

Overcomers for Christ

April 2024

"You are worthy, O Lord our God,
to receive glory and honor and power.
For You created all things,
and they exist because You created what
You pleased."

Revelation 4:11



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

December 2023



Vision/Imagination Part 2

By Wade Anderson

When I stopped last month's message, I'd left that little house trailer of temptation. From there, as I was now walking down my street towards our house, I heard, "Your voice will be heard." I also encouraged all of you to WRITE THESE THINGS DOWN BROTHERS AND SISTERS! GOD IS ALWAYS SPEAKING TO YOU AND SHOWING YOU THINGS TO COME! Here we go again ...

It was a short time later when I heard in my spirit, "Send hope, love and encouragement." Being somewhat confused to why I thought I heard this and what it meant, I asked, "What do You mean? The only people that I know are prostitutes, murders, thieves, convicts, and drug addicts." Instantly I heard, not in an audible voice, but in my spirit again, "Exactly. Those are My people who have lost sight of hope, love, and encouragement." That didn't help me a lot right then, but within a few more days I began to write some of you there incarcerated that I'd known from the streets. God knew that I had connections with many of you while we were in our messes. A couple of those people were Foot, Micha, JT, and Deanna.

While handwriting letters to a handful of people, multiple pages in every letter, I was attending different churches trying to see where I might fit the best. I heard there was a special event going on that night at Phoenix First Assembly. I'd heard that Brian Welch from the rock band KORN was coming there to share his testimony. I thought to myself, like his sins were any different than mine, you've got to be kidding me. I've got to see this! After he gave his testimony he gave an altar call, and nearly everyone was there at the altar. As we were leaving, walking through the halls headed to the parking lot, I ran into a few other brothers and sisters that I'd thought had fallen off the face of the earth, standing there. I stopped and embraced them and asked them where they had been. They responded with huge smiles, "Here in church! Didn't you know that this is where the cool kids hang out these days?" Obviously, that was the last place I would have looked for them, until my own heart changed. That's when I heard what they were saying, and said, "Well then, let's do this!" That was when we started holding a Sunday at 2pm meeting to fellowship and encourage each other as we head into our week. That was when the Glory Meeting (page 2 of the newsletter) was born and a way we went!

For the next several months we met every Sunday at 2pm. We started small, with eight of us in Slim's kitchen. People began to come to see if it were true, saying, "These guys and gals are really Bible thumpers, and holding church in a kitchen? I've got to see this!" As more people kept coming, we moved from the kitchen to Slim's living room. When the meeting hit about 20-25 people we had to move the meeting. Mike and Dana Helton were also in the hallway of Phoenix First and among those first eight people coming to these meetings. They realized that their home was larger, and we agreed to move the meetings there. I'm sure you've heard the phrase, 'if you build it, they will come'. Well, every week we would bring extra fold-out chairs and set them up. And every week the chairs would be full. We eventually had to move from inside their home, to the huge backyard that they had. With the chairs set up in a huge circle, there were eventually 43 people attending these outdoor church meetings, with some still coming to see if it was really true! Some people came drunk or high, but they still kept coming. Some of us were hurt by religion and had decided we would never go into a church building again. Seeing that our 'church' was outside of a building opened more hearts to come.

Right from the first encounter I had with this clean-shaven Pastor, I felt a strong connection to Phoenix First Assembly. They had a prayer pavilion there on the property. It was only a few miles from my house so I would ride there on my bicycle and pray at great lengths. Many times, I would meet this longtime friend of mine, we'll call her 'Dana' there and we would pray together and talk about what God was doing in our lives. Many times, after my prayer time there I would just drop in to check in with who I now know and still consider to be, my first mentor and spiritual Paul. He was always available, and we spent many hours in his office praying and discussing what God was doing in our lives. Back then, Phoenix First held early morning breakfasts called 'Real Men Meetings' and some of us guys from the group attended these breakfasts. Some powerful stuff took place up there at those meetings.

