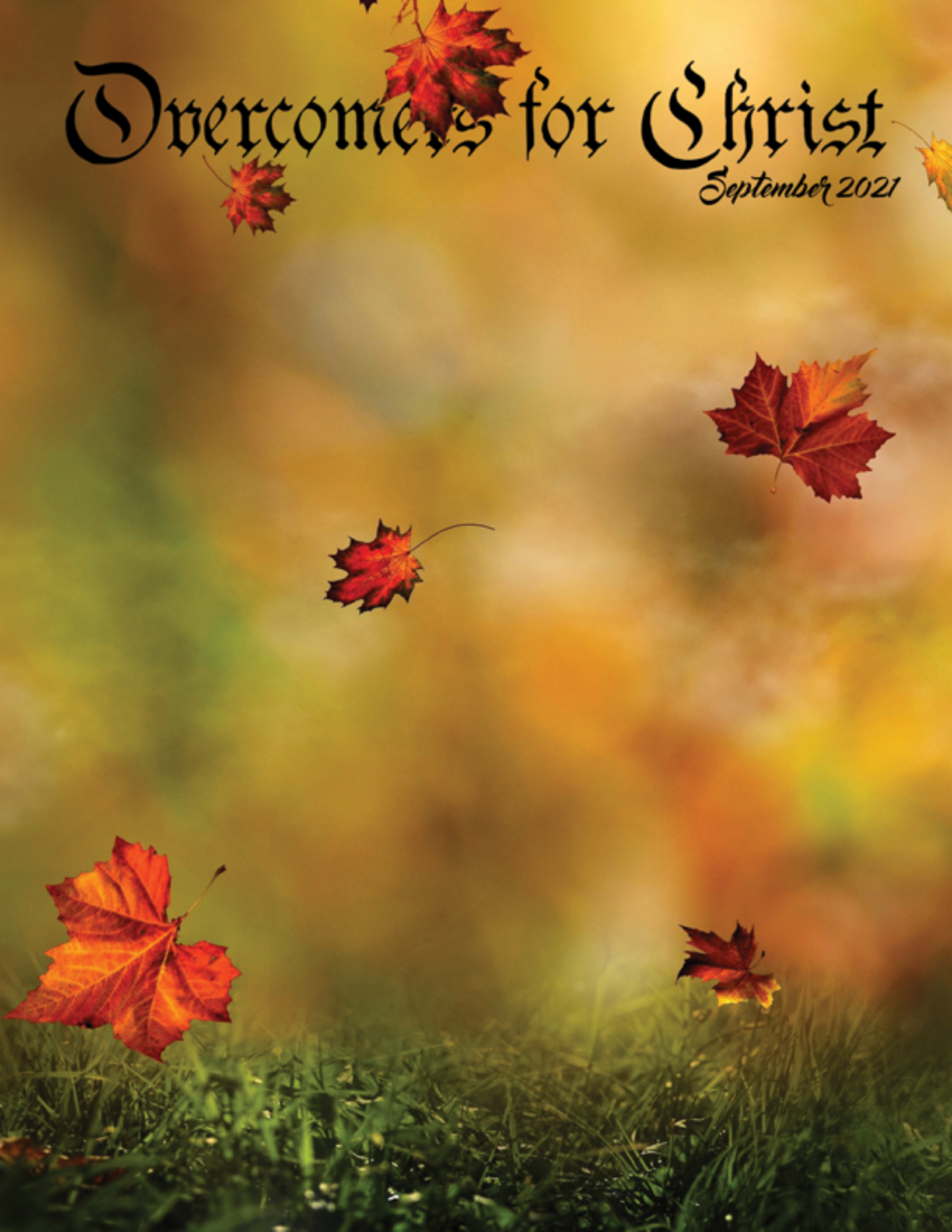


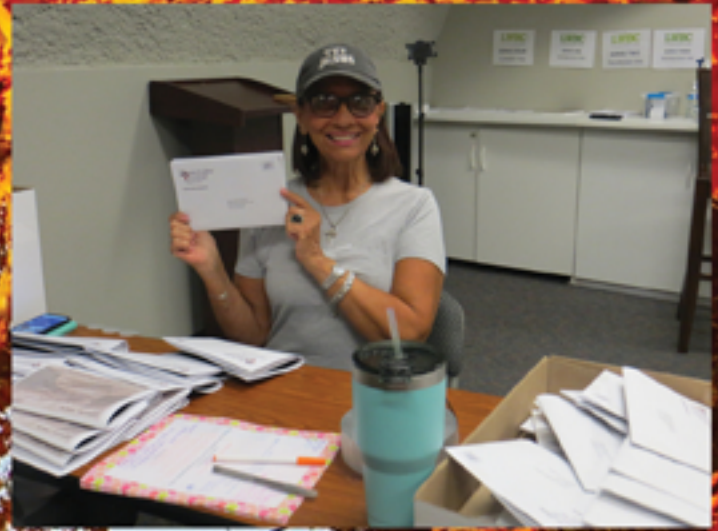
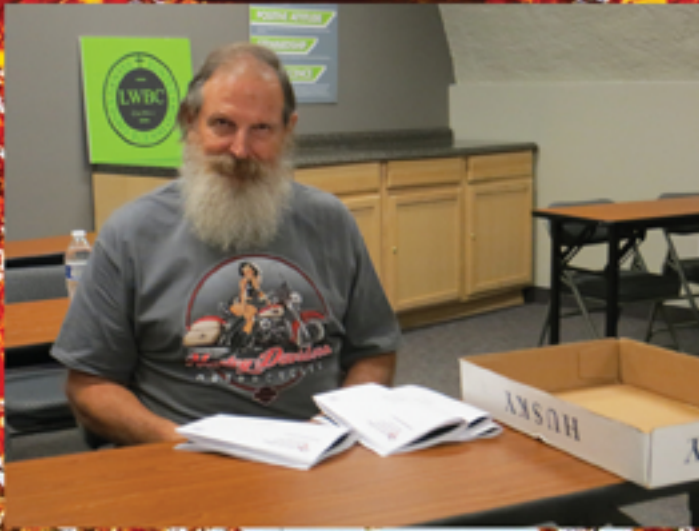
Overcomers for Christ

