

# Overcomers for Christ

September 2016

*Psalm 25:10*

# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

May 2016



## Trust God's Plan - Don't Look at Your Circumstances

By J.I.

This is my 2015 Christmas letter, and it is not a story of glad tidings, as far as my life is concerned. I had looked forward to writing you from the outside, as my early release day of 11/2015 came, but that is not to be. My wife and parents had been working with the parole officer in Florence to secure a place to live. They found one and everything was approved, but the CO III at my unit quit at the end, after working my case for release on parole for months. The new CO III, put me down as homeless in Phoenix, on 11-19-15, Thursday, I was released on parole to Phoenix, as homeless. Everyone was waiting for me in Florence. I was alone, without help and desperate.

I was allowed to get a hotel room for the night, which I did. Then I got hold of my wife to come to meet me, to help me find approved housing in Phoenix until I could sort out the confusion about housing and go back to Coolidge, where my family had paid \$4,000 for six month's rent, deposits and utilities, where my wife had bought a car and even furniture. On the way up, my wife's car broke down. Some people helped her jerry-rig the car so she could go the last few miles to the hotel. I only saw her for a few minutes, as she got there late. Then she left with some friends to go and fix her car, because Pep-Boys wanted over \$500 to fix it. We were going to meet back up on Friday morning.

I spent that night alone. When I got up on Friday morning and went to unplug the charger from my GPS tracker ankle bracelet, the device fell apart. I immediately called my parole officer who then showed up and took me back to the office, he said it was good that I called him and this can happen, but his boss felt that I deliberately tampered with the device. They revoked my parole and by 8:30 AM, less than 24 hours later, I was back in prison, at the Alhambra facility.

Not in my wildest dreams did I ever think this many bad events could happen to me, in such a short amount of time. What happened to my God? Where was His promise of His Word that I had been praying years for, **"You are my rock and my fortress, therefore for Your names sake, lead me and guide me."** (Psalms 31:3) Why didn't God protect me, help me? Why did He rob me of my freedom? Why did He do this to me? As I laid there in prison, I cried out to God, "Why?" I was hopeless, devastated and in complete shock. I wish I could say my faith carried me through. I wish I could say that I was like Job and still praised my Lord, but I am no Job. I was not the righteous man that the Lord can boast about.

In my utter misery, my heartbreaking defeat, my faith failed and I said to the Lord, "I hate You, I hate You for doing this to me, for not stopping it, for letting this happen." To my shame I got angry at God, if He is not for me, what hope is there? I was shattered, I had no reason to breath, no desire to go on, no will to live. I was broken, I am broken.

I spent three days, locked down in that cell, physically ruined, mentally numb and spiritually comatose. My faith was on life support, barely clinging to life, when thoughts started to come to my mind that the events of the last few days were proof that there is no God. I fought, weakly at first, possibly just out of instinct. I am familiar with the devil's lies, those fiery darts of doubt in the existence of God, of the identity of Jesus as the Christ, of the indwelling Spirit of God who seals all believers to the coming glory of God and the terrible day of the Lord. So, when the devil said "See John, (yes the devil knows my name) there is no God." I replied back to those doubts in my mind, that just because God isn't for me, doesn't mean I won't seek to serve the Lord and I won't serve another, Period!

What few verses I memorized, I started to pull out of the secret places in my heart. But I always came back to why did this happen? I did nothing wrong, I did everything right, and for that I was given injustice. How could a just God let that happen? Where was He? I felt His presence nowhere. I prayed to God, raise me up, fill me with Your love and compassion and mercy and grace. But I also told God, that I wanted more than feelings, more than emotions. I wanted a genuine, real relationship. I needed God to be real for me, now more than ever.

I had no access to a Bible, but I tried to recall to mind, my God's Word that applied. Who did God send such a calamity to and was made to suffer so badly, so unfairly? I've already said I'm no Job, so I didn't think that applied to me. I'm certainly not Christ. Then I thought about Jonah. Could it be, that by seeking to live in my own place in Coolidge, was I running from where God told me to go? Was I fleeing from Nineveh and the storms of my life put a stop to it? Did the Big Fish of DOC swallow me up? But where was I supposed to go? I really thought that the way everything fell into place for me going to Coolidge was God's leading. I had been invited to go and live at Eagle's Nest group homes, a Christian based half-way house in Apache Junction. Was that where I was supposed to go? But the parole officer said that place wasn't approved. That wasn't even an option. I still had no idea why God let this happen.