As the Glory Meetings continued to grow, we had to move out of Mike and Dana's backyard. With the connection that I felt from Phoenix First, we asked a couple of people in their leadership if maybe they might be able to provide 'the group' with a room to meet in. Very quickly they gave us two large rooms and all of the chairs we might need. Most of the time we took the chairs out of the room, unless it rained, and set them up outside on a huge concrete slab, in the middle of foot traffic. The more chairs we set up, the more people seemed to find their way into them, even people just passing by would stop and sit. Remember, many of the people coming weren't comfortable 'inside' the building, so the chairs 'outside' worked out perfectly. Many of the people coming gave their lives to Jesus. I know that some of them have gone on to be with the Lord, but many are still following the Lord to this day! Praise Jesus!

All through this message I want you ALL to realize that I am no different than any of you! These things God has shared with me, He IS also speaking and showing each of you, your direction, the direction He has for you! Not all of us will do a newsletter. Some of you may become Pastors, some He may be leading to start a Kingdom business, while others it might be to raise a God-fearing family that might one day help change the world.

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Whatever it might be, it's not simple in God's eyes. He does have a specific direction for each and every one of us!

While we were having these meetings, we began to imagine that just maybe, somehow, these meetings could reach an even larger crowd of people. Then, through prayer and seeking God's further direction, Holy Spirit showed us that we had brothers and sisters in prison that we could share this Good News with. Believe me, between the group of 'us', we knew LOTS of incarcerated friends and family. This was when the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter was birthed, and I realized this is what God meant when He said, "Send hope, love and encouragement" and "Your voice would be heard". I was going to bring the Word of God, through this newsletter to hopefully help us all to a better understand the simplicity of the Gospel.

Remember, my whole life was building and repairing motorcycles. My hands had only held wrenches filled with grease and oil. I had never even touched a computer before all of this. So, one afternoon Debbie and I sat down together and began to brainstorm something that we might send in the mail to our incarcerated people. While I scribbled things down on paper, Debbie did all of the typing and formatting. After we thought we had what we wanted to send, she printed it and as I looked at it, for some reason I began to tear up. It was just a single page of paper, both sides. As the tears welled up, I felt God say to my spirit, "You think this is something? You just wait until there are multiple pages, front and back. The inside two pages will be **Overcomers for Christ ... From the Inside.**" I still had no idea what was about to jump off, heck, I thought this one-page thing was amazing!

That afternoon, September 30th, 2007, we gathered together 35 names and mailed out the very first **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter. As I said, it was a single page on both sides. The cover had a picture of one of our Glory Meetings. Under that picture the caption read, "Look closely ... Do you recognize any of these people?" And below that there was another caption that read, "2,000 years ago a Teacher sat among prostitutes, thieves and murderers. Critics questioned why He would waste His time to associate Himself with these types of people. But He ignored the skeptics and continued to invest in the lives of those who had no hope. He chose to spend time building relationships and restoring the lives of the most likely members of society. Jesus became their source of hope. The question is ... Who will sit with them today?" On the back page was the poem that I wrote called 'A Promise is a Promise'. And there was a big red 'UNDO' button. We had absolutely no idea how this one page would impact our lives, and the lives of many more to come.

Many times, through the week the Lord seemed to wake me up around 4 a.m. In my resting time Holy Spirit would start a dialog with me, sharing sometimes words and other times snippets of dreams or visions. It was so powerful that I felt like I was in a bubble, and I didn't want to come out from under that bubble.

One morning as the sun was coming up, I was reading the Bible in the kitchen, and I felt directed to go outside. By now it was about 5:30 a.m. and the sun was on the rise. Right then I had this open vision. You know how bright the sun is here in the desert while it's on its way up. It's so bright you can't even look directly at it. You have to hold your hand in front of your face just to see something close to you, right? Well, God had me stare right across the desert to the horizon where the sun was rising. With my hand up to block the brightness, about 20 feet in front of me I saw this. It was clearly a picture of someone's hands sticking through and holding the bars of a cell door. Then, about 30 yards beyond that I saw something else pop-up. Due to the brightness of the sun, again I held my hand up to shield the brightness in order to see more clearly what it was He was showing me, but I couldn't quite make it out. Then, way beyond this something else popped up. But the sun was so bright there was no way that I could detect what it was. Instantly, it all went away. And there I was, standing outside, wondering what had just happened. That's when I heard this, "**Just stay focused on what is right in front of you. There is more to come.**"