September 2021



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

August 2020



Love

By Wade 'Duck' Anderson

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Hello everyone! WOW! Have these past twenty-one months been crazy or what?! I always LOVE sitting here at my desk, praying and listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance on what God Himself wants to share with all of us, His children. It's a process of the Holy Spirit speaking to me, sometimes through correction or re-direction and like this time, over a few months. Other times, I'm encouraged to just 'sit still' and answer the mail that you all have sent to us. And to be completely honest, it's in those specific 'sit still' times that my heart beats the strongest and my eyes seem to leak the most. This September issue, 2021, marks the 14th anniversary of the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter. WOW! Only God could have orchestrated something like this! I thought it very important to note and acknowledge, "It's God's LOVE that has gathered us all together. God has gathered this *Overcomers for Christ* family from across 36 states and more than 107 different facilities both State and Federal!" So give God a great big shout of praise and thank Him for His endless LOVE for us all! In this month's issue I want to share, like always, from my heart what you all mean to all of us here.

Let's Pray: *"Gracious Almighty Heavenly Father, I thank You for loving me when I was NOT at all lovable. Father, I thank You for Your Son Jesus! And Jesus I thank You for giving Yourself so that I might experience what Your LOVE truly looks/feels like. I thank You so much Sir for giving Your Holy Spirit to help us maneuver through our temporary life here on earth. Lord, I repent of any delayed obedience and I do not take Your grace or mercy for granted. Today, I invite Your Holy Spirit to speak to me and through me to Your children. I do not take lightly the vision/mission You have placed in my heart. I humbly invite You to be the Teacher here, show us all what is on Your heart and guide us to where and who You wish for us to take Your LOVE. In Jesus' name I pray. AMEN! AMEN! and AMEN!"*

I'm sure all of you would agree that it's been a LONG twenty-one months since this whole COVID thing was dropped on us. Now, for a minute, think about how you viewed the days before the COVID as maybe crazy and confusing times. Now fast forward to TODAY and I bet most of you would agree, you'd take those crazy confusing days over all that we are still going through, huh?! Maybe we've learned a valuable lesson and we'll think twice before saying, "How could things get any worse?" Everywhere we look there seems to be a new standard of normal. The 'new normal' is crazy for every single one of us. Whether we are on the streets or in prison EVERYTHING, except God, Jesus and Holy Spirit, has changed from what we knew. Here's the way it started for us.

It was January and into the first few days of February, 2020 and we were off to a great start. As 'normal' I had a minimum of 45 men that I was visiting, one on one, throughout the Maricopa County Jails. Holding a volunteer's badge for Red Rock, I visited there often as the 'Red Rock Academy Church' was rocking in revival and growing immensely! On two different occasions, I was invited for services there and baptized a minimum of 30 men each time, all glory to God! Both in the county jails and Red Rock, the men there always helped fuel me and propel me. In those visits God seemed to always speak directly to me, and many, many times through these men. Sisters, I continue to pray, believing that God will one day soon open the doors of the women's prisons for us to bring a team of women to come and minister in person there as well. Many times, God uses every one of you who write and send mail to the *Overcomers for Christ* to minister to us.

THEN, what seemed to me to come out of left field the news became flooded with the craziest things I'd ever heard in 'my' lifetime. And you all know, that's a long time ;) One day I went to have my 'normal' visits at the county jails and the doors were locked! There was a sign on the door explaining, 'We are temporarily closed until further notice for ALL visits due to COVID-19.' WHAT!? To me, as I just said, it all seemed like everyone was going overboard with what I believed was just another name for a flu. I'll get back to that. I want to take a minute to tell you all ...

My prayers for all who read these newsletters is that over time you are beginning to understand that Jesus 'loves' you and God's not mad at you. Our hope is that as you read the cards and newsletters you are able to close off the outside noise to experience the 'love' of God through all that He has placed on our hearts to share with you, our *Overcomers for Christ* family. Some of you know but for those of you that don't, my heart beats with excitement every time I go to pick up the mail. Whether you've written the P.O. Box or the Living Word Bible Church address my heart is filled when I receive your mail. After returning home with the mail the very first thing I do is get my letter opener, sit down, open and read every single piece of mail. My eyes are always the very first to read your words. As I read each piece, my heart has a special connection to each and every one of you. Sometimes I cry with joy and other times I cry and pray together with you as I can always feel your hearts and spirit.

