

# Overcomers Outreach

***"Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches"***  
***September 2012 Newsletter***

**From the Director** – How very blessed we are! We have so many opportunities to gather with others. We may gather at church, or at the market, at work, or



in small groups, prayer meetings, events, or even at the dinner table. Every time we gather, wherever we gather, and for whatever purpose we may get together, we are in fellowship with each other, and we are also in fellowship with our Lord. We can share being with Jesus with fellow believers as well as those who do not yet know Him. - *"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven, for where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* – Matthew 18:19

As we gather to support one another, we are blessed with the Lord's presence, and His healing power. He uses us to help others. When we gather to worship, we witness to His Glory in His power, and those seeking are reached. Every time we meet one another and greet each other, He is there, and His love abides in us. - *"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."* Acts 2:46-47

Regular fellowship offers both the opportunity to commune with our Lord and Savior and the practice of loving one another. - *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* John 13:34-35

Whether we fellowship face-to-face, on the phone, or online, we love God, and each other.

## **Events - 2012 Morro Bay Campout**

We had another great event this year, with about 50 people in attendance. Some great campfire meetings in the evenings, men's and women's meetings on Saturday morning, and a Group Traditions workshop Saturday afternoon all took place. We had hikers, bicyclists, whale-watchers, and beachcombers (and, of course, shoppers at the street fair and local shops).



*This year's campers*

Burgers, tri-tip, and an assortment of salads, sides, and desserts kept the group "fueled" physically, and the sharing and caring fed us all in the Spirit.



*"Say Jesus"*

We gathered from San Fernando, Simi Valley, Whittier, Woodland Hills, San Jose, Los Osos, and even New Zealand! The campground hosts, a few rangers, and a nearby camper joined us at different times, too.



*Men at Prayer*

Sunday morning brought a time of breakfast, packing up, photo op's, and what has come to be our traditional "prayer circle", where we all give thanks, praise, and worship to the Lord. As we pray for each other and safe travels home, we know His will for us – to walk in love and peace! Don't miss next year!

## **Coming up -**

Recovery Campout at "Nehemiah Fest", September 14th, 15th, 16th at Smith's Fork Park Campground, in Smithville, MO - \$15 per tent for the weekend. If you're not camping, the weekend is free. When you get there, ask the guys at the gate where the recovery campout is and they will show you where to park and bring you to us. Our only scheduled recovery event is a meeting at 10am Saturday. Visit our [Events](http://overcomersoutreach.org) page at [overcomersoutreach.org](http://overcomersoutreach.org) for more information.

## **Telephone Meetings -**

Our weekly "conference call" meeting has continued to be a real blessing. With as many as 9 and as few as 3 participants, these meetings have been very, very special. To join in, dial (530)881-1300 on Thursdays at 6:30pm Pacific time, then enter the access code 209992, 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. The "leaders" rotate, so everyone can participate if they wish to. This allows those who cannot otherwise attend a group to "be" at a meeting. As our members take turns leading, they prepare by studying verses for the topic of their choice, and usually do a little praying as well. An evening of prayer, God's Word, and fellowship with like-minded believers sounds pretty good. What if some of our groups were to help start and support a phone meeting? The "Telephone Host" could be a new service position, and the position could be rotated as desired. Group members could take a turn leading, sharing, or just listening in. So far, all who have participated have said the meeting is really helpful, and the potential to help others has already been realized.

We want to start some more phone meetings soon on different days and at different times. As more meetings

are started, there will be more opportunity to "get to" a meeting. For more information, or details about "hosting" a new meeting, see our website [Meetings](#) page, or just call the Central Office.

#### **The Mailbox –**

Hello at the head office -just a short note of thanks from New Zealand for all the great fun and hospitality at the Morro Bay camping gathering. It was really special to me, and I particularly enjoyed the style of the camp-out fellowship. I've read through the traditions sheet several times, and was glad to be present at that meeting. How is the on line meeting going!? I want to try and hook in to it this week.

Love Cathy T.

Greetings to you, Jeff, in the Lord:

Thanks for all the efforts you have made to reach the chairman for the missions board and the information you gave him about our ministry work. I am glad. May the Good Lord bless you and expand you mighty in all you do, even for your prayers you make for all here. I believe through your prayers something will happen to glorify God. Thanks. We too are praying for you and just like you told me am waiting read Isaiah 40:30---amen.

