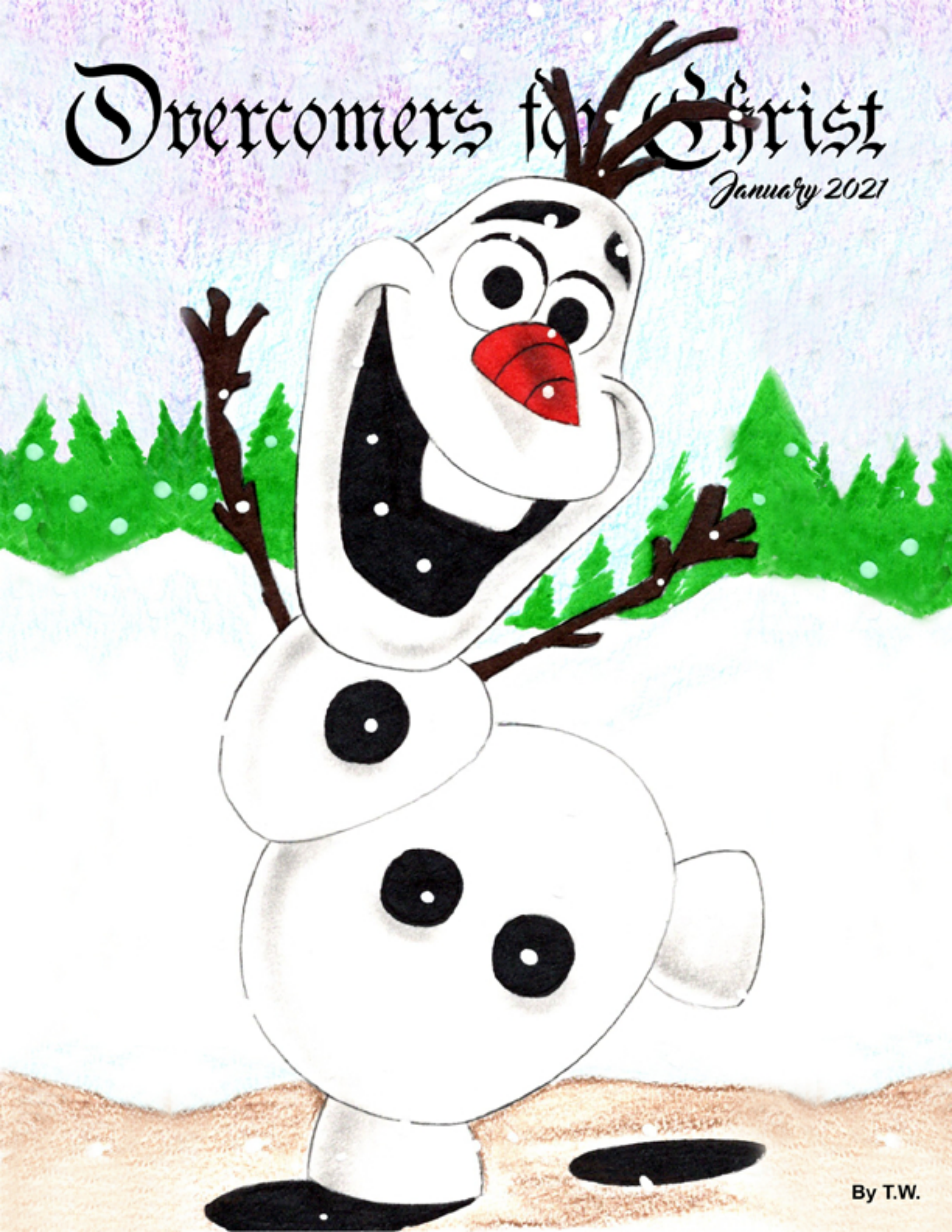


Overcomers for Christ

January 2021



By T.W.

Thanksgiving food distribution at Living Word Scottsdale

*"Whoever brings blessings will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."
Proverbs 11:25*

God's Word shows us that when we give of our time, talents and resources to others, then we will also be blessed. What we sow, we will reap. Sow compassion, reap compassion ... Sow generosity, reap generosity ... Sow love, reap love!!



BE AT PEACE, GOD IS STILL ON HIS THRONE

By Wade Anderson

I believe that ALL of you would agree, this past year, 2020, since the whole COVID-19 has entered into the world's focus, has been a year like 'we' have never seen or experienced in 'our' lifetimes. But just because you and I have never seen anything like this in our lifetimes doesn't mean it's a first. Let's go to Scripture to show this. **"What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9 NIV)** **"History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new." (Ecclesiastes 1:9 NLT)** I have a serious question to ask ALL of you believers in Christ Jesus. Do even one of you believe that this 'pandemic' issue at hand has caught The Creator of the universe, our Father, our God by surprise? Remember, in Christ Jesus we have nothing to fear. I encourage us all to look beyond what is seen, believe what God's Word promises us and NOT allow fear to immobilize us. Please believe me, this next paragraph I'm sharing is NOT to instill fear, but to simply show, **"Nothing under the sun is truly new."** And this is only one instance.