Here's a little side note of information ... For these past 14 years I have kept in boxes out on the patio nearly every single letter and card that has ever been sent to us here. One day Michelle asked me, "Why are you saving all of this mail?" I responded, "It's all so close to my heart that I can't just throw it away. These people have shared their hearts and lives with us. Maybe one day I'll use it all to write a book." Some of you I've known from the streets, some from personal face to

face visits in the county jails or a prison. Some I've been writing to for a period of 14 years, some of you have just joined the ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ family and others of you have maybe only written once to be added to the mailing list. No matter what slot you find yourself in, even if you have never written to us, each and every one of you are loved and prayed for by ALL of us here!

We normally held the ~~OC~~ "Glory" group meetings twice a month before the COVID. One of those meetings we all come together to print, fold and tab the monthly newsletters. The other meeting we gather as a group/family to answer the mail we've received. These are the pictures you see on page 2 of the newsletter each month. Regardless of what we gather for, we always enjoy our little family gatherings. Unlike most family gatherings we don't pick and bicker with each other. Instead we laugh, we joke and sometimes we eat together. But the things we always do is listen to each other, encourage each other and pray for all of you.

In the first year or so of the newsletter Pastor Jason offered to have a group of volunteers from the church print, fold and tab the newsletters for us. Even though we appreciated his offer and we thanked him for it, I knew God had called each and every person individually to this group/family. God has always sent the ones He knows have the servant's heart for this specific ministry. I'm not saying that the other volunteers wouldn't have a servant's heart, but I wanted the same love, laughter and spirit of joy from each person of God's choice to pour over and onto everything we touch as a family. So you see, it doesn't matter whether you've ever written to us or not, we pray that His 'love' pours in and through every set of eyes that reads one of these newsletters.

The letter part of this ministry was the very first assignment God ever gave me. Before this was ever a newsletter, God sat me down to write my brother-in-law, David. I had just surrendered my life to Jesus and was so FULL of zeal and joy that I wanted to tell everyone. I knew that David and I had had similar struggles. Even though I am 23 years older than David, I knew that HOPE defined wasn't secluded to a certain age bracket. I began writing him several page letters assuring him that if 'I' could do this so could he! See how I ran myself over with the bus first? David was in a California prison and before I knew it he was sharing those letters with other men there around him. THEN they too began to write as well.

Let me regress for a second. You all know the drill. In the mix, some people were in our lives and then gone. Without knowing where some of them went, we just continued forward. Notice I didn't say 'straight' because we were never 'straight'! Anyways, it wasn't that we didn't care where they went but you all know that lifestyle was all about self! Even when I was in that mess there were certain people that would write me from prison, so I would write them back. Later when my head and thoughts began to clear I remembered some of the people I ran with on the streets that were incarcerated so I began to write them. Here was the first issue I ran into. Most people we all associated with used a nickname. So every time someone came to mind to reach out to, well, let's just say the D.O.C. website was of no use. As we progressed others here in the groups began to give me REAL names and D.O.C. numbers of people we all loved, locked up. And that's when it took off.

When I finally surrendered and committed my life to Jesus the desire for the 'speed' was instantly gone. So quickly, the next lie the devil attempted to use on me was the 'false sense of loneliness'. What do I mean? When I was in that old mess out in the shop I was rarely alone. When I found myself alone I'd generally get on my motorcycle and head off for anywhere in search of someone. It was like I didn't like being alone 'with me'. Every time I found myself with myself my mind raced with thoughts and my heart hurt with feelings. So, I would journal it all on paper in hopes of finding some reasoning and clear some of it out. Sometimes that worked, but briefly. I had written so much down over the years, until one night 'all alone' I went back and started rereading some of it. At that point I thought to myself, "I'd better throw most of this away. If someone reads this stuff they might think I'm crazy and try to commit me!" After all, I had a beautiful and wonderful wife, children and grandchildren in the house sleeping, only 50 feet away. Why did I feel so alone? Do you get it now? It was a counterfeit, a lie from the enemy. And today, I actually like to spend time with me ;))

One of the first 35 names I received and wrote to was Stephen C., AKA FOOT. To me, it didn't matter who this was, I was going to share my testimony and my joy for the Lord with him! I wasn't writing to anyone to get a return letter, I was just so full of excitement that I wanted to share it with anyone. Some nights I would start answering mail at around 8-9pm and answer letter after letter until it was almost daylight. Some of you that received those letters know they were many times like a small 'book'. Then while answering mail one night the Holy Spirit whispered to me, "You'll never be lonely again." I thought that to be a little strange. Then a few days later, with another stack of mail before me I began to tear up realizing it was all of you there that God was filling that "false sense of loneliness" with. All of the mail was keeping me from going out into the night and finding myself back in the mix! Praise Jesus!

It took a couple of years of FOOT and I writing and collaborating together before one day I received a letter from him where he asked, "Please excuse me for asking, as my former life was full of chaos and drugs, but are you the same 'Duck' that lived at 35th Ave. and Ruth? You had a motorcycle shop there and one night I came to your place with a friend of

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Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

Praise Reports

So just to get you all up to speed, I've just completed a mandatory re-entry class this April. Sometime around my birthday I expect that I will be doing my release packet. So it's pretty exciting, yet also a bit nerve racking. But let me tell you, my brother in faith, I have grown so much. Our Father has blessed our fellowship here greatly. Of the five who give sermons here, all five have stepped up like you can't even imagine. Our N.A and A.A. fellowship has swelled to over 20 from 10. As much as we put up with here, our yard is blessed. The prayer circle here at 7:45 pm is still steady and brother Mike never fails to lead our prayer warriors. I will be completing my final courses here and I will be parting to New Freedom, G.C.H.H. in Phoenix ... **R.H.**

