

# Overcomers for Christ

October 2014

John 4:35

# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

May 4, 2014



May 10, 2014



May 11, 2014



## From Death Row to Paradise Row - Part III

by W.R.

When I got saved, I walked away from everything and everyone that was connected to my old life. I even gave my jewelry away because of what it once represented in my life, the hustler and the drug dealer. I wasn't that person anymore. I didn't want people seeing me that way anymore, so I sold my gold chain and I gave the rest of my jewelry away, my diamond ring and an 18-karat gold watch worth thousands of dollars. Jewelry used to be my trademark for it represented my life-style, and it came with the hustle, and everything that my life represented. Every now and then I'll run into an old convict who knows me from the old days, and he will ask me, "Where's all the jewelry?" So, I share my testimony with them, and I tell them that I've exchanged all my jewelry for a golden crown, and they just look at me like I've lost my mind, for I have a new mind today, a new heart. I serve a God who changes people's minds and their hearts. The God who can take the coldest of hearts and fill it with His peace, His joy, and His love. There was a time in my life in which I didn't have a heart. I had no peace in my life, no joy. I never smiled; I never had anything to smile about. Every day I woke up in prison and I was in torment. I felt like a man trapped alive in a tomb, but thank God, I've been resurrected from that tomb and freed from that prison of hatred that had kept me bound for so many years.

When I get up in the mornings now, I always have a smile on my face, and peace and joy in my heart that consumes me like a fire. I don't understand it, and I don't have the words to describe it, for there are no words to describe God's peace, His joy, and His love. One thing I do know and understand is that there is no prison so secure, no walls so high, no pit so deep, no soul so lost, and no heart so cold that God's love cannot penetrate it. There are some things that man cannot place chains upon that one cannot confine to a prison. God's Spirit and His love cannot be bound, even in chains. I'm still bound in physical chains, and I'm still in prison. I will die in here, but there are some people who are more bound than I will ever be, for there are many kinds of prisons, and sometimes we can be our own jailers. I'm here to tell you that Jesus can set you free. For the first time in my life, I feel free. I have peace.

### **Freedom in Christ**

*You can be free but still be a slave  
To the things of this world or whatever you crave  
You can live in a mansion and drive a Mercedes Benz  
But still be alone without a friend*

*Or you could be in a prison bound in chains  
And still be free just the same  
For Jesus came to set the captives free  
And to open their eyes so they could see*

*That He is the Way, the Truth, and the Light  
He can free you from the darkness and give you a new life  
He paid for our freedom and oh, what a price  
To free us from our prisons He gave up His life*

*And when I look to the Cross all I can see  
Is God's mercy and grace beckoning to me  
For we were like sheep who had gone astray  
But Jesus came to show us the way*

*Not all prisons are built from concrete and steel  
But often the desire to do our own will  
Oh, how it must break our Savior's heart  
When we, like sheep, drift apart*

*They say that freedom comes with a price  
And Jesus purchased ours with His life  
He fell three times going to the Cross  
But He got back up for those who were lost  
He got back up for you and for me  
He got back up so we could be free!*

And I'm here to tell you that you can all be free, even in chains you can still be free, or you could be sitting on your patio in your backyard sipping on a martini and still be in a prison. Spiritual chains can be, and are, I think, more confining than any prison that man could ever build. Only by God's grace and His mercy am I alive today. I faced death many times throughout my life, and many times I should have died, but the Lord spared my life. He has given me a new life in His Son. If He can show someone like me mercy, then there is hope for everyone. If God's love can reach into the darkness of my heart and my world and change my life, then there is hope for you. The Lord has broken away those chains of hatred that kept me bound and replaced them with chains of compassion and love for others. I once saw guards as my enemies, and the hatred that I felt for them was deeply embedded within my soul, but God uprooted that hatred, and He has given me a new heart, a kinder, gentler heart, one that loves and doesn't hate. Now I pray for my enemies, for those people that I once wanted to destroy. The God I serve is an all-powerful, miracle working God. He changes lives, He changes people's hearts. I stand here today as proof of that.

I had a heart like ice. It was cold and void of human emotions, for somewhere along the way I had stopped feeling emotions like other people, and somewhere along the way I had stopped being human. Somewhere along the way I had crossed that line, that barrier that separates man from animal. The hatred that I felt for guards and people in authority consumed me like a fire. It was like a cancerous disease that took root in my heart and my soul like a raging fire destroying everything in its path, leaving me empty and void of all emotions, of everything that makes a human being gentle and kind. I didn't see guards as human beings, but only as an enemy. And I saw inmates who talked to them or associated

with them as weak. My hatred toward them ran even deeper than what it did for the guards. I felt nothing but disgust and contempt for them. I saw their grievances and complaints to guards as weak. My school of thought was simple, if you had a problem with a guard about your living conditions or how you were being treated; you dealt with it or with them. You never complained. You never let them know that they were hurting you. You never submitted to the enemy, to the harshness of prison life. That was my school of thought then; but, thank God, He's given me a new way of thinking, a new school of thought. He's renewed my mind and my heart. That is the greatest miracle in my life, not the miraculous healing of my body from the bone disease that was crippling me, but the healing of my heart.