In April of 1917, World War I had begun and by April 5, 1918 the first mention of the influenza appears in a weekly public health report. The report informed officials of 18 severe cases and three deaths in Haskell, Kansas. So, in 1918, the Spanish flu, a new influenza virus emerged, something like 'they' had never seen. Remember, this was at a time in history where they didn't have the kind of technology we have today. By May 1918, hundreds of thousands of soldiers traveled across the Atlantic each month as they were deployed for World War I. More than 100 soldiers at Camp Funston in Fort Riley, Kansas become ill with the flu. Within a week the number of flu cases quintuples. Sporadic flu activity spreads unevenly through the United States, Europe, and possibly Asia over the next six months. The vulnerability of healthy young adults and the lack of vaccines and treatments created a major public health crisis, causing at least 50 million deaths worldwide, including approximately 675,000 in the United States. In October, the Chicago chapter of the American Red Cross issues an urgent call for volunteers to help nurse the ill. Between September and November, a second wave of the Spanish flu peaks in the United States. New York City's Board of Health adds flu to the list of reportable diseases, and requires all flu cases to be isolated at home or in a city hospital. By December 1918, public health officials began education programs and publicity about dangers of coughing and sneezing; careless disposal of "nasal discharges." The Committee of the American Public Health Association encourages stores and factories to stagger opening and closing hours and for people to walk to work when possible instead of using public transport to prevent overcrowding. Now I ask you, "Does any of this sound familiar?" Let's move on.

So now it's early August 2020 and due to the whole COVID-19 'thing', Michelle and I felt like we'd been pinned up for too long. Honestly though, back in May we'd also been on another road trip with two of our grandsons. On that adventure we were gone for eleven days in a motorhome where we were in seventeen different states. Actually, I guess we'd been home less than sixty days at this point. Back to feeling pinned in. We started working out a plan to go up along the California Coast Hwy, along the ocean to scout out new places to do road trips with the grandkids next summer AND for some alone time. And believe me, Ultra Tony did not like the idea that 'we' were road tripping without him. Sorry grandchild, but you have to go to school. Oh, and in October, I bought a new truck so we made another road trip to gift our grandson Dylan one of our other vehicles.

I've been fishing for salmon and rockfish a couple of different times up in Coos Bay, Oregon but never with Michelle. I called ahead and made reservations for two days on the Betty Kay Charter to fish for rockfish. We'd both been salmon fishing in Michigan before and I knew the salmon were headed out of the ocean and back up the Coos River to spawn during the time we'd be there. So somehow I wanted to get her on a river trip while we were there, too. Not quite sure where we were going to squeeze it in, I didn't make plans for that trip.

Now that we had a plan we 'Saddled up the Palomino' (loaded up the car) and headed out on our ten day adventure with our first stop to visit some family in Montclair, California before hitting the trail.

Michelle is my 'spreadsheet Queen' so I knew she had lots of places we were going to adventure along the way. As we drove along the coast we stopped, hiked and explored LOTS of the Redwood National Forest points of interest. IT IS BEAUTIFUL FOLKS! I'm more of a 'fly by the seat of my pants' guy so every once in a while I'd whip off on a side road just to check out the 'unseen'. After a couple of minutes, Michelle would be looking at her spreadsheet and tell me, "Oh, I'm glad you turned there. I had something else down this road I wanted to see but didn't know if we'd have time." WHAT! This was supposed to be my 'fly by the seat of my pants' road! I'm telling you all, when she begins to make trip plans and spreadsheets I can't surprise her. She knows "Every inch of the highway, every foot of the back road and every mile of the railroad tracks." Pardon me, I guess I got carried away there for a second. Those are some of the lyrics from a Bluegrass song by Jimmy Martin called *Free Born Man*.

Okay, we're now on our third 'wakeup' day and I get a phone call from my brother, Mark. As I answered the call I could hear the huge lump in my brother's throat. He started by saying, "There's been an accident." He was calling to ask us to

pray, as he went on to tell me that it was Skylar, his youngest grandson (17). Apparently, he was delivering pizzas somewhere out on the country back roads and somehow hit a guardrail and sailed over thirty feet out into a field. There was a house close that heard the accident and by the grace of God, he was only five to seven minutes from a fire station. When they reached Sky, that's what we all call him, he was having seizures and was unconscious. He was immediately rushed to the hospital.