Well, things in here are on the move! I start school at Ashland University in June. I'm looking to get an Associates in Communication and a minor in Religion. I will let you know how it goes. My walk with Jesus is strong and I know my life is going better because of Him. I continue to work on some of the things within myself, and my temper is the biggest issue. I'm working at thinking before I act or speak. The old me still raises his angry head saying, 'Yell! Punch and more punch!' But the Holy Spirit inside of me seems to be working harder and overtime to keep 'that guy' under control ... **M.G.**

I signed my paper for my parole hearing right after I received your prayer and blessing for my parole hearing. My release is soon, to be returned to my beautiful bride ... **R.V.**

First of all, God bless all of you there at the *Overcomers for Christ*. You are truly a blessing in my life. I felt inspired to write to you today and extend my gratitude. I love the newsletters I receive every month as it is very inspiring and gives me hope in my time of need. I've recently devoted my whole self to God. I can't tell you how good it feels to be alive in Christ. I'm currently serving a 140 month sentence of which I have 70 months left to do. I can't wait to be reunited with my family again. I've been blessed with 6 beautiful children that are very important to me. God continues to work wonders in my life. It's crazy to say, but this time away is what I needed to open my eyes to a whole different perspective. I love what all of you there do for all of us on the inside ... **L.C.**

Overcomers for Christ, things are going well here. I will be back to work on the fire crew shortly and time will fly. I've been building on my relationship with Christ and putting a lot of work in on myself. God is so great when we choose to seek Him ... **A.T.**

The closer we come to Christ the lighter our burden becomes!! Is it really just that simple? I praise our Lord for the gift He gave me in Pete. My mom's husband was a great father to me. I was blessed to have his guidance and example of how to live with honor and integrity. Pete was in my life from the age of 14 to just recently when we lost him ... **B.A.**

I used to have a hard time understanding the Bible but I got a John MacArthur study Bible and it's a lot easier to understand. I listen to American Family Radio all day every day. I love C.S. Lewis books, Lee Strobel, David Limbaugh and James Kennedy. I'm a baby Christian, barely born again for less than 5 years. But I am hungry for the Word of God, His knowledge and wisdom ... **A.S.**

After not seeing or speaking with my mother or my sister for over 30 years, the Good Lord has brought them back into my life. And it's a great feeling! It was almost as enlightening as the Holy Spirit. You know I'm kidding but it's still a real good feeling to know I'm not forgotten after all of these years. I also found out that my mom is a believer and born again Christian. She too believes that the Lord put us back in contact. She knows that all of the changes I've made and am making are due to my walk with Christ ... **B.S.**

I'm really glad I know how much God loves me! I was born without knowing a father or mother and went to the streets at 13 years old. Your letters and cards have let me know that with God as my Father, I'm fine. And with His grace and mercy I'm recovering from a wasted life without purpose, to a massive abundant life in Christ ... **S.M.**

I haven't heard any more news from the attorney or the Supreme Court, yet. When I do, and I will because Father says so, you all will be the next to hear. I am blessed and highly favored, ask our Father. He's the one that has told me I am. I am a child of the only true Living God, He has set me free so that I can serve Him out there! Yes, I am serving Him in here as well and I'm studying and reading Fathers Word to me, every day and every night ... **J.S.**

I am so blessed in here. God has shown me so much. I now know who I am in Christ and most importantly, Whose I am. I belong to our wonderful God, our Creator, our Lord and Savior! Yesterday I was thinking back on how God has delivered me from so much in my life. I am very grateful to God above ... **U.S.**

When I embraced God's Word in my heart Jesus and I use His faith together for me to receive God's trillion faceted gift of grace and Salvation into and for me. This as well is for me to share with others. Not only was I born again through that faith, but I am to live my entire Christian life by it and in it! So-be-it, in the name of Jesus Christ ... **J.S.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

"Sit Back - Be of Christ-like Faith"

By D.F.

Through the time that I have been in here I have seen so many wounded souls that have no idea how to start healing. And you personally know how I am, you know I want to fix it for them. But that's when the Lord spoke to my heart and He firmly yet gently said ...

"Sit back, observe, learn how to pray for, intercede and rebuke the things that hinder My children from seeing and hearing Me. Learn to be patient with them as I am with you. DO NOT let others know what you are doing for them because you are not meant to be noticed. They need to see Me, not you. Be of child-like faith within these walls, no matter how others act towards or perceive you."

"You are in love with Me and I want My other children to see it is okay to be child-like, to be different, silly, not having to uphold any reputation but Mine and Mine alone. You will be mocked. You will be persecuted and laughed at. You will be exhausted from trying to help them understand the truth in My love. But do not grow weary, for I am with you always. Come to Me when you feel discouraged, I will edify you with My comfort. This road will be lonely, very lonely and you will feel as if no one understands and is it worth it in the end? But I speak life to you that you will see the victory in My hands before you leave these walls. I AM He who orchestrates these things which I ask you to do AND it is I who will establish you for My glory."

"Breath, take time to understand yourself through this process and learn how I am also sanctifying you to be more like My Son, as you are obedient to My will. Think always before you speak and not only to My children, but also to Me. Remember, when you speak to My children you speak on My behalf. So make sure your words are My words and not your intentions. And when you speak to Me, remember that I AM Holy. I AM your Creator, your Father and your Lord. You no longer will be a whiny child as you once were. You will not question the answers I speak to you. When I ask you to proceed with My purpose, no matter how hard it may seem in the flesh remember, you abide with Me now and I am in you. Therefore, the meaning of dying to the flesh is to be submissive to Me, your Lord."

