

Overcomers for Christ

September 2017



Year Anniversary

Celebrating 10 Years of the Overcomers for Christ ministry

"Because of Overcomers for Christ it has brought my family closer together. I'm happy my family and I get to be a part of this ministry." - Courtney



Ten years ago, there was 35 people in 2 states on the newsletter mailing list. Today, there is over 900 people who get the newsletter in 36 states. God gets all the glory for this expansion. He has brought faithful converts to come along side us to provide love, hope and encouragement to those that are incarcerated. I am grateful for my family, the OCFHC family and my church family for the support and encouragement that they have provided during the past 10 years. I am proud to be a part of something that is bigger than myself, and look forward to seeing what God does in the next 10 years!" - Michelle

"Every month, I cry when reading the prayer requests. These requests are so deep and from their hearts. Only God knows how to handle these needs, but I'm honored to stand in agreement." - Linda

"I am grateful to be in the community of Overcomers for Christ. It's such an amazing group and I appreciate having a newsletter to share with friends and family. It's also the hope that I was missing while going through the loneliness." - Deborah



"I enjoy being apart of the Overcomers for Christ ministry because I get to spend time with my family and I like getting letters from the people who read the newsletter like Foot." - Anthony



"Everyday I'm grateful for what Overcomers for Christ has brought into my life. I started this journey in June 2008 not knowing where it was going to take me. First it was just to help my father-in-law with his journey but it ultimately was for me. Unknowingly, my faith journey was just beginning and it is all because of Him telling me to take on this task. I have enjoyed every minute of this venture and it's a joy to see how the newsletter and website I put together every month touches people I haven't even met. I can't wait to see what the next 10 years holds for me and my journey with the Overcomers for Christ ministry." - John

"As I sit here 30 days free after 10 years away from life as I now know it. There were days that I didn't think I would make it. There was a day that always was near and dear to my heart. The day that mail call came and a beacon of light in the form of a newsletter by the name of Overcomers for Christ would bless me with its presence." - Todd and Amanda

"Ten years ago in a prison cell a single piece of paper was given to me. It was the very first issue of the Overcomers for Christ newsletter. Shortly after that I began writing for the newsletter right from that prison cell. 'Give, and it will be given to you.' If you follow Jesus' Word here before you know it you too will be looking back at 'How far He has taken you'. God Bless" - Cory

10th Year Anniversary

By Wade Anderson

Let's pray: "Gracious and Almighty Heavenly Father, we thank You so much that You loved us at our worst and still called us by name to lay down our past and pick up Your grace to finish our race strong. We are so grateful that Your Word is truth and that You are always faithful to Your Word. As You've told us in **Isaiah 55:8, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"** ... so none of us would have ever dreamed that You had such great things already mapped out for each of our lives. Holy Spirit I ask that You bring clarity to the hearts that read these words written here on these pages and all of it to be washed in the precious Blood of Jesus. And we thank You Sir that you continue to use ALL of us to further Your Kingdom, in Jesus' name AMEN!"

Hello everyone! There's a few of you out there that have been with us since our small beginnings of the very first issue in September of 2007. That means that this September issue is the 10th year anniversary of the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter!! We pray you can clearly see the vision of this ministry and we thank ALL of you for helping us to continue the work we've ALL been called to do. The **Overcomers** family 'outside' thank all of you 'inside' for your encouraging words and support over these 10 years, as well as, the too many to number articles of hope, love and encouragement that fill the pages and hearts of everyone that reads them. But most importantly to us is that we know all of our prayer warriors, that's all of you, are lifting up all these prayer requests you read in these newsletters in your prayer time. These prayer requests are from other brothers and sisters across the United States. We also thank all of you for faithfully lifting this ministry up in your prayers! We love you all so much and we're so grateful and thankful that God has called all of us together, into His family, to serve as the 'Body of Christ'! Praise Jesus! I want to start out here with these Scriptures from the Apostle Paul's greetings first in Romans and then on to his letters to several of the different churches. His words resonate what's in our hearts 'outside' towards all of you 'inside'. The sole vision for the **Overcomers for Christ** has always been to share hope, love and encouragement so Paul's letters fit perfectly.