After arriving at the hospital and some tests, the doctor's began to realize the reason he was having seizures was that his brain was swelling. Immediately they took him into surgery to cut and remove a section of his cranium so that his brain had room to expand. In this time the doctors had little if no hope for him. A couple of times they even told the family that they should consider making arrangements to take him off of the ventilator. They said that if he did live he would more than likely be a vegetable.

Due to the COVID 'thing' visitors were limited. His father, Mark Jr., was right there with his son through the first two weeks. With the prognosis the doctors were telling them and with no response from his son, his faith began to waiver as he felt his son was being ripped from his life. His mother, Crystal, and brother, Triston, never left his side the whole time. Seeing grandpa's heart the hospital did agree to allow my brother, Mark, to be there three days a week. Mark had 'his day' at the hospital when he called that morning. After a short conversation together of course we did begin to lift Sky's situation to the LORD. I want to ask you all a question. Do you go to God in prayer with peace? Or, do you go in prayer for peace? That question just popped into my spirit so I truly believe the Holy Spirit brought that to my heart for someone. Honestly, I've done both. Michelle and I prayed with Mark and then we packed up our hotel room and headed out for the day's adventures.

After an hour or so, we had already stopped at a few lookout places to take pictures of the beautiful views of the ocean and coastline. As we got back in the car and took off this time it felt to me like the whole car was FULL of the presence of God. My eyes began to leak and as I turned to look at Michelle she asked, "What? You love me, huh?" I told her, "Yes, I do love you" then began to share with her how the Holy Spirit had just filled me with such a peace about Sky. I immediately called my brother back and told him what had just happened. I told him that God had just showed me that Sky was going to be just fine. I told him God had said to me, "It will be a process and seemingly a long time, but he's safe in My hands." Mark is a believer and he immediately agreed with what I had just heard from the LORD.

Remember, like I said earlier, all the while Sky was there in the hospital the doctors had very little hope for him. Little did the family know at the time but Children's Hospital had been monitoring his case and because he was under 18 years old they had taken a great interest in him. Sky was there in ICU for two and a half weeks when Children's Hospital had agreed to move him over to their facility for rehab. Four days after he was there, he opened his eyes for the first time. Regardless of what the other doctors believed Sky was now conscious. All through this time he had a tracheotomy in his throat and a feeding tube. Slowly he began to respond to questions he was asked by moving his eyes and squeezing his mom's and brother's hands.

It was during Mark's time there with Sky that he began to share even more of his faith and communicate to him that God was the reason he was alive. Mark told him what God had spoke to me and shared how much God loved him. Sky never believed much in God before this. Then one day I had called my brother to check on Sky's progress and the next voice I heard was someone laughing and joking with me. It was Sky! He was laughing and telling me, "Uncle Wade, you won't believe how much I've grown since I've been in here. I'm even bigger than grandpa now! I believe my feet have grown, I bet I wear a size 14 now." We continued our joking for a minute or two and then I said to him, "Sky, you do know that God spared your life don't you?" He immediately answered me, "Yes, Uncle Wade I believe God saved my life." I went on to tell him how God had shown me that he was going to be just fine in His hands. Sky then told me he truly believes it was all God!

Children's Hospital worked with Sky every day. They saw he was eager and began walking with him through the hallways until they were getting tired of him calling them to walk with him (seriously). His 'progress/process' was moving forward rapidly and before anyone knew what was happening, Children's Hospital came to him and told him they believed he was ready to go home. WHAT!? After three months in rehab, on November 23rd, Skylar was released to go home. He was scheduled for the next day, November 24th, to return to have the feeding tube removed and part of his cranium reattached. Sky was home with his grateful mother and brother for Thanksgiving!

My brother recorded and sent me a video of the day Sky was released from Children's Hospital therapy. As he walked through the hallways it looked like the whole hospital was there cheering him in his recovery. I found out this evening that Sky is even back behind the wheel, driving, slowly, monitored by his brother Tristen, on the back roads so as to gain even more of his self-reliance back.

Here's yet another miracle God worked in all their lives. Mark Jr., Sky's father, works for a great company as a high tech

continued on page 9 ...