After I'd gone to bed one evening in March, now early in the morning, I had another dream. I was in a house somewhere when I heard this baby crying in the other room. The door was cracked so I could hear people in there cutting it up. As the baby began to cry louder, I opened the door and asked, "Why aren't one of you comforting this baby?" No one even acknowledged me. I looked around the room and there behind the door was the baby in a basinet. I reached down and picked up the baby, pulling it close to my heart as I comforted it. Leaving that room, I walked into the next room, and no one followed me. As the baby stopped crying, I woke up. Listen to Jesus, in these next Scripture and see if you can figure out what happened next.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me what He will make known to you." (John 16:12-15)

By the end of April 2008 most of the original group had decided to go off and do what God was directing them to do. Debbie had gone her own way as well, and that left me and Michelle. I've already told you I didn't have any computer

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

I woke up deep in thought for you and your family this morning. So, I prayed, *Lord, I humbly ask that You continue Your rapid healing and recovery of my brother Duck so that he can continue his work for You at a pace he's accustomed to. In Your precious name I pray, Exodus 15:26 "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD." Isaiah 58:8 "Then Your Light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily." Psalms 41:3 "The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness You will sustain him on his sickbed." And John 11:4, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."* - Foot

Please pray for healing of past failures and guilt to be lifted from me. Please put me back on the mailing list as I share a little of this story with you. The good Lord sat me down again, for another twelve years. It was hell all over again when I stepped out in 2021. I'd been writing a man I met through a girl inside. He knew that I was a strong Christian woman who had lost all of my family while I was behind those walls, some from death and others from my own bad decisions. I did twelve years and out for 1 and now back for another twelve years. He wasn't saved, and I was in my walk with God, so we were doing things that he wanted to do. Old things and old ways that I'd given up when I began my journey with my Savior. I thought that because the man didn't smoke or do drugs, I would be better off there, with him. But he was an ex-alcoholic, still going on and off the booze. I didn't judge though, but then the divine assignment kicked in. He got mentally and physically abusive and I was questioning EVERYTHING! Then, one day I realized he had made me all of these empty promises. Then, there was this still cold night I took a bottle of pills and tried to kill myself. But God's plan was, I woke up instead. I was so mad and angry that I would try to take my own life when I had three daughters that loved me. I was so blinded by the devil's lies that I put four bullet holes in this man. Yet it was also God's plan to spare his life. God must have had His hands on those bullets. He wasn't paralyzed or dead! In court he lied and said that I didn't do it, thinking that I would come home to him. But I couldn't, that chapter is OVER! - L.R.

I have a prayer request. I'll be 80 in June, and I'd like it if you all would stand in agreement with me that it be God's will for me to be released before then, because then I can meet you and the others. Please pray that I can get back to see the parole board. It's been three and a half years. - R.A.

PRAISE REPORTS

I'm down to roughly four weeks left of my auto class. In the last two weeks we've torn down and reassembled a Turbo 350, Turbo 400, 4L60E, and a 4L65E. We're going to rebuild the 4L65E in the next couple of weeks. I've truly added to my automobile knowledge in this class and will really miss these classes. My daughter, Nicole, is really moving forward at a fast pace with her podcast, etc. She's talking about helping to build a youth group at her church. Her kids, Gretchen and Matthew, just got baptized last weekend, thank You Jesus. Also, my son, Richard, is starting to lean back into his faith. I'm blessed beyond belief and at peace knowing my heirs are safe in the arms of Christ. - Foot

Prayerfully, I'm on my last and final release from incarceration. With that, I needed to send you all this piece of mail so that you know of my release and are able to use these funds for someone else. I thank you all tremendously for keeping me on your mailing list. Reading the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletters keeps many of us uplifted and in contact with what's needed, not only in here, but on the streets also. Again, I thank you all. - W.S.

I believe that I told you that I was going through radiation treatment last summer. Well, praise the Lord!
I'm cancer free!! - R.L.A.

I am glad that *Overcomers for Christ* has grown so much, as there are many women in here that receive your letters. I will have a few more girls' names and numbers I will be sending within the next week as well so you will have more. I just can't wait to get out there to tell all of the wonderful things God has done not only for me but for other women in this place. Soon my brother, soon. Until then, may the peace, joy, and favor be upon all your lives, and may you overflow to others all the passion and awestruck wonder that the Lord has revealed to you all. May you abound in truth and be protected by the mighty hand of our Lord Jesus Christ. May He keep you in grace and mercy. I love you all!! In Christ Jesus always and forever. - D.F.