Not long after I got saved, God dealt with my heart, and He made it sensitive to the pain and suffering that I had caused others, and a flood of emotions overwhelmed me. For the first time in my life, I began to see guards as human beings, as people with families, with children and wives, as people who hurt and felt pain and sorrow the same as me. For the first time in my life, I wept for them, for their families, and for all the pain and suffering that I had caused them. I had killed a lot of people, hurt a lot of others, and in the process destroyed a lot of lives. For the first time in my life, I wept for them. I was overcome with emotions. Emotions I had never felt before. I never felt them because I never had a heart before. I had a heart of stone, which left me incapable of feeling emotions like other human beings.

One of my biggest struggles after being saved was learning to forgive myself. I couldn't do it. I didn't know how to do it, and I couldn't understand how God could do it. How could a God Who hates sin, Who is Holy and Just, forgive someone like me? I had broken every law of man's and God's, and I expected no one's forgiveness. Then the Lord took me to the Cross to the scene of the crucifixion, and while Jesus was hanging on the Cross dying, He looked down at me and said, "I love you. I died for you, for your sins." Then I realized that it was for people just like me that Christ died, and the Spirit led me to some scriptures in *Isaiah 43:18-19*, "**Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.**" In these Scriptures, the Lord was telling me not to dwell on the past because He was doing a new thing in my life, and He's been doing a new thing in my life ever since. As I look back over my life, I realize that God was reaching out to me, calling out to me most of my life, sometimes in visions and other times through people that I came in contact with. I had my first vision back in June of 1966 as I lay dying in the street. Later I was told that I was pronounced dead by paramedics who were treating me. I was involved in a car accident in which four cars were totally demolished. I ended up in a church yard with my car wrapped around a tree. I remember lying in the street, my body broken and in pain when all of a sudden the heavens opened up and I saw the figure of a man from the waist up gazing down at me, and He was just smiling. He was wearing a purple-colored robe, and there was a hue of colors, bright and intense, that surrounded Him like a rainbow. He just smiled down at me, and all the pain left my body and a peace came over me that I cannot describe. I felt a reassurance that everything was going to be all right. I felt warmth and a love come over me that overwhelmed me. It was not like any love we could ever know or experience here on this earth. There are no words to describe it. It was like a burst of energy (love) radiating in, through and all around me. It touched every fiber of my being. I didn't want it to end. I wanted to stay in the midst of this love force, of this man who had appeared to me in the heavens. I didn't know who He was then, but I know now that it was Jesus. I have no idea how long the vision lasted, for I went unconscious, and when I awoke, I was in the hospital.

I felt a need to tell someone what I had seen, but it was 1966 and in those days you just didn't tell people that you had a vision, for they would think you were crazy. So, I was reluctant to tell anyone what I had seen. Days passed and all I could think about was the vision I'd seen of the Man in the heavens and what I had experienced. One day a priest came to visit me. I jumped at the opportunity to tell him about the vision I had. I thought by him being a priest, he would understand what I'd seen and experienced, but he didn't understand, and he left me feeling discouraged and questioning whether or not I had really seen/had a vision at all. Being a priest, I figured he must be right. I wasn't raised in the church, so I knew nothing about God or Jesus or anything about the Word of God, but I know now that the devil came to rob, steal, kill, and destroy, due to my lack of knowledge of His Word. I allowed him (satan) to rob me of my calling years ago. I realize now that the Lord was reaching out to me in the vision in June of 1966 to serve Him, but I chose instead not to believe, to go my own way, which eventually would lead me to a cell on Ohio's Death Row and into the bowels of hell where I would come face-to-face with a demonic spirit. It was the most frightening thing that I had ever experienced, and I don't scare easily, but this scared me. I had just stabbed two guards a few months previously, and they had buried me in lock up. I had already been in solitary for four years for the deaths of two prison guards, and after stabbing two others, they buried me in lock up. They had me under the tightest security. I was, as I said, at war with the guards, and my heart was filled with hatred toward them, and it was that hatred that, I believe, opened the door to the spiritual realm, which led to a demon manifesting itself to me. God's Word tells us not to let the sun go down on our wrath, lest we give the devil a foothold. I had given the devil more than a foothold in my life. I had kicked the door wide open.

