



# Overcomers Outreach

*"Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery and Churches"*  
**September 2010 Newsletter**

## From the Director...

As summer draws to an end, we have so very much to be grateful for. New energy, new help, and new groups are springing up across the nation. Many people are finding hope for a different life, indeed, an abundant life – a life with Jesus at the center.

School begins for many, and the days can be exciting for us all as the Kingdom of God advances.

Fall is harvest time and I want to ask you all, everyone reading this letter, to take a moment and ask God to show you the blessing you have in this life right now. If you are an Overcomer, ask how you can share this blessing you have with others. Perhaps you can offer an invitation to a meal, take someone to a meeting, or invite them to church. If you are not yet an Overcomer, perhaps you know someone who would benefit from our meetings, even yourself. Come and share the blessing. Help make our meetings known. If you do not see the blessing you have, perhaps it is time to ask the Lord Jesus Christ into your life. Come to a meeting, come to church, and come to know Him, for He cares for you.

Overcomers Outreach is blessed with generous, giving people at every position, from the Board of Directors to group members. We glorify God when we love one another.

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## Campout...

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Overcomers Outreach Campout was a sold out, successful event. We had a great time and want to share some photos we took of some of the participants, surroundings, and campsite.



*Morro Bay*

Located on the estuary-preserve of Morro Bay State Park, we had the Marina, the Natural History Museum, and the small town of Morro Bay in close proximity. The group site was away from the rest of the camp ground and any other signs of civilization, except for the full facility restrooms and showers – yes, hot showers at a campsite – and it made for a “top notch” stay.



*Happy Campers!*

The weather was warm during the day, becoming chilly and a bit damp overnight. Blue skies and sunshine were plentiful, but not too hot, just good walking weather.



*Chef Joe with “supervisors”*

The food was both plentiful and wonderful, as we held a pot luck on Friday and a “cook it all” BBQ on Saturday. Everyone helped or at least helped eat, and “chores” were done by sunset, when we gathered around the campfire and shared testimonies and praises of God in our lives and working in others.



*Women in prayer*

After a hearty breakfast and the morning men/women meetings, we headed off in smaller groups to explore the town, beaches, and other sites, and then home to BBQ and fellowship. We had newcomers, new believers, and elders. We walk through trials and celebrate victories together, all to the Glory of God. Most of all, we have the Lord, and our lives are abundant in Him.



*One on one in the sunlight*

A campout can be a wonderful opportunity for a retreat or to get away to a relaxing environment and enjoy God's creation. It can also be a good family adventure and learning opportunity for both children and adults. In reality, planning a group campout is not so difficult, and frequently ends up being a very economical vacation time. These campers paid \$20 for 2 nights and dinner, then pooled their food and ate well (too well) all weekend long. They traveled in groups, saving in gas expense. A decent tent and sleeping bag costs less than a night's stay in most hotels, and you get to use the equipment over and over. If you want to start small, have a picnic or BBQ in a park near home, just to "fine tune" planning. The Central Office will assist as possible if you need help planning. Or just come next year-We will!

### **Upcoming Webinar...**

Rolf and Uta, from OO Germany, have invited us all to the online international seminar which starts in September.

"During the next months we would like to invite friends to accompany us on our C12 Step Journey with the OO Big Book "A Bridge to Recovery" and regarding one step a month beginning with Step 1 in Sept. only to see Jesus working in us and sharing our experiences, strength, hope and God's Love and Faith in Christ. We do have no special aim but only seeking Christ's Presence through His Holy Spirit and wait what He is doing in and through us. We will meet on Face book (see link beneath) and on special times at "Video Chat Rounds" based on God's Promise when two or three of us are coming together in His Name Jesus will be at the center of us to be our Lord, Redeemer, Helper and Teacher --- one day one step at a time!

We will keep it simple. Some of us are speaking German and English and nobody knows how this will work out (but God!) -- So isn't it an exciting

experiment to be gathered by Jesus from all over the world in His fellowship of OO/C12?

For more information and help  
mailto:rolf@c1

[http://www.facebook.com/I/9234a3GcxzUB0eaC\\_273tiGStrg;2undc12.net](http://www.facebook.com/I/9234a3GcxzUB0eaC_273tiGStrg;2undc12.net)

or come along the Face book site and join us."

Only by God's GRACE - Only for HIS GLORY!

