

# Comers for Christ

December 2022



# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ January 2022



# MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

By Wade Anderson

We will continue the next part of the previous message in the January 2023 newsletter.

Christmas is my most favorite time of the year. It's a time when most people around the world celebrate Christmas in one form or another. I love to decorate our WHOLE home, inside and out, with lights and decorations. Some of you may think and even say that that is not that godly. I use the lights I put up to celebrate and bring glory to God. Out in front of it all is a huge cross brightly lit with lots of clear bulbs, indicating to the public that Jesus died to get off that Cross. And as Jesus said, in **John 8:12**, *"I am the light of the world. If you follow Me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."* And then in **Matthew 5:14-16**, Jesus also stated, *"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."* Our neighbors love to see what we are going to add to the lights. It brings joy to the young and the old to drive by to see what this ole 'biker guy' has added. Each year this takes me several days to get set up, and as long as it brings joy to those that drive or walk by, I'll use it to continue bringing glory to God!

Some cultures, as you will read, **associate evil spirits being chased away with good** on their Christmas. Yet in fact, that is one of the main reasons Jesus came to this earth, to show that His love and goodness will always overcome evil. I find it a little bizarre how what we know as Halloween overlaps with other cultures Christmas traditions in other parts of the world. As you read on you may be able to see that some of 'our' traditions of Christmas have been adapted from other Countries traditions. While it's great to have family traditions, let's NEVER forget that the REAL reason for Christmas is found in the first part of the word, Christ! I want to share some of these interesting traditions with you.

In most countries Father Christmas, Santa Claus or Saint Nick brings children presents for Christmas, but Austria is also home to his evil accomplice. The half-goat, half-demon 'Krampus' is said to wander the streets carrying a wicker basket in search of badly-behaved children. The folktale is popular throughout Austria, southern Germany, Hungary, and even northern Italy, where you can see people dressed as the 'Krampus' walking the streets in December.

The Swedish Yule Goat dates back to the 11th century when it was said to be a companion of Saint Nicholas, **who had the power to control the devil** (like the Krampus). By the 19th century, the goat had become the giver of gifts, and people would dress up as goats to distribute them. Today, the Yule Goat is mostly a Christmas ornament that can be found on trees and erected with straw in towns across Sweden.

Street actors disguise themselves as animals or disturbing and horrifying characters in Latvia. **They then go from house to house to drive away the evil spirits with music and traditional songs.** In return, families offer them food and drink. The mummers are expected to stay disguised, and in addition to the masks, they hide their voices to avoid being recognized. Even though they don't set out to drive away evil spirits, but bring joy, this sounds similar to the Christmas Carolers in America. Wouldn't you agree?

Italian children are visited by Santa Claus (or Babbo Natale) each Christmas Eve, they get another visit on January 5, the eve of the Epiphany. According to legend, Befana was a witch **who didn't give a gift to the baby Jesus in the manger. To repent, she now gives gifts to all children, who leave out some wine and food for her.** Isn't it funny how in our traditions the children are taught to leave a gift of cookies and milk for Santa Clause?

According to Norwegian folklore, witches and evil spirits come out on Christmas Eve to do mischief. So, families hide their brooms to stop them from being stolen for a midnight ride. **Sometimes they even burn spruce logs in the fireplace to stop them from coming down the chimney.** In our Western culture, fires in the fireplace are pretty common this time of year. But our children may never allow this practice late into the evening because they believe the fireplace is the way Santa Clause enters the home to bring them gifts.

Christmas isn't a big deal in Japan, apart from gift-giving and light displays. However, they do have an unusual Christmas Eve dinner. Thanks to a festive marketing campaign in the 1970s, *Kurisumasu ni wa kentakkii* (or "Kentucky for Christmas") has become a firmly established holiday tradition. Families from all over the country head to their local KFC for some festive fried chicken.