Simon Kamau

#### **Posted on our Blog – "The Bridge"**

Our [blog site](#) is intended to offer sample material from our literature, while also serving as an "online meeting". The following are some of the most recent responses to the topic pages mentioned:

#### **Cynthia says:** (Step 1)

I am an alcoholic, but this is the first time I've said it "out loud". My husband is an alcoholic and has been sober for 15 years. He has gone to an AA meeting almost every day of those 15 years. I have also struggled with my weight and have gone to weekly weight support meetings. I'm not sure AA would work for me because I never spoke up at the weight loss meetings and I hate the thought of going to meetings for the rest of my life. I'm

afraid to try and fail since my husband has succeeded there. I have been surrounded with alcoholism all my life. My mother was an alcoholic and I started drinking when I was 14. By the time I was 18, I had tried numerous drugs and drank until I passed out every weekend. God intervened, and I survived Hepatitis B. I headed off to college and did not drink for a year on the advice of my doctor. I also have been able to stop drinking when I was pregnant. I was always the designated driver because my husband drank more than me and I was responsible for the kids so I was a pretty respectable "social" drinker. I have been in denial all my life that I was not an alcoholic. The truth is that I was just very good at controlling it. Now my husband is the designated driver and my children are on their own. There is nothing stopping me from drinking a bottle of wine every night. Ever since I "empty nested", I have known that I am losing my battle with alcohol. My husband's brother died from alcoholism and my husband still regrets that they never tried an intervention on him. My husband never says anything to me about my drinking, but I know he counts every time I refill my glass. I love what is written for Step 1: when drinking to socialize becomes drinking to be normal; you've crossed the line. There it is in black and white and I can deny it no longer. I only drink one or two glasses of wine at parties or dinners. I drink a bottle or at least half a bottle every day between the time I get home from work until I go to bed. I am powerless over alcohol. I am going to put on the armor of God by reading the suggested scriptures and pray for God's strength to help me overcome my addiction.

#### **Wendy says:** (Step 1)

This sounds like the right place for me as AA doesn't work for me. My life is wonderful in many ways. I'm physically fit, love the Lord but at least one bottle every night with perhaps a one day break a week and sometimes drink two a night. It's so tasty and I can't seem to stop, no matter how hard I pray.

#### **"Issues" says:** (Step 6)

I am entirely ready for God to remove all my defects of character as He already has removed so many already. I am learning more and more every day to trust Him with ALL my problems. He has delivered me from sexual addiction, and nicotine and is delivering me from overeating now. My Pastor had enough confidence in me, without knowing the complete details of my past to be the facilitator at the OO meetings in our church. I praise God that He delivered me from my sexual addictions just from reading the Bible and prayer before I started going to church or else I might have gotten kicked out and it's a great, grace, faith and Bible based church. I'm very lucky to have found it. Our pastor is a great believer in those who have overcome helping others to overcome. He is an ex-addict and ex-con, free from addiction for 40 years and works daily with men who are in addictions in his regular job as well as his pastor-ship.

#### **Michayla says:** (Pamphlet - Does

Someone You Love Drink Too Much?) My mother is an alcoholic and it has caused problems all her life, and also the lives of her 5 kids. She has had 3 DUIs, is on probation and still drinks and makes stupid choices. I'm wondering what it would be like if I had a sober mom. One of her kids hates her, the other one is me who hates her actions and hates her being drunk but loves her so much, even after everything we have been put through. She is the kindest person in the world and would take the shirt off her back for anyone, literally, and cares for her kids more than anything, but she lets the alcohol take control of her, I have written speeches about how bad alcohol is. They hurt me so bad, My little brother is very hurt that she drinks and hides it but you can see the hurt in his eyes the other two are too young to understand, which is why I need help to find a way to stop this bad thing so that she can be the mother she needs to be and not go back to jail and leave her kids struggling anymore. Someone please help!

## Is Relapse “Okay”?

*The only requirement for Overcomers Outreach membership is a desire to stop addictive or compulsive behavior. – Group Tradition #3*

The group is able to serve under God's direction by offering help and support to anyone who suffers. This tradition frees us from judgment and reminds us that all are equal under God. We are equally subject to suffering in this world and therefore equally entitled to share in the blessings of recovery. The group should increase the individual's desire to stop by offering fellowship and loving support. Membership is based on the personal decision to get help and we recognize that God has led the individual to us for His good purpose, so we welcome all in brotherly love. Willingness to come to a meeting shows a desire to stop a behavior.