Every few minutes, the events of those fleeting hours of freedom would come to mind and I would fall back down on my face, as though I were dead, and start the whole process over again. Then I remembered the day before I got out, I heard a radio station playing Christmas carols and I thought about the birth of Christ. In light of the confusion of where I was going (at the time I was unsure because there was no definite answer), I thought specifically of the part of the story of how Joseph and Mary had to stay in a stable because there was no room in the inn. The Son of God, the King of all creation, the God-Man, was born in a place not fit for humans, not fit for anything but animals. And that fact, that there was no place

given for Jesus, hampered the Christ not one single bit.

God's will IS done on Earth, in spite of all other circumstances. So with that in mind, the day before I got out, I prayed to God to let me keep doing His will, His purpose for me, to share the testimony of the saving grace of the Lord, the gospel of Peace, the way, the truth and the life that is Jesus Christ, that whatever happened to me, wherever I go, I wanted God to let me still share with others about Jesus and the saving power of His name.

I laid there on that bunk, in that prison cell that I shared with two others, and I remembered what I had said less than a week before. But how could I share about the transforming power of God with all that just happened to me? I'm no success story. I was free for less than a day, and back in prison. What kind of testimony is that? I was at a loss, but I said what I said, I committed my life to the Lord and even though it seemed He was not for me, I would be for Him.

So, I got up and I started sharing with the two inmates about Firestorm Ministries. They were very interested in the churches that would allow sex offenders to attend services, and the organizations that would help. I told them about how faith in Christ can transform your life. I said, "I know it doesn't seem that way after God let all these bad things happen to me, that I'm not a very good testimony right now, that many would say, 'What is faith in God? Look where it got you.'" But one of the young men said, "No, that's not true, you've gotta keep the faith, bad things happen, I'm glad you told me about this, even after all that's happened to you."

As I left Alhambra to go to my new prison location, I saw that the young man had written on the wall "Firestorm Ministries" and the address to write to get a list. Now all that go through that cell will know and find hope in Christ, through His ministry, and know there is hope and redemption for all, even for them. When I got to the private prison in Florence, on Wednesday, I was finally set to go after a long day. Another inmate let me borrow a radio and I put it on CSN, Christian Satellite Network, 91.6 FM. It was the middle of a sermon and the preacher was talking about the story of Jesus healing the blind man, the one who did nothing wrong, but was blinded so that Christ could be glorified. The preacher pointed out what it must have been like for the man. The seeming unfairness and the injustice. There was no way for him to know God's plan, because he was blind.

That is where I am right now. It's Thursday morning, Thanksgiving Day as I write this. The wounds and pains of the last week are still fresh, still sore. I don't know what's going to happen. Will they reinstate my parole at the hearing coming soon, maybe next month? Will I have to stay in prison another 1 ½ years? Why did God do this? Why did it happen? What's going to happen to me? I don't know any of it. I am blind. But if this in any way can bring glory to God and magnify my Lord Jesus Christ then that is what I am grateful for. That is, in fact, all I have left. I don't have any idea how this fits into God's plan. I am blind.

This Christmas season isn't what I hoped it would be. It's not even anything I would ever have dreamt of, not in my worst nightmares, not something I would wish on my worst enemy. To taste freedom, barely, and then to have it ripped away. If you or anyone you know is feeling hurt, or lost, or spiritually defeated, remember my testimony, tell them my story. If there is anyone who doesn't understand why God would let horrible things happen to them, and they are lost and hopeless let them know they are not alone. They may be blind, like me, but let my testimony let them know they are not alone. Hold my hand and we will be blind together, waiting on the Lord. If Christ receives all the glory and honor and praise forever and ever, that will be enough, and we'll be glad in it.

Broken in Christ ... Blind in Faith ... But still a servant of the Lord.

