

Overcomers for Christ

May 2015



Mothers hold their
Child's hands
for a while,
but they hold
their **Heart**
forever

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

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Wade's Testimony - Part One

By Wade Anderson

Let's pray: "Gracious and Almighty heavenly Father, today, I come boldly yet humbly before Your throne of grace. I invite Your Holy Spirit to be the teacher, to guide and direct our thoughts to be more like Your thoughts and our desires to line up with Your desires for our lives. Help us LORD to tune out the worlds noise and tune in to the truth that Your Spirit speaks to us. Today, we give You our undivided attention that we might listen, hear and follow all that You have planned for our lives. I thank You that You gave Your Son Jesus so that we might live forever with You in eternity. It's in You, Jesus, that we believe and pray. AMEN!"

Before we move on to the message I want to say this; I know that the message of Grace that C.L. and I have co-written and ran in the newsletters may rub some of you all's fur the wrong way. Neither C.L. nor myself came up with this on our own. Our spirits have been quickened to these truths by the Holy Spirit. And that's the only way any of us will EVER begin to understand the depths of God's grace is through His Holy Spirit revealing it to us! Lots of Scripture was used to show that it is not our opinion but TRUTH from the Word of God.

I understand that some will take the stand using what is written in **2 Peter 2** about false teachers, refusing to hear the WHOLE truth. It is also important that we read all of the text, before and after a certain Scripture to keep it in context. **Second Peter 2:1a,b** (NLT) says, **"But there were false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach their destructive heresies about God ..."** So, in context Peter was referring back to what he had heard Jesus say, first hand, in **Matthew 24:9-14** and **Mark 13:21-23**. Jesus says that these 'teachers' will be telling us 'they either see the Messiah or they are the Messiah'. NONE of that is done in love, only for personal gain! You tell me if **Matthew 24:12** doesn't sound like our present age. **"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,"** I love it when there is a 'but' in Scripture like this. **Matthew 24:13** Jesus continues His thought AND offers an option by saying, **"... but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."** Jesus also tells us in **Matthew 25:13**, **"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."** So NO ONE will know, in advance, the EXACT time Jesus is coming back for the last time! Overcomers for Christ will NEVER teach that there is no such thing as sin or hell because that is NOT THE TRUTH! In fact that is opposite the truth. What we want everyone to know is that Jesus IS the way, and the truth and the life (**John 14:6**) out of sin and hell! We intentionally use the amount of Scripture that we do in ALL these articles so that you would not simply take our word for it but that you ALL would ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you if what was written in the newsletters is the truth according to the Word of God!? It's so important that we ask, THEN listen and THEN follow as the Spirit of God directs us.

Let me tell you all, this was not what I had intended to write about for this month's newsletter. But, as I began to pray asking for a more clear direction with what I had begun to write all of a sudden this particular topic was heavy on my heart. The message you are about to read is about how I personally came to KNOW that God's grace is REAL and how powerful it is as He came into my own life. Remember, whenever God puts something on your heart to write about He has ALREADY prepared someone's heart ready to receive what you have written! Yes, my testimony, your testimony and EVERYONE that asks Jesus to be the Lord in their lives has a testimony about the grace of God! And, this is mine.

One of the reasons we share our testimony is to of course give God glory. Another reason is similar, to share with others that it doesn't matter the level of evil things we've done or the kind of person we used to be God's grace is sufficient/greater than any of that stuff! Through the blood of Jesus God's grace was made available to ALL those that MIGHT have the courage to believe. In **Revelation 12:11** we see, **"And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony. And they were not afraid to die."** We see here that our testimonies, covered in the blood of Jesus, have the power to change not only our lives but as well the lives of many others.

There are many of you out there that have read brief parts of my testimony in the personal letters that I have written to you over the years. And then there are a handful of you where we were arm and arm, deep in the bowels of the enemy's territory kicking butt and forget the names! These are the people that knew that ole guy and today know what a difference having and not having Jesus has made in my life. I want to also add that none of what I am about to share is by no means giving ANY glory to that old lifestyle!! NO! Instead it's ONLY to glorify God in all that He has done and continues to do in and through this NEW life He has given me.

Like so many of you, I too grew up in the midst of a very physical and mental abusive household, a very dysfunctional and broken family life. My dad was a back yard automotive painter and a sort of 'jack of all trades'. I remember my dad managing filling/service stations (that's what gas stations were called back then), driving a tow truck for a wrecking yard, he was milkman (the kind that hand delivered glass bottles to your front door), a TV repairman and he was even a wrench in a Harley Davidson dealership in Colorado, by trade though he was a truck driver. Dad was an amazing hunter and an above the chart fisherman. He always had a few fishing poles in the trunk of the car and everywhere we found water, usually close to a tavern, we'd be there fishing ALL DAY. I say this next part with absolutely NO disrespect to my dad because I still to this day love my dad dearly, but it was due to the fact that he was more of an alcoholic than a truck driver

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or a wrench that caused him to become a "jack of all trades". See, you can't drink all day in the taverns and still hold a steady job so he had to find things that he could fit into his schedule, to make money and still drink. My mom always called him, among many other things, a 'wheeler dealer'.

The abuse I mentioned was more between my mom and dad, but as things would escalate it sometimes had one of us five boy's names attached to it. Therefore, it had a way of finding