Repeating a behavior means we have not “stopped” – even with a long time between incidents – and the Bible is pretty clear that the way to salvation (healing) requires us to “repent” (stop what we do). *“For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”– Ezekiel 18:32*

By welcoming all who have a desire to stop addictive or compulsive behaviors, we look beyond our personal bias and prejudices. Tolerance grows to acceptance, and then to love as we learn to accept those who continue to struggle. With the same love that God shows us, we begin and grow in new relationships with others, as we are recovering together. We learn compassion when we set aside our self-righteousness and reach out in brotherly love to those suffering. We become free to witness the miracle of growth in others and see despair turn to joy as we welcome the opportunity to see God's providence at work in and through us all. We hope and pray for their future success, and if we can't find the love and patience to support those who relapse, we better get busy on our own step work, because such shortcomings (like intolerance and criticism) suggest that we may very well be on our way to join them!

## Office News

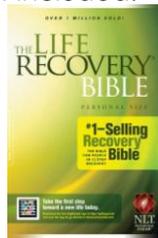
More new groups have started in Topeka, KS, Salem, WI, Birmingham, AL, and Bemidji, MN. A new group which focuses on overeating and eating disorders has started in San Fernando, CA.

Our Face Book page has a daily “reach” of 400 to 500 readers. With more new “likes” and shares our potential outreach could be over 82,000 friends and “friends of friends”, according to the page data. Be sure to visit [Overcomers Outreach US](http://Overcomers Outreach US) and click “like” to receive daily posts of devotional readings, events, and news. We would love your input, too, so feel free to comment and share. Our site [overcomersoutreach.org](http://overcomersoutreach.org) has information about literature, groups, and many other resources for help. Our blog site – [The Bridge](http://The Bridge) – serves as an online meeting resource and also features much of our literature.

## Literature

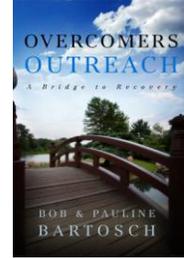
We continue to work on scriptures pertinent to our Traditions, to expand and improve the Group Tradition study guides. As with the FREED book project, we welcome any input and suggested verses you may have to contribute. We hope to have this ready in the next few months.

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 and ACA FREED books ordered are printed with the insert included.



We also now have available the new “personal size” Life Recovery Bible in soft cover. Page numbers match the “Full size” Bibles, and they are available on our website for \$15 each.

Our OO “big book”, *A Bridge to Recovery*, is an excellent resource for a “book study” meeting, and also contains guidelines, formats, and the history of Overcomers Outreach.



*A Bridge to Recovery,*

Literature sales help fund the Central Office. We are happy to help your group find the literature they want at a good price, and offer discount prices on some books and Bibles by the case.

## Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery: Jeff M, from Whittier, CA – 10yrs., Rick H, from Burley, ID – 10 yrs., Jennifer B, from Lockport, IL – 11 yrs., David T, from St. Helens, OR – 14 yrs., Annie H, from Cypress, TX – 26 yrs., Bette K, from Simi Valley, CA – 31 yrs., Bob M, from Des Moines, WA – 32 yrs., and Louie L, from San Fernando, CA – 41 yrs. They have made donations (\$1 for each year of their recovery) to the Central Office to express their gratitude.

The Friday Morning Group at South Lake Tahoe, CA celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June this year. They make regular 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Special Announcement!

Our co- founder, Pauline Bartosch, was married to David Van Meter on August 18<sup>th</sup>. They were childhood neighbors, but the families went separate ways. They both attended Biola University freshman year, then went separate ways again. Both were widowed about 6 years ago, got re-acquainted via Face Book, and decided to “tie the knot” – Congratulations David and Pauline!

## A Prayer of Fellowship

*"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live."- Ecclesiastes 3:11-12. As we come together in fellowship, let us always remember that we are together and will be together, with Him, for eternity. We love and support one another through this fellowship, and are happy as we live together, in His presence. What a beautiful gift that is.*

Let's pray:

**Father God, we thank you for hearing our prayers and the privilege of fellowship. We praise you for the beauty of Your love as we express that love to others. May we be known by the love we share together in fellowship with Your Son, as we walk in obedience to your statutes, and rejoice in the knowledge of your providence through Your Grace, all to Your Glory. In Jesus name we pray.**

**Amen**

*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 [overcomersoutreach.org](http://overcomersoutreach.org) or send to: Overcomers Outreach, 12828 Acheson Dr., Whittier, CA 90601. 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. You can also 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