### **Welcome New Groups...**

Last time it was South Carolina that started up groups where there had been none, and this time I am pleased to welcome Middletown, Rhode Island to the directory. This is the first and currently the only listing in RI. Hopefully that will change soon, just as it has in SC. Salem, NJ, Lynchburg, VA, and Baraboo, WI have been the most recent groups to list on the directory, and new group information has gone out to many other areas as well. Several other groups have changed their directory information. Being in the directory allows visitors to find your group and also allows others to refer people to your group. Updating the listings is a big job, and much thanks to those who have helped by "checking" up on other groups in their respective areas and passing the information on. Please feel free to check the directory for accuracy of your group information and let us know of any changes needed.

### **Literature Update**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our "Big Book" *A Bridge to Recovery* is here, with new stories of hope and faith. This book also contains the history of Overcomers Outreach and the story of our founders, and serves as an excellent resource for the groups as well. We are accepting orders on our website, or you may phone or write the office for

your copy. The book is available now (after 2 years out of print) for \$20, and is also available online and in bookstores.

The *Steps and Traditions Guide* has been well received since its creation in March of this year. We have combined the "steps" and "standards" pamphlets with our "Group Traditions" guide, plus some selected prayers. Also included are "Slogans with Scriptures"-popular sayings of the 12 step recovery rooms with associated scriptures from the book of Matthew. This spiral bound book, our own version of the "12 and 12", is priced at \$6 and is for group and individual study. The steps are presented with respect to the four "absolute" principles- namely honesty, purity, unselfishness and love- used to guide Oxford Group members in their program of evangelism. When one's motives are checked against these "standards", correct actions can be better discerned.

The guide booklet *FREED-SH* (*Sex Addicts - Healed God's Way*), provides a meeting format, group guidelines, accountability questions and other resources for both the addict and family members. This booklet replaces the supplemental *FREED SH* booklet and is much more up to date and expanded. *FREED-SH* groups serve as the bridge between churches and 12 step groups addressing the issues of sexual addiction.

Our newest pamphlet is titled "Higher Power" and is offered to help recognize God's presence in our lives. It is available through the website or from the Central Office.

Our literature serves as "building blocks" for our groups and our outreach, but our foundation remains the "rock" of Jesus Christ.



## The Mailbox ...

### Australia Writes:

Hi Jeff

The books have been a huge help. I have two left. So many people have told me how helpful they are. We've got three new groups started.

It is all very busy. I'm going to the UK for a month to visit a rehab there run by one of the folk I met at ISAAC.

I think it'll make a great day program. I feel daunted at the task. It started out as one of those crazy God ideas!

Pray for a leader to take on more of the Freed Sexual area – I have one chap leading a male group – I need another one and another female as well.

Many blessings - Penny W

### Germany Writes ...

Dear friends in OO worldwide,

This might be interesting for some of you, loners or other friends without a fixed meeting or whatsoever maybe:

In Sept. we will start our new C12-Seminar (see appendix) with our new Big Book "A Bridge to Recovery" and the FREED booklet with one reason only-sharing our experiences, strength and hope on:

Face book (English /German).  
Skype (if the time-window of up to 9 hours is possible)

See more

under [www.c12undc12.net](http://www.c12undc12.net) or write an email or see Face book/C12undC12 ...

God's Blessing 24 H a Day and a happy summer time

Rolf & Uta

### Scotland Writes...

Hi Jeff- Thanks for all your emails and updates. We really appreciate you guys being there for literature and supplies for meetings. Hope all is going well over there for you and the

fellowship. Hope to catch up later. Every blessing.

Brian, OO, Glasgow

### Oregon Writes...

It's me again Jeff~

Well, I spoke with the secretary at Ashland Christian Fellowship. She said to check with Trail Christian Fellowship. I looked online and found that they have "Celebrate Recovery". Unfortunately, Trail is too far away for me to get involved with. I left a message at the Central Point Assembly of God, so hopefully they'll get back with me with good news about a group close to home.

I'm too new at this recovery thing (60 days) to have a clue about how to do this; I just know that my Higher Power is Jesus Christ and I want Him to be my motivation for recovery. I will continue to go to AA, because it does help me to meet with real people and be encouraged so I can make it through the week.

Liz, Ashland

### And from Canby, Oregon...

Hello,

Earlier, you helped me with a pamphlet for a Teenager group.

