



Overcomers for Christ

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Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

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A TESTIMONY FROM A MAN WHO WENT FROM ZERO TO BEING HIS MOM' S HERO

By T.D.

My momma used to say to me every time we talked, "Son, please stop doing drugs, selling drugs and guns or you're gonna get caught one of these days and go to prison." She said to me, "Son if you love mom you will stop," and it hit me and I said, "How can I love you mom when I don't love myself?"

My life before that specific conversation with my mom was when I started on the wrong foot in life. I was out there doing what I did best which was sinning. I was going "hard in the paint" with sin. I first went to prison in the end of 1996. At that time I got married and it wasn't to my future baby's momma ... it was to the needle. Yes, I then started doing heroin and quickly became a heroin addict. During that time I started to become very racist and earned tattoos that went with the life-style (lightning bolts, white power and swastikas, all draped in the color red). Well me and satan had become inseparable. Although, I knew God I was just running from Him and running fast. I got out of prison after my first bid and had a couple of kids, but still doing drugs.

I introduced meth into my addictive life. Then I was off and running again full throttle-sticking needles in my arm, not having a care in the world and knowing I would get busted and go to prison again. But I didn't care cuz I knew I would be at the gate by eight and in the spoon (high) by noon.

Well, it happened-again. I got busted and went to prison again. Nothing changed during that sentence. I remained hand in hand with satan. Well after that sentence, I told my mom that I'm gonna try and straighten up my act this time. All was good for a little while, then I met up with some old friends and it was back to the rodeo. Well, already knowing what was to come I just waited for it to come and it did ... another drug charge. This time a short sentence (2.5 years) for possession. I said, "I can do this." So, I got sober and decided to kick satan to the curb and realized God had a purpose for me cuz I've been shot, stabbed in prison, four suicide attempts and I'm still alive. So, I got into my Bible, joined the prison church choir and led a Bible study every night on the yard in Yuma. Well, all went well for that prison sentence. I stayed drug free ... Praise God!!

I got out in 2014 and was doing great in the free world when things got a lil' tough, and instead of having faith that God will help me through my tough times, I decided to go "hard in the paint" with satan sinning. This time I went all out and was on top of the world, I thought. I was selling so much dope that I bought a Corvette "78" 25th anniversary edition, and three top of the line motorcycles. Well, that high life was about to come to an end and I didn't even know it.

God pulled my rug out from underneath me and said, "Tony, you are done with this lifestyle." Yes, I got busted good. I had 9 ounces of meth, 5 ounces of heroin, a Smith & Wesson 45 Caliber, a Walther P.K. 9mm, a Glock 26-9mm, 179 prescription pills and \$2,797.00 cash. I thought, "Boy Tony, you really did it now." Well, little did I know I didn't get arrested, I got rescued (a play on CCV's "Rescued not Arrested" Bible). Yes, I was that one lost sheep that Jesus came to rescue. Well on this day, June 10, 2015, I will always remember forever. I never looked back cuz my past was ugly but on this very day I heard a voice behind me and I turned to look and there Jesus was with His hands out telling me to come here. Jesus was there with open arms welcoming that lost sheep back home.

Well, I was taken to 4th Avenue jail for booking process and when I was taken for my classification interview they asked me if I had any enemies. Well, I'm a known gang member from 13.5 crew, the Aryan Brotherhood Family. I told the classification guy that I'm done with the gang life, that I want to step down and he said, "So you want to renounce?" I said, "Yes sir," and he said you will be placed in "Administrative segregation" and I said, "Okay." So, I put my pride aside and headed to LBJ (Lower Buckeye Jail) for 23 hour a day lockdown.

After I slept for a week straight and sobered up and got my bearings back, I began to get focused. Well, one day they called for church and my celly said, "C'mon let's go," so I went. Well I raised my hand to share and I gave my testimony of how I surrendered to God on June 10, 2015 cuz this ex-gang member realized his ways won't work - only God's ways will. After I was done, little did I know I would love this man (fellow brother in Christ) named Todd from Alongside Ministries. He came to where I was seated and placed his hand on my shoulder and told me, "God loves ya brother." He said, "Put in a request for a one on one and I'll come see ya," and I did. Well after service I went back to my cell and prayed and asked God for a "real friend" and next week he brought me Todd ... Thank you Jesus! God answers prayers.