"I have many things at work within these walls and you will honor Me as My glory unfolds right before your very eyes. It is your honor to serve Me, yet by serving Me I will give you the desires of your heart. I will put deep treasures in your soul as long as you walk with Me to accomplish My purpose in this place."

When I first heard these things from the Lord I was overwhelmed not knowing what all of this meant. But as the years go by I am seeing more and more of His lovely presence at work in here. And I find myself exactly in the position He spoke of. It is very lonely, but I do have a few sisters in here that truly do have a heart for the Lord and they help me stay focused. We do many Bible studies and prayer groups. The next encounter on my heart is building a worship time. This has to be the most difficult of all, since the enemy is attacking me at every angle on it. David, my husband, has sent in hundreds of songs for worship, ten copies each. And when I first began this it took a bit for it to catch on, but now others are desiring for this time of worship to come together, all of us, to sing praises to our King. And today, we don't have to worry about what others will think of us if it just so happens that someone drops to their knees with a broken or contrite spirit, coming back to the Father.

I think the enemy is working overtime because he sees how the Lord alone can and does talk to His children during worship. The enemy hates to see how profound and powerful it can be when a child of God learns the error of their ways by the grace that He bestows upon them during worship. I'm asking everyone to keep us in your prayers as we have come into a couple of snares with D.O.C. over this worship time. Faith, along with your prayers and I'm confident these D.O.C. walls and every evil stronghold trying to block or attack God's purpose here, will crumble and fall!

Fear

By C.C.G.

Fear is a very powerful tool. A blessing actually to help us remember Whose we are and what we can overcome. It's only through His grace and our faithfulness that we can overcome our fears and better understand them. We cannot ignore our fears for they are, as I've already mentioned, a great tool when properly worked with. Fear is a tool that can strengthen us

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From the Inside

and has great wisdom to be gained. We also, as a part of His flock, have a duty not to implement fear in our communion with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Fear in the body of Christ is one of the biggest and widely used stumbling blocks in existence.

The greatest fear I had in coming here to prison was that my life wasn't worth defending. I am currently fighting two counts of aggravated assault where I shot a man. I was protecting myself and the people in the vicinity. This man was unfit to wield his gun and had already dropped the weapon while threatening my life with this gun. Can you imagine how I felt when my appeal lawyer raised a justified defense to my actions by self defense? The appeal court ruled in favor of the state.

At first, I felt like my life was not important enough to defend or protect. Then I started to calm down and pushed my case into the rule 32 courts. It was accepted and now I am fighting for my life and ten years of it once again. When I started this process the Good Lord spoke to me and said, "Don't think on what you are going to say. When the time comes I will give you the words to be spoken." When I reopened my case and started looking on my tablet for case law, things to bring up in court, I had no idea what to do. But God did! Every case I clicked on, every page I read pertained to my case. It was all adding up to a solid defense. I've already mailed off my case and am in prayer for the D.A. and the Judge to do their job diligently as I have God leading me.

Now will be my test of faith and truth to how far I have come in overcoming my fears of not thinking I'm hearing the Lord and a testament to my new found patience. Remember, we all can hear the Lord daily if we listen and stop fearing the unseen. God is there in everything and once you see that, as I am doing, doors will always be opened in whatever direction God chooses to send you in life.

The Truth by M.R.

I pray: *"That God bless you, your family and the entire Overcomers for Christ family! May our Lord Jesus Christ guide and protect us all as the beautiful Holy Spirit teaches us all God's great mysteries. Father in heaven, this I ask and pray in Jesus name. Amen!"*

I'm always full of smiles when I receive your mail. It always encourages me to know that what God is using you for, to spread His Word, He will also do with me! I'm confident that when I am released God will use me, as I carry His Word in me, wherever I go. I'm off to a great start right here behind these walls and fences. As God is always with me each day, I continue to minister, speaking 'The Truth' of God's Word.

I remember the day you prayed with me there at LBJ to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. You told me that I might not feel any different but to continue to believe. But let me tell you, I feel very much alive as well as deeper and closer to God! It's an AMAZING feeling brother! Don't get me wrong, I still go through certain things. I believe it's that way because the enemy attacks stronger. But the strength and power of Christ is my shield AND I have the greatest weapon of all time, the Word of God! ***Isaiah 54:17*** states, ***"No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from Me," declares the Lord.***

I will forever be connected to God. I will not walk away from our Lord, EVER! Jesus Christ is my everything and it is ONLY because of Him that I'm still alive and breathing. Without God I'm nothing. And holding tight to that thought ... I got some great news a few weeks ago.

You know that God put it on my heart to put in for that Rule 32, Notice of Post Conviction - Relief. Well, my Lord has shown great mercies and forgiveness in it all! After I put it in the Federal Courts found so much wrong that the county jail did to me in this case. At the time of this writing the county courts have only 44 days left to fix it and release me or the Federal District Courts will take over. By the grace and mercy of God I'll be headed back to court soon for an early release! Praise God! Praise God!