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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Consider These Things

By B.T.

As I was sitting here reading, I ran across *Ecclesiastes 10:20*, "Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird in the sky may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say." I see here, I learn that we have to be careful of the things we say, because there is always someone listening that will spread what I have said.

Reading on, perhaps this is why James is warning us about our tongue, in *James 3:5-18*, "Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and saltwater flow from the same spring? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water. Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

Before, out on the streets, I used to let 'words' get to me. Since I've come to prison, I've learned who I am IN CHRIST. I have now come to understand that I was raised wrong and hung out with the wrong crowd. It's crazy how much our lives are run by emotions, feelings, and actions. When we really look around us, with Christ at the center, it's easier to see that 'we allow' our thoughts, emotions, and actions to be a big, BIG part of how we live. If 'we' allow the world to speak into our lives, their words will set us into anger, hate, jealousy, stress, anxiety, paranoia, domestic violence and on and on. Before Christ I did not understand that it was all 'me', not the other person. Being raised poor, mistreated, used, and abused, I let my emotions get the best of me. I 'allowed' others to make me feel hurt, disrespected, jealous and on and on. After accepting Jesus and going to all of the self-help groups that I attend, listening to victims from every area imaginable, their testimonies have taught me what my words, my feelings, my actions, and my thoughts have done to other people.

If we don't have love and forgiveness, we're just going to stay an ugly person. If we all would listen and obey, *1 Peter 3:9*, "Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing," our lives would be tremendously better. Jesus was speaking to His followers, and us, in *Matthew 5:43-44*, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven." He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Listen now how He continues to direct us to not be as the world, in *Matthew 5:46-47*, "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?" Then John reminds us again, in *John 13:34-35*, of the command Jesus spoke to us, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." Here's another thing that Jesus has told us concerning these same issues, in *Matthew 6:14-15*, "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." And one more thing, in *Matthew 7:12*, Jesus sums all of this up, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Believe me, I know the world doesn't operate this way, but as a child of God, that's the way I'm commanded to be. I've been abused, used, hated, and called every name in the book. While I was in the world, I could never forgive people for the things they'd done to me. BUT NOW WITH JESUS, there's been a big, BIG change in my heart which continually helps me change the other things in my life!

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Growing up with eleven brothers and sisters in our household, I never witnessed the way to treat a woman with honor and respect. We never heard the word 'love' in our house. I didn't understand that what was going on in our house and out in the streets was domestic violence. I grew up with men, 'guys' not real men, treating their wives and girlfriends badly, and disrespectful. With so much jealousy being taught, I ended up being the same way, jealous and hurtful with my girlfriends.

I'm so grateful to have learned, through the teachings of Christ, to let go of the past and how to treat people. I now understand that my upbringing was all a lie! I've learned that even though words might hurt my feelings I no longer live my life from negative feelings. I no longer get mad at those things. I don't allow myself to be angry, heck I rarely even get sad these days. Today, I take full responsibility for those negative actions. I'm learning to love people, all human life, to be humble, joyful, how to help others, and to give and share with those around me. Without Jesus none of these things would be evident in my life. Brothers and sisters, I've learned that it is better to love one another. Stop hating! Open our eyes to the spiritual things, which are greater than the things we see in the natural, that God has for us. Walk by faith in Jesus' teachings, and not by what you see. Learn not to worry, but instead trust, truly trust God and your life will begin to turn around like mine has!

THIS IS GOODBYE

By J. H.

So ... It was out of my control the time I've given you so selflessly,
The thought of losing you was never an option.
Some could compare it to the loss of my dominant hand, my vision, or a leg.
You were there for me no matter how happy, sad, mad, rain or shine, I always knew you'd be mine!
My best friend, the love of my life and my worst nightmare all wrapped in one.
Such control you demanded, a problem I refused to see!