On Christmas Day in the Czech Republic, unmarried women throw a shoe over their shoulder towards the front door. If the shoe lands with its toe towards the door, she will get married in the following year. However, if the heel points toward the door, she'll remain single. **(Good luck ladies)**

In the Catalan region of Spain, nativity scenes frequently have an unusual addition. The 'Caganer' can be found tucked away into a small corner and is traditionally a man with his pants rolled down and caught in the act of defecation. Though

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his origins have been lost in time, he started to appear in the 18th century and can often be found wearing traditional clothing and hats. Now, you can even find 'Caganer' versions of popular celebrities. (**Pardon me, but that seems to be a lot of strange.**)

Ukraine's strangest holiday tradition involves spider webs. According to an old legend, a poor widow and her children found a Christmas tree in their garden but didn't have money to decorate it. However, when they woke up the next morning, it was covered by a spider's web, which turned silver and gold in the morning light. In honor of this Ukrainians hang spider web-shaped decorations on their trees to bring good luck. **Could this be where we get the tradition of hanging ice-cycles and angel hair on our trees?**

In the 13 days leading up to Christmas, 13 Yule Lads (jólasveinarnir or jólasveinar) visit children across the country to leave candy or small gifts in their shoes. Each of these troll-like characters has a different personality, though they were all originally pranksters who also left rotting potatoes for naughty children. **I wonder if this is where the 'coal' in the stocking derived from?**

In Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, the residents head to church for mass each Christmas morning – so far, so normal right? The difference is that they do so on roller skates. This tradition is so popular that the city's streets are closed to traffic so that people can skate to church safely.

Other Swedish Christmas traditions are planned around an unusual television special. In the afternoon, people gather around to watch Donald Duck. This dates back to the 1960s when televisions were new and played only two channels (one of which played Disney cartoons). One of the most popular is a 1958 Christmas special called Kalle Anka och hans vänner önskar God Jul or "Donald Duck and his friends wish you a Merry Christmas". **(A personal favorite 😊 Just joking!)**

Although Christmas trees can be found around the world, in Germany, families have an unusual addition to their ornaments. They hide a pickle ornament somewhere within the branches of the tree, and the first child to find it gets a special present.

Christians throughout the world recognize God as a giver, not a taker. Throughout Scripture, we find evidence of His great generosity towards His creation. From the beginning of time as we know it, as God called forth Creation, He gave existence to things that had never before existed. Through this we can see the true heart of God. He literally gave of Himself to make each one of us. ***"The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).*** As God witnessed the destruction man was having on himself and the world, we witness His greatest gift since creation, a plan to save us ALL through Christ Jesus! ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him (Jesus) shall not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God's One and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil."* (John 3:16-19)**

Reading His Word it's easy to see the very nature of God is to give, to create, and to bless His creation. Unfortunately, many of us are so self-absorbed and greedy for gain that we do not even have the eyes to see the countless gifts that God has already worked into our everyday lives. Yet, God has called us to be givers too. He created us to be like Him, to pour of ourselves into other people, reciprocating His love for us. God created us with the power to be able to give back to Him! When I really stop and think about this, it truly amazes me that God, the sum of ALL good things, who holds ALL power and authority, would humble Himself to come to this earth as a human to save someone like me.

He could have made Himself entirely independent of His creation or set Himself up as a mere casual observer of human-kind, He certainly had the power to do so. Instead, He allowed Himself to love us to the point where our returned love would be a blessing to Him. Each one of us, little and insignificant as we are, has been given the profound gift of the ability to bring joy to the heart of God. It is extremely humbling to me, when I stop and consider that God has set these laws of His creation into motion, that the One who is Love personified, would actually be blessed by the love that I could offer Him. This is the greatest gift of all, and it is given to every human being who has ever lived or will live ... the ability to give of ourselves to God and to each other. Without this gift, life would be very empty.

Christmas to us, as Christians, means we celebrate Jesus came in the flesh as a little baby that first Christmas so that He could bear our punishment at the Cross, and then conquer death by rising from the dead. I believe the true message of Christmas is that the Eternal God came to earth in the form of a man in order to save His own creation.