It's me now, Wade Anderson and I want to tell you all the rest of John's testimony, what happened from that point forward.

John had written me a letter earlier on letting me know of his release so I was waiting to hear from him when he hit the street. Instead, what I received was the letter above. As I began to read John's letter another brother in Christ, Arthur L., stopped by to fellowship after work as we often did. We finished reading the letter together and could feel John's pain (**Hebrews 13:3**) so we immediately took authority over the situation. We did so knowing that God knows the beginning from the end. We also know that God makes all the crooked places straight and ALL favor comes FROM God through man. So, Arthur and I agreed that God would unravel the truth, that the parole office would recognize their mistake and see that John was innocent. It's important for us to remember that as long as we've done what God has placed on our hearts we can leave it in His hands and He WILL take care of it. Then Arthur and I went back to fellowshipping.

Keep in mind that it was Thanksgiving Day when John wrote the above letter. And don't forget it had to have taken a couple days for us to receive the letter so that would put us about the 28th or 29th of November. I'm pretty certain it was right at a week after our prayer that I received a phone call from John and he was on the street! Exactly what Arthur and I had taken authority over God stood behind. John didn't have to wait to see the board on the issue. They seen the truth and John was released. Within two or three days John and I sat down together at Denny's and had breakfast. At that

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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

Well, this walk has been quite difficult for me. I found out that I have to be here in prison for another year. I really don't know what God wants for me. I find myself falling back and forth through my walk. There are many things that I don't understand. So, I seek prayer that our heavenly Father will guide me through these tough times ... **S.F.**

Thank you for the post card. I don't have any friends any more on the streets. My mom and dad live in Phoenix, AZ and I'm trying to get released there. Right now I'm trying my best to get back with my wife and kids. Even though I'm leaving it all in God's hands I ask you all to please pray for my early release, and that my wife and I get back together ... **J.T.**

Please pray for my family; for my mother Deb, good health and strength. For my father Ron, sobriety and right living. And for two sisters to overcome their addiction. Also for my children, Kain, Korbun and Kiyah for their safety, good health and for them to grow up knowing the Lord ... **J.W.**

Please keep me and my family in prayer. Please add my name to the prayer list at the church. Please pray for health, my family situation and my freedom. I shall have all of you in my prayers as well as my heart. Thank you again and God bless ALL of you at the **Overcomers for Christ** ... **T.F.**

I have a couple prayer requests. Please pray for my ex wife Angie as she is struggling with health issues, diabetes. Please pray for her father and his brother, for their salvation. And please pray for me as I am anti social, I can't handle being around anyone anymore ... **S.L.**

I would like to ask you all to lift my son Jeffery up in prayer. He was picked up and is at Kansas state prison. He was picked up in December 2015 and I still haven't heard from him. The last time I saw him he was just a baby in my arms and brought me so much joy, and today he is 22 years old. I lift him in my prayers daily with hopes that he will want to get to know his father. Trust me, I have come such a long way from the man I was back then. I know I can be the father he needs in his life. Please also pray for my daughter Kaylee. I sent her a Christmas card but haven't heard back from her. Pray that she will find her way back to writing me again ... **G.B.B.**

Please pray to God for me. Sometimes it's hard for me to tell these guys in here why I cry in my cell at night. Sometimes I don't get to sleep until 6 AM and then I sleep the day away. Please pray for me ... **D.W.**

### Praise Reports

May the Lord bless you and the work you all are doing for His kingdom. It's been 3 months since I had the second surgery on my back and I am doing fine. The Lord blessed me with a Fast/Full recovery. None of the nurses can believe I had such a quick recovery. But I'm quick to tell them that the Lord did it! I have 8 pieces of metal in my back now but this is the best I've felt in years. Thank you ALL for your prayers and know that you and everyone there at the **DS&C** are always in my thoughts and prayers. I know this ministry is touching a lot of lives behind these walls. What I love about this ministry is that you go where Jesus would go if He were here physically on this earth today. You all go where the need is the greatest and you're reaching the lepers - the untouchables of the world today. A good soldier will always go to the front lines because we don't feel comfortable anywhere else for that's where we are called to go and do! ...