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

Prayer for the Pandemic - Dear Lord, Jesus brought healing during His ministry on earth. He healed the sick and brought the dead to life. By His own death and resurrection He brings the promise, hope and means of healing to us all. Now we need His healing more than ever. We need not only the healing from physical illness brought on by the COVID-19 virus but also healing for human hearts, communities and world society. Open our hearts that we may not turn in on ourselves and our own needs. Let unity, compassion and care mark us all. Inspire us to serve the poor and abandoned. May we use our skills in service of others. May more fortunate countries come to the aid of those less prosperous. May we be concerned less about public image but more about doing the right thing. *"This is how everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."* - **John 13:35 ... S.M.**

God bless you all, may God Almighty be with you. I know Arizona has been hit hard with Corona. I pray for you all. I'm glad to know that you are on God's team. There is so much happening here in this wonderful country, I am sad and worried. I am requesting a prayer petition ... May God raise up strong and courageous men and women in America. We need godly strong men and women with values. We also need leaders, protectors and loving men and women. Thank you all and God bless ... Shalom ... **A.J.**

I would like to ask all of the *Overcomers for Christ* family to pray for my two oldest sisters for me. I haven't seen one of them for 33 years. They both have cancer and one is an incurable cancer. And please pray for my little brother John, he's been on Meth for over 25 years and he talks to unseen persons all the time. I need all of your help. I thank ALL of you for standing with me ... **B.T.**

I am praying for ya'll and I have a prayer request. I would like everyone to pray for my family, my wife that I haven't heard from in four years, my four boys, Ben, Joey, Bradley and Evan. And my baby girl, Ellexyes. My boys live with my in-laws and my baby girl lives with my sister. Please agree with me that God is going to restore our family ... **R.G.**

I'm requesting serious prayer for a friend here with me as she is experiencing issues of health, cancer. As Scripture states, *"Where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them."* (**Matthew 18:20**) And as I write this, I pray along with all of you. Scripture just stated that where we are, Jesus also is. She's in need of a healing miracle ... **J.L.**

Prayer petition ... For all the elected officials - local, state and federal. May they seek godly wisdom and govern in a proper manner. We need strong Christians and less timid brothers and sisters. We also need more Christians in government ... **A.J.**

Praise Reports

I love our Lord and I preach His Word every night, faithfully. Back in 2012, I asked God for prison ministry and right after that I got ten calendar years. This sentence wasn't God's doing but He is most definitely using it for His glory. Before I was sentenced I prayed and then I drank that cup of ten years. Over the years, I have brought many to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior as well as baptized MANY brothers in the showers. The first person I led to the Lord was an 18 year old kid. To me, that kid's Salvation was worth the ten years I received! Praise God ... **S.N.**

Overcomers for Christ, I'm now a believer in Christ and in His miracles! I will encourage all my brothers and sisters in Christ, continue to read *Overcomers for Christ* and have a loving relationship for our heavenly Father. With our faith I, we, will continue to dedicate our lives to Him as we have received the miracle of Salvation and happiness. Our prayers to Christ is the answer. Thanks to you all at *Overcomers for Christ* ... **R.V.**

God is great! My trust and strength runs great and strong in Him. Thank you so much for all the cards and wishes. You know it's a very tough time for me without being able to be with my kids. Praise God I was able to speak to them on Christmas Eve, which was an extreme blessing in itself ... **M.H.**

Overcomers for Christ, First I would like to praise God! And now I'd like to thank you all for all that you do. I was able to read your newsletter for the very first time! You are doing great things for the Lord. I would like to respectfully ask if I may be put on your mailing list ... **E.B.**

When I first came down I was devastated. Over the years I had watched most of my family be buried and I felt alone. I do have three children that I love and they love me. I know that I am in their hearts but I still felt alone at times. But then, Praise God, my heart and soul have been lifted thanks to all of you, my new brothers and sisters in Christ ... **L.G.**

I am in the Word every day, I do little sermonettes and I memorize one verse a week. I've been doing that for about 3 months now! I love reading and studying especially when it's just me and God. It's like He's right there talking to me. I'm super grateful for the relationship I have with God, and that He called me out of those drug and alcohol addictions ... **I.M.**

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

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

In His Grace ... For His Glory

By G.H.

I thank God for you and your encouragement, support, and counsel over the past several years. There have been difficult times, but times of extraordinary grace. Many of you wrote letters to the clemency board on my behalf. Sadly, these letters were never considered as the board considered only my criminal record before denying any further consideration or relief.

I am disappointed but not surprised. One of my good friends said I was thrown out at first base instead of rounding third. But more importantly, beyond my natural disappointment, spiritually I'm greatly encouraged. From the beginning, I committed this process and the outcome to the will and purpose of God. His presence, great grace and unusual providence have been with me in more ways than I can count. As many others have discovered, especially when facing difficult circumstances, God's grace is truly amazing. So as for me, disappointed but undaunted, I am richly blessed to be living and working in His presence and in His grace.