The Bible talks about things like that in *Ephesians 6* and in *Matthew 12:43-45*. "*When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'*"

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Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)**

### Prayer Requests

I have a prayer request for healing in my dad, Don. He has had multiple back surgeries due to deteriorated discs. I pray and trust for God's healing, ease of pain and that it goes no further. Amen! ... **B.W.**

Your card came at the right time! On February 20th I got called into the chaplain's office to find out that my dad had passed away that morning. I'm devastated! I've always been a daddy's little girl. Two years ago he was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. He was bleeding internally that's how they found out. After the surgery the doctor seemed pretty positive that with chemo he would beat it. I've been locked up since August 2012. I talked with him once he was doing good and thought this whole time he was okay. Then I find this out. I don't know how to cope with this. Out there I always turned to drugs but to be sober, I don't know what to do? I do know that I need to cling to God but He seems so far away right now. Please pray for me ... **N.M.**

I've made it to Oakdale and was put in for a range between 180 and 270 days for a halfway house. Could you all pray for me, I want to go home bad? I'm still doing my best to remain strong after the passing of my dad. I can't wait to receive the newsletter. May God be with us all ... **D.L.**

Life is a challenge and I don't believe in giving up. Please keep me in prayer and my family who is struggling. I am really struggling myself, but like my mother used to tell me before she passed away, "Leave it in God's hands," and that's what I do. Things have been real tight for me. I have not been to the store in a few months cause I don't have any money. My sister told me that she will send me a money order, but like all other things in this world, I'm sure there's a reason. I know she is struggling out there in that mad world and she is all I got left. The rest of my family have passed away or got killed since I've been in here doing this time. Please keep me and my family in your prayers ... Thank you ... **T.F.**

I was hoping you could send a prayer for me to my grandmother who is 86 years old and has become very frail. Also my two aunts, one who is fighting M.S. and the other who is in her final days of her cancer, they are both soon to be with the Lord ... **B.M.**

Please could you pray for me and my family? I don't have a good relationship with my family right now, they won't forgive me for the wrong that I have done in the past. I am in prison doing five years and have done 1 of those years and have to do one and a half more. I made a change that's clear with God, that He's #1 and that my love and faith is planted on the rock of Jesus. When I'm feeling things on my shoulders I know that it's satan. I put him under my feet and stump him. At this time I need a little extra prayer for clothing, shoes and hygiene. I feel God will get me through this hard time. May God bless you ... **R.E.**

### Praise Reports

Over the last four years, since July of 2010, I have been extremely blessed in my relationship with God. I've met the most amazing, respectful, supportive, and honoring man.

God has blessed me with this man for I never knew one existed like him. We have been together for almost 3 ½ years now and he also has a relationship with God. I can't wait to grow together in Christ with him on the outside. I still have about 4 ½ years to go but I know that God has a lot more in store for me and today, I trust Him with my life. I pray always for His guidance. It's not easy in here and I know it's not easy out there either. But I know that it is all worth it. I tend to go through moods and dip into negativity but I know that God is molding me every day into the woman He created me to be. I just want Him to use me to help others and He blesses me to bless others. I thank you all there; you have really touched my heart and spirit at the perfect times. God has used you and I am thankful for that. As of May 31st, I have been at my job here, working in the print shop for 3 years now. I started out working on two different printing presses and I now work up in the office where there is negativity and a lot of gossip. It seems that because of my growth in Christ and my prayers to Him to mold me into the woman He created me to be, that I get a lot of things coming against me. I try so hard not to let it bother me for I see in His Word that it's not right to fuel quarrels. So, one of those days had come and I got your card that day! It really has been amazing to me how God has been working through your ministry in my life. Your cards touched me in such a way that it brought tears. I know that in my mom's heart she wants to, and one day will, quit drinking. She has done it for such an abundant amount of time that she doesn't know how to stop, yet. I know that God IS working in her though. As for my sister in her pill addiction, she is trying and I know it is beyond difficult for her. She doesn't have God in her life like I have. We have different dads but the real difference is I have had my dad in my life and she hasn't. I know my sister knows about God because of me and she sees my mom go to church when she can or wants to. I also have an uncle that is a very big influence and blessing in God's Word when he comes to town. I know that God will protect my household because He says He will! I will continue to do my part and abide in Him by reading His Word. I will let Him use me in my family and others to bring Him glory and guide them towards Him. God IS AMAZING and He CAN DO all things, according to His Will! ... **B.W.**

My wife is such a blessing from our Lord. Do you know that she works in the church? Did I mention we have four kids at the house and she writes me, visits me and is in complete certainty with our Lord with me. Wow, she is my angel and I thank God for creating her and allowing me to have this mind blowing love with her. I am blessed my friend, very blessed ... God is so Great! ... **M.M.**

# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### O Death

By W.R.