Since that day Todd has come to see me faithful to his word every Saturday (except when gone on vacation) to this day. Thanks Todd, your awesome. Don't ever leave me Bro!!

Another brother in Christ I would like to say thanks to and send my love to is James from Prisoners of Hope Ministries, the man who encouraged me to write my testimony to share with others. Through our one on one visits I learned about a 36 week study course discipleship program through Southwest Regional Global University that James is the co-directory for. I am enrolled in the course and am really enjoying learning to live the only way ... the Godly way.

I want to at this time send out my love and appreciation to his wife Carol for sending us our individual study course books in the mail and sending our answers sheets that we send her in the mail to where they need to go. You two are a great team.

Now as I close I want to share with you mine and my mother's relationship now to this day. On July 15, 2016, I was sentenced to 10.5 years flat time. Yes, day for day I'll be doing. I am more than ready for this now that I have the Lord guiding me. In my past prison sentences which total up to 12.5 years, my mother came to visit me one time on my birthday in 1997. She never put money on the phone so I could call her. I had to work for two whole weeks at \$.15 per hour just to make one 15 minute phone call to hear her voice. I would write all the time but in return I got two letters a year, once on my birthday and the other at Christmas. Both had \$25.00 in it. Now that I'm serving God whole heartedly and kicked satan to the CURB, me and my mom are inseparable ... Praise God! Thank You Jesus! She has kept money on the phone and put money away for me to get me a TV and my necessities when I get to prison. She told me she will be by my side the whole entire way no matter what. You're the "Best Mom" thanks, love ya' forever!!

Once I got to prison I carried out God's plan He has for me to help guide people to Jesus and share His Word by ministering to lost sheep ... AMEN ... Thank you and God Bless!!

Overcomer's Testimonies

On Thursday, October 12th, 2017 at 2100 hours, I was life-flighted to the hospital. They (RN's and DR's) told me on Monday October 16, 2017 (when they removed me from life support) that I had coded three times; two times in flight and once at arrival. On Tuesday, October 17, 2017, the cardiovascular surgeon came and seen me and told me what had happened and that by all medical terms, and his many years of experience, he said, "You should be dead, there is no medical explanation why you're still alive."

According to what I've been told by officers who were at the hospital sitting by me while on life support, the officers said I died three times completely! The doctors didn't believe I was going to make it. I spoke to another female cardio specialist who said I was dead for a total of 12 minutes and 33 seconds.

My heart is only at 15-18% production (ejection factor) and that I am going to need either an AED implanted or total transplant. God kept me alive all three times for a reason. I need to write my book Hold Fast To Your Faith. I didn't see Jesus (that I'm aware of), I didn't see my body lying on the bed etc. But, what did happen was an overwhelming peace, and I know Christ our Lord saved my life all three times. Jesus has something He wants me to do! I no longer hurt or remain depressed about Sarah and Alivia, I don't feel God's angry at me anymore, I feel this incredible overwhelming peace inside me now more than I've ever felt before in my life.

God's Word says to, *"Seek ye first, the Kingdom of God,"* and believe in Christ, I am seeking more than ever before in my life. Jesus kept me alive for a reason, and I honestly believe He wants to use me to reach people either through poetry or my books or both. I'm not going to try and rush Jesus to show me what He has planned for me. He will in time, His time.

Ever since I awoke in the hospital, off of life support, my heart, mind, body and soul have been focused on Jesus Christ our Savior. I have honestly felt the love of Jesus in my life during those eight days I was at Good Samaritan, fighting for a chance to live, not knowing all along that God had His hands on me from the moment it all started to happen. They say the brain dies without oxygen after five minutes. It's documented I was gone for 12 minutes and 33 seconds. No-one, but Jesus could have saved my life. It amazed me when all the doctors, Nurses, RN's and correctional officers told me what I went through. A correctional officer even said that they were told that I was brain dead while on life support.

I know it sounds like I'm babbling on, but all I can do is give all Praise to Jesus Christ for saving a sinner like me. It's truly amazing as I lay there listening to what they all were saying and all I could do was thank God for His love and mercy.

Forevermore in Service of Christ - P.O.