My first book, *Silence in the Face of Injustice*, will be released through Xulon Press (Salem Media) later this year. The editors generously describe it as, "A meaningful work that is timely, important, and a well-researched and thoughtful discussion of the historical facts and origins of the war on sex offenders as well as it's practical implications and the effects. He wonderfully presents an argument for a compassionate dialogue of justice leading to healing and justice for all." I am humbled by their comments and looking forward to what may come of this work.

Four years ago (when I began the PhD curriculum) God gave me a vision and a passion for this work. Five more years here (I will be released in 2024) allows me to continue ministering to my brothers through the Sex Offender Education Treatment program where I have served for the past four years. I've enjoyed the privilege of living my faith and depending on grace in helping men begin their own journey of healing and spiritual growth. God is not only doing an amazing work in me, but also through me. What a blessing!

Five more years of free room and board also allows me time to begin developing the vision outlined in my book, and to begin writing a follow up book. My second great passion concerns the overall ineffectiveness and limited influence of many prison ministries. Prisoners who "find Jesus" in prison tend to leave Him at the gate so He will be here when they return. Evangelical ministries are eager to come in and preach about Jesus, but they do little or nothing to seek justice or to advocate for the many human rights abuses and violations imposed by the state. Their primary focus is making converts rather than fulfilling the commandment to make disciples. For while an emotional decision may create a conversion, becoming a disciple involves a spiritual decision and more importantly the love, support, and connection of a spiritual community. Two organizations do this well, the LDS and Jehovah Witnesses draw many away from the evangelical church simply because of what they are willing to do. I have many more opportunities ahead and I trust as God has previously provided He will continue doing more than I ask or imagine. Thank you for your prayers.

God's Way of Communicating

By C.B.

☪☪ Brothers and Sisters, as far as my walk with the good Lord Jesus, throughout my day I give it my best effort to remain intimate with our Bridegroom. I watch TBN at times, but there are times where I have my bad days because of being locked down all day in my cell. It can do wonders to my mind.

What I've learned is that I need to read my Bible to combat these thoughts, feelings and actions. I feel those arise on the bad days. Before I had come across the ☪☪ address, my lifestyle was bad here in prison. I guess it took being crushed to come back to God. I did pray at night always, but wasn't sure God was hearing my prayers, due to the path I chose to walk when I first came here to prison.

I believe that God knew that path was not for me. I'm glad I have a cellmate that has a relationship with Jesus as well, so he helps with what he knows. I just wish I were able to attend church, to actually have an encounter of fellowship. There are days where I'll read a certain part of the Bible and my cellmate will happen to talk about what I had read in the morning, or I'll watch TBN and it will show the exact same book, chapter and verse! It trips me out. I don't know if this is

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God's way of communicating to me, but I know the things that happened are NOT by coincidence.

Everyone knows God is great and we all have our own testimony. I pray that our Creator guides, provides and protects you all at the O&C family and that He hears your prayers. Much love to you Strong Ones. I look forward to another newsletter being in maximum custody. I ain't got too much going on in my cell, so it brightens up my day to receive ANYTHING from the O&C family. I ask that you guys keep me in prayer. I have a year and eight more months left here till my release date, so I look forward to checking out your guys church house.

Overcomers for Christ Team ... Thank You

By B.T.

Thank you all for caring about us inmates here in the prisons. If it weren't for all of you, many of us would have given up and stayed the old negative self we used to be. That's an ugly way of living. Because of all your loving hearts and care for us, the cards, letters, newsletters, prayers and Scriptures you show us ... well, you all have helped many of us who were sad, lonely, hurt, depressed, guilty and shameful castaways. Even when we have felt unwanted you all have opened up many an inmate's eyes and hearts and showed us how to live a better way of life. You all have shown your lights towards the One who cares for the hurting and suffering. His name is Jesus! You've shown us that He is the way, the truth and the life. That He is full of tender mercy and loving kindness, the Creator of all things. And all we have to do is to accept Him into our lives and allow His love and peace to flow into us.

Thank you so, so much for everything you all do for all of us incarcerated. I love reading the O&C newsletters. I love the Scriptures and how all the brothers and sisters ask to have their needs prayed for. I love to pray and I do pray for all the prayer requests as well everyone around the world every day. I know the Lord will bless and prosper all of you there!

God's Still In The Miracle Business!

Contributed by R.A. and R.V.

This is a praise report about our brother D.B., he's back here in Yuma with us. He left this yard for four months to be closer to the cancer treatment place in the Phoenix area. Let me tell you what D.B. told me ...