Foot's Bible Study

Jeremiah 31:27-32:44

When we turn our life over to God, He by His Holy Spirit, builds into us the desire to obey Him. (31:33)

Trust doesn't come easy. It wasn't easy for Jeremiah to publicly buy land already captured by the enemy, but he trusted God. It wasn't easy for David to believe that he would become king, even after he was anointed, but he trusted God. (1 Samuel 16-31)

It wasn't easy for Moses to believe that he and his people would escape Egypt, even after God spoke to him from a burning bush, but He trusted God. (Exodus 3:1-4:20)

It isn't easy for us to believe that God can fulfill His 'impossible' promise either, but we must trust Him. God, who worked in the lives of biblical heroes, will work in our life, too. If we let Him. (32:6-17)

1 Timothy 3:1-16

Jesus is divine, we can't please God on our own, we must depend on Christ. As a man, Jesus lived a perfect life, and so He is a perfect example of how to live. As God, Jesus gives us the power to do what is right. It is possible to live a godly life through following Christ. (3:16)

Psalms 88:1-18

Have you ever felt as though you have hit bottom? The psalmist is so low that he even despairs of life itself. Although everything is bad and getting worse, he is able to tell it all to God. This is one of the few psalms that gives no answer or expression of hope. Don't think that you must always be cheerful and positive. Grief and depression take time to heal. No matter how low we feel, we can always take our problems to God and express our anguish to Him. (88:1)

Proverbs 25:20-22

God's form of retaliation is most effective and yet difficult to do. Paul quotes this proverb in **Romans 12:19-21**. In **Matthew 5:47**, Jesus encourages us to pray for those who hurt us. By returning good for evil, we are acknowledging God as the balancer of all accounts and trusting Him to be the Judge. (25:21-22)

“Foot” Notes



Hey Everybody!!! Happy Anniversary Overcomers for Christ Family. Can you believe it's been 14 years since that first single page newsletter went out! Pretty sure it's 14, I'm old lol! Look at the road you've traveled and the number of Overcomers picked up along the way.

I'm extremely proud of everyone who's volunteered along the way to keep this all alive and doing God's work remembering those who time seems to forget. I've been on board since the beginning of 2008, the 5th or 6th newsletter. You guys are my home and my family. A special thank you to Duck, Mrs. Michelle and all the volunteers for staying the course all these years remembering all of us on this side of the wire.

I'll finish with a prayer: *Lord I ask that You continue to bless this family of misfits as they continue to comply to Your will as they move forward. Amen!*

Vaya Con Dios! Don't ride faster than your angels can fly!

Christian Comedy

"Well, here is your problem," the doctor says to the first-time father. "It seems that this child needs a diaper change."

The new father replies, "That can't be! The package said it was good for 8-10 pounds."

ours? And when we came inside you put a pistol grip shotgun in my back???" Let me just say, someone doesn't do something crazy like that, to a man FOOT'S size and forget about it. That very night came flooding back as I immediately knew who this was! When I say flooding back it wasn't negative thoughts. But yet, my heart was filled with joy and my eyes leaked profusely. Right then I realized what God had done. He had brought us back together to serve together to glorify Him! HALLELUJAH! In my next piece of mail to FOOT I confessed that, "Yes in fact, I am that guilty party."

Let me slip this in right here. This reconnection process has continued to happen over and over throughout the years. At one point, when the mailing list was between 100 and 150 people, I bet I personally knew almost two thirds of the list. Over these 14 years, I continue to run into people, even at church, that ask me, "Hey, are you still doing that church newsletter thing?" With a huge smile I love to answer, "Well of course! I haven't heard God tell me to lay it down." This doesn't mean that there haven't been times when I've gone to God wondering if we are still on course with His plan. Because God knows our hearts and we stay the course, He continues to reach more and more new people. To me, that right there is the confirmation that we are still following His lead. "Thank You Jesus for Your Holy Spirit's guidance!"

So now you see what I meant earlier when I wrote, "Some people were in our lives and then gone," and "Most of the people we all associated with used a nickname." Believe it or not even after that one night with a shotgun in his back, FOOT and I had several great times after that. Then, he was just gone. SOMEBODY SAY, BUT GOD!! BUT GOD brought us back together, now covered in the blood of Jesus! I truly believe that God wanted to show us both His power to forgive our past lives as He began to lay out in front of us the way He wanted to use us. I say that with complete humility and all glory to God. (Excuse me brother FOOT but I'm throwing us both under the bus, you know the drill, just tuck and roll.) Think about it for a second. God took the most unlikely heathen scooter tramps out of a drug and gun infested lifestyle to share the Good News about Jesus. For two years, He started knocking some of the rough edges off of us before He reintroduced as brother's in Christ. Neither of us knew what we were doing but the one thing we did know was, Who we were following! And I'm completely confident that FOOT will agree, "We still don't know, we just keep following Him." After God reintroduced us, one of my heart's desires was to be able to sit face to face and visit with my partner in this ministry (FOOT) to brainstorm what God was saying to each of us separately. I stood on this promise of God, in ***Psalms 37:3-4*** (AMPC), "***Trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) in the Lord and do good; so shall you dwell in the land and feed surely on His faithfulness, and truly you shall be fed. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.***" We both continued to ***feed on His faithfulness*** and He has, after eight years of standing, given us both ***the desires and secret petitions of our hearts!*** As God continued to work in and through us He was also preparing the way and making all of the crooked places straight until one day, we were able to hug each other and finally sit together to collaborate His will for this ***Overcomers for Christ*** ministry! Let's get back to the way 'our' 2020 started.