**W.R.**

I want to thank the **DS&C** family for taking the time to write me and bless me with the love you share with everyone. For me this is a BIG step in writing. Meaning in 5 years the only time I have written to you was to ask for your monthly **DS&C** newsletter. Year after year you all have taken the time to send B-day cards, Christmas cards and newsletters. Heck I have even been moved not only from unit to unit but as well different cities, without writing to let you know, and you have always located me and sent the love. Let's just say I don't feel real good about my lack of action. BUT for some reason this time I truly felt the love and blessings that came WITH your letter! Brother, this one, 3-sentence paragraph in this year's birthday letter touched me more than anything I've felt in a long time! It's because of that message that I wanted to take a BIG step out and say, "Thank you." Oh, and here's my new address ... **B.G.**

Thank you again for writing me. Isn't God AMAZING!? Every day that passes I hunger for more and more of Him in my life. I cannot believe that I went 46 long years before realizing that all I had to do was look to Jesus for the answers to the questions in life. It is so simple, yet seems so hard for so many of us. I pray deeply for the ones that don't know Him or have Him in their lives. I long to show my family that I care more for them than I do my old selfish and self-destructive ways, Praise God! He has allowed me to safely spend time learning about Him, His beautiful Son, the sacrifices made for my salvation and the many areas of my life that needed correcting. He has also allowed me to see all the amazing qualities He made in me ... **M.S.**

Praise God, I got a job as a porter here so I get to spend a lot of time out of my cell ... **S.F.**

# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

Prison ... "Boot Camp" Bible College  
By R.D.

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for the card, love, comfort and prayers. I'm encouraged by the work you consistently do for the Glorious Kingdom of Jesus Christ. May the Lord bless you, keep you, and make you whole.

I'm getting out in 27 months. I've been down for 93 months. Time is going by crazy fast for me in here. Soon my body will be free of this present state of confinement. I'm a little fearful/anxious of the day and time of my release. I came here and got radically saved, so the only saved life I know is prison. I have become very comfortable with the simplicity of prison life. I like being told what to do and when to do it. I like the freedom of free meals, free clothes, free rent and the nice little controlled environment of my cubicle. All I do day in and day out is pray, listen to my Bible CD, write sermons and letters, listen to Christian music, work, work out and minister one on one in Alcoholics Anonymous and the Word of God to those who want to know the Lord.

I do want out of here but, prison has not been a waste of my time nor my life. I've used this time as an investment into knowing Jesus Christ. I know that I'll never have the great opportunity again. This has been my "Boot Camp" Bible College, I've been through the whole Bible well over 120 times in the last 8 years (7 years and 9 months). I've spent thousands of hours doing word studies and written thousands of pages of sermons, letters, etc. Oh, I've earned a bachelor's degree in Divinity from an accredited Theological Seminary. All that the Lord has caused me to accomplish by His Grace and Truth in this place is beyond anything I ever could have done out there in the real world.

For a career criminal, drug addict and hell bound sinner like myself, prison has been such a real blessing and I do appreciate what the Lord is doing in my life because of prison, being that I am "institutionalized" I need to make a sound transition to reality, so I am considering Church on the Street. I believe if I go to their 6 months of boot camp and do there what I'm doing here I'll be able to comfortably transition to the real world. When I think of being on my own and having to buy food, clothes, pay rent, find a job etc. I feel as if I'm going to choke. For crying out loud, I had a business, what is wrong with me? Why do I feel this way Lord? My life prior to prison was a life run by self-will, pride and ego. Now I'm Christ's servant, now I depend on Him. So, the Phoenix Dream Center is probably my best and wisest destination. Six months is nothing, and it's just another space of time, half of a calendar to invest into the Kingdom, Amen? Also, I have about twelve contacts in Phoenix, including D&S, I know you and all the rest of my family in Jesus Christ will support me spiritually and emotionally.

### A Hopeful Beginning

By C.H.

I know it must seem like I have forgotten to write you all. But, it is a big transition coming to prison! All kinds of moving here and moving there. Schedules! Nice people, mean people, rude people, mean people playing like they're nice people. A lot of hurry up and wait.