Our church Pastoral Team approved the meeting! We would like to start in Mid-Late September.

I would like to order enough materials to get the meeting started. Can you suggest a "package" for me to order?

Thanks,

Mark

### And then ...

Thank you SO much for your help on this. I sent my request to our church business manager (Pastor David) and expect an order to be placed shortly.

Pastor David has been the business manager at Canby New Life Church for many years. He now is my "director" for the Overcomers group – which is growing in attendance to 14-20 people each week with many

newcomers. 2-years ago the meeting was in decay and the doors were shut down. The Lord has breathed life into it, and we have a real solid recovery family.

Most of the people are very grateful to have a Christ-centered recovery group, as there are sadly very few of these in our area. We are seeing many newcomers – ranging from young adults to elderly.

I appreciate being able to exchange email with you. I'd like to improve my relationship with the Overcomers Outreach central program. I haven't spent a lot of time on your website – do you host conferences? If so, I would be interested in attending. Blessings,

Mark

### Arkansas Writes:

Hi All!

Our last report to you has been over a year and was addressed to Bill D. I thought I would write again and give you a quick update.

Our group has grown in the last year to a regular attending core of about 12-15 members and growth continues at an encouraging rate. We get member referrals from local churches, from the West-Ark Church of Christ jail ministry, from AA and NA members interested in Christianity, and from one local 28 day recovery center. West-Ark Church of Christ buys all of our Recovery Bibles and such so we can give them away for free. That's a lot of great support!

At this time we have only one meeting per week on Tuesday from 6:45 to 7:45PM (so members can get to other 12 step groups at 8:00 if they want to). The meeting is at:

West-Ark Church of Christ, 900 Waldron Road, Fort Smith, AR. Thanks for listing us and God Bless!

Caruth A.

### South Carolina Writes ...

I want to thank you guys for letting me start a meeting in our area of Ware Shoals, SC. We are starting to get the word out and I have people from my AA groups starting to come. If any of you are ever in the area stop by for food provided by the master, singing praises to the KING and searching the scriptures to find GODS promises of healing thru OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST we are also having a speaker meeting once a month with the first one being Sept.11 with my first AA sponsor, Glenn G., who is also a minister of the gospel. We look forward to seeing y'all there plus praise GOD I just celebrated 2 yrs being set free from my drug addictions last night and look forward to using GODS word for the rest of my "isms"

Robert M.

### California Writes ...

Hello Jeff, - We were so blessed to be able to camp out again with the group. The time we had out there really made our group here in San Jose think how God was so glorified and how all of us are no different from one to the other. On the way home we stopped at Monterey Bay to get some clam chowder to end the weekend and just to see everyone so excited on how much fun they had was a true gift from GOD. For Tim and me as leaders we loved hearing all the testimonies - that was a true blessing. But one thing I will never forget - my husband shared something with me when we got home. Someone from our group was going to cancel at the last minute because they only had \$7.00 dollars on them but they came anyway. My Husband asked him when we got home "How much money do you have

on you now?" and he replied \$7.00. He was amazed how God provided and he is looking forward to many more campouts. So for those of you who have not been out camping with us pray and ask God to provide and sit back and watch what He can and will do. One more thing - DON'T ever say "what will I eat"- God knows who will come and who won't. There will be plenty of food! Tammy Z. San Jose, CA



North Highlands Group

### Also from California:

Hello, my name is Gale D. And I am from the North Highlands, Sacramento Overcomers Outreach. Our meeting is fairly new. But I would like to share with you how thankful and Blessed our Overcomers Outreach group is to be able to have a group like ours, that can share Jesus Christ and his word, to be able to fellowship, and work the 12 step program. Our gratitude runs so deep to Overcomers Outreach. And it is answered prayers for us to be able to have an Overcomers Outreach group here in Sacramento. Thank You & God bless all of you..... Overcomers Outreach, Capitol Free Will Baptist Church group

### Alabama Writes ...

Dear Overcomers

We appreciate the OO Central Office. We now have 5 meetings (though small) in Birmingham. Thank you all again for something that is truly changing lives.

Dwight S.