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 have been in a bad place feeling very depressed and lonely. I really miss my daughters and family something unreal, and these feelings I have never truly had before and they have me confused. Plus a little scared as well. Please brothers and sisters always keep me in your prayers and hearts, because I am struggling with myself in a weird way. These feelings are new and have me feeling weak in my own mind. I want to be someone people respect for good reason, not from fear.

Since, I've turned to the Word of God, I feel people test me and think I ain't strong because I am no longer using my fist to solve problems, but verbal communication to resolve the situation. I then pray about it and others. People are taking these acts as a weakness and attempting to walk over me. Please family of Christ show me that I am on the right path and that I have good people with me, and pray for me that I find courage and strength to keep my feet planted firm on the Word of God and keep pushing ahead. I need support and a helping hand. I know this sounds like I am in a way panicking or whatever, that's because I am. This is all new to me and I feel that for some reason you all have abandoned me and I am alone. I am starting to doubt myself and my change, and ain't sure where to turn or what to do. I pray about all this but nothing ever seems to come back. Have I done something wrong? Am I doing the right thing trying to become a good person and live a life for the Lord? I am so confused. I haven't even heard from anyone in the free world for almost close to a year. I lay my life in God's hands ... help me live right and guide me in the right path ... **J.M.**

Could you please add my family and I to your prayer requests? I know I can and I do pray for them always. God hears and knows before we ask. At times, I feel as if I don't show my faith by continuing to ask. Honestly, it just feels good having someone in agreement. Plus, I know together we are strong. So, I ask you to pray with me that my daughter will forgive me and not be so hurt and disappointed. She's not wanting to talk to me at this time. She said she loves me but very hurt at this time. Honestly, I can't blame her and I do understand but it still hurts. I was locked up for 22 years of her life and out for three, and now I'm back for 8 or 9 years. She's a beautiful daughter, I could not ask for more. She is a Christian and in her 6th year at ASU. After being gone from her life for so long, when I got out we got real close. My coming back to prison really hurt her. Also, I ask you to pray for my uncle who just got out last week. He was going into the hospital for some treatment of an enlarged pancreas. He's been in and out of the system since 1980. He tends to be a little on the wild side but does know God, all my family knows God ... **E.G.**

Can you guys pray all goes well for me with my lawsuit and all goes well when I finally get housed on an IHP yard, where I'd finally be safe and be able to do my time in peace ... **M.A.**

Praise Reports

Thank you for the card. I received the newsletter, thank you.

It was so nice to read all the information. I have just found our Lord Jesus Christ these past few years. I am signed up to be baptized this May. They have a tank that will fully emerge me under the water. Not a river, but the best we can do in here. If I would have had the Lord in my life, I wouldn't be in this terrible place. God knew this is what I needed to change my life and find Him and live the life He wants me to live ...

S.T.

I just wanted to thank you for everything you have done. I have grown so much in my faith. The Lord put you in my life, when I needed a positive person. I miss the visits and inspiration you gave me. It seems like every time I was down the Lord called you to visitation. I feel He put you in my life as a role model. I was getting down being back in max and your card gave me the brightest day I've had here. Don't get me wrong, I stay in the Word but there is a lot of negative actions and talk. There is three of us and we share verses and talk every evening. I can say the Lord has blessed me by bringing my kids and sister in my life. I get my first visit with my sister on the 24th. I'm excited for her to see the person I've become. September 29th is two years clean, I never thought I would be at this point in life. Spiritually, I'm stronger than I ever thought possible. I'm so amazed at how no matter what I go through I can open the Bible and I find the Scripture to get me through my day. God bless you all ...

J.C.

To all members of *Overcomers for Christ*, I just want to thank all of you who signed my birthday card, and to let all of you know how much I love and appreciate it very much. God bless all of you in Jesus' name. I pray for all of you, day and night, and I ask God to bless your ministry, and to pour out His Holy Spirit upon all of you and to watch over, and keep all of you safe from all evil and harm ... Praise God!!! I want to share this praise report with all of you. My youngest son who lives in Casa Grande was able to come here for the very first time to visit me in July 2014, with two of my grandkids and they had been coming to see me until my son was suspended in 2015. He kept appealing to come back to visit me and they kept denying him, and that was 2 years and 3 months. But praise God on February 4, 2018, I was called out to the visitation room and behold there was my son and my 6 year old granddaughter, who came to see me. I was so happy and overwhelmed to see them, we just started praising God and thanking Him for His many blessings. Our God is an awesome God, He never fails us nor forsakes us, praise God!! I forgot to say this ... it was a food visit, praise

God ... **E.C.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Everything Begins with God

By C.S.