O death  
Where is thy sting?  
Behind your doors  
Awaits my King  
And Jesus will greet me  
With a warm embrace  
As I enter into Heaven  
With a smile on my face  
For His angels will escort me  
Into the Promised Land  
And no one can pluck me  
From my Fathers hand  
O death  
Where is thy sting?  
Today I walked through Your doors  
To be with my King

I wrote this poem for my own funeral, for I want it to be my last message to my family, in hopes they would/will find some comfort in its verses. Michelle, I pray you will, too. To lose the woman who gave us life and nourished us throughout our lives is a pain like no other. It cuts all the way to our souls!

I'm sick now myself – five weeks ago I had an x-ray on my back. I have an infection inside my bones, possibly tumors. It's pushing my vertebrae outward and I cannot walk, the pain is so intense. I've been waiting for a month now for them to take me to the hospital for an MRI. Please have the church pray for me – "That God's Will be done." I liked what you said about accepting life on its terms. Sometimes it deals all of us a bad hand or so we think, for none of us knows God's plan.

I know God can heal me, He's done it twice before, but even if He doesn't, I know He has His reasons. If He never shows another act of mercy upon me I could never thank Him enough for what He's already done in my life. How can one thank His Creator for leaving His throne, and all His glory in heaven to come to this earth and die for someone like me? I've served God for 16 years now and it has been an honor to serve the King who died for me!

### Focus ... It's Worth It!!!

By J.P.

Sometimes it is hard to stay focused on what ought to be done. So meditating on your train of thoughts could help you gather yourself and view things in a better perspective rather than going off track. Not staying focused is such a big part of most downfalls. It is a gateway to a downward spiral which leads to straying off your original course. The path to a better spiritual life and relationship with our Loving God that should be our first and foremost plan ... stay right with God. Then the rest will follow for sure!

Another way to stay focused would be to try and set goals for yourself, short-term as well as long-term. Just a daily goal could help train yourself to follow through with your long-term goals, which leads to a better life.

You should always try and remember that it's not all about our lives here on this earth because that is just mere seconds compared to an eternity in heaven. I want to make it to heaven, don't you? The key to that consists of an intimate relationship with God. We must give everything up to Him. He decides the first and last words of our lives, so why try to take it upon yourself to determine how you should live? Like it says in the Bible, you can't take the luxuries of the flesh with you when you enter the Kingdom of heaven. We should all focus on eternal life and ready ourselves for the Kingdom of heaven! So, stay focused because it is 100% worth it!!!

# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

**Maturity**  
By M.M.

*Lord, we come before you in thanksgiving for another blessed day, we ask Lord, that You guide our footsteps as we walk on this path of righteousness! We give You all Glory for the overwhelming power to overcome all things in and through You, for without You we are worthless, but with You we are warriors on the front lines of this spiritual battle, defeating the devil and his lies with the victory of You! We praise, we worship, and we give You our all! We love You Jesus! In all these things we ask and give in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior - Amen!*

I continue to push forward to be the righteous man of Christ that He intends me to be for Him, my wife, kids and those that are lost in this world that need the love of Christ in their lives. It broke my heart, I felt so bad for what I did to our Lord that I couldn't even read the Word without tears just falling out of my eyes and those tears were from my heart. I could feel how I hurt Him. But the best thing is that I could feel His overpowering Love for me, and so I had to finally forgive myself. I felt so bad not being the righteous husband for my wife, the righteous dad for my kids and a righteous ambassador for our Lord Jesus Christ. I've learned so much from this experience about myself. When I got out the last time, I was pumped up to do our Lord's work and have His Will be done in my life, I mean, I didn't even sleep with my wife until we were married. I felt that my foundation in Christ was as solid as it could ever be, that way of thinking shows just how immature I really was. I was not humble, but very arrogant. I was taking my family from church to church for a year and a half and if I heard something I didn't agree with I would actually go to the pastor and question him.

Instead of getting into the Word of God, "Seeking the truth diligently," I would get in their faces like a stubborn child, thinking I knew it all, man how wrong I was. I thank God for opening my eyes for I need to have the character of our Lord Jesus. Today, I study a lot, pray, fellowship and am even taking and doing Bible college courses. I keep my mouth shut a lot more and listen. I seek God's knowledge, wisdom and understanding for this is where our true treasures are, but don't get me wrong, I do speak when I must and if something I know is false and I have Scripture to prove it, I'm all over it.