Remember, I've got an old number, I have been down for 55 years. When I went in for the treatment the technician told me that I would see a bright light when they would start the x-ray treatment for the cancer, which was on the right side of my head. Well, I did see a bright light but it was in the whole room. Then they asked me if I was ready. The light had left but I thought that they had already started. When they questioned me if I was ready I knew that the Lord had already healed me! They gave me that treatment and many more on. They expected me to be queasy after the treatments but instead, I got right up and walked with the same strength that I came in with.

When D.B. told me this, I said, "Praise the Lord! We've all been praying for you that if you weren't saved that you would be and that the cancer would be cured." That's when he told me that yes, he has been saved and baptized for many years. Since he has gotten back he has had a lot more strength. He walks all over the yard now. He never even received a skin graft and the scab he had just fell right off of him the other day. PRAISE GOD! ... R.A.

Another praise report about our brother D.B. - The doctors told him he was dying from cancer. The right side of his face was covered with a large white medical wrap as the cancer was eating his face away. I told him that I had people everywhere praying for him and he told me, "I pray every day." A few days later he was taken to Hospice. Several months later he returned back here, when he saw me he told me had received the mail from the O&C while he was there at the treatment place and asked me to tell you all, "Thank you! Thank you!"

He has been locked up now for 55 years and is praising God for his cancer free miracle! His hope is in Christ for his future. He shared with me today, "I felt God's hand on my face during the radiation treatments and a very bright light on my face while I was on the medical table. He said his eyes were closed and when the light was gone and the warmth on his face where the cancer was, was also gone. He opened his eyes and said to the radiation techs, "Is the treatment done?" The tech said, "We haven't started yet." D.B. then knew that it was God's hand on his face, and he was healed! ...

R.V.

Jeremiah 5:1-8:22

Nothing but truth is acceptable to God, when we pray, sing, speak or serve, nothing closes the door of God's acceptance more than hypocrisy, lying or pretense. God sees through us and refuses to listen. To be close to God, be honest with Him. (5:3)

The people became angry and closed their ears. They wanted no part of God's command because living for God did not appear very exciting. As in Jeremiah's day, people today dislike God's demand for disciplined living. As unsettling as people's responses might be, we must continue to share God's Word. Their responsibility is to accept it. We must not let what people want to hear determine what we say. (6:10)

This verse answers the question, who gets hurt when we turn away from God? We do! Separating ourselves from God is like keeping a plant away from sunlight or water. God is our only source of spiritual strength. Cut yourself off from Him and you cut off life itself. (7:19)

When people fall down or realize that they are headed in the wrong direction, it only makes sense for them to get up and change directions. But as God watched the nation, He saw people living sinful lives by choice, deceiving themselves that there would be no consequences. They had lost perspective concerning God's will for their lives and were trying to minimize their sin. Are there some indications that you have fallen down or are headed the wrong way? What are you doing to get back on the right path? (8:4-6)

Colossians 2:10-3:25

When we know Jesus Christ, we don't need to seek God by means of other religions, cults or unbiblical philosophies as the Colossians were doing. Christ alone holds the answers to the true meaning of life because He is life. Christ is the unique source of knowledge and power for the Christian life. No Christian needs anything in addition to what Christ has provided to be saved. We are complete in Him. (2:10)

The key to forgiving others is remembering how much God has forgiven you. Is it difficult for you to forgive someone who has wronged you a little when God has forgiven you so much? Realizing God's infinite love and forgiveness can help you love and forgive others. (3:13)


Psalms 77:13-79:13

Over and over, the children of Israel claimed that they would follow God, but then they turned away from Him. The problem was that they followed God with words and not with their hearts, thus their repentance was empty. Talk is cheap. God wants our conduct to back up our spiritual claims and promises. (78:36-37)

In the end God's glory will be evident to all people, but in the meantime, we must endure suffering with patience and allow God to strengthen our character through it. For reasons that we don't know, God sometimes allow pagan people to scoff at believers. We should be prepared for criticism, jokes, and unkind remarks because God does not place us beyond the attacks of scoffers. (79:10)

Proverbs 25:1-10

Hastily to court in our own litigious age, this group of verses has an unusual relevance. Seek to deal with complaints in private or outside of court or even with an arbiter. (25:8-10)

 **"Foot" Notes**

Hey ya'll!!! I'd like to share a thought with ya'll for these unique times. Many people are scared, fearful. I'm not one of them. If we're brothers and sisters in faith and are faithful to God, there's no room for fear.

I believe faith and fear cannot occupy the same place. When He was raised, we were raised and by walking boldly in faith we leave no room for fear to occupy. By trusting in God's promises that in the end everything will be all right, we can live fearless.