Never letting me down, a promise you'd not break, and with you lonely I'd not be.
The amount of arrogance you've had towards me, doing it all to convince me I owed you something.
Having gotten a good portion of my life, way too much loyalty, some of my dignity and pride!
I am happy to say that it has come to its end! Choosing to no longer give you the upper hand.
So many of my tears never cried, happy nor sad, you are sure to stop them before having the chance to fall.
That being a sign of weakness, all my emotions kept in over the years,
Me trying to find them is going to be like drilling a well.

But weakness it was not! Just another form of your control,
Taking my emotions to keep on your top shelf, so far from my reach, it always seemed.
This road ahead, a rough one, yes it may be, living to live each day without you is so new.
Once the love of my life, my best friend, and that nightmare, I'd come to love oh so very much!
This is it, it's now time for me to say my peace,
Putting this ever so toxic relationship of over 21 years, to a bittersweet end!

You may have thought that I'd lose this battle,
Those were all your ill intentions; but I'll be walking away with my head held high.
Having gained many lessons, thankful to all you've put me through.
Having not chased you for all those years, who knows where I could be.

Please know, IF our paths may cross down this road we call life, keep in mind, I am no longer your prisoner!
Not needing you as my vice, from here on out I will no longer reach for you in order to start my day.
Your acceptance I will no longer need, as the validation has always been within me.
This is my time to walk away free from guilt, free of shame!
I am proud to say, "I am the winner in your evil game!"

THIS IS GOODBYE!

Foot's Bible Study

Daniel 6:1-7:28

Nebuchadnezzar had come to believe that Israel's God was real because of the faithfulness of Daniel and his friends. Here Darius was also convinced of God's power because Daniel was faithful, and God rescued him. Although Daniel was captive in a strange land, his devotion to God was a testimony to powerful rulers. If you find yourself in new surroundings, take the opportunity to testify about God's power in your life. Be faithful to God so He can use you to make an impact on others. (6:25-27)

David saw God judging millions of people as they stood before Him. We all must stand before Almighty God and give an account of our lives. If your life were judged by God today, what would He say about it? How would He measure it against His will for you? We should live each day with the full awareness that we must appear before God to give account for how we used our life. How will your life measure up? (7:10)

2 Peter 3:1-18

In the last days, scoffers will say that Jesus is never coming back, but Peter refutes their argument by explaining God's mastery over time. The 'last days' is the time between Christ's first and second coming. Thus, we, like Peter, live in the 'last days'. We must do the work to which God has called us and believe that He will return as He promised. (3:3-4)

Psalms 119:129-176

To 'revive' means 'to cause to live'. With this word the psalmist begs God to transform his life, to breathe new life back into his soul. The psalmist does not want his obedience to be mechanical. He asks for a renewed spirit; the basis of his plea is God's covenant love and His just nature. (119:149)

One of God's characteristics is truthfulness. He embodies perfect truth; therefore, His Word cannot lie. It is true and dependable for guidance and help. *John 17:14-17* says, "I have given them Your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking You to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by Your truth; teach them Your Word, which is truth." The Bible is completely true and trustworthy. (119:160)

Proverbs 28:21-24

To exercise partiality, literally 'to recognize faces', means to judge on the basis of favors instead of what's right. (28:21)

"Robs his father", this Proverb condemns breaking the fifth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother". (Exodus 20:12) Respect for your parents as a duty is a common theme in the book of Proverbs. (28:24)

"Foot" Notes

As believers we are all aware that in the end, we will all face judgement with our Maker to atone for our transgressions. One thing I've figured is that even the non-believers will have to atone for their transgressions as well. God does not care what you may identify as believer, nonbeliever, etc. We all will face judgement in the end.

One more thing I'll share is that I refuse to get caught up in what anyone else has done, is doing, or going to do. Everyone answers for their own sins. I've got enough of my own without getting caught up in what anyone else is up to. This perspective definitely helps to smooth out my own walk, opening the door for more peace in my own life.

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

Vision/Imagination Part 2 by Wade Anderson ... continued from page 4

skills, I still wrote every message out on paper, longhand. So, Michelle stepped up and did all of the computer/editorial stuff to get the next newsletter ready for print. We didn't miss a beat and together the May 2008 issue was the first newsletter separate from the rest of the group. Please believe me, there is no condemnation in any of what I've just told you. We all need to stay in our own lane and do whatever it is that God has directed each of us to do. They knew what God was directing them to do, and I KNEW the direction He had laid on my heart and that was this newsletter. Today, mostly all of the other original group are still doing great and mighty things for the Lord.