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God ... Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ ... First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world." (Romans 1:1,7b,8)

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank my God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in Him you have been enriched in every way-with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge-God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our LORD Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our LORD Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our LORD." (1 Corinthians 1:3-9) ... Since you've given your life to Jesus have you ever felt like you were trying to swim upstream in an even faster moving corrupt world around you? You know that you are truly free IN CHRIST but it seems that now more than ever this new freedom seems harder and harder to keep your eyes on. Here is a great litmus test to use throughout our entire journey with Christ, "If your walk begins to get effortless with hardly any opposition, stop for a minute and look around you. Check to see if you are still headed in the right direction, following Jesus and NOT just drifting along with the ways of the world." Paul understood that 'church body unity' was a must and when he heard that the church in Corinth was having problems and questions he wrote this letter to address those issues. Paul had established this church on his second missionary journey but wrote this letter near the end of his three year ministry in Ephesus, and during his third mission journey. Corinth was a major trade center oozing with corruption, idolatry and immorality and full of new Gentile believers. Does any of this sound familiar? Paul's words were strong ones meant specifically to correct, redirect and teach them about dealing with certain moral issues within the church. We, as the church, His body, have to stay unified and in love help keep each other accountable. Why? Because division is the enemies greatest tool.



"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God ... To the church of God in Corinth ... Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." (2 Corinthians 1:1- 4) ... Notice first how Paul begins, not only in this letter but in many of the others as well, by making it a point to let his readers know that no certain person or other authority appointed him to this his calling. Like every church, or group of people for that matter, not everyone responds to the message or the appointment in a positive manner. This was precisely what Paul was addressing in this letter, people challenging his authority and then coming against what he said he stood for.

Remembering his life previous to Christ many questioned Paul's motives as well. Let me assure you all that it will be no different for those of us that step forward and grab hold of what God has called each of us to either. Different people and said 'authorities' stepped in our way and challenged my true direction and motives as we ran with the vision of this newsletter. With absolutely NO DOUBT to Who and where this vision came from we too continued forward and slowly the nay-

sayers and said 'authorities' cleared out of the way. I felt Paul's passion and determination, in **Galatians 1:10**, when he said, **"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ,"** and they too became my own personal drive and focus. I've said this many times in the past but it is crucial and worth repeating, "NEVER in your walk with Jesus should you EVER take your eyes off of Him! It's never a true leader's intention, but like anyone else, no leader is without temptation and if they have taken their eyes off of Jesus and you are following them, guess what? You both will fall! We are to be followers of Christ NOT man!"

"Paul, an apostle-sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead - and all the brothers and sisters with me ... Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Galatians 1:1-5) ... The church at Galatia was one of the churches Paul founded while on his first missionary journey. As I said, this was one of the first established churches and its converts were both newly conformed Jews and Gentiles. This was posing a huge problem in the body itself. It was the Judasizers, these newly saved Jews who felt they couldn't take their eyes completely off of the Law, that couldn't bring themselves to believe that this Good News alone was all they truly needed in their lives. So what they were teaching the new Gentile believers, just like many churches still today, was that even though they had committed themselves to be followers of the Way they had to also keep every letter of the Law as well. I truly believe that they were only teaching this way because of their true lack of knowledge and understanding. These were the first converts of the first church age and they, just like so many still today, were confused by the simplicity of the Good News. Like a lot of us that may have been raised in different denominations and churches full of religion, and held down due to 'their' lack of understanding, they too were/are attempting to mix the two teachings. Paul was writing this letter to basically let them and us know that we CANNOT mix both Law and Grace together! That was NEVER God's intention for the Law or Grace! Many of us know firsthand how hard it was to break free from drugs, alcohol, sex addictions and the list goes on and on. Knowing now the exhilarating feeling of true freedom since we've come to know and trust God, why would we want to be tied to the dock of religion and Law after experiencing His amazing love through His grace? This is exactly Paul's point in writing this letter. I believe this to be a foundational Scripture for all of us to stand on as well, **Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do NOT let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."**

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." (Ephesians 1:1-3) ... Paul had spent over three years with the church here in Ephesus prior to this letter and had grown very close with them. Now, separated from them he wrote this particular letter not addressing or correcting any specific issues but rather to encourage the believers there to continue to strengthen the body of believers in neighboring areas around them to the nature and the purpose of the church. This letter could well have been one meant for Tychicus (**Colossians 4:12**) to circulate around to the neighboring churches so that they too would be encouraged by his words. As the church, His body, we ALL are called to spread the Good News that Jesus Christ loves us ALL and only wants what He knows is best for us. Beating people up with religion was NEVER God's purpose or plan. I'll agree that those types of messages will condemn, instill fear and 'scare the hell' out of some folks BUT it will NEVER turn them towards Jesus. It's the Holy Spirit's job to witness to their very own spirits so they too can experience His true love for them. Paul's letter here is as relevant to us today as it ever has been. We are called to encourage both others of the faith and those still searching for the truth. Jesus is the only ONE who can rescue any of us from HELL.