Let's look at John's account and revelation of Jesus. ***"In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with***

## What Others Are Saying

"Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I want to take this time to thank you all for the continued prayers and inspirational Scriptures I read in the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletters. I must admit, it isn't easy in any way, shape, or form to be incarcerated for a crime that I did not commit, but our Heavenly Father allows certain situations to take place in our lives for the enrichment of a much better future. He sees what we can't see and when He sees one of his sheep going astray. He must intercede in order to save his or her soul that the Angels in Heaven can rejoice. I also want to thank the **OC4C** family for the beautiful Christmas Card and the **OC4C** newsletters. They are all inspiring. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless each and every one of you and your family members." – **I.S.**

"Hello **Overcomers for Christ**, I just wanted to write a quick letter to say thank you for all you do. You guys make a difference in people's lives – I don't know how you do it all. Your ministry is so uplifting. You all hold such a special place in the Body of Christ. Every time I get an envelope with your return address on it, it puts a smile on my face. Thank you for all the birthday wishes. Please let anyone know that signed my last letter, that meant so much to me. It still brings a smile to my face just thinking about it.

I pray God bless you all so much! Thank you for all your dedication in the work you do." – **W.B.**

"Thank you for your recent card and kind words, you make a brother feel so good inside. Every time I think of you and your love for the body of Christ, I think of **Hebrews 13:1-3**, "**Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.**" – **G.P.**

"I am so sorry to you and all the family there for neglecting to write back these past few months. There are no excuses, I simply let my pain overwhelm me to the point of being selfish. I'm really sorry! Your card was beautiful in that tears of pure love fell from my eyes and heart as I read those words of yours. I must stand in faith, and on the promises of our Lord if I am ever going to be the new man God wants me to become. I've paid attention to the newsletters and seen how you've spoken to me by printing my praise reports, your heart is full of love, we respect you more than I can put into words. I love you just like my own blood, never doubt that! Please hug Michelle, Julie, Cash, Maria, Jason, and Lil Tony, plus all the **OC4C** family for me. Your card was one of the most beautiful pieces of encouragement I have ever received, and I truly apologize for neglecting to say thank you sooner. I love you and respect you very much!" – **E.D.**

"Dear **OC4C** Family thank you for all the newsletters and cards. All of you shall forever be in my prayers and dear to my heart." – **H.M.**

"I got your card today; I am really thankful for you all and the church (Living Word) and Overcomers. I feel a strong need when God brings me home to be a part of it all. I know you're at Living Word but I find it hard to go even though I feel I should go. I have been part of Trinity Baptist for a long time and went with a lot of my family to another church. Every time I went by Living Word, I felt a pull even more so after my first time down. But I feel very uncomfortable going to new churches where I know no one and a lot of questions might be asked. But as I read, I feel I have some friends there that won't be down on me for my past. People who will know how I feel ... people who have been there and done that." – **S.F.**

"Hello to all my friends at Overcomers. Thanks for the card. I am blessed for where I am. I ordered a study Bible and some devotionals from Christian Book. The cover of March 2022 Overcomers newsletter was a little shocking at first, but I like it. I understand it and know I have it hanging on my locker. Thank you all at Overcomers I am so grateful for the cards the words of support and the time and effort for all of us locked up. Thank you and I pray for all of you and your loved ones. Your friend in Jesus." – **M.G.**

"Dear beloved **OC4C** family, I am so very grateful for every newsletter you send. All of the cards you've sent over the many years have been a true blessing to my heart and are appreciated tremendously. All of you at **OC4C** and at the Living Word Bible Church shall always be in my prayers and dear to my heart." – **H.M.**

### Did You Know ...?

The world's lowest elevation not covered by ocean is 8,327 feet below sea level at the lowest point in Antarctica's Bentley Subglacial Trench. It is covered by ice.

# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### Sick Call

By R.G.

Greetings to everyone at O.C.C!!

I pray that all of you are staying safe and resting in the arms of the Creator. As for me, I am good, staying safe and out of trouble, just trying to maintain and do what is expected of me. I felt it was time to get a letter out to you guys.

I also have decided to share a little something with you guys that I was wondering if you might put it in the newsletter for my other fellow brothers and sisters to benefit from. This is a subject that all of us doing time can relate to, because we have all probably experienced poor care at the hands of D.O.C. medical personnel!

I am going to call this piece – *Sick Call*, I hope you enjoy it, as I have enjoyed sharing it with everyone.

