

Overcomers Outreach

"Bridging the Gap Between 12 Step Recovery Groups and Churches" *Spring 2016 Newsletter*

From the Director – Sometimes we



have need of help with mailings or pamphlets at the office, and are often blessed with help from those who wish to "be in service" – volunteers. Many of our pamphlets are printed on demand and need to be folded. Machines are available, but we find a lot of fellowship when a few of us get together and fold, stuff, and stamp as part of a project, or filling literature orders. A certain air of worship and recovery seems to develop as we talk of current life events and trials. Recently, a couple, new to OO, were folding some pamphlets and talking of scriptures studied at the previous night's meeting. What a blessing it was to hear the excitement and joy of new understanding of God's Word. Their enthusiasm reminds us that: *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord ... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Col. 3:23-24

When we help others, we serve Him, and when we ask for help we serve Him as well. Many view service as an act of self-sacrifice – duty, personal expense, or commitment. Our 12 Step groups often stress the need to "get out of self", usually by reaching out to others, or getting into service. So when we ask for help God uses our needs for help to meet the needs of others to help. This is the true sacrifice of self. Served or serving, He gives the increase, all to His Glory, all in His Love.



Wearing smiles in service at the Convention

So when next you look at one of our pamphlets, know that it was folded with love by someone who cares.

Jeff M.

Events

Baton Rouge LA reports:

Jeff, on our 5 years Anniversary, our conservative estimate is that we have had over 3000 lives touched at our weekly meetings. That is a testimony for God's faithfulness since it took 3 months in 2011 to get more than 5 people. This past Tuesday we had 40 people attend and have averaged 35 so far this year. God is good! Thank you for your support!

Jack & Jane C

Tulsa writes:

After a lot of prayer and God showing us the way, 28 years ago 6 of us met for the first time at Skelly Drive Baptist Church to have the first meeting in Tulsa of Overcomers Outreach. Who would have ever thought 28 years later we are still meeting. Overcomers Outreach is the grand-daddy of the Christian recovery movement.

Jim B

From Our Face Book Page:

We have met in the city at St Andrew's Cathedral since January 2006 and on the 24 Feb., 2016 we celebrated the impact this group has had on the lives of those affected by addiction. –

Penny W



2016 OO World Convention:

Overcomers from across the nation gathered in Shawnee, OK, January 29th through the 31st. Speakers from the East coast, West coast, and Midwest states shared a message of hope in Christ, and of personal victory through many trials and situations. Powerful testimonies were mixed with strong Biblical teaching, blessing many. The OO group of Bethel Acres

Assembly Church, led by Scott O and pastored by Larry and Ronda Townsend, along with Ken Kerbo and the C3 OO group, presented an abundance of food, fellowship, worship, and Word for the almost 200 attending some or all of the meetings. The event was a big success, and ended with praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.



Convention theme – Matt 6:33

Upcoming Events:

The 2016 Morro Bay Campout will be a lot of fun! Plan on camping with us August 12-14, 2016

"Spiritually Refreshed" Christian Family Retreat - August 26-28th 2016 Lakeview Camp and Retreat Center Waxahachie, TX

Speakers, children's church & more.
Karl Berry – (972)567-7354

OO World Convention 2017
January, 2017 – Washington, DC
Program and details to follow

Registration and details will be available for these and other events on the [Events](#) page of our website.

The Mailbox –

South Africa writes:

Good day - I am looking for help. I am struggling with food addiction. Currently I live in South Africa and would like to find out how I can get a sponsor or find help. I appreciate your time, thank you!

Ava

Hampton, VA writes:

Dear Whomever - Hello? Help me with my despair with crack cocaine? I'm going to court soon in Hampton, VA. I need all the prayer and help I can get.

Timothy H

Australia writes:

Each meeting in our network will be looking at Step 3 and the scriptures that encourage this crucial recovery step - 'made a decision to our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him'. Many 12 step members pray this prayer when they take this step. Please be praying for those who pray this prayer for the first time this month...and a special prayer for the new OO meeting at Sadlier: "God, I offer myself to Thee - To build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always."- *Alcoholics Anonymous, p63*
Penny W

Hollister, CA writes:

Greetings Jeff - I wanted to update you on the meetings we have been facilitating at the homeless shelter here in Hollister. We meet on Monday eve from 7-8 and have been working through the steps. Tomorrow will be our 4th meeting and Step 3 (the first time we went we just introduced ourselves). We have averaged 5 attenders each meeting, with only one original gentleman returning to all four meetings so far. Like any meeting (OO, AA, etc.) people come and people go. After each meeting we have had positive comments from those who attended, and one man who was particularly touched and (we hope) left inspired to pick up his bible again. This makes it all worth it! Not having experience in H/I or this kind of situation before, I am particularly out of my comfort zone (which leads me to lean on Him and pray fervently before going over to this dark, cold and still unfamiliar property out in the boonies! This is a county-run facility, so there is always staff and security on-site.) Many of the guests who attend cannot or choose not to read, but most do participate. Rather than take the books over, I have been typing up one step each week and the bible verses. I then print about 10 copies and pass them out. That way I don't have to collect books, etc. and they can have the verses to reference later if they

choose. The City of Hollister is using their authority to get folks out of the river bed and hopefully into the shelters before the big rains begin, so we may see an increase in attendees. This shelter will be open through March, I believe, so we will have enough weeks to go through the 12 Steps! Your prayers and any suggestions are most appreciated. Sending my best and prayers for an amazing OO year! - Your sister in Christ
Lori

Iselin, NJ writes:

Just wanted you to know how faithful Carol Melenback was to leading the South Bound NJ Overcomers group. We miss Carol so much. We loved her and are sad no one replaced her. Would you believe, we also lost an awesome woman who led an OO group for 17 years in Metuchen, NJ, at the Metuchen Assembly of God. Her name was Janet DeRocha. I feel so sad that these 2 women of god are no longer with us. They blessed so many people. I pray the lord raises up some people in my neighborhood to start a group. God bless you.
Susan

Confessions of a Leader:

Greetings Overcomers - I am sorry I have not been a better leader as I am not much for getting a lot going, but I am always in favor of **keeping** things going! Thank God for Bob and Pauline Bartosch for responding to God's call to provide a needed bridge between Churches and 12 step recovery groups over thirty years ago. Overcomers has made the difference in years of recovery without a drink for this alcoholic. Believing in Jesus Christ has made the difference for this Christian to have salvation. The Holy Spirit has made the difference for perceiving the Word of God with the 12 steps of AA. I am so thankful to incorporate these blessings into an abundant life. These last years have had new lessons for me. The challenges keep me coming back to Overcomers meetings in my community and study of the 12 steps with fellow recovering women, a step guide, and my sponsor. Years of being in the Word with others in OO meetings has allowed me to know God more, observe His effectiveness

in others' lives and continue in Hope. My faith grows as a result. My ability to Love is strengthened.

Sometimes it seems my serving may be only what i put in the basket, but I become available for opportunities whenever I attend meetings, tell others about local meetings and events – like the summer campout – and celebrate recovery birthdays. The facilitator of our Simi Valley meeting just had a birthday for 28 years!!! I put \$28 in the basket, the 7th Tradition, which will get sent on to the OO Central Office for support of continued service of OO all through the nation!!!

Praise God for OO Director, Jeff, and his continued service to keep the hub of Overcomers running for us! He sees the 7th tradition and all other donations are used for literature, helping new meetings, and operation of the OO Central office -our connection to the world.

These are our leaders; the founders, the facilitators, and friend, Jeff, 'such an addict'.

Please continue to put your contribution in the basket, mail or online so we can keep things going! Our leaders are but trusted servants-thanks for keeping things going with me! Be in touch if you want- Bette K Board of Directors Chair
textbmemk@aol.com

Welcome New Groups:

Brea, CA - North Hills Church - 3100 Birch St., 92821 - Mon. 7pm

Washington, DC - Rock Creek Baptist Church - 4201 8th St. NW. – 2nd Monday every month 7pm

Redmond, OR – First Church of God – 818 NW Elm Ave. – Sun. 6pm

Harrisburg, PA – RHOW – 1301 Derry St. – Tuesday 7pm

York, PA – RHOW – 1141 E. Market St. - Wednesday 7pm

Rankin, TX – Life House Church – 300 E. 10th St. – Saturday 5pm

Tishomingo, OK – Free Love Outreach – 609 Byrd St. – Tues. noon, Thurs. 7pm

Annapolis, MD – CenterPoint Church – 900 Commerce Rd. – Monday 7pm

And recently added to our directory;

Duncan, OK – Freedom Biker Church – 803 Walnut – Tuesday 6pm

Happy Birthday/Anniversary -

The following people have recently celebrated milestones in recovery:

Robert T, Santa Paula, CA – 4yrs, Peggy M, San Fernando, CA – 7yrs, Rocky J, S. Lake Tahoe, CA – 9yrs, Bob B, Lockport, IL, - 14yrs, Jochen A, Romiley, UK – 21yrs, Frank R, Prescott, AZ – 25yrs, Dan B, S. Lake Tahoe, CA – 26yrs, Rita A, Burley, ID – 27yrs, Vern K, West Valley City, UT – 27yrs, Ed J, San Juan Capistrano, CA – 28yrs, John H, Cathedral City, CA – 35yrs, Don B, Sun City, AZ – 44yrs, Lon A, Colorado Springs, CO – 46yrs, and Don B, Canon City, CO – 47yrs. 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 recently celebrated anniversaries this year: Rochester, NY – 2yrs, DeSoto, KS – 3yrs, Burbank, CA – 3yrs, Colorado Springs Pike’s Peak group, CO – 4yrs, Overland Park, KS -5yrs, Baton Rouge, LA – 5yrs, Savannah, Grand Cayman – 5yrs, Lockport, IL – 15yrs, Woodmen Valley, CO – 17yrs, Cuxhaven, Germany – 17yrs, Elizabeth, NJ – 19yrs, Ventura, CA – 21yrs, Lincoln, NE – 24yrs, and Tulsa, OK - 28yrs. 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.