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:2-6) ... This church at Philippi was started by Paul and some his companions like Timothy and Epaphroditus (**Philippians 2:25**) while he was on his second mission trip. It was the very first church established on the European continent. The church at Philippi had sent Epaphroditus with a gift for Paul while he was imprisoned there in Rome. From prison, at this time, Paul responded to their generosity. In this letter he pours out his thankfulness and gratitude to all of them. (**Philippians 4:4-23**) Paul's words ring so true of our hearts here at the  family 'outside' for all of you there 'inside'! We are so filled with excitement and expectation as we continue on this adventure together to see what God has planned for ALL of us to accomplish. Like Paul, I personally thank ALL of you there for all that you do for and with the  Overcomers for Christ newsletter ministry.

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God ... To God's holy people ..., the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's

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Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)**

Prayer Requests

I trust God is continually blessing each one of you as you are a blessing to all of us. Thank you so much for the newsletter each month as it is uplifting and informative. I was especially touched by Cory's Corner in the May 2017 issue. The content struck a chord in me about my estranged relationship with my son, my only biological son, of which I've had no contact since my incarceration in 2007. He is 14 years old now and I have no idea what he looks like, sounds like or what his interests are. I don't even know where he is at for certain, last I heard was Alaska. I've had to put him, his sister, brother and his mom in the Lord's hands. I pray for them regularly for protection and provision as well as reconciliation of our family, in His timing and by His hand for He knows His plan for me and the members of my family. Please pray for this situation to be healed by God and for all of my family to come to Jesus ... **R.W.**

Please pray for the inmates doing hard time in here alone like myself, plus the officers, whiteshirts and most of all for all our safety and well being. Because a lot of us and the staff need strength and guidance, not to mention that we have been locked down. When we came off there were fights and pretty much some people ended up really hurt and are in the hospital. So, please pray that the Lord will place His hand on these prison walls and fences and remove the evil and hostility that is invading the prison unit yard. We really need something in a way of a miracle. Plus if it's not asking too much from you, can you also pray that my dad stays on the right path that he now is following. I just want him to do good and remain sober, and keep working on mending his wrongs. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers and being so caring and loving. My childhood girlfriend is writing me after so many years, and her kids are writing me too. Even though she is kind of scared of me hurting her again by leaving her again, she is still at least reaching out to me and her kids also want me to come live with them and be a part of all their lives and be a family. What I'm thinking about doing is upon release just buying a bus ticket and going to be with them. That's depending upon how it goes until my release date, and if I can get the money for the bus ticket. Because me and Arizona don't work and I feel it in my heart that it's time to leave. So one last prayer request, pray that I find the guidance and answer to this conflict and that I find the solution and answer my heart seeks. I really just want to find happiness for a change ... **J.M.**

I do thank all of the OCS family for continuing to keep my son, his mother, aunts, uncles and my own mother in your prayers. Just in March I found out one of my uncles has passed away. They didn't tell me earlier when it happened because they said they didn't want me to freak out in here and get myself in trouble. And now I find out that my auntie Adaline is very sick and needs prayer. So if you all would keep her and my 80 year old grandmother in your prayers, that

they each would receive the power of the Lord's touch and regain the strength to carry on I would appreciate it ... **E.B.**

As you may know, my uncle passed away and while being incarcerated, a loved one's passing is not news we like to receive. I was wondering if you and the others could please pray for those of us who have had to hear such tragic news and for those who have trouble keeping going, to be strong and have hope but most of all for us all to have faith in God. Each day I wake up and I'm not going to lie, some days are harder than others. But it's taken a while for me to learn and understand that things really could be worse. Rather than to want, I'm grateful that each day I'm blessed to be able to wake up and still be alive. Basically, to count my blessings ... **S.V.**