#### *Sick Call*

***“He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.” – Psalm 147:3***

Being sick, ill, or injured in prison is terrible, especially when you are left with no choice but to go to the medical department. Frustration sets in knowing that whatever ails you, will more than likely be prescribed two non-aspirin and a blood pressure check. In prison, your left arm could be falling off and the best treatment you're going to receive is an icepack and a Band-Aid. Okay, okay – maybe it's not that bad – maybe!

Sometimes though, the most serious injuries aren't physical. The worst types of traumas are the internal ones that affect the heart and the mind. Prison has a way of inflicting unspeakable pain, loneliness, shame, guilt, and regret on a person.

Many times, those ultimately make one broken hearted and most of these wounds are the self-inflicted kind. We are often our own worst enemies, but there is good news. The self-inflicted, self-imposed injuries that leaves us emotionally and spiritually handicapped need not be fatal because we have a merciful God, who is all powerful and whose understanding is beyond measure. He has promised us in His Word that He is ***“near to the brokenhearted, He saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:1-8)***

However, the Lord is the definitive healthcare provider. He hears the cries of His people and provides much more than non-aspirin and a Band-Aid. When we put in a sick call request to the Father, we can take comfort in His steadfast love and know that our internal wounds will be bound up and healed.

Ok that's it for now. I pray that this may be an inspiration to somebody and possibly changes them for the better. Until we talk again, stay happy, healthy and Covid-19 free!

### Let's Pray O.C.C Family

By D.J.

*“Father, I give You glory and honor for enabling me to be alive today! I reverence Your name because there is no other God like You. Today, I bind myself to You on behalf of Overcomers for Christ, that Your power will guide them, that Your might will uphold them, that Your wisdom teach them, that Your eyes will watch over them, that Your ear will hear them, that Your Word will give them speech, that Your hand guide them as they lay at the feet of Your presence, that You will be a shield to shelter over this ministry. I rebuke any host or snares of the enemy against this beautiful, anointed family of the Most High! No weapon formed against this ministry shall prosper. It won't work because the blood of Jesus is against it! Your Word declares, in **Romans 10:6, “But the righteousness that is by faith says: ... The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim:” (Romans 10:8)** So we declare Your Word today, over every word that's being written on this piece of paper! Allow those words to be established and effective in Jesus' name. AMEN!”*

And to think that this moment started with a seed. I feel it has taken root with this ministry in my life.

Well family, I've been trodding down this road for 19 ½ years now, and I have to say, it's been the greatest journey of

# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

discovery of my life. That first time experience changed my life for the rest of my life. If I had to go through all that I've been through over the many years all over again, to become the new man I am today, the renewed man, I WOULD! But through it all family, I've learned to put my trust in Jesus! I wouldn't trade anything for this experience, no silver or gold!

I've also learned to recognize that disruption is not a threat, but an invitation for growth. I had no identity or self-worth. I hid behind the monetary things of life to find acceptance or be accepted by people. Of course, it was never enough. But I've learned to own differences. **Overcomers for Christ** family, I encourage you to do the same. Your differences look good on you! Take the bold risk of being different. Your difference will cause you to walk in your destiny. No discipline, no destiny! I had to quit the old me because my destiny awaited. Destiny is a process family! The battle and the struggles cause you to take a leap, to never give up. Remember, light can be seen through cracked vessels. In fact, the cracks are the real story. It's the storms of life, **OC** family, that gives us all the strength to move forward. The hardest challenge of my life has been the most fulfilling one.

To my **Overcomers for Christ** Church family with love!

### Waiting on God

By C.S.

Well, as you know, I was scheduled for my first parole board in August, and as I expected I got a 3-year denial. It was so overwhelming and two hours long. Everything I said I wasn't going to do; I did. My confidence flew right out the window, and I was all over the place. But I truly believe that a delay is not a denial from God.

Since God is sovereign over everything in heaven and on earth, even our time and schedules are in His hands. This means that in every delay, we are actually waiting for God in one way or another. For years I have thought that the expression 'Waiting on God' applied only to seeking guidance from Him or an answer to prayer. But I've now learned that it means so much more when we remember that He controls all of our every day-to-day inconveniences and frustrations.