In May, you had sent me a beautiful card that touched me deeply, and I have been meaning to write to thank you so very much. In your card, you said that I'm a Kingdom Builder and a light to everyone around me. But it's not me; it's you and everyone at O.C. The best expression of love is time. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time. Investing your time in someone reveals its importance and value. You are giving us a portion of your life you will never get back. The essence of love is not what we think, do, or provide for others, but how much we give of ourselves. You guys are truly a blessing.

Everyone in prison is carrying some sort of emotional load, so it's best not to dwell on yours or burden others with your pains and disappointments. You have to conduct yourself so that no one will believe negative rumors or gossip about you. Reacting to such rumors or gossip makes you appear too anxious to cast yourself in a good light. You must let your virtues speak for themselves, let others acknowledge your deeds and actions. It's sad, but that's the way it is in here. Instead of helping others with encouraging words, they drag them down finding fault. In here, everyone is in your business. They try to measure up to one another; they want to know what you're in here for, pretending to be your friend. But the number one thing is gossip. To me, gossip is passing on information when you are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution. People who gossip to you, will also gossip about you.

I love to fellowship, but it's sad that even in God's flock, the greatest wounds usually come from other sheep, not wolves meddling in other people's business. The Lord says, in **1 Peter 3:10**, **"If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies, don't be a whisperer."** Prison has been a struggle for me, but God gives me enough strength to put one foot in front of another, moving ahead in my weakness to do the right thing, in spite of my fears and feelings. There are times when I have to isolate myself because I'm tired of everything going on around me, then uninvited thoughts would come into my mind. I would think, God has a reason for everything He creates; every person was designed with a purpose in mind.

So, was it my purpose in life to come to prison? My life didn't make any sense to me. Then one day I was reading my Bible and came across **Colossians 1:16**, **"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."** After reading that one Scripture, my heart was telling me that it's not about me, it all starts with God. God's motive for creating me was His love. The purpose of my life is far greater than my own personal fulfillment, my peace of mind or even my happiness, career or ambitions. Everything begins with God. So, the trauma I face right now isn't easy, but I truly believe it is allowed to shape my heart, so into His likeness I'd grow. My background and my circumstances may have influenced who I am, but I am responsible for who I become.

So it is you, who are the Kingdom Builders and a light to everyone around you. Thank you for the comfort, compassion and encouragement you give to others.

Meditate on God's Word

By G.S.

We are having a great sunny day out here today, so I thought that I would come out here, to the yard, and scribble a few lines. You all don't mind do you?

I've been reading from the **Book of Numbers** lately. Today I read about how God had told Moses to 'speak' to the rock and it would send forth water. Let's read it here together, in **Numbers 20:7-8 (NIV)**, **"The LORD said to Moses, 'Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. SPEAK to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.'" Now let's read Numbers 20:9-11 and see what they did, "So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as He commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, 'Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?' Then Moses raised his arm and STRUCK the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank."** Although we see clearly here that Moses and Aaron were disobedient God still did what He said He would do. Why were they disobedient?

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

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From the Inside

Because God told Moses to SPEAK to the rock NOT STRIKE the rock. What's very important for us to pull from these Scriptures is this ... altered obedience is still disobedience. It may seem like God is being pretty harsh with Moses and Aaron in His response to their disobedience, here in **Numbers 20:12**, "**But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not trust in Me enough to honor Me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.'**" Just remember, this was the Old Covenant NOT the New Covenant. This does NOT mean that our lack of obedience to what God asks us to do, even under the New Covenant, won't come with a consequence. God asks us to do or not to do certain things because He loves us and wants nothing but His best for us. It's our response to His leading that either bring life or death. God is bound by His word. What He has said is His promise and either way we choose to see it, God IS faithful to His word. This in no way implies that God causes bad things to happen to us. NO! But like I said above, our obedience or disobedience bring with it a consequence. Notice above that God "**said to Moses and Aaron ... you will NOT bring this community into the land that I give them.**" A little further down in Scripture, **Numbers 20:24-26**, God was fixing to stand by His word, "**The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 'Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land I give the Israelites, because BOTH OF YOU rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah. Get Aaron and his son Eleazar and take them up Mount Hor. Remove Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar, for Aaron will be gathered to his people; he will die there.'**" This time, "**Moses did as the LORD commanded: They went up Mount Hor in the sight of the whole community. Moses removed Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar. And Aaron died there on top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain.**" (**Numbers 20:27-28**)