**Thank God**  
By J.P.

Doing time has finally broke me down. I had to give all of my burdens to God. Not a single man in this living world could hold all that I held. I don't even know how I did it for so long. Honestly, it was never worth it! I used to say that it was but look at me now. Funny, I was never going to be that guy but now that's me!

I have a whole newfound understanding about life and how I want to succeed and also first and foremost serve the Lord. It doesn't even matter what anyone thinks because they don't judge for the afterlife. I can truthfully say I am happy enough to go to heaven. It's such a wonderful feeling and to share it with the world feels even better.

I was blessed with a friend, a fellow servant of the Lord, a gift from our heavenly Father, and I truly enjoy her company. So, thank you my God! I really hope we can learn from each other. I am now at a very happy point in my life. I've never felt this kind of happiness! Only someone who has a good relationship with God can truly understand my joy. All praises and glory go to our Lord and Savior! It's all Him!!!

**What Do You Surrender To?**  
By T.F.

Everybody eventually surrenders to someone on something. If not to God, you will surrender to the opinions or expectations of others, to money, to resentment, to fear or to your own pride, lusts or ego. We all were designed to worship God and if you fail to worship Him you will create other things (idols) to give your life to. You are not free from the consequences of that choice. Surrender is not the best way to live, it is the **ONLY WAY** to live. Nothing else works. All other approaches lead to frustration, self-destruction and disappointment. God is the **ONLY WAY**.

The best use of life is love. The best expression of love is time. The best time to love is now. God loves all of us and we must love each other. Love will last forever.

# Foot's Bible Study Notes

## 2 Samuel 4:1-7:5

Fear can paralyze us, but faith and trust in God can overcome fear (**2 Timothy 1:6-8, Hebrews 13:6**). If we trust in God, we will be free to respond boldly to the events around us. (**4:1**) Only in God are we truly secure and safe. Anything else is false security. Whether you are surrounded by mighty walls of stone, a comfortable home, or a secure job, no one can predict what tomorrow may bring. Our relationship with God is the only security that cannot be taken away. (**4:1**)

Feelings of bitterness and resentment that go unchecked will destroy a relationship. Deal with your feelings before they escalate into open warfare. (**5:6-7**)

In this message from Nathan, God is saying that He doesn't want David to build a temple for Him. God told David that his job was to unify and lead Israel and to destroy its enemies. This huge task would require David to shed a great deal of blood. In **2 Chronicles 28:3**, we learn that God did not want His Temple built up by a warrior. Therefore, David made the plans and collected the materials so that his son Solomon could begin work on the Temple as soon as he became king (**1 Kings 5-7**). David accepted his part in God's plan and did not try to go beyond it. Sometimes God says "No" to our plans. When He does, we should utilize the other opportunities He gives us. (**7:1**) Don't spend your time devising ways to become accepted in the public eye. Instead, strive to do what is right, and both God and people will respect your convictions. (**7:5**)

## John 13:31-31

To love others was not a new command (See **Leviticus 19:18**), but to love others as much as Christ loved was revolutionary. Now we are to love others based on Jesus' sacrificial love for us. Such love will not only bring unbelievers to Christ, it will also keep believers strong and united in a world hostile to God. Keep Jesus a living example of God's love, as we are to be living examples of Jesus' love. (**13:31**) Jesus says He is the only way to God the Father. Some people may argue that this way is too narrow. In reality, it is wide enough for the whole world, if the world chooses to accept it. Instead of worrying how limited it sounds to have only One Way, we should be saying "Thank You God, for providing a sure way to get to You!" (**13:34**)

Sin, fear, uncertainty, doubt and numerous other forces are at war within us. The peace of God moves into our hearts and lives to restrain these hostile forces and offer comfort in place of conflict. Jesus says He will give us that peace "if" we are willing to accept it from Him. (**14:15-31**)

## Psalms 119:17-48

Most of us chafe under rules, for we think they restrict us from what we want. At first glance, then, it may seem strange to hear the psalmist talk of rejoicing in following God's laws as much as in having great riches. But, God's laws were given to free us from what might cripple us and keep us from being our best. God's guidelines help us follow His path and avoid paths that lead to destruction. (**119:17-32**) By seeking God's Salvation and forgiveness, we have freedom from sin and the resulting oppressive guilt. By living God's way, we have freedom to fulfill God's plan for our life. (**119:33-48**)