In 2019, Michelle had booked a cruise for March 7th - 12th, 2020 with a sister in the ***OC4C*** group, Phoebe. This was an annual Christian Cruise/event that Phoebe had attended and now she had invited Michelle. I so wanted to go with them but knew this would be a great time for both of them to bond as sisters and to hear from God. Some of the cruise guest speakers were Todd White, Brian Guerin, Daniel Kolenda and Michael Koulianos. All of these men are powerful men of God and I know they hear from God. To say the least, I was excited for them to go so I could hitchhike on what God had spoken to them about when they got home.

Many of you have read in either a newsletter or in a handwritten letter over the years, how I have been going to the Andrew Wommack, Men's Advance Conferences every year. I've been attending these conferences up in Colorado since 2014. Four years ago, John, my son-in-grace as well the arts and design director of this newsletter and I began attending these conferences together. In 2018, I began discussing with John, "I believe it's time that we start bringing Anthony along with us to these conferences. Even though he may seem like he is just playing games on his iPad, he is still sitting under the Word of God. Remember God's promise in ***Isaiah 55:11***, "***So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.***" After the 2019 conference, John had agreed that he would speak with Courtney about bringing Anthony with us in 2020. HALLELUJAH, right? Yes, but not quite.

We had already purchased our plane tickets, booked our room and a rental car back at the beginning of January. The 2020 conference this year started on March 12th. This year we decided to fly up there the day before the conference, get settled in our room and show Anthony around the area. We were leaving for Colorado on the 11th and don't forget that Michelle was flying home from her cruise on the 12th. Meanwhile Phoebe and Michelle were out in the ocean on a cruise ship, away from the news, basking in the glory and anointing of God. They did have cell phone reception so yes, Michelle and I had spoken a couple of times about what was in the news. On the ship they had heard briefly what was happening, but for the most part they had not a clue what had happened in the world over the past few days they'd been out there. Jokingly, the day before we left for Colorado, I told Michelle that when she got home she had better get directly to the

store and buy up water, toilet paper and hand sanitizer so we could survive this new CRAZINESS! She just laughed.

Before we left for Colorado we had already heard that the conference was going to be canceled. It was not out of fear that Andrew Wommack ministries cancelled the conference. It was purely out of consideration for the people in that area and 'their' fears at that time. So, as I mentioned earlier, we had already made all of our arrangements for the conference so we went. John and I agreed this would still be a great time for the three of us to spend some quality 'guy time' together. Anthony had never spent any real time in the snow so I contacted my great friend and brother in Christ, Vern Deadmond, there in Colorado and he set up the itinerary for us all to visit Breckenridge for a fun day of snow sledding and viewing the scenic and 'Beautiful Colorado'. For a few hours we soared up and down the hills on those inner tubes! Even as cold and wet as we were, we were all having a blast!

THEN I began to notice that John was still standing at the bottom of a hill for some reason. The next time we all went down he told us, "They've canceled the NBA because of the COVID!" I said, "Turn that thing off and let's have some fun!" The rest of us continued to the top while John stayed where he was, watching the news. The next time we got to the bottom of the hill John said, "Now they have cancelled the MLB season because of this stuff!!!" Let me clarify, the reason John is so attentive to his phone on these trips. It's because he's the manager of an auto parts store, with many people working under him. As manager, it's his responsibility to stay available to the company and his employees while we are gone. With so much changing in the world changes would ultimately need to happen in his store in order for the doors to stay open. We had already been tubing for several hours so after another hour we decided we'd had enough of the cold. We all were pretty hungry, so we left to find a restaurant. Keep in mind, when we left Arizona for Colorado, even though things were a little crazy, there weren't any face mask mandates or 6 feet apart restrictions going on, yet. It was only after we found a restaurant and set still for a bit that we began to see the effect this COVID thing was starting to have on the whole world.

Seeing as we already had a rental car, and even though there was a huge snow storm blowing in that night John, Anthony and I decided we were going to utilize some more of our time there. After all, we did come there to have a great time. So we decided to go on a road trip in the morning to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Maybe you're wondering, "Why Cheyenne, Wyoming in a snow storm?" Now don't judge us until you hear me out, but another thing that the three of us 'love' to do together is collect Harley Davidson poker chips. NO NOT TO GAMBLE WITH! Let me explain. Nearly every Harley Davidson dealership in the world sells a poker chip that has their dealership name on it. Harley Davidson also has a dealership 'app' for your phone with nearly every dealership available in every country. No matter where we travel, there's always a dealership somewhere close by! Okay! I am guilty of picking out certain destinations everyone would like to visit, and then reaching those destinations by way of the Harley Davidson dealership app! Now to let you all know how real this 'app' is in our adventures, we have collected chips from close to 300 different dealerships and some of those dealerships have 3 and sometimes 4 different chips available! Back to, "Why Cheyenne Wyoming?" Because, in that area there were five Harley Davidson dealerships we'd not been to yet and might not get back to for a long time IF we didn't seize the opportunity and go IN A SNOW STORM! Besides, the snow storm only added to the 'desert dwellers' adventure.

After we arrived back in Arizona we realized that the world as we once knew it had RUN OFF THE RAILS!! Most all the stores were closed, people were told to NOT go out of their homes unless it was a necessity, and now they were demanding that we all wear a face mask!! When we went to the grocery stores it was a madhouse! Most of the shelves were cleared of most canned goods, water, hand sanitizers, bleaches and cleaning materials, ALL paper products and yes, even toilet paper! And so the pot/plot thickens!