In the Christian life, I believe that learning to wait is vitally important because until we do, we'll never be able to walk in obedience to God, have an effective prayer life or experience the peace of resting in His loving sovereignty. This is just my opinion, but we must learn to trust His judgement, not just about the big events in our lives but also about the seemingly trivial ones. These are the ones that can cause us to become irritated, while each day has an important lesson.

**Proverbs 16:9** tells us, *"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."* What this means to me is that the next time I face an unexpected wait, I'll remember that it comes as no surprise to God. God may be wanting to teach me to have more patience and to increase my faith. I believe He's more interested in developing godly character than He is in making sure our schedule runs according to 'our' plan, AMEN?

Brother, I have been down long enough to see the hurt in others who are lost, don't know where to turn or who to trust. Most people in here have no one in their lives who love them enough to tell them the truth 'even if it hurts', so they continue in self-destructive ways. Tough times have a way of revealing our true nature. If two people were to face the dilemma, one may grow closer to God and bear fruit while the other becomes anxious and doubts God's faithfulness.

How we respond to trials makes all the difference. Like it or not, hardships are part of life. Becoming a Christian doesn't change that fact. If we let them, challenges can grow our faith, change our perspective, or deepen our compassion. But no matter what, the Lord is available to help us in our affliction. Although there may be some people who may look at their circumstances and see no possible way the Lord could bring something good from them. What benefit could come through some illness, a broken family, unemployment, incarceration, or any other difficulties.

Either we can turn towards God for comfort, guidance, and support or we can get angry and become resentful that we're not being rescued from our valley. I can honestly tell you, from my own experience, when affliction strips away every crutch, one has only the Lord to depend on. Though some people are destroyed by that kind of situation, other's like myself are built into undaunted believers.

*continued on page 11 ...*

# Foot's Bible Study

## **Ezekiel 7:1-14:11**

The people of Jerusalem took great pride in their buildings. The temple itself was a source of pride. See **Ezekiel 24:20-21**. This pride would be crushed when the evil and godless Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem's fortresses and sanctuaries. If you are going through a humiliating experience, God may be using the experience to weed out the pride in your life. **(7:24)**

God's glory departed from the temple and was never completely present again until Christ Himself visited it in New Testament times. God's holiness required that He leave the temple because the people had so defiled it. God had to completely destroy what people had perverted in order for true worship to be revived. We must commit ourselves, our families, our churches, and our nation to follow God faithfully, so that we never have to experience God abandoning us. **(10:18)**

God was a sanctuary for the righteous remnant, idolatrous people, even though they worshiped in the Jerusalem temple **(11:15)**, would find no true sanctuary, but the faithful exiles, even though they were far from home, would be protected by God. Likewise, our external circumstances do not truly indicate our standing with God. Those who appear safe and secure may be far from Him, while those going through difficult times may be safe under God's protection. We can depend on God to keep us safe if we pledge ourselves to His care. **(11:16)**

These two short messages were warning that God's words would come true soon! Less than six years later, Jerusalem would be destroyed. Yet the people were skeptical. Unbelief and false security led them to believe it would never happen. The Apostle Peter dealt with this problem in the church. In **2 Peter 3:9**, "**The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.**" It is dangerous to say Christ will never return or to regard His coming as so far in the future as to be irrelevant today. All that God says is sure to happen. Don't dare assume that you have plenty of time to get right with God. **(12:21-28)**

## **Hebrews 7:1-17**

Because Christ is our High Priest, we need to pay attention to Him. No minister, leader, or Christian friend can substitute for Christ's work and for His role in our Salvation. **(7:11-14)**

## **Psalms 106:1-12**

If we ever stop to list all the mighty acts or miracles in the Bible, we would be astonished, they cover every aspect of life. The more we think about what God has done, the more we can appreciate the miracles He has done for us individually – birth, personal development, Salvation, specific guidance, healing, loving friends, and family – the list goes on and on. If you think you have never seen a miracle, look closer. You will see God's power and loving intervention on your behalf. God still performs great miracles!! **(106:2)**

## **Proverbs 27:7-9**

Those who are full or have everything do not appreciate what they have, while those who are hungry or have nothing, anything is good. **(27:7)**

## **“Foot” Notes**

Overcomers, we've made it through to Christmas. Thank You, Jesus! I know that we've all had issues to overcome whether it be health of a family member, our own health, possibly a job situation, and of course the old standby drug or alcohol issues. At the end of the day, we all know that without our faith in Jesus Christ we would make no forward progress. Lord, thank You for guiding us through this minefield we call life. Without Your grace we would all still be wherever it is we started from, at our wits end.