## Proverbs 15:31-33

"Constructive criticism" now that's a rough pill to swallow, we all tend to get offended when it comes our way, but if we don't listen to it with an open mind and heart we'll never get out of the same ole ruts we travel. Now if we can just swallow that bitter pill along with our pride there's a good shot that we will become better people for it, even wiser for it. (**15:31-32**) "Fear the Lord" does not mean to be afraid of Him; it means to have reverence for the Lord, respect for the Lord. If we were all afraid of the Lord how could we possibly have the close, intimate, joy and peace of His presence in our lives? How could we come freely to Him with all of our troubles? I believe that having respect for the Lord allows us to come humbly to Him, and through our humility the Lord will honor us. (**15:33**)

## “Foot” Notes

### The Evolution of the Salvation of Criminal Types ... (Most of Us)

We start out doing the wrong things for any reason. Then we move towards doing the wrong things for the right reason. From there we move to doing the right things for any reason and finally with the grace of God we move to praising God for every reason! Love to you all short and tall ... Vaya con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angel can fly!



*When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.*"<sup>20</sup> When the demon first began to manifest itself to me, I didn't realize what was happening. I was sitting on my bunk when I noticed a gray-colored mist (like smoke) begin to rise up in the corner of my cell. I watched it grow larger, and as it grew it began to take the shape of a man, only it wasn't a man. It was about eight feet tall when it had fully manifested itself, with huge, broad shoulders and its head was the size of a bucket. It had a broad nose, and its mouth looked like a cow's mouth, and it had a stench like rotting flesh. It was nauseating. Its appearance was frightening, but what was even more frightening was the power it had over me. I could not move. I was powerless in its presence. I was literally paralyzed as it moved toward me. I knew I was in the presence of pure evil, of a being that had come out of the bowels of hell, and I was totally helpless, powerless in its presence. Upon reaching me, I could feel pressure on my head and face like it was trying to enter me through the top of my head. I could not breathe. I was gasping for breath as it tried to enter me. It was like someone had put a plastic bag full of rotting flesh over my head. It was literally suffocating me. I could feel myself starting to go unconscious, for I could not breathe, so I cried out to Jesus to help me, and as soon as I said that, I could feel the pressure leave my head, and I could breathe again. I was gasping for breath, trying to get some air into my lungs. As I was doing that, I could see the demon moving away from me, and it began to fade away like a mist. It was roaring as in a rage, a loud, thundering sound that echoed throughout my cell. It was frightening. The last thing I saw was its eyes. They were like balls of fire protruding from its head. That was my first encounter with a demon, but it would not be my last. I wasn't saved when I had that encounter with that demonic force, but even that experience didn't turn me to God.

My next encounter with a demonic force would come twenty-two years later. I'd only been a Christian about a year when I moved into a cell with a young man named Dago, who was having seizures on a weekly basis. He was always falling out, and sometimes the seizures would last for 15 minutes. He told me that he'd been having them for years, but no one seemed to know why because he wasn't an epileptic. Doctors were giving him medication for his condition, but nothing stopped the seizures. When he would have them, he would just fall out, and his body would get stiff as a board. He'd clench his fingers into his hands and his body would just shake. He had a tattoo, "Furious", written across his belly. He was angry at the world. Anyone could see that from his behavior. He would have violent outbursts frequently. He was a big man weighing 200 pounds. He stood 6 feet, 2 inches. He had a bully mentality. He preyed on the weak. One day a brother named Frank, who was a Christian for 12 years, came to me and told me that the Spirit had told him that the reason Dago was having seizures was because he had a demon in him and that I was to lay hands on him and cast it out. So, I told Dago what was happening to him, but he just laughed. He wouldn't let me lay hands on him and pray for him, so I waited until he had another seizure. When that time came, he fell out. I put my hand over his heart and I started to pray for him. As soon as I said, "In the name of Jesus," Dago sat straight up, his eyes practically bulging out of his head. Enraged, the demon roared in a high-pitched voice. I had heard that same sound twenty-two years ago when I had my encounter with that demonic spirit. I wasn't frightened this time, for I knew the powers that I was dealing with, and I knew I had authority over them. I kept praying, and the demon kept roaring and trying to strike me. Dago's fists were flying all around my head, but no blows struck me. Brown spit flew from his mouth and splattered all over my face. I wiped it off and kept praying. Just as suddenly as the seizures had begun, they stopped. Dago's eyes cleared up. He looked at me, and I saw a peace within, a calm came across his face. I told him what had happened, but he didn't remember anything. He never had a seizure after that. He went home about a month later.

Not long after that incident, a Mexican guy came to me and told me that his celly was up all night, scared to death. The reason he was so scared was because he saw a demonic spirit come into his cell and pass through the wall. He asked me if I believed in those sorts of things. I told him, "Yes." I told him about the experience I had years ago when a demon appeared to me and about the incident with Dago. I told him the demon he had seen come into his cell was probably the same one that I'd cast out of Dago, for they do (as you know) wander, looking for a place to rest.