I bet some of you are wondering what all of this has to do with the title of this message 'LOVE'? Then again, there are some people that read the Bible and can only see it as a book with rules of things you aren't allowed to do! When in fact the whole Bible is a 'LOVE' story. Not until we truly begin to KNOW Jesus, in an intimate way, by reading and spending time with His Holy Spirit, can we ever read the Bible and understand that from Genesis to Revelation God is sharing His 'LOVE' story with all of us! With that you may have to read and reread this article before you see it's all about love.

Now I'm only speaking for myself, but if I hadn't already come to the revelation that Jesus IS my Rock, my Healer and my Savior my life might look a lot like the rest of the world throughout all of this Virus stuff. What I'm telling you all is that our lives, even in the middle of the pandemic, have NOT changed our faith in God's promises of protection. We have continued to travel back and forth across the United States this whole time. We haven't acted haphazardly and we try to accommodate other people's concerns. At the same time we continue to believe God for ALL of His promises in and over our lives. I know that there are many of you reading this that also have the same revelation of God's promises! Through reading all the mail I also know there are many of you that have been affected by this COVID ordeal in some personal way. Not for a second am I or would I ever suggest that if you've been affected by this Virus in any form it's from a lack of someone's faith!! NO!!! That is a lie straight from the pits of hell! This Virus is real! Just like the Spanish Flu, Swine Flu and many others in the past, it has infected and affected many of our lives in one form or another. Many of you have lost mothers, fathers, siblings, various family members and yes, even cellmates by this Virus. And again, I would never

suggest to you that this Virus isn't real! But I ask you this, "Why is it that most of what was and still is being talked about comes from a negative or fear perspective?" Sure there's A LOT of people who have been affected but the other side of the coin is, haven't millions of people recovered? Our family has lost friends and loved ones through this time also. We don't go off half-cocked, with no regard for anyone else's health or beliefs. But we've never worn a mask out of fear!

Millions of people are being affected, and in nearly every country by the many different things having to do with the COVID virus. And I imagine that some of you have heard, "This Virus is God's judgment on the world!" Are they serious?! Right from the start there has been information that "IT" all started in China. Now, the more and more that is being uncovered we learn that "IT" was an experiment/study gone wrong in China! God is NOT responsible for any of this! It's all man's doing! This is what happens when someone reads the Bible and takes bits and pieces out of context in order to have it mean what they want it to mean. In fact, the news has done the very same thing! When I was young I experienced people telling me things of doom and gloom and it affected my early walk in a negative way. But TODAY I find it easier to deflect all of this because of my relationship and understanding of a loving Father! From my heart, I pray you don't believe the world's views over God's Word! God took His judgment out on Jesus when He was crucified! Even though I'm sure God is not pleased with LOTS of things going on in the world, God is not mad and He is NOT judging the world, yet!

In **2 Peter 3**, Peter is talking about 'The Day of The Lord Is Coming'. But in context here he is speaking about the people that think there is no real God. These people say, "If there were a real God, where is He? Why hasn't He come to straighten everything out yet?" Here's what Peter had to say, **"I want you to remember what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through your apostles. Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.'" (2 Peter 3:2-4)** People will always have an agenda with religion. But remember, if it's anything other than the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it's a false gospel! Let's scoot down a few verses. This is where I believe many people view what is going on today as a sign from God. Listen, **"And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed."** (2 Peter 3:7)

Yes, I will agree that there's a lot going on in the world that is definitely ungodly. But it's important that we continue on in Scripture to stay in context, **"But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient FOR YOUR SAKE. He does not want ANYONE to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent."** (2 Peter 3:8-9) So, in **verse 7** we see that there most definitely is a promise **"for the day of judgment"**, but there in **verse 9**, Peter says, **"He is being patient FOR YOUR SAKE. He does not want ANYONE to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent."** Now, look around, right where you are and tell me, are there not still LOTS of people near you that have yet to hear about and receive Jesus? Then why do people think that God is mad at us and has placed a "Virus" on the world to judge us?? God took the stand He did in the Old Testament by sending plaques and things on the people only because Jesus had not yet come to the earth. It's time for us all to come out from under the law! Jesus died to give us a new and much better covenant! Listen to **Hebrews 8:6**, **"But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for He is the One who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises."** Did we forget that our God is a good God?! He doesn't beat us up and make us sick to get His point across! Let's place all this nonsense where it belongs. Turn over to **John 10:10** and let's read, **"The thieves purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."**

None of what I ever write is in any way meant to offend anyone. This is why I use the written Word of God, with my own personal experiences and with the Holy Spirit's guidance, as reference. The Word of God is truth and always our firm foundation. So, if anything here has rubbed you in the wrong way it just might be that God is stirring you to make some changes. Through all this craziness that has taken place I truly hope that many of you have decided to choose forgiveness over resentment, love over hate and most of all ... God's Word and promises as truth over what the news and the world have to say! While we keep our eyes and ears fixed on Jesus His Word always reveals a different narrative than the world's. We LOVE you all, you're NEVER forgotten. Nothing or no one can EVER take you out of our hearts!

Quote Worthy

*"Some things never make sense, but neither does God's love."
- Patsy Engle*



Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 **Ahwatukee** - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
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EDITORIAL Wade "Duck" Anderson, Michelle Anderson **ART & DESIGN** John Dobbins **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church
Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church
www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com