Reading this one might wonder why God took Aaron but left Moses? Don't think it was because God loved Moses more than Aaron. God has no favorites. The Apostle Peter expresses this very point in **Acts 10:34** when he says, "**I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ...**" Let's travel over to **Deuteronomy Chapter 34** where we see that Moses had continued to walk 'with' the Israelites all the way UP TO the banks of the Jordan River. It was there that God took Moses up on Mount Nebo, across from Jericho, and showed him the promised land. (**Numbers 34:1-3**) There, on top of that mountain, "**The LORD said to him, 'This is the land that I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendents.'**" (**Genesis 28:13**) **I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.'**" In **Deuteronomy 34:5** we read, "**And Moses the servant of the LORD'S died there in Moab, as the LORD had said.**" God is faithful to His promises. Although He didn't allow Moses to cross over with the rest of Israelites, yes, the rest of them 20 years old or more (**Numbers 14:26-35**) did cross over into the promised land as God had promised their ancestors . God had already spoken to Moses and told him that Joshua was going to succeed him. Now, in **Deuteronomy Chapter 31** we read about the change of leadership, from Moses to Joshua. In **Deuteronomy 31:14**, "**The LORD said to Moses, 'Now the day of your death is near. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, where I will commission him.'**" In **Deuteronomy 31:23**, "**The LORD gave this command to Joshua the son of Nun: 'Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised on oath, and I Myself will be with you.'**" So in all of this we can see that in spite of their disobedience God is always faithful to what He has said He will do, He will do.

Brothers and sister Overcomers, I genuinely and sincerely hope you all are doing well and that God is creating much happiness and joy within you! I would not wish the life that I led, on ANYONE, ANYWHERE. But praise and all glory to God that He has rescued me, a man of horrendous and grievous sin, and called me unto Him! I've been called the 'devil' and I've done some oh so horrible things. Today, I can tell you with the purist of truths, that if God can save me ... and He has, then He can and will save anyone who will call on Him and seek His forgiveness for their own sins. There are NONE who have done MORE or WORSE sins than I, yet God rescued and redeemed me from all of them. I am living proof that if God can do that for me, He can do it for ANYONE, ANYWHERE. The love and grace of God far exceed all human reasoning or comprehension. Who can understand or measure His greatness? It was while I was in the throes of being and doing my worst that God was at His best! With tears running down my cheeks telling you all this stuff, I praise God fully. I was so unworthy of Him. I was so enormously undeserving. It seems that since God has gotten a hold of me, watery eyes have become a more frequent thing for me. I didn't use to be this way. Well, I reckon this is where I'll bring this to a close. I hope you all have enjoyed the little Bible study. And remember, these watery eyes of ours are a sign that God's Holy Spirit is working inside of us. He works from the inside out so let the tears flow! To our God and Lord Jesus Christ be all the glory, all of the honor and all of the praise!

Nehemiah 5:14-9:21

When you are doing God's work, you may receive attacks on your character. Follow Nehemiah's example by trusting God to accomplish the task by overlooking unjustified insults. (6:1)

Don't let the size of the task or the length of time needed to accomplish it, keep you from doing it. With God's help, it can be done. (6:15)

It is tempting to relax our guard and rest on past accomplishments after we have completed a large task. But we must continue to serve and take care of all that God has entrusted to us. Following through after a project is completed is as vital as doing the project itself.