I didn't get this revelation until a few months later, but the Holy Spirit through those above Scriptures in **John 16:12-15**, revealed this to me. The baby represents the **OC4C** newsletter ministry. Because I picked up and comforted the baby God was telling me, "This will be your baby from now on, follow Me." Me walking out of the room with the baby, where no one followed me, Holy Spirit was showing me what was yet to come, the separation of the group.

As the newsletter grew in people and pages, by August 2008, we had added '**Overcomers for Christ - From the Inside**', but it was not the picture God showed me, it was on page four. By June of 2008 our son-in-grace, John came to us and said, "Do you guys even realize that I have a degree in graphic arts and design?" NO!! He went on, "If you would like for me to help, I would love too." I was already grateful that God had brought John into our lives through the marriage to our daughter Courtney, but was even this by God's design? I was beginning to see He brought John into our lives for even greater things than I would have ever imagined! I looked at John with tears in my eyes and said, "You've got the job. Sit down, let's get to work." That was when the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter became a family ministry. Over the years John and I still, sometimes, get together in his office to work on a certain or particular newsletter. In my heart I have a vision of what I want on a certain cover, and with John's creativity we brainstorm until the vision is a reality. But overall, I've left the creativity to John, and he never fails to do it all as unto the Lord!

Although God had shown me what pages six and seven would eventually look like, and the newsletter had gotten that large, the vision picture didn't hit the newsletter the way He had shown me until March of 2009. One year after Michelle and I decided to follow what God had shown us. Today, 17 years later all of the messages you all write are not just on pages six and seven, but throughout the whole 12-page newsletter. Somebody say, "PRAISE JESUS!"

This is where we will stop this portion of the message. Next month I'll take a step back, recluse, before moving forward again.

Ten Commandments Trivia

Did you know that the Ten Commandments appear in the Bible twice? You can find them in **Exodus 20:1-17** and **Deuteronomy 5:1-21**.

- 1.Exodus and Deuteronomy are both New Testament books. True or False
- 2.Who wrote the first five books of the Bible?
- 3.Did you know that the first five books of the Bible are called the Pentateuch?
- 4.Can you name all five books of the Pentateuch?
- 5.When God issued the Ten Commandments He was on (**Exodus 19:20**)
a. The banks of the River Jordan b. Mount Sinai c. Israel's TV channel 6 d. Mount Ararat

FUN FACTS

- April 6th – In 1830, Joseph Smith established the Mormon Church in Fayette Township, New York.
- April 6th – In 1896, the first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens, 1,500 years after the last recorded original games.
- April 6th – In 1917, the United States formally entered World War I by declaring war on Germany.
- April 6th – In 1947, the first Tony Awards were presented for achievement in live Broadway theater.
- April 6th – In 1992, the Bosnian War began in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- April 12th – In 1961, the first orbital human spaceflight by Yuir Gagarin occurred aboard the Vostok 3KA spacecraft, it lasted 108 minutes.
- April 19th – In 1897, New Yorker John J. McDermott won the first Bostin Marathon with a time of 2:55:10.

Overcomer's Testimonies

To Touch One Persons Heart

First and for most I would like to thank our Heavenly Father for making this connection happen. I believe everything happens for a reason, and that our Father's timing is perfect along with everything He does. Thank you also for taking the time to message me, it means a lot.

Just to share a little bit about myself, I am on my last three years of a sixteen-year sentence, my release date is in 2027. I grew up in a Catholic family you can say. My grandmother prayed a lot and went to church often, I did not, only on holidays, Easter and Christmas. I knew there was a God but didn't know Him personally. Fast forward, so my first email is not long, in 2011 I was asked to baptize my sisters-in-law's daughter, so I had to do all the Catholics traditions to baptize her. Well, during that time, I had a burning desire to change my ways and start going to Church, but I would always say next week and after too many next weeks I get arrested. I knew then that I was going away for a long time. But by the grace of God, I was able to plea out to a sixteen-year sentence. I started to read the Bible while I was in County Jail. As I got through the Old Testament, and closed the Bible, I believed I was going to hell. Stopping there, I had not heard of the grace of God through Jesus Christ.