Merry Christmas everybody, keep the faith and keep on keeping on!

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



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. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The One who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's One and only Son. John testified about Him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the One I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for He existed long before me.'" From His abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is Himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us." (John 1:1-18)

While many would say Christmas honors the birthday of Jesus, others see Christmas as a good Christian family get-together. Many do it simply because they've always done it. Wouldn't you agree that in the Christmas season, people appear more happy, generous, and full of good cheer?

Joy and peace are not relative to the place we live or reside. Our only true joy and peace comes through knowing Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior! Jesus Himself said, "I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught." (John 14:27 Message) Then in the Passion Translation it reads, "I leave the gift of peace with you, My peace. Not the fragile peace given by the world, but My perfect peace. Don't yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts, instead be courageous." (John 14:27) This is what Jesus says to us about joy, "I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" (John 15:11) The joy we are to have as Christians is the joy of Jesus. Jesus says, "My joy" not joy 'like' Mine. Jesus has literally taken the joy from within Himself and placed it within each of us who love and follow Him. In my spirit I believe what Jesus is saying in all of this is, "Your current situations and surroundings can NEVER and will NEVER be able to keep My love from you. I've called each of you unto Me, I have a plan for each and every one of you. In order for you to accomplish all I have called you too, I've filled you with My Spirit, My peace, and My joy! My children, lift your eyes above your circumstances and focus on Me because I will Never leave you and I most assuredly will NEVER let you down."

With all of the different Christmas traditions and beliefs I've listed above, I'll ask you all this question, "Reflect for a minute, what does the truth of Christmas mean to you?" From all of us here we wish all of you, wherever you are, A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## God's Promise to Abraham Trivia

1. God plans for His covenant with Abraham to last forever.
2. God gave Abram the name "Abraham" because
  - a. It fit better with the song Father Abraham.
  - b. It was easier to spell.
  - c. Abraham was to be the father of many nations.
  - d. He wanted to name him after Abraham Lincoln.
3. God said that some of Abraham's descendants would be kings.
4. As part of the covenant, God wanted Abraham and his descendants to worship Him.
5. God changed the name of Abraham's wife. Do you remember what Sarah's name was before God changed it?

## Quote Worthy

"Christmas, my child is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

- Dale Evans Rogers (1912-2001) - Born Frances Octavia Smith, she was an American actress, singer, and songwriter. She was the third wife of singing cowboy, Roy Rogers.

## Overcomer's Testimonies

I am well and truly blessed, something huge is fixing to happen, something so great that we as His children will see a blanket of glory raised to heaven.

**Acts 10:9-16** – *“The next day as Cornelius’s messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. Then a voice said to him, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat them.’ ‘No, Lord,’ Peter declared. ‘I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean.’ But the voice spoke again: ‘Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.’ The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.”*

Just like Peter saw in his vision described in **Acts 10:9-16**. This glory will engulf us. This glory will lovingly smother our Lord in love and kisses, just as He smothers us with mercy, grace, and favor. Some things I have seen I can describe with great detail, others no words have been made to tell. I know the smell of hell. Terrifyingly I remember it And I acquired it when I died in 2003. Following my accident, I was dead to all for four minutes with a DNR at all hospitals in Tucson. As my Daddy, my Heavenly Father restored me to life, I knew because He told me it’s all gonna be alright. So, ok what’s gonna be alright? I don’t want my life, I hate it! (then).