No matter what your work or role in life, view it as God's special calling to serve Him. (8:9)

Seeing how God continued to be with His people shows that His patience is amazing. In spite of our repeating failings, pride, and stubbornness, He is always ready to pardon (9:17) and His Spirit is always ready to instruct. (9:20) Realizing the extent of God's forgiveness helps us forgive those who fail us, even "seventy-times seven", if necessary. (9:16-21)

1 Corinthians 8:1-9:1-18

Love is more important than knowledge, knowledge can make us look good and feel important, but we can all too easily develop an arrogant, know it all attitude. Many people with strong opinions are unwilling to listen to and learn from God and others. We can know God's knowledge only by loving Him (James 3:17-18). And we can know and be known by God only when we model Him by showing love (1 John 4:7-8). (8:1-3)

Psalms 33:1-4

All God's words are true and trustworthy. The Bible is reliable because it contains the words of a holy, trustworthy, and unchangeable God. (33:4)

Changed lives were the evidence that God was using Paul. Does your faith have an impact on others? You can be a life changer, helping others grow spiritually, if you dedicate yourself to being used by God and letting Him make you effective. (9:1)

Proverbs 21:8-12

Ancient Israelites roofs were flat and could be used as a deck or terrace. On occasion, people would build a temporary shelter on part of the roof. Here, the husband finds he prefers to live on the housetop rather than below with the nagging words of his wife. (21:9)

It is usually better to learn from the mistakes of others than from our own. We can do this by listening to their advice. Take counsel from others instead of plunging ahead and learning the hard way. (21:11-12)



"Foot" Notes

Hello again, just thought I'd share a recent situation with you all. A while back my daughter moved to Colorado. So, recently, my best friend, Kim, happened to pass through Denver and stopped to meet my daughter. Long story short, I found out through a phone call that my daughter was caught up in a mentally abusive relationship. So hearing this, my eleven years of faith was surely tested that old man reared up in all his fury and anger wanting to 'deal' with this. My heart broke for my daughter, my eyes filled with tears of hurt and frustration at myself for my own decisions that caused my daughter to grow up without her daddy. At this point, I thanked my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for my incarceration which kept me from making another bad decision, which could have not only destroyed this fool's life in Colorado, but would have caused even more hurt to the people I love.

I guess it's like this, that old you is always right there waiting to break the chains which should serve as ongoing proof of how much we need, rely and trust in God to keep us on track. Thanks be to God, my daughter is now safely back in Arizona.

Love to ya'll short and tall ... vaya con Dios!! Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

Treasures By Steve Arterburn

If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, 'You are my security', if I have rejoiced over my great wealth, the fortune my hands had gained, then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high. - Job 31:24, 25, 28

A rich man prayed, "I've worked so hard and I want to take my fortune to heaven."

"We don't do that," God said.

"Please," he begged, "let me bring it so my children will be spared from an indulgent life."

"Okay," God amended "you may bring one suitcase."

Weeks later, the man found himself at heaven's gates with a suitcase full of gold bricks.

"A suitcase?" the angel guarding the gates questioned. "You can't bring anything with you!"

"Oh, I have a special arrangement with God."

The angel looked into the suitcase and lifted his head, "Lord, I've got a man here who says he's made a special arrangement with You."

The heavens rumbled, "What sort of arrangement?"

"For some reason he wants to bring in a suitcase full of paving material."

In God's economy, your gold will be worth less than the pavement under your feet! But the things often overlooked, children, the poor, our relationships with others, are priceless.

Christian Comedy

Why Teachers Drink ...

What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?

Unusual names

Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld.

Mrs Orpheus

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom.

What is the meaning of the word 'varicose'?

Close by

Joanna works in an office. Her computer is a stand-alone system. What is a stand-alone computer system?

It doesn't come with a chair

Steve is driving his car. He is travelling at 60 feet/second and the speed limit is 40 mph. Is Steve speeding?

He could find out by checking his speedometer.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic.

*Two polar bears
~~Three~~ four seals*

What is a fibula?

A little lie

Why would living close to a mobile phone mast cause ill health?

You might walk into it.

Explain the phrase 'free press'.

When your mum irons trousers for you.

What Others Are Saying...