Over the years I've had a number of encounters with demonic spirits, and I've known other people who have had similar experiences. I also know that a lot of people don't believe in these things. There was a time in my life when I didn't believe in demons, either, but I know from my experiences with demonic forces that they are real and they should never be taken for granted. They war against us, and they have come (as Jesus said) to rob, steal, kill, and destroy, but thank God, we have power and authority over them through the Cross and the Blood of Jesus. I know from my encounters with them that they tremble and submit to the name of Jesus. In **Acts 2:17**, God tells us that He will pour out His Spirit in the last days and reveal things to His people in visions and dreams. Why God would reveal anything to someone like me, I don't know. I may never know, but I know what I saw was real, as real as this prison that I'm in. I know that no one will believe me, but none of that matters. I've got to speak the truth.

## What Others Are Saying...

"Thank you for the letters and cards of encouragement and faith. I would also like to thank you for the newsletters. They have been uplifting as well. I know what it takes to produce your newsletter as I was in the printing business for a couple of decades. Man that sounds like a long time when I put it like that. Anyway, I know what is involved from the production aspect and I would like to help continue the ministry. Please accept this tithe to assist you in your kingdom work. Thank you; for all that you do for all of us behind bars." - **R.W.**

"I just received your birthday greetings and want to respond with heartfelt gratitude, thanking you and the kinfolk for your most gracious gesture. I was truly moved that so many brothers and sisters would take the time and effort to extend spiritual blessings to someone they don't know. It's obvious to this ole son that these sheep are led by a true Shepherd – thus the power of God, praise the Lord!" - **L.P.**

"I know that it was God that led me to write to you. I came across your newsletter, *Overcomers for Christ*, and found it very refreshing. It has been a great tool for studying the Word and it's an all round good read. If it is possible to be placed on the mailing list it would be greatly appreciated." - **R.Q.**

## Overcomer's Testimonies

***"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." ... Psalm 118:24 ... Praise the Risen Lord***

'Tis another glorious day the Lord had made, so let us rejoice and be glad because we are richly blessed sons and daughters of a loving and merciful God – Let us therefore demonstrate our gratitude by endeavoring throughout each day to seek Him with all our hearts and mind, and to surrender our "selves" to His power and authority – thus we can serve His will and fulfill His purpose for us, all for His honor and glory! Praise the Lord! I pray all is well with all of yours, that you are as healthy in body as I am strong in Spirit and walking faithfully upon the path of light that the Father has prepared, especially for you. As a greatly favored man of God, I am privileged to serve the Kingdom of Christ – and by His grace alone can I joyfully proclaim, "Still alive and well, and nothing short of spectacular – praise the Lord!"

Since we don't know each other, I'll take advantage of this opportunity to give a very brief testimony about the saving grace of Almighty God.

I got busted in early 1981 and spent the next four years in the walls and CB6... hangin' with the fellas and committing acts of evil. I got out in 1984 and continued to live "full-tilt boogie", a selfish existence of dark rebellion. I came back in late 1986 with a pair of 15's runnin' wild, and I didn't miss a beat in my walk with satan. I was sent to CB6 in late 1989 and never saw direct sunlight again until 2006. Some of us brothers waged warfare against the administration, beginning in the early 1990's. For my contributions, I found myself locked in the hole.

The warden told me, "I'll never open this cell door again." The year was 2002 and I was dying, eaten away with stomach cancer and the same Hep C virus which would kill two of my closest brothers. Man, I didn't care a lick and all I wanted was one more chance to take out a guard. That's when God interrupted! The warden was good to his word, as my door never opened – not for rec, not for shower, not for nothin'! Man, a "good day" was when the water was on and a great day was one when I got fed. Then one extraordinary day in 2003, some guard who I'd never seen before opened the trap and set a Bible inside, and since I had nothing else to do, I began reading The Word of God.

Now, I want you to understand something, I was so committed to the extreme lifestyle I'd chosen that when the captain of security told me (in 2001) that the only way I could continue to receive my chemotherapy was to renounce, I replied in vile terms and subsequently another guard got hurt. So, now I'm reading the Word of Truth everyday (2003) and talking to God about this and that. I resolved to reading the New Testament and praying three times per day, and by spring of 2004, I had accepted Jesus as my Savior. Alas, I was too happy, as I foolishly thought! This is great! I can still try to whack a guard and then confess, I'll be dead soon and I can live eternity in heaven.