In 2017, I was involved romantically with another person, we fought, and I sought suicide by cop, so I hit one. Then as I tried to drive away, another showed up, so I tried to wreck into him. But I was tazed repeatedly then smashed by fourteen sheriff’s officers which broke my jaw. Finally, I was woken while in a CT scanning machine (keep in mind 14 sheriff officers were involved). I thought I was dead because I couldn’t move, it was very bright and so very loud – the noise I mean. I began to cry and cried out loud, “No daddy, I’m sorry, I promise, I’ll do better I swear.” His response simply to a child is love, “Love like I told you to love Me beyond everything. As you love Me, love your neighbor – do My work – love.”

Next where I was in custody of Pinal City Jail, the Holy Spirit hit me with, “You’re gonna go to the sex offender side in prison.” I responded with “Hell no! Why? I’m not one!” The Holy Spirit said, “Because so many of my children need love, so many don’t even know love – go love my flock.” Finally, I’m here and I’ve met some really good people and I have seen and see my seeds blossoming being rooted in brokenness. Sometimes I might not be in the mood to love, and I’ll spill some love on someone accidentally. Still the Holy Spirit is working in me 24/7.

This love is greater than anything I’ve heard or seen. God is so beautiful. It is written, we will be hated, we will be persecuted, my goal is for others to see me loving them through the hate, loving in action. I really believe, I trust, I hope - I hope to have the privilege to ask the body of Christ to help me to repent. Yes, I live blamelessly but I want to be sure to be sober-minded, single-minded. I say single-minded because, I am God centered. It’s because of Him, because of His love that I live now.

It’s because of His love that I have so much more to offer in this whole unbroken-broken man that I am. Yeah, I sometimes see what I’ve done and now I’m amazed that God still loves me.

I am a Levite and a Levite priest. God has greatly blessed me, and I have seen miracles, signs, and wonders. God has healed others through me in laying on hands. I promised and surrendered my hand in 2017 when I hit someone, and I killed him in one punch. I cried out immediately when I realized he was dead. God restored him and he came to me with, “Why did you hit me?” If you saw me now compared to then ... Wow! Sometimes I search myself my own ethics and values to see if I’m B.S-ing.

Love your brother in Christ – K.Z.

## Christian Comedy

A man speaks frantically into the phone, “My wife is pregnant, and her contractions are only two minutes apart!”

The doctor asks, “Is this her first child?”

“No,” the man shouts, “This is her husband!”

## From the Inside Waiting on God By C.S.

... continued from page 7

Brother, I often wonder where people place their hope and security these days. If it's in government, financial markets, or even education they will be disappointed. Our world is always changing, and strong institutions prove to be unstable. Any part of society that challenges God will NOT last. It's because the talented and knowledgeable people involved are generally also sinful people. Greed, pride, and lust have brought about the downfall of many civilizations. Brilliant Charismatic leaders may claim to offer a better tomorrow, but you and I both know that no man or woman will ever be the solution to the world's problems. Only Christ can and will deliver on His promises of hope to those of us who put our trust in Him, AMEN!?

I just wanted to share what God has placed on my heart. God bless all who read this.

## FUN FACTS

December 14th – In 1799, George Washington dies at Mount Vernon at his home in Virginia.

December 14th – In 1819, Alabama was admitted as the twenty-second U.S. state.

December 14th – In 1911, explorer Roald Amundsen and his party became the first humans to reach the South Pole.

December 14th – In 2001, after Hurricane Michelle devastated Cuba, a commercial shipment of food left the United States for the island nation for the first time since 1962.

December 14th – In 2012, a twenty-year-old gunman killed twenty-six people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, before taking his own life.

December 19th – In 1958, The SCORE satellite, launched on this day, used a tape recorder to save and relay voice messages. It communicated a Christmas message from U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower to the world via shortwave frequency.

December 30th – In 1916, though historically known as "The Mad Monk", infamous Russian mystic Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin, died on this day. He had left Verkhoture Monastery and returned to his home village by age nineteen, well before completing his monastic training.