The Bridge Works

I met Jim (not his real name) a few years ago at a local 12 step meeting. He realized he needed to quit drinking, certain that he could do it on his own once he learned “how”. After a few months, he disappeared, only to show up some time later, a little more “beat up” and much more interested in this “higher power” we referred to so often. He began going

to church, studying the Bible, and sharing at meetings how he was “really done” this time, but he still had problems at home. We talked on the phone often, but he disappeared again, and when next he showed up he was angry, hurt, and had left his wife. He had been working 2 and 3 jobs, sure that money, along with keeping busy, and occasional 12 step meetings would solve his problems. But he drank again, angry over his wife’s behavior. He lost jobs, family, and friends, and he found himself first in the hospital with a .45% BAC, then in a lock-down rehab facility. After he dried out, he realized he could not do this alone, so he returned to 12 step meetings, and got active. He asked me to help him because he knew I was a follower of Christ. He went back to church, and we started meeting weekly to talk of his life problems, recovery literature, and the Bible. He was working 6 days a week. Our meetings became less often, more by phone and text, but he got in service at his church, and at other meetings. At our last meeting, he told me that he was nearly 2 years sober, was planning to start a new business, and was helping others. I was very happy for him, so I asked how his wife was doing. He had moved back home! They were going to work things out and his daughter’s nightmares had stopped. God used the “Bridge” of OO to reconcile this family through the church and 12 steps. I belong to 12 step groups to be helpful, and he came there for help. That’s how bridges work – they connect us!

Office News Literature

We now are asking for input for a new pamphlet, “**The OO Group**”. What makes for a successful group, and what makes us different than other 12 step groups? How do we make new people feel at ease in our group? We hope you will send your suggestions or comments to the Central Office.

Steps and Traditions Guidebook is enhanced with study scriptures, questions for personal and daily inventory, prayers, and additional material, in a spiral bound booklet [Available now.](#)

Our OO “big book”, *A Bridge to Recovery*, is an excellent resource for a “book study” meeting. It also has guidelines, formats, 36 stories of recovery and the history of Overcomers Outreach.

We offer a Group Discount on orders of ten or more books shipped directly from the publisher for \$11 per book (shipping included). Visit our [Books](#) page in our online shop, where we also offer discounts by the case for the Life Recovery Bible. Literature fees help fund the Central Office. We are happy to help your group find the literature they want at a good value, and offer low cost books and Bibles by the case.

Directory Update:

Once again we are asking for your help with our online group directory. If you are able, please go to the “[Meetings](#)” page of our website and check the information for your group – time, day, leader, etc. - and others in your area. Changes can be emailed by clicking the link at the bottom of the web page, or call us.

A Prayer for His Guidance

By Charles Spurgeon
“Lord, help me to glorify thee;
I am poor; help me to glorify thee by contentment;
I am sick; help me to give thee honor by patience;
I have talents; help me to extol thee by spending them for thee;
I have time; Lord, help me to redeem it, that I may serve thee;
I have a heart to feel; Lord, let that heart feel no love but thine, and glow with no flame but affection for thee;
I have a head to think; Lord, help me to think of thee and for thee;
thou hast put me in this world for something; Lord, show me what that is, and help me to work out my life-purpose: I cannot do much; but as the widow put in her two mites, which were all her living, so, Lord, I cast my time and eternity too into thy treasury;
I am all thine; take me, and enable me to glorify thee now, in all that I say, in all that I do, and with all that I have.”
Amen

A Prayer for the Servant

The world today seems to be a never ending contest for our attention. The media is filled with reports of violence, death, and threats at every level. We are told that we are not safe traveling, at work, or at home. Praise God we are not of this world. Our hope is in Jesus Christ and He is mighty to save. So we need only ask for His strength and guidance, then walk in confidence as we obey His commands to love all while sharing the Good News of salvation. Let's pray now:

Father God, we praise you for the opportunities you provide for us to serve you. We ask for open eyes, that we may see your image in those around us, open ears that we may receive your instruction, and open hearts that we may convey your love and mercy to others. May our hearts be humble to receive your providence through others as well, so that all increase is from you, Lord, and may you be glorified in all we do and all we receive in and through your precious Son, Jesus.

Amen

If you would like to donate to Overcomers Outreach, Inc. to help defray the costs of this newsletter and 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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