will over to His care and guidance.”

.. (In All Our Affairs).

Proverbs 3:5-6—*“Trust in the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.”* (TLB).



Raffle winner

Office News

More new groups have started in Saint Augustine, FL, Klamath, WA, Gatesville, TX, Bakersfield, CA, and one is starting next month in Concord, NC. If your group is not listed online, but would like to be, just call the office or email the information to us and we will post it as soon as we can. It is free, and we can then direct people calling from your area to your group.

Our website has undergone a redesign, with the hope that it is more “friendly” with mobile media, such as I-phone and Blackberry. We also hope you will find it easier to navigate as well as more pleasing to the eye. All of our services – shopping, finding meetings, helpful information, forms, and interactive blog – are still available, just with a different background and arrangement.

We hope you will visit the website soon and let us know how we may better serve your group. Just click overcomersoutreach.org



“The Office”

Overcomers Outreach will be presented to the International Christian Recovery Coalition at the upcoming conference Sep. 17th, in Costa Mesa, CA. Event details are on the website and admission is free.

Literature

We are accepting submissions for the next revision to the FREED booklet. If you have some special scriptures “penciled in” for a particular step or topic that you share with your group, would you consider sharing the passage with others as well? Just send them to the office, email or surface mail.



“How much does Jesus love you?”

Conflicted ... or convicted?

The glaring difference for me is the knowledge of God's presence. Whether I'm in a church service or a recovery group, it is not until I seek God that my progress begins. I remain “in conflict”, chained by self-knowledge, self-will, and self-awareness, figuring out what to do next. And not only does the situation remain the same, but so do I! Indecision, doubt, and other

forms of fear wall me in and keep me going in circles – “what if”, “if only”. *“The one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”* (James 1)

Getting out of conflict starts with the conviction that I am not looking to God, nor seeking His guidance – I am trying to control, and my attempts to control keep me from seeing God's presence, and therefore His direction, in any situation. As soon as I concede that I am powerless, He meets me where I am and my conflict is resolved. *“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?”* (1 Corinthians 3)

As we seek His Glory we are lifted up and strengthened in all circumstances, and we can rejoice and be thankful in all things, even our “conflicts”! *“But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.”* (Psalm 39)



“Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Groups and Churches of All Denominations”

In Memoriam

Over the last year, some of our friends have been called home. Donations were made to honor the memory of these loved ones and we wish to share their names with you to further honor them for their giving spirits:

Naomi Wilson
Vicki Tabor
Debbie Bartosch
Kristina Branscomb

We extend our condolences to the families of these loved ones, and mourn their loss. Please join us in prayers of comfort to the families.

A Prayer for His Presence

God is our refuge, our strength, and the source of all that we have. He is holy – apart from sin- and he beckons us to His Kingdom, where we may dwell - apart from sin – in holiness. As He conforms us to His image, He gives us holiness to be exhibited in our lives for His Glory, in His presence. Let's go to Him in prayer now:

**Heavenly Father, we approach your throne of grace to praise you to your Glory. We give thanks for your mercies and forgiveness of our sin through your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray now that You would open our hearts and our eyes to perceive your Holy presence in all things, that we may share the love we have received in Christ with others, and that You would be glorified in all the love that we give as well as receive. You are Lord of all, and all honor and glory is yours. 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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