But now I'm much more situated and my poor drug abused mind is not swimming in as much utter chaos as it was in the beginning of things. Hmmm ... I guess that's the way I'll start this first letter from actual prison ... A hopeful beginning.

I have received some bad news, I've tested positive for Hepatitis C. I'm scared. But I guess there is a brand new cure for it. I'll have to wait until I get out of prison to receive it though. Either way it is an opportunity to get closer to my heavenly Father. I continue to read my Bible even though it's really loud in here. It makes it hard for someone like me to focus because I have hyper active issues. I pray and pray for focus. Don't get me wrong, I have noticed a very significant improvement.

Because of years and years of being told we have something wrong with us, and those things almost become automatic in us. For me, some of these things are hard to completely let go of to God. It's so hard to let go of for the fear of backsliding. A moments distraction and we begin to feel like such failures. And then, everything we have already been labeled as comes flooding back until we begin to see ourselves with those labels on our foreheads, saying, "Oh well, it's part of my make-up/my disability!" We have GOT to remove those labels and refuse to let the world (devil) diagnose us. Instead we

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## From the Inside

have to allow Jesus to heal us. As we start to get healed (sometimes that takes awhile) we personally have to continue to speak, out loud, health over ourselves. The moment one of those negative thoughts comes rolling in, and they will, it feels like the world is upon us mocking our faith in God and His healing power. I don't want to lose the precious little faith that I have so I continue to speak His Word out loud.

I would appreciate it if everyone reading this would lift me in their prayers. Pray that I would overcome the doubts about my future, the future that God has planned for me.

### Running this Race

By M.D.

Now, in running this race, I believe we must never forget an important principle: Because of the unique place God has given to faith, His grace flows along the channels of His promises - NOT His commands. Of course His commands show His Holy character and reveal our sinfulness, but that's it! There is no ability in themselves to empower us to obey - so there's the dilemma. **"I have to desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."** (Romans 7:18) Our problem is the spiritual strength to obey, and God's commands cannot impart that. It is the ministry of His gracious promises that do that!

Look at **Romans 8:1-3**, **"Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST Jesus, BECAUSE through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God DID by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering."** First John 1:9 tells us, **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from us from all unrighteousness."** Romans 4:5 clarifies, **"But people are declared righteous because of their faith, NOT because of their work."** So, **"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."** (Hebrews 10:22) And I'll close with this, from 1 John 5:4, **"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - OUR FAITH."**

### My Understanding to my Blessings as my Thankfulness

By A.S.

Lord, as I sit here in my cell, I thank You for all the blessings You have given me and many still to come my way. You have taken away and given me so much. You have made me understand that we all need You in our lives. So, I understand that we need You when things get to be un-understandable and we call upon You and You give us the understanding and as we get the understanding much more to Your answer we seem to pull away. I ask You Lord to keep me on Your road of understanding of Your righteousness and blessings.

There are many times I do not understand nor care to understand of the many things and blessings You bring upon me and Your way for me to understand wrong from right, and right from wrong, and to understand the blessings You bring upon me when they don't seem to be a blessing at first, but become a blessing in the end. I become thankful and am thankful for what I've received and am about to receive, because only You Lord can bring me blessings and have brought me blessings. I ask in Your Son's name to bring me understanding of them.

## 1 Chronicles 11:1-12:18

The books of Chronicles demonstrates that no matter what people may do to try to hinder God's work, God still controls all events and works His will in them. (11:1-2)

David was king over Judah for seven and a half years before he captured Jerusalem. When David was finally anointed king over all Israel, 20 years had passed since Samuel had anointed him. (1 Samuel 16:1-13) God's promises are worth waiting for, even when His timetable doesn't match our expectations or desires. (11:3-4)

Eleazer's action changed the course of a battle. When everyone around him ran, he held his ground and was saved by the Lord. In any struggle, fear can keep us from taking a stand for God and from participating in God's victories. Face your fear, head on. If you are grounded in God, victory will come when you hold that ground. (11:12-14)

## Acts 28:1-31

God had promised safe passage to Paul (27:23-25) and He would let nothing stop His servant. The poisonous snake that bit Paul was unable to harm him. Our life is in God's hands, to continue on or to come to an end in His good timing. God still had work for Paul to do. (28:3)