This prayer request is not only for the Overcomers family on the 'outside' to pray for our requests, but as well I ask all of you on the 'inside', those that receive these newsletters, to come into agreement and lift all of those on the 'outside' in your prayers. Pray that our Lord continue to bless each of them as they continue to bless every one of us. As we all sit in our cells, some locked down and you others that come and go a little more freely, the Overcomers for Christ newsletters always reach us right where we're at. This newsletter has and continues to bless and help me out and I thank and pray for each one of you on the 'inside' that contribute to this ministry. Your help also encourages so many of us. So I'm asking ALL of us to use some of our time to pray for this ministry, the staff AND our other brothers and sisters locked up as well ... **A.S.**

Please pray for me and those in here with me, because we all need the Lord to guide us and bring us where we belong, even if some don't believe such things. Pray for all those locked away in here that they open their hearts to our Father and they receive His love and Word. Pray for our safety and well-being as we do our time and return home. Pray for our loved ones safe travels as they go to work or coming to visit us in here. Pray for me and when they do move me to a 4 yard that I am safe and get a good cellmate and that I don't have any problems or get into any trouble or harmed. And pray for me to receive a job soon, that way I can get what I need such as hygiene, a pair of shoes and socks without holes. Pray for the guards and their safe travels back and forth to work and home, and thank the Lord for the guards working here, watching over us, keeping us safe, and that they understand our feelings about being locked away from our loved ones, due to our wrong choices. Thank the Lord for all our blessings and trials we face daily and how they bring us closer to His loving embrace. Amen ... **J.M.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

TO MEET SUCH A MAN

Contributed by L.V.

I sat with two friends in a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town square. The food and company were both especially good that day. As we talked my attention was drawn outside, across the street.

There, walking in town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was also carrying a well worn sign that read, I WILL WORK FOR FOOD. My heart sank. As I brought him to the attention of my friends I noticed that others around us had also stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief. We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind.

We finished and I quickly set out to find this young man. I glanced toward the town square, looking half-heartedly for the strange visitor. Then I became fearful, knowing that seeing him would create some sort of a response. But as I drove through town I seen nothing of him.

I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car. Deep within me the Spirit of God kept speaking to me, "Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square." With some hesitancy I headed back into town. As I turned the squares third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the stone front church, going through his sack.

I stopped and looked, feeling both compelled to speak to him yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking spot on the corner seemed to be a sign from God as an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor and asked, "Looking for the pastor?" "Not really, just resting," he replied.

Then I asked him, "Have you eaten today? Would you like to have some lunch with me?" He answered, "Yes, I ate something early this morning. Do you have some work I could do for you?" "No. I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to buy you lunch," I said. "Sure," he replied with a smile on his face. As he began to gather his things I asked some surface questions like, "Where are you headed?" "St. Louis," he answered. I asked, "Where are you from?" "Oh, all over. Mostly Florida," he responded. I asked him, "How long have you been walking?" His response was, "Fourteen years."

I knew I had met someone unusual. As we sat across from each other in the restaurant I could see that he was someone beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. As he removed his jacket it revealed a bright red t-shirt that said, "Jesus Is the NEVER Ending Story". Then Daniel's story began to unfold.

He said he had seen rough times early in his life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier while backpacking across the country he had stopped on a beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought. He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert, but revival services. In the services he saw life more clearly. Then he gave his life over to God.

"Nothing has been the same since. I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking and so I did. Some 14 years now," he said. I asked, "Ever think of stopping?" "Oh, once in awhile when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me a calling. I give out Bibles, that's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles and then I give them out where His Spirit leads me," he said. I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless, he was on a mission and lived this way by choice.

The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked, "What is it like?" He questioned, "What?" "To walk into a town carrying all of your things on your back and to show your sign," I answered. "Oh, yes, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a half-eaten piece of bread at me and then made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then I came to realize that God was using me to touch people's lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me," he said. My concept was changing too, as we finished our dessert and gathered his things.

Just outside the door he paused, turned to me and said, "**Come ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was thirsty, you gave me drink. When I was a**

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From the Inside

stranger, you took me in." (Matthew 25:34) At that moment I felt as though we were on holy ground.

Still looking at him I asked, "Could you use another Bible?" He answered and said that he preferred a certain translation because it traveled well and it wasn't too heavy. He also told me that it was his personal favorite and that he had read through it 14 times. "I'm not sure we have one of those, but let's stop by our church and see," I said. Sure enough, I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would work well, and he seemed very grateful.