Then, in October of 2011 I confessed **Romans 10:9-10**, and there is a testimony behind that also. Yes, I gave my life to Christ. While still double minded, I was unsure, one foot in with God and the rest of my body in the world. But during that time through the rebirth, I was being transformed. Even though I was still conforming to the patterns of the world, slowly but surely God was molding me and removing the worldly ways within me. I'll admit I am still a work in progress but my position and identity is in Christ! I am being sanctified, and I have an eternal destination, a place waiting for me when I reach my glorified state. But until then I believe I was saved to serve. I used to tell God "I would do so much more for You if I were out there." Then one day I received this revelation, "What about where you are now?" That's when I embarked on a mission to serve Him from where I'm at. Even though it's been an honor to do so, it's been a struggle also.

I have to get ready to go to service this morning but thank you for reaching out and opening a line of communication and be willing to help me out on my release. I pray your day be full of our Fathers blessings and that you touch one person's heart with the Word of God. Your brother In Christ. - P.G.

Transformed Grief

By Steve Arterburn

"Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end." - Isaiah 60:20

In 1835, Abe Lincoln was a member of the Illinois legislature and a man with a bright future. In love with the red-haired beauty Ann Rutledge, they joyfully anticipated their future together, then malaria struck. Upon hearing that Ann was sick, Abe came to her only to watch helplessly as her life - and his dreams - slipped away. A week after the funeral, a friend saw Lincoln rambling through the woods almost incoherent, mumbling sentences no one could understand. Weeks passed and Lincoln was lost in pain.

Lincoln eventually recovered. And though grief haunted him, faith sustained him. Pain had made him strong. The hard lessons he learned in the Illinois woods prepared him to navigate America through the travails of the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln was transformed in the crucible of grief, and in turn, was used to transform an entire nation.

You can have hope in the midst of your hurting. It won't remove the hurt, but it will help you work through it.

Christian Comedy

What do you get when you cross a joke with a rhetorical question?

WORD OF THE MONTH

Grandiloquence

Pronunciation - gran-dil-o-quence / gran-'di-lə-kwəns

Noun – a lofty, extravagantly colorful, pompous, or bombastic style, manner, or quality especially in language.

"... Aside from being a master tactician, the coach possessed a **grandiloquence** that added gusto to her speeches in the locker room."

Did You Know ... **Grandiloquence**, which debuted in English in the 16th century, is one of several English words pertaining to speech that derive from the Latin *loqui*, meaning to speak. Other offspring of *loqui* include eloquent ("marked by fluent expression"), loquacious ("full of excessive talk"), and soliloquy ("a long, dramatic monologue"). **Grandiloquence** comes probably via Middle French from the Latin adjective **grandiloquus**, which combines *loqui* and the adjective *grandis* ("grand or great"). A word that is very similar in meaning to grandiloquence is magniloquence – and the similarity is not surprising. Magniloquence combines *loqui* with *magnus*, another Latin word meaning "great".

Ten Commandments Trivia Answers

1. False 2. Moses 4. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy 5. Mount Sinai

ATTENTION

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Editor's Note

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Hello everyone! We are working with Andrew Wommack Ministries, Charis Bible College, to have their books and Inmate Bible Study (IBS by mail) available to ALL of you that are currently incarcerated. This is **FREE** of charge! Each month when you write they will ship your requested book, **FREE!**

To obtain these materials in either English or Spanish you simply need to write: **Andrew Wommack Ministries - P.O. Box 3333 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-3333** and begin to grow even deeper in your relationship with the Lord. Get started today, your walk will never be the same!

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Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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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Bible, Church and Prayer Contributed by A.B.

When life becomes empty of friendships and joy and you are
disposed to despair,
Reach out to the Lord for the comfort of love, He offers the Bible
and prayer.

In the church of the *Overcomers for Christ* is special,
Where you can commune with the Spirit of God.

From a throne, on a wooden pew, He knows of heartaches you
suffer to bear.

When life becomes barren and old,
And He knows why you cry alone and afraid,
In a place that is empty and cold as this.

So, He offers you heavens of peaceful content,
And the grace of His comfort and care.

In words of the Bible, and refuge of love.
That is the *Overcomers for Christ* is to your every prayer,
God bless you all for your love and comfort.

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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