One August morning, the Lord shook me up out of my stupor by announcing His presence in very stark terms, "Choose this day who you will serve." Truthfully, I thought I was hallucinating – must be that time, big dog, all is well. I closed my eyes but instead of death I felt the Light of God, "Choose this day who you will serve." I sat up and simply said, "I choose You Lord." By coincidence, that same guard who gave me the Bible was walking the pod and I asked him for a pen and piece of paper. I wrote these words, "I hereby renounce my leadership position and all ties to the brotherhood." That was August of 2004.

Two years later I found myself on a yard for the first time since 1989. I commandeered a picnic table and have been leading a Bible study at every rec time since. My life and time are in the perfect hands of Almighty God, as I live a fully – surrendered Spirit-led life, committed to the One who gave everything for me. Praise the coming King ... I'll be out in 3 years. - **L.P.**

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## Thank You to the Overcomers for Christ Ministry By the Late Dolores Mankin

When my mother passed away, I was going through her things and came across this praise report that she was writing for the newsletter. She had told me about it, so it was a blessing to find it. Here is what she wrote on February 4, 2014 ... Michelle Anderson

*First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our God and Lord Jesus Christ for the blessings He has bestowed on my family and myself.*

*Recently, I have been very sick, seriously ill and not able to work. My last day of work was January 9, 2014. My illness was a respiratory condition making me unable to breath. During this time, I was not able to walk from one room to another without respiratory distress. I spent a lot of time sitting and sleeping sitting up. All I could do was sit, any exertion and I was not able to breath. During this time, I drew closer to God, reading my Bible, daily devotions and catching up on newsletters from Overcomers for Christ. I did a lot of praying. Prior to my illness, my brother Jim was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer and he had two brain tumors. After the first of the year, my son-in-law, Wade, was diagnosed with prostate cancer. I continued to stay focused ... praying and reading my Bible.*

*I must share that during this time while reading the newsletters from Overcomers for Christ, the Lord touched my heart with comfort, as I was struggling with depression also. Some of the articles brought comfort to me. I am very proud to say my son-in-law has written some of those articles. His sermons minister to us. The Lord has blessed his life with wisdom and knowledge of the Bible. I am very proud of my daughter who works very hard alongside of him with this ministry. My daughter is very busy with the administrative part of Overcomers for Christ. Not to forget my granddaughter, Courtney, and her husband, John, who is very talented with the art work in the newsletters. Some of the artwork I see that John has done is awesome. This is my blood delivering those messages.*

*I have another daughter, Becky, and her boyfriend, Jeff, in Nevada. God has provided a great job for the two of them. This is an answer to many of my prayers.*

*I have a son, David, and his wife, Donna, who love the Lord. They continue to struggle with things and I keep on praying for them. I know that my prayers will be answered with them, too.*

*I am a very proud mother, mother-in-law, and grandma of this prison ministry. God gets all the glory for these answered prayers and blessings in my life.*

### Quote Worthy

**“When I was young I observed that nine out of ten things I did were failures, so I did ten times more work.”**

**- George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) - An Irish playwright, essayist, novelist, short story writer and a co-founder of the London School of Economics.**

### Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, assemble, and mail this newsletter every month. We thank each and every one of you who have sown a seed into this ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support from people who believe in this ministry. By sowing your financial seed into this ministry, you are helping us reach out to those incarcerated by offering them hope, love, and encouragement. You are investing in reaching lost souls, encouraging new believers, and spreading the Word of God. **“A man’s harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows.” – Galatians 6:7**

Any tithes or offerings that you would like to make to the Overcomers for Christ ministry, please make your checks or money orders payable to Living Word Bible Church, in the memo section put ‘For Overcomers for Christ’. Mail them to Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023, Phoenix, AZ 85080. Your donation does qualify as charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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I want to thank you for the card, it was wonderful. I also want to thank you for all of the work that you do for all of us. Jesus brings blessings every day. I'm finally thankful that I can see them now. I wrote this poem a couple of months ago when my brother got sentenced to 25 years. I cried myself to sleep that night; woke up about 2 a.m. grabbed a pen and paper and there it was. I would like to share it with you and all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### I Had a Dream

By S.P.

I was breaking free from these walls,  
I found myself in the hallway, crying – only hearing the echoes of my own painful calls.  
When I fell to my knees, praying Jesus please! ... Save me from myself,  
With Your very hands touch my starving heart, please Jesus, don't let me fall apart,

With these tears falling from my eyes,  
I know You're watching down from Your golden gates in the skies.  
When I don't feel quite like myself, and I don't know who I am at all,  
It's Your name I scream and call.

Your light and love brings me to my feet, the man before me, he starts to weep,  
And like the rain from heaven, his tears start to fall.  
Seeing how much he is saddened, like me, I'm not alone at all.  
Feeling his warmth take me by the hand, I look up to see the most precious face.  
With Jesus, together, here we stand.

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

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