God bless ... Vaya con Dios ... Love to ya'l short and tall ... Don't fly faster than your angels can fly!!

machinist programmer. Mark Jr. thought that he had stopped paying into his insurance from the company he works with. It wasn't until somewhere in this whole event that he realized his insurance was in fact active. To date, the family has still not received a single bill for any of this! PRAISE JESUS!

Today, my brother Mark continues to share his faith with Skylar. Now, they talk often about God and give praise to God for what He has done. Skylar now believes in God, and knows He is real!

The Sword Of The Spirit

By Arthur Lovato

Our text is a very familiar portion of Scripture; In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, in **Ephesians 6:10-17** that is known as 'The Whole Armor Of God'. A noteworthy observation regarding the epistles (letters) of Paul is that he was raised in the city of Tarsus. In Paul's day his city was governed by Roman occupation, and enforced by a Roman Military presence. For this reason many of the analogies Paul used related to soldiers, or terms derived from military vernacular. Personally, I dig it! From my perspective; You are either a soldier, who posts up and guards the camp. Or you're a warrior, who goes into the enemy's camp and retrieves what belongs to my Father. And if you do not identify with either position, you need to get with Jesus. Neither indecision, indifference, complacency, or ignorance, will exempt you from having to choose or reject Jesus Christ! In the state of indecision you have already rejected Him by default! If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice. Neal Pert

How many know, we are truly involved in spiritual warfare? **"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8) "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12)** Our text runs down the whole or complete five piece recipe for success in exercising these Biblical principles in spiritual warfare.

The Whole Armor of God

"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." (Ephesians 6:10-17)

Why do I need to put on the Whole Armor Of God? Our text provides the best answer. **"Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11)**

Have you ever had an issue that kept taking you down through there and it seemed like you could never have the victory over the matter? Many times in life, a little information would be the beginning, I believe, in gaining victory over such things. Information acquired is knowledge, knowledge applied appropriately is WISDOM!

In our text we can take note of five particular pieces that make up 'The Whole Armor Of God'. They each have equal and great relevance, and are equally important, but only one is a weapon of offense, a combative, and effective weapon. When an individual knows how to operate the weapon they are wielding. **"And take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." (Ephesians 6:17)** I love it! The Sword Of The Spirit, which is the Word of GOD! Interesting!!! God's Word is a weapon of our warfare? Yes, and Amen!!! But it's so much more!

The Bible calls Jesus the Word. Check out **John 1:1-4**, **"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone."** Then in **John 1:14**, **"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."** For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. I'm just going to throw that in for free.

Let's take a look at the Word of God and see what it says of itself; **"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)** It is the measure by which all things will be measured or judged.

"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11) If God said it, God meant it, and God is going to represent it! **"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."** (Joshua 1:8) God said, learn it, be obedient to its teachings. Then the Lord promises prosperity and success. **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."** (2 Timothy 2:15) Get in your Word and ask God and He will give you clear revelation. It is not vital that you can quote the Word verbatim (exactly to the tee). Many people can do that, and many of those do not know God!

In your study you should always begin with prayer. Ask God to show you what you need to learn to honor Him with your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you things in your heart, and in your character, that are not pleasing to Him. When He reveals to you a matter, give it to Him. And day by day, over the course of a lifetime, you are being transformed to the image of Christ! When you read the Word keep a notepad and a pen at hand. Look for these factors in any of your Bible readings. 1) Is there a command, as in should I always or never do ect... 2) Is there a warning. 3) Is there a promise. When I read the Word I am always mindful to take note of how Jesus dealt with people one on one. The objective is to know God more intimately. I am sure that we all have at least one person who we love and know well. You know what their favorite color is, what they like on their pizza and you know their character and nature. There is something supernatural about the Word of God. It is alive, and will transform the heart and life of a human being who seeks in it to know the heart of God and seeks His face. The Word of God will comfort the afflicted and afflict those who are just too darn comfortable. Therein lies the two edged sword.

Words That Wound

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer." (Psalms 19:14) In this **19th Psalm** written by King David, we hear David asking of the Lord, 'Don't let me be just bumping my gums Lord.' David understood that there are words that we are capable of blurting out that do not edify or contribute to the hearer or the one who spoke them. In the height of summer everyone in town knows it's hot. Still you have that one friend who will say the words repeatedly all day long, 'It's sooo hot!!! OMG I'm going to get a heat stroke!!! Augh!!! I hate this heat!!!' Guess who's the hottest man in town? Yep the complainer! Stay close to him, and if you don't pick up the habit of whining and complaining, after 20-30 minutes of just hearing it all of their negativity will drain all the energy from your being. These are the types of words that are probably not acceptable in the sight of the Lord. The Scripture says, **"Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose."** (Proverbs 18:21 **The Message**) **"A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger."** (Proverbs 15:1) If anyone had a right to talk stuff, it was Jesus. He didn't sin. He broke no laws. He got turned in by a rat, His trial was held secretly at night, which was against the law. They hemmed Him up, framed Him, torturously beat Him, mocked Him in His hour of suffering, then crucified Him until He died! You know what He Said? **"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth."** (Isaiah 53:7) Let Jesus always be our example, and as we grow in Him, let us be an example to others.