I asked, "Where are you going from here?" "Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon," he responded. I asked him, "Are you hoping to hire on there for awhile?" "No, I just figured I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible. So that's where I'm going next," he smiled and said. As he smiled the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission.

I drove him back to the town square where we'd met two hours earlier and as we drove it started to rain. When we parked and unloaded his things he turned to me and asked, "Would you sign my autograph book? I like to keep messages from the people I meet." I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong and as I left him I quoted **Jeremiah 29:11** to him, "**I know the plans I have for you' declares the LORD. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future and a hope.**"

At that moment he looked at me and said, "Thanks ma'am. I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you." Looking straight at him I answered, "I know, I love you too. The Lord is good! How long has it been since someone has hugged you?" "A long time," he replied. And so right on that busy little street corner, in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, "See you in the New Jerusalem." "I'll be there," I replied. And off he went on his journey again with his little sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. Then he stopped, turned to me again and said, "When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?" "You bet! And God bless you," I shouted back.


Late that evening was the last I saw of him. As I left my office the wind blew strong as a cold front had settled upon the town. I bundled up and ran to my car. As I sat back in the seat and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them. A pair of well worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. As I picked them up I thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them. Then I remembered his words asking me to pray for him whenever I thought of him.

Today his gloves lay on my desk in my office at work. They help remind me to see the world and its people in a new way. They also help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry.

I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it. For I shall not pass this way again. Let's continue to pray for one another. God bless and have a nice day!

Bringing Hope

By P.M.

First I want to thank you all for my birthday cards and blessings, they mean a lot to me. Now I want to say that you all are truly following the Lord. When my son came back from the service he put me on your mailing list. Over the last 3 years, I've received all of the monthly mailings. I am thankful to all of you there. Recently, on one of the  Valentine's Day covers had motorcycles on it. Just seeing those pictures, and I could almost instantly hear those motorcycles on the road. Someone asked me, "Why do they do that?" My answer was simple, "Because it brings hope to us prisoners." I've done 15 years here with two more to go. Continue to do the Lord's work, it doesn't go unnoticed. You all touch the hearts of others. It's only by using our faith in what His grace has already provided that we ARE saved. There is grace in all that you all do. Sharing the truth isn't always easy at times but know this, the Lord knows.

2 Chronicles 30:1-27

Hezekiah was a king dedicated to God and to the spiritual progress of the nation. He sent letters throughout Judah and Israel urging everyone to return to God. He told them not to be stubborn but to submit to the Lord. 'To submit' means to obey Him first, yielding our bodies, minds, wills and emotions to Him. His Holy Spirit must guide and renew every part of us. Only then will we be able to temper our stubborn selfishness. **(30:6-9)**

Romans 14:1-23

Who is weak in faith and who is strong? We are all weak in some areas and strong in others. Our faith is strong in an area if we can survive contact with worldly people without falling into their patterns. It is weak in an area if we must avoid certain activities, people or places to protect our spiritual life. It is important to take self-inventory in order to find our strengths and weaknesses. Whenever in doubt, we should ask, "Can I do that without sinning? Can I influence others for good, rather than be influenced by them?" In areas of strength, we should not fear being defiled by the world, rather we should go and serve God. In areas of weakness, we need to be cautious. If we have strong faith but shelter it, we are not doing Christ's work in the world. If we have a weak faith but expose it, we are being extremely foolish. **(14:1)**

Psalm 24:1-10

Because the earth is the Lord's, all of us are stewards or caretakers. We should be committed to the proper management of this world and its resources, but we are not to become devoted to anything created or act as sole proprietors because this world will pass away. **(1 John 2:17)**

Proverbs 20:12-14

This Proverb speaks of what the Lord has made, we can use our ears and our eyes to learn about God's law. **(Psalm 40:6; 119:18)** They are physical means to getting the guidance we need. Contrast this verse with Moses' complaint of a stammering tongue and God's response. **(Exodus 4:10-11)**



"Foot" Notes

Happy 10th Anniversary

Hello to all of you Overcomers and Happy 10th Anniversary to the newsletter. Who would have thought God would anoint such a hard scrabble group of misfits to move His will further down the road. We are definitely a unique group of folks to say the least. I remember the first contribution to the newsletter and the fact that it was just a single piece of paper back then. Now here we are 10 years later a little more grayer around the edges yet as dedicated as ever. I have personally watched Wade set the world on fire with his anointing and albeit from a far, I will continue to stand beside him in Spirit until we're all called home.