God may not make you comfortable or secure, but He will provide the opportunity to do His work. (28:17-20)

## Psalms 8:1-9:1-12

Children are able to trust and praise God without doubts or reservations. As we get older, many of us find this more and more difficult to do. Ask God to give you child-like faith, removing any barriers to having a closer walk with Him. (8:2)

Praise is expressing to God our appreciation and understanding for His worth. It is saying thank You for each aspect of His divine nature. Our inward attitude becomes our outward expression when we praise God. We help ourselves by expanding our awareness of who He is. In each Psalm you read, look for an attribute or characteristic of God for which you can thank Him. (9:1)

## Proverbs 18:23-19:3

This verse does not condone insulting the poor; it is simply recording an unfortunate fact of life, it is wrong for rich people to treat the less fortunate with contempt and arrogance, and God will judge such actions severely. See Proverbs 14:31. (18:23)

Loneliness is everywhere, many people feel cut off and alienated from others. Being in a crowd just makes people more aware of their isolation. We all need friends who will stick close, listen, care and offer help when it is needed, in good times and bad. It is better to have one such friend than dozens of superficial acquaintances. Instead of wishing you could find a true friend, seek to become one. There are people who need your friendship. Ask God to reveal them to you. And then take on the challenge of being a true friend. (18:24)

A blameless life is far more valuable than wealth, but most people don't act as if they believe this. Afraid of not getting everything they want, they will pay any price to increase their wealth. (19:1)

## “Foot” Notes

Hey Y'all. I don't know how it happens but I think we all go through it one time or another where we get twisted into believing that our faith needs to be some huge, bigger than life deal, or God won't either hear our pleas or do anything to guide us. Well, these are the times we need to remember what the Word tells us and to trust in the Word. Let's look at **Luke 17:6**, "Even if you had faith as small as a mustard seed" **the Lord said**, "you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." So we can see from this that the amount of faith isn't as important as the right kind of faith ... faith in our all powerful God.

Love to y'all short and tall. Vaya con Dios. Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.



point, John realized he HAD heard from God and within a few days of our having breakfast he was able to go to his 'God's planned' residence in Coolidge, and all just in time for a wonderful Christmas with his family. So, don't be discouraged in your short comings. Seek to find God's best for your life and follow that because He's always right there to lift you out of your mess.

I thought it was important that I tell the rest of John's testimony. I believe that John's transparency here shows us all that even in our weakest moments, when we are broken and blind in faith God NEVER takes His eyes off of us.

## Overcomer's Testimonies

I hope that this letter arrives at your end with you highly blessed of our God, filled with His peace and grace, abundant love and tender mercies through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the righteous. (**1 John 2:1**)

In 1996, I was sentenced to "25 years to life", "15 years to life", and a 3 year enhancement totaling "43 to life". I was at Folsom State Prison from about 1998 to 2013. Then on October 11, 2013, I was rushed to an outside hospital with congestive heart failure. On October 17, 2013, I was sent to UC Davis, where on the following day I underwent a quadruple bypass. Then on January 8, 2014, I had an implantable cardio-defibrillator put inside me. From October 2013 to March 2014, I was in recovery. After recovery, they sent me directly to Corcoran instead of sending me back to Folsom. They didn't want me climbing stairs anymore, and Folsom has stairs.

If you were to ask God, He'd tell you that I like to say that I feel I have more in common with our dear brother and fellow believer, Paul the Apostle, than with any one of the other twelve. Paul referred to himself as the chief of sinners in **1 Timothy 1:15**. But I would humbly argue that point with him. Paul was known as the guy who terrorized, arrested and imprisoned Christians - maybe even of murdering some Christians. (See **Acts 7:54-8:1**) Like Paul, I too have hurt Christians and many others. In fact, part of why I am in prison with this sentence is because I ran over a Christian with my car. God quickly stopped Paul, granting him a heart of conviction and repentance for his sins. And again, like Paul, God quickly stopped me. I hadn't gone 20 feet before I was arrested, I pulled over immediately. However, unlike Paul who probably chased down those Jesus freaks and fanatics thinking he was doing God and man some sort of great service, I knew Jesus was and is the Son of God, the Risen Lord, and Captain of my salvation.