"Please accept my tithe and use it to further your mission of sharing the Word with us and others. I enjoy the newsletter and have enjoyed watching it grow over the years. You all are amazing and do so much for us as inmates. I have less than 90 days left in this prison. I'd like to come by when I get out to help in any way I can." - **M.O.**

"This letter is to everyone at the *Overcomers for Christ*!! I pray this letter finds all of you well, and in the hands of our Father. Also, I pray that it may bring a smile to at least one of you as you read it. Thank you for the newsletter, it came right on time. I was down in the dumps and in my feelings because I had not gotten any mail in a while, your newsletter was right on time." - **R.G.**

"Thank you all at the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry and bless you all for the hard work you guys are doing with this ministry. I would like to say that I still have ALL of your other newsletters from before when you sent them to me. I like the front covers on all of them, they are so awesome! As for me and all of my brothers here, we're keeping you all in our prayers and thoughts. Also I thank you for the cards you guys have sent. They always come at a good time. Many of us in here don't get mail so these cards and newsletters make us feel really good when we receive them" - **W.B.**

"Hello there to my church family! I have been receiving your newsletters since 2013. At times your birthday wishes are all that I've received and I want to say 'thank you' for always remembering. You know, God is good and He continues to bless me even though I act the way that I do sometimes" - **J.H.**

"Dear family at the *Overcomers for Christ* ... Greetings, peace and blessings I send to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Man O' Man! You guys always show up at just the right time. A special thanks to Ms. Becky/Buckshot for her words of encouragement! Also a special thanks to Michelle for the card I received a couple of months ago. You people just don't know what it means to me to get your cards and newsletters. And check this out, all of the things that I have asked you to put in the newsletters you have! I don't even remember, my cellie has to remind me. I just figure that it is God doing what He does best, taking care of our needs (SMILE)" - **R.G.**

"I am 60 years old and I've been a Christian now for 8 years ... and I KNOW I always will be! I'm doing 38 years to life for burglary. I got your address from my cellie. He's a few years younger than me but he believes and loves God with all of his heart. I can see it in him all of the time that he is trying to be a better person. Anyways, could you please put me on your mailing list? And please pray for me, that I too become a better person. It all gets real hard when you're in prison doing this much time without visits. It's real hard trying your best to be a nice person here in prison. Now that I read my Bible every day it helps me with my temper. When I start to get mad at someone today, I stop instead and ask God to help me keep my cool and He always helps me that's for sure!" - **R.D.**

"Hello brothers and sisters there at the *OC+S*, I am happy to hear of your 10th year anniversary. I look back on time and I believe that I have been writing to all of you there that long. I just finished my 11th year here and at 65 years old and now walking with Jesus, time goes by fast. My daughter's passing on February 2nd now has me looking more at Jesus than any other time in my life. And as I look at the news and see the fires in California, the flooding in Texas and other states, the hint of North Korea wanting war, and all of the killing with guns I thank Jesus that I am an overcomer and it's easy to put my trust in Him." - **L.C.**

"Brothers and sisters, I just got through praying and asking God what He might want me to say to all of you and this is where He led me. *"The thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* (John 10:10) He also wanted me to tell each and every person that reads this newsletter that they are LOVED by Jesus and God the Father above. I'd personally like to thank each one of you that signed my birthday card. Thank you for making my birthday brighter with the love of Christ this year. It's hearts and minds that come together for the better cause of everyone that makes life worth living, no matter the circumstances we're in. It's brothers and sisters like all of you that bring light into such an otherwise dark world. "Keep up the good work, thus says the LORD." - **T.D.T.**

"Thank you, brother Cash, for your card and I appreciate the extra and personal detail in this last card. I too loved singing Skynard and 38 Special, they were some talented dudes. It's cool, and even on my bucket list, that you got to perform with your actual blood brothers in a band. My brother is a metal head, excellent guitar player, but he wants nothing to do with the church. I'm praying that Jesus will get hold of his life and we could do worship together. So you see my connection to your words." - **B.M.**



Quote Worthy

"Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile."

- Sir Wilfred Grenfell (1865 - 1940) a medical missionary to Newfoundland

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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

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

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

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*

Best Poem in the World
Contributed by S.C.

**I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I enter Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights or it's décor.**

**But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp,
The thieves, the liars the sinners, the alcoholic and the trash.**

**There stood the kid from 7th grade who swiped my lunch money, twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.**

**Herb, who I always thought was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.**

**I nudged Jesus, what's the deal? I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake,
And why is everyone so quiet, so somber - give me a clue.
"Hush child," He said, "They're all in shock, no one thought they'd be
seeing you."**

Judge not ... Every saint has a past, every sinner has a future.

**Remember, just going to church doesn't make you a Christian
Any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.**

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

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(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com