**Online Writes ...** Finally I am in a place where I am humbled enough to realize that I am truly powerless over my overeating. I chose to seek an OO group instead of OA because I also want to overcome other areas of sin in my life including: laziness, indulgence in TV and other forms of entertainment (books, computer, etc). OA doesn't necessarily address this. I found your reference list to scripture over numerous challenging emotions to be so helpful. Not any physical meetings close to me but this online forum may prove to be enough. I lump all of my issues into the category of selfishness really. I want to stay stuck in my issues, my pleasures and I exclude God, my family and friends from the focus of my life. God has brought me to the desert as he did Jonah after speaking in Nineveh and even though God made a shade tree grow to relieve the heat, I am still in the desert of my issues. I have tried numerous times over the past few months to "overcome" on my own and within days I fail. The heat is still on. Through the discomfort of my consequences God has shown me that I am completely stuck without his Grace. We are down to trust and choice. I choose to stay in the discomfort of the unknown of "how" he will rescue me. I choose to trust in His plan and now only pray for His knowledge.

Kiela

### News from the Office ...

We continue to welcome new groups and add coverage of the US to our map. Our volunteer staff is growing, we have some new network partners, and in spite of the recent economic concerns, we are still here and growing. A few more meetings have closed,



but many more have started, and with a new enthusiasm that is refreshing and contagious. Some are pursuing local networking and district formation. It is very encouraging, and interest and inquiries about what we do are ever increasing. We are looking to form an Advisory Board to help us stay focused on how to reach others effectively. Website traffic and phone referrals are on the rise, as are requests for help.

Purchases from our online shop help support the Central Office financially. We feature the Life Recovery Bible, "Letting God" daily meditation book, "A Bridge to Recovery", and the booklets and proprietary literature for meetings. All are available online or by calling the Central Office. Your support is needed and most appreciated. We will continue to make every effort to reach out to others and advance God's Kingdom by providing materials to facilities at the least possible cost. Contact the office by phone or email for details.

**It really is a "jungle" out there!**



I was in the OO Office, talking with someone, when I looked out the back window and saw this looking at me! Grabbed my camera and got this shot, but he took off fast – must be camera shy! (No, I have not seen him since!) Jeff

**Overcomers Bridge ...**

Our website has been overhauled and simplified by

combining the Online Meeting, OO Media, and the Service sites into a single weblog site called "The Bridge of Overcomers Outreach". The link to this is on our Main website as "Overcomers Blog Site" and can be accessed directly:

[overcomersoutreach.org/blog](http://overcomersoutreach.org/blog) .

This new site has topics with scriptures, steps with scriptures, pamphlet contents, power point slide shows, event photos, and video posts presented in a simple format. Also, sharing stories and comments is readily available on each page. A study of the group traditions is posted, while prayer requests, praise, and questions are welcomed on the site, too.



*At a retreat last year in NJ*

Our "Bridge" is not a website or a book, a meeting or a facility. It is a relationship with God and each other. He brings us together in our times of suffering and in times of healing. We laugh, we cry, we hurt and we mend together, under His care and direction, but *together*. We exist to bring people together that they may discover God's wisdom through study, understanding, and application of His word to our daily lives.



*Sharing ribs*

Our groups are where we start then grow these relationships, and as we grow in Christ, so we grow in our relationships with others. When groups begin to relate with one another, the opportunities for new growth and stronger relations with others are born. When groups get together for events and sharing, we have excellent chances to invite others from outside fellowships to get to know us and our Lord, and new life in the community grows.



*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration*

The new life Christ brings to us is complete and full; we have no need for anything more if we've received it. It is completely abundant and meets all of our spiritual needs. We share this abundant life in Christ with others as we reach out in love to help and encourage others.



*Dinner in "the woods"*

*"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."* Matthew 18:20

Jesus gathers us together, the Holy Spirit equips us to be of help to others, God guides us, life gets better, and He is glorified! All praise and honor are to Him, forever and ever.

## **The Abundant Life ...**

God will use us for His glory. Our well-being is to His glory, as are our suffering, trials, and victories. The only true victory is at the cross of Jesus Christ. This is the victory of light over darkness, of life over death, of good over evil. This victory is God's glory, and we have life because of His glory. When we pray, we draw near to God, as He calls us to do. We praise Him, honor Him, and thank Him for all that He gives and all that He takes away. Let's pray now:

**Holy Father, we thank you for our lives in Jesus, our new lives of abundance in Him. We ask you for the guidance of your Spirit to keep us looking upon all that is good and pure and righteous. Help us to share the love and mercy that you pour out upon us so that we may glorify you in all we do. 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 mail to the return address below. 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