God had mercy on Paul, granting him a penitent heart and forgiveness. Likewise, I have obtained grace and mercy and forgiveness of all my many and horrific sins. For this reason, I now serve God with and from the heart. Jesus is my God. - **G.S.**

**"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed." - John 20:28**

**"Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began." - John 17:5**

**"For through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him." - Colossians 1:16**

## What Others Are Saying...

"Thanks for the birthday card. I really appreciate it. You have some awesome articles and I really like the ones about Grace. I wish more preachers would stay in the New Covenant because that is the true Good News." - **M.L.**

"Hello there to you at *Overcomers for Christ*. First, let me thank you for the most welcoming birthday card that you sent. It brought a bright smile to my face. I appreciate receiving your newsletters. I enjoy reading the testimonies and prayer requests and all of the rest. I don't get much mail so it is a blessing from the Man upstairs for the welcome cards and letters from you out there in the *Overcomers for Christ* family." - **S.F.**

"I want to thank you for the booklets, they are wonderful and inspiring. I want to thank you for everything cause you guys are amazing." - **E.D.**

"Hi to all of you at the *Overcomers for Christ*! I have been receiving your newsletters since December of 2014 and I just love them - especially the letters from the other prisoners and the photos of you guys! Your dedication to the newsletter is awesome!" - **J.W.**

"I am writing you this letter to let you know thank you for the newsletter. It means a lot to me to read about what everybody has to say, what God has done for them. It helps me to grow in my relationship with Jesus." - **K.M.**

## Whom God Sets Free - Is Free Indeed

By Steve Arterburn

*"Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me." - Psalm 142:7*

Several years ago, four inmates at the Greenville, Mississippi city jail were caught breaking back into their cells! And according to the district attorney, "It is entirely possible this wasn't the first time they've done this." The four apparently found a way for repeated access to the outside world. Yet according to the police chief, "They didn't seem interested in escaping, they just missed their amenities of life and went back to get them." This particular time, they returned to jail carrying a load of gin and marijuana. Ironically, these willing prisoners now face felony escape charges.

Sometimes reality is stranger than fiction. How many of us have resolved to spend our days in prisons of our own making-prisons we're able to escape through personal change, but won't because the prison provides us a semblance of security?

You can be freed from whatever your prison is. Look for help—first to God, but then to those God has put in your path a trusted friend, pastor or counselor. And remember God is a God of second chances.

### Christian Comedy Children Are Quick ...

TEACHER: Why are you late?

STUDENT: Class started before I got here.

TEACHER: John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

JOHN: You told me to do it without using tables.

TEACHER: Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile'?

GLENN: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

TEACHER: No, that's wrong.

GLENN: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it. (I Love this child)

TEACHER: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

DONALD: H I J K L M N O

TEACHER: What are you talking about?

DONALD: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

TEACHER: Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

WINNIE: Me!

TEACHER: Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

TEACHER: Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I'.

MILLIE: I is...

TEACHER: No, Millie always say, "I am."

MILLIE: All right... "I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."

TEACHER: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS: Because George still had the axe in his hand.

TEACHER: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON: No sir, I don't have to, my Mom is a good cook.

TEACHER: Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE: No, sir. It's the same dog. (I want to adopt this kid!!!)

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher

## Birds of the Bible

by  
Bill Brinkworth

bat  
bitterns  
cormorants  
cuckow  
doves  
eagles  
hawks  
herons  
kites  
lapwing  
nighthawk  
ospray  
ossifrage  
ostriches  
owl  
partridge  
peacock  
pelican  
pigeon  
quail  
raven  
sparrow  
stork  
swallow  
vulture