## God's Promise to Abraham Trivia From Page 9 Answers:

1. True - The covenant applied to Abraham and to future generations as well - Genesis 17:8
2. C - Genesis 17:5
3. True - Genesis 17:6
4. True - Genesis 17:7
5. Abraham's wife was named Sarai before God renamed her Sarah - Genesis 17:15

## Living Word Bible Church Locations

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Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009    Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85213

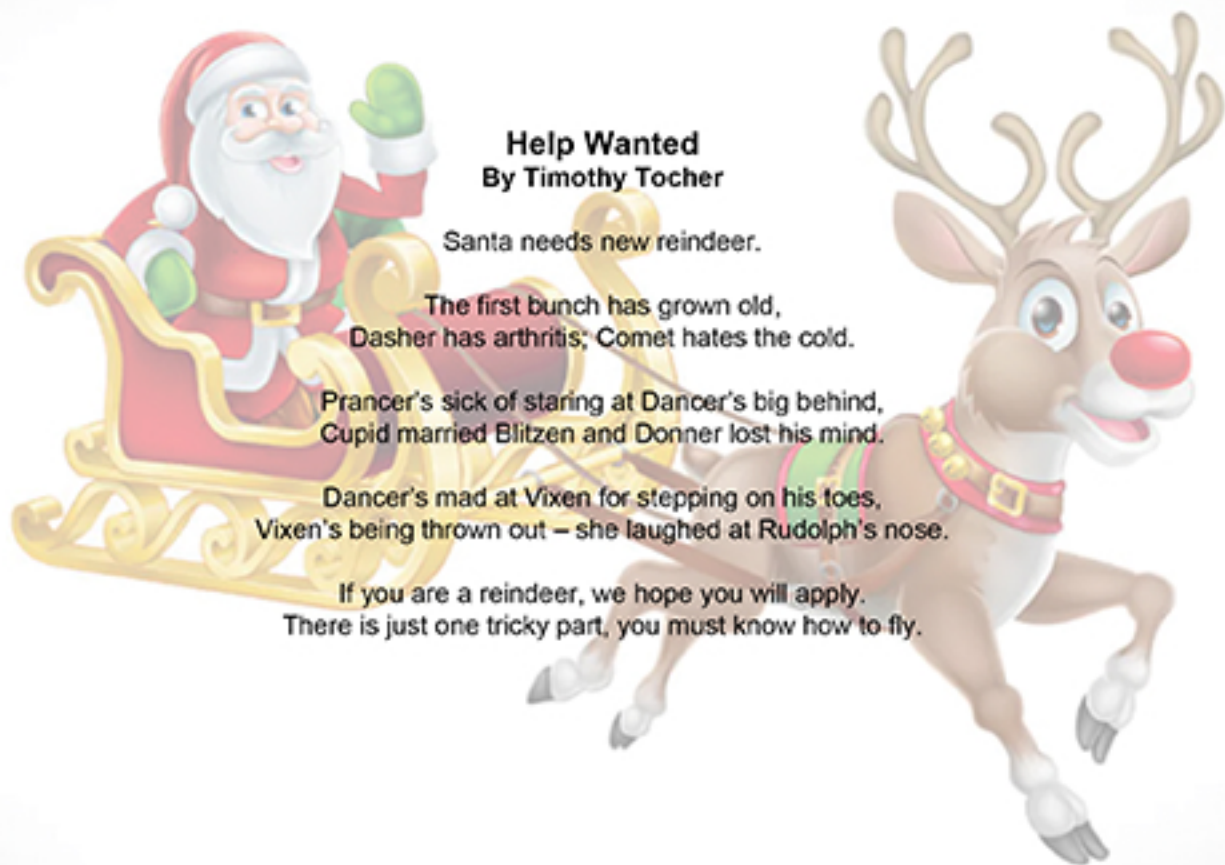
## Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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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**Help Wanted**  
**By Timothy Tocher**

Santa needs new reindeer.

The first bunch has grown old,  
Dasher has arthritis; Comet hates the cold.

Prancer's sick of staring at Dancer's big behind,  
Cupid married Blitzen and Donner lost his mind.

Dancer's mad at Vixen for stepping on his toes,  
Vixen's being thrown out – she laughed at Rudolph's nose.

If you are a reindeer, we hope you will apply.  
There is just one tricky part, you must know how to fly.

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

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

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