A quick word for you new Overcomers ... This Christian walk I compare to going on a weight loss journey. For you to obtain the full benefits it takes a complete lifestyle change. Ya have to get rid of the junk in your life so you can have room for the glory and joy. Since we are all vessels, if we're full of junk we have no room for the glory and joy of Christ. Blessings to the 'tribe' moving as one, there's NOTHING we can't overcome ... Love to ya'll short and tall Vaya Con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

Editor's Note: It was amazing how God introduced 'Foot' and the Overcomers for Christ at the very beginning of this journey. Our first newsletter as you know was in September of 2007 and he was one of the first 35 people that received it. By January of 2008, 'Foot' had not only caught the vision but received from God specifically what his contribution was to be. That was when we received the first 'Foot Notes' from him. Within a few months he sent us his next contribution, 'Foot's Bible Study' which by the way has now taken us through 9 years of study notes and we still have several years of study notes on file here! As 'Foot' heard from God he went right to work on it, sending the complete Bible study all at one time. Below is the very first 'Foot Notes' from January 2008 which you can see already had Bible study notes in it.

Most of us have always been outcasts from society due to either crime, addictions or lifestyle. And at times we all get down when we feel slighted or ignored because we don't fit into the mob of the typical 'cookie-cutter' Christian. We need to remember that Jesus preferred to hang out with those in trouble, those discounted, the outcasts of society. Remember God loves us tattoo's, rap sheets, rehab and all. He accepts us as we are. One of God's greatest warriors was David, an outlaw himself (**1 Samuel 22:2**, study notes Life Application Study Bible NLT). He led one of the greatest armies ever, whose members too were outlaws and outcasts. So hold your heads high because Jesus is with us always, also remember ... It takes outlaws like us to save outlaws like us!!

10th Year Anniversary *continued ...*

people- (**Colossians 1:1-4**) ... Paul wrote this letter to the church at Colossae but had not yet visited them. So this church could have been founded by Epaphras (**Colossians 4:12-12**) and some other converts from one of Paul's previous missionary travels. Paul had gotten word that 'religiosity' had begun to infiltrate these new believers and as a result they were mixing different elements of paganism and secular philosophy with their newly revealed Christian doctrine. Paul confronts them as well as us about false teachings and assures them/us that everything they/we will EVER need to OVERCOME all such obstacles is founded solely, IN CHRIST JESUS.

"Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our LORD Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:1b-3) ... At the time of this letter the church at Thessalonica had been established only two or three years earlier. This first letter to the church here was to spur and stir them into spiritual maturity. Listen here for a second to these words from Peter, as I believe that he is also re-zounding Paul's message to the 'church'. **1 Peter 2:2-3 (NLT), "You MUST crave spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness."** Now even though Paul is not recorded as the author of the **Book of Hebrews**, for myself, as I read these words I for some reason can still hear Paul's voice ringing through them. Listen closely to **Hebrews 5:11-14 (TNIV), "We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's Word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."** Peter's words and 'whoever' the author of Hebrews was are also a picture for us as well that regardless where we may be in our faith walk it is ever so important that we develop a healthy appetite for God's Word to help us grow and mature.

"Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing." (2 Thessalonians 1:1b-3) ... Misinterpreting Paul's first letter, and experiencing excelling persecution, these followers had interpreted Paul to mean that Christ's second coming was already upon them. Therefore, using this as an excuse they became idle and complacent for His soon return. So Paul wrote this second letter to the church at Thessalonica to encourage them and clear up any confusion about the second coming of Christ.

Have you ever noticed that in all of Paul's Epistles (letters) to the churches that he generally starts off by acknowledging that he takes no glory for the calling God has placed on his life? Paul always acknowledges that he is a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, chosen and set apart to share the Gospel of God. Just reading Paul's letters should encourage every single one of us that when God wants a specific mission to be accomplished He doesn't go to those that think they are all of that and know it all. Although Saul/Paul was well educated and trained, God did NOT call him to teach of the position where he was well versed. No! When God called him He took everything that he was trained and schooled with and tipped it upside down, giving Paul a new reference point of what the TRUTH, The GOSPEL, the GOOD NEWS of CHRIST JESUS really was/is!