Q	O	X	G	L	N	Y	L	G	T	R	N	W	F	Z	R	V	V	V	E	U	H
N	E	F	Y	S	H	P	Q	D	J	X	I	S	T	H	B	F	P	J	K	G	I
U	R	E	H	L	Z	P	F	L	Q	W	G	H	A	E	D	F	I	Q	C	N	W
G	X	K	A	A	I	G	Q	R	S	Y	H	R	E	R	A	G	G	F	O	L	R
O	W	L	W	H	D	A	V	Z	L	O	T	I	X	O	F	E	E	F	C	V	T
B	R	Q	K	P	O	P	U	M	C	S	H	E	N	N	O	C	O	J	A	I	A
O	J	V	S	C	V	I	W	Q	G	Z	A	R	I	S	F	W	N	F	E	L	E
I	P	Y	P	O	E	K	E	L	N	T	W	T	S	H	O	S	L	H	P	C	B
F	S	T	Q	R	S	Y	A	R	I	I	K	I	J	K	I	V	V	S	K	L	U
Q	E	W	P	M	W	F	G	F	W	U	F	P	C	W	P	G	J	E	W	K	H
W	Z	R	Z	O	A	U	L	O	P	R	E	U	T	K	B	R	O	D	F	O	A
Q	M	V	T	R	L	Y	E	X	A	M	C	X	G	X	E	P	J	H	A	A	I
S	X	U	E	A	L	C	S	G	L	K	J	Y	W	N	A	S	I	L	R	M	N
E	O	L	Q	N	O	L	E	S	F	K	R	A	B	R	Z	M	R	T	N	A	V
T	L	T	G	T	W	S	P	V	Z	B	C	O	T	A	J	B	A	T	C	W	A
I	J	U	H	S	U	L	T	O	K	T	I	R	T	B	L	X	Z	I	Y	J	M
K	G	R	F	Y	Y	M	A	R	S	E	I	T	E	S	R	O	L	P	D	A	W
N	Z	E	O	Q	A	V	K	P	I	D	G	M	T	Z	E	E	W	U	E	T	N
H	N	P	J	K	R	Z	F	V	G	C	X	C	C	E	P	O	E	Y	V	P	E
N	P	Z	D	E	P	T	Q	E	H	S	H	W	O	R	R	A	P	S	H	F	V
K	C	B	G	P	S	O	X	H	M	T	Q	E	B	N	E	N	Z	J	D	E	A
K	C	K	W	K	O	S	M	F	Z	G	P	T	S	A	L	U	S	D	U	W	R

### Quote Worthy

**“Repentance removes old sins and wrong attitudes, and it opens the way for the Holy Spirit to restore our spiritual health.”**

**- Shirley Dobson - is nationally recognized for her leadership skills and her many contributions to women's affairs, Christian organizations, and the institution of the family. She was chair of the National Day of Prayer Task Force.**

### 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, and encouraging and mentoring 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 that all that your hands touch will be richly blessed, and that you will have abundance in every area of your life.

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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**The Master Potter**  
By W.R.

**I wrote this for all those women that have been abused and made to feel like they were weeds,  
and made to live in the shadows of the trees. My own mother was one of them!**

**The angels looked down from heaven, for they were in awe  
And the heavens grew silent, from what they saw**

**The Master Potter was working late, transforming a piece of clay into something great  
His hands moved gently across the clay, molding and shaping it throughout the day  
With loving hands He fashioned and shaped, a marred piece of clay, into a beautiful face  
With a brush of colors He painted her hair, and gave a crown for you to wear**

**The Master Potter worked late into the night  
So He commanded the stars, to throw off some light  
Then He placed a tablet upon your heart, and engraved upon it some Scriptures,  
so you'd never be apart**

**Just to remind you of who you are, and to close the distance from afar  
For people had told you all of your life, that you were ugly and not very bright  
Everyone told you that you were just a weed, and you lived in the shadows amongst the trees  
So the Master Potter kept working throughout the day, molding and shaping you from the clay  
So that you would stand out from all the rest, as one of God's vessels for you were blessed**

**Not with riches, diamonds or pearls, but with the heart of a little girl  
But the Master Potter knew, that His work was not through  
So He placed a hedge around you, to protect and cushion you  
From life's storms and showers, while being transformed into a beautiful flower  
When He had finished, He stepped back to see  
The beautiful vessel, He created you to be!**

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

**EDITORIAL** Wade "Duck" Anderson, Michelle Anderson **ART & DESIGN** John Dobbins **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church

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