Words That Give Life


Again with Jesus as our example let's look at how He handled the devil in a brief interaction. After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, He went into the wilderness to pray and fast for 40 days. Pay particular attention to how Jesus responds to the devils little trick bag. **"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones to become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, and in their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him."** (Matthew 4:1-11)


Notice one thing here most vital? Jesus came at the devil with Scripture! There is something supernatural about the Word of God! The Word calls itself the Sword Of The Spirit. You are Born again, and saved! You are washed in the Blood that He shed and all your sins are forgiven, even forgotten! You are a child of God and you have the authority to use THE NAME OF JESUS! When a situation or circumstance seems pressing or a heavy burden, I begin to speak life over myself,

family, friends. And when I do every demon in hell can hear because I speak it OUT LOUD WITH AUTHORITY! I prophesy to the atmosphere! And in a short time I am encouraged!

I'm going to share with you my very favorite warfare verse completely. Then I am going to give you some other great verses, but I am only going to give you the addresses. You have to look them up, because that Bible is your sword! Pick it up! Handle it! Dig into it! God is doing a tremendous work in you! This warfare tactic is scriptural and it is going to prove very effective in your life too, as our text says, **"Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm."** (Ephesians 6:13) That's what I'm talking about! Here's my favorite. **"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.**" (Isaiah 54:17) Now the rest of these you have to look up. Study them! Write them down! Memorize them! Now get your money warrior! **Psalms 91:7-16, Philippians 4:13, 1 John 4:4, Philippians 4:19, Romans 15:13 and Joshua 1:9.** That's a good start! Now you have the weapon to encourage yourself in the Lord.

What Others Are Saying...

"Well brothers and sisters, nothing worldly has changed in my life. BUT, in my spirit I feel the love of our Lord and Savior changing my born again spirit every day. I love the newsletters every month. I have June through August and February hanging on my walls here. That way people know and can see God's Word. I love those pictures inside. I hope one day that I will be able to help  and my mug will make it in as one of those pictures. It looks like so much fun. Those pictures help me see what kind of life I want and can have, with God and His love. I thank you for showing your love and caring about me. It gives me a great hope for the future." - M.G.

"I am 79 years old serving a life sentence, flat time. My neighbor here let me look at Foot's Bible study and Cory's Corner and they both lifted me up. Please put me on your mailing list for the  newsletter." - D.B.

"Thank you for the card and the Bible verse, it made a lot of sense. I was very surprised to even get a response, I figured you all were way too busy. You all are a blessing and I pray and give thanks for the wonderful people who go out of their way to hear us and acknowledge us the way you all do! I am very grateful! Keep up the good work and keep spreading the Word!" - G.G.

Dear friends in Christ, please know that the cards I receive from you are truly appreciated and enjoyed. It's nice to get some mail. Thanks to Cash for the kind words sincerely accepted and also from Bobbie for the reminder of God's healing power. I am now 74 years old and I will be 75 two months after I get released, Lord willing. I do enjoy your newsletters and I like the pictures. I pray the Lord will bless each of you for the good work you are doing for Him and in His name." - J.M.


Quote Worthy

"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing."
- Theodore Roosevelt (1858 – 1919) an American statesman, conservationist, naturalist, historian, and writer, who served as the 26th president of the United States from 1901 to 1909

Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 Ahwatukee - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

Here is how you can give to the  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.

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

**Where Was God
By W.R.**

When the virus was around,
The people were dying and the world shut down

I saw Him at the hospital late one night,
Caring for a patient, fighting for their life
I saw Him driving an ambulance down the street,
And give a homeless man something to eat
I saw Him comforting the elderly, in a nursing home,
And holding the hand of another, so they wouldn't feel alone

And where was God when the world shut down?
He was with the first responders, in my home town

I saw Him in the hospitals, and the grocery stores,
And I saw Him bring food, to the widow next door
I saw His love reflected in a nurses face,
As she cared for a patient of another race

You can see Him in your hospitals or your neighbor across the street
In the poor and down trodden, and the rich and the elite

You asked me, "Where was God when the world shut down?"
You can see Him in every nation, state or town
You can see Him everywhere if you just look around!

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

Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

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