Everything that Saul was doing in the name of the Law soon became crystal clear that he had been working against God's plan and purpose for his life once he received the revelation of God's Grace, through a new found faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! Nearly every one of us I'm sure can relate to Paul's conversion in **Acts Chapter 9**. So be encouraged that God has a specific plan and place for EVERY ONE of His children. Yes, YOU!

Paul states here, in essence, that God has given the call for everyone. But not everyone will accept this call. **"For He chose us IN HIM before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will - to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves."** (**Ephesians 1:4-6**) Now, if you've asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, to come into your life and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the grave and as well has seated Him at His right hand (**Romans 10:9-10**), THEN you are one of His children. Contrary to what some people have taught you or what we have been told to comfort us at the loss of a loved one, we all are NOT God's children. We ARE God's creation and He loves us even in our state of being lost. However, once we've done what Paul invites us to do in **Romans 10:9-10** we immediately are grafted in to the body/family of God! This is why God doesn't have any grandchildren, because YOU personally have to ask Him into YOUR life. Just because our parents or grandparents were Christians or you knew someone that said they were a Christian and you believe that they have secured their own place in heaven does NOT mean you too will be there with them.

As TRUE followers of Christ our mission is to show the world a picture of Christ Jesus through the life that we ourselves are living. When we are 100% in and down for His purpose we shouldn't be just sitting around somewhere waiting for a

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word from God on what He has planned for us! NO! In **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus gave **EVERY ONE OF US** Christians this co-mission, **"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'**" We are co-mmissioned to tell people that Jesus loves them! The red lettered commands that Jesus gave us were based entirely on love (**Mark 12:29-31**). We are ALL called to witness, first through our walk and then with our testimony, to SOMEONE of what Jesus has done in our lives. Let me paint a little picture of what NOT sharing Jesus with those in your 'area' of life might someday look like if you don't. Remember, this 'picture' is one of my ministering tools.

For the sake of the picture/story I will use myself as the example. Even while we were in the world we've all probably heard it said that when we reach those pearly gates just this side of heaven, Peter will be sitting there with this big book. Inside this book, the Lamb's Book of Life, are the list of people that will be allowed to enter through those gates and be with God, Jesus and the rest of 'the saints'. Let's just say that I went home to be with the Lord before some of you. So I'm just inside those gates but still close enough to see Peter on the other side. I'm hanging out with Jesus there next to His big chair just cuttin' it up with Him and having a great time. Then from where we are standing something caught Jesus' attention. There's this long line of people waiting to get checked in and this certain person gave Peter their name but searching everywhere Peter can't find their reservation. Just then this person hears me and Jesus quacking away on the other side and calls out, "Hey Duck," and continues to tell Peter, "Hey, wait a second. I knew that guy 'Duck'! We used to hang out together sometimes! Heck, we were even neighbors a few times down there in the hood! If 'Duck' is here why can't I come in?" The whole atmosphere of the conversation Jesus and I were having just fell flat on those streets of gold. As Jesus turned slowly from looking at that person then looking at me, with a face full of sadness He says, "Duck, you knew this person and you failed to share My love and invitation with them?" Then I could hear in His voice the sound of disappointment as I heard Him plead, "Duck, why not? Why didn't you invest what I had freely given you in to those that were there around you (**Luke 19:20-23**)? How should I handle this My friend?"

So let me ask you this, "Do you keep Jesus to yourself? Do the people there around you even know that you know Jesus? Are you just carrying the Bible and sporting that cross around your neck to create a certain look or facade? If you seen someone that you thought might be on their death bed would you be bold enough to witness to them and give them the same invitation that someone gave you?" If so, then my next questions would be, "Why wait until then? What if you are not there at that moment? Then, what?" Perhaps you're afraid they will reject you or even make fun of you. If that's the case then I pray you will reflect to this picture and remember these words of Jesus' in **John 15:18-21**, **"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed My teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of My name, for they do not know the One who sent Me."** Let me say it like this. Jesus went to the Cross for the whole world (**Titus 2:11, Colossians 2:13-14**) and all He is asking us to do is to tell other people about what He has already done for them too! At least give them the opportunity to say yes or no! So what I'm saying here is, the picture I painted above is NOT the one I want to be having with Jesus when I get to heaven. My objective is to follow His plan, to the best of my ability, and take as many back from the liar as will listen and hear, bus loads and cities full!! I keep my hope anchored in Jesus (**Hebrews 6:19**) because I want to hear, **"Well done, good and faithful servant!"** (**Matthew 25:23**)

Even when I'm talking with and attempting to encourage someone who has had a loved one pass away and they're unsure of where either of them is spending their eternity this is one of the ways I have found to somewhat comfort them. "Pray this prayer with me in **Romans 10:9-10** and believe it in your heart and then when YOU get to heaven YOU can personally check for yourself." Don't try to comfort them with a lie! Instead, lead them to the TRUTH and allow them to make their own decision.

Before I close I also want to encourage all of you to ask Father God to baptize you in His Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, your heavenly language. This is another gift of the Holy Spirit that opens a whole new channel to the throne room of God and takes 'self' out of the equation. But remember, in order to speak ANY language YOU have to first open YOUR mouth and allow the words to get out. These seem like very simple instructions but it's true. First by YOU giving the invitation and then by YOU opening YOUR mouth, YOU are giving the Holy Spirit inside of YOU the permission to come forth and speak. The Holy Spirit is NOT going to MAKE YOU do anything against your will. It just doesn't happen that way.

Cory's Corner How Far Has He Taken Me!

So as I sit here tonight having just gotten off the phone with my spiritual mentor, Wade 'Duck' Anderson, for close to 10 year now, I'm compelled to think of just how far GOD has taken me. I must say it's clearly amazing that He has me so blessed beyond measure.

Three years ago in March, I was released from prison with a promise from God and a lot of hope in my heart. Hope that I would be restored 100% and hope that all the things that I'd dreamed about for that entire prison sentence would come to pass. It started out slow. I was working a \$10 an hour job part time while being involved in a discipleship program at Along Side Ministries. All the while I was praying that my family would come back into my life, after 10 years of divorce and separation from my child.

Well long story short ... I know now as I write this just how far He has taken me. I'm now working a close to six figure job. I've remarried my wife AND I have not one daughter back in my life but as well another daughter that I never knew I had until 2017. My family and I are now getting ready to buy our home and most of all ... I am blessed to not only follow Jesus but serve Him in many ways.

A short time ago I joined a Christian motorcycle club that is 100% sold out for Jesus. My family and I are also a part of PHX Urban Outreach where we serve the homeless every Friday evening. Last week at the Outreach, we handed out over 4,000 bottles of water, over 1,000 hot dogs, clothes, hygiene, socks and lots of shoes. This is just a short distance that I would say God has measured on a scale of 'How Far He Has Taken Me'. In **Luke 6:38** Jesus tells us, *"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*



Quote Worthy

"There may be no trumpet sound or loud applause when we make a right decision, just a calm sense of resolution and peace."

- Gloria Gaither - a Christian songwriter, author, speaker, editor, and academic. She performed, traveled and recorded with the Bill Gaither Trio from 1965 through 1991. Since 1991, she has served as a performer, recording artist, songwriter, scriptwriter and narrator for the Gaither Homecoming series of television broadcasts, video and DVD releases, and audio recordings.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, and mail this newsletter. None of this would be possible without the faithful support of many people who believe in this ministry. The vision of this ministry is to offer hope, love, and encouragement to those who are incarcerated. You are investing in spreading the Word of God to lost souls, encouraging, mentoring, and discipling believers.

Here is how you can give to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry:

By **check or money order** – Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

We thank everyone who sows into this ministry. We pray all that your hands touch will be richly blessed, and that you will have abundance in every area of your life.

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Fall Into Prayer

By G.B.B.

Dearest dear Jesus from the heavens above,
I'm coming to You with prayers and love.
I thank You for all the angels sent down to me,
I'm thanking the light that allows me to see.

I'm lost in the struggle, I'm falling astray,
I fall on my knees every day and I pray.
I ask for forgiveness, I ask to be saved,
I ask Jesus to show me the road that He paved.

I'm sinning and sinning, I'm caught in a spell
And fighting and fighting to keep me from hell.
Listen dear Jesus, I'm making a plea.
Just give me a minute and listen to me.

I'll turn from my sins and walk in your ways
And praise your Good Name for the rest of my days.
Just give me some comfort and shine on my soul.
I'm needing Your blessing just so You know.

Don't leave me behind, show me You care
As I bow my head and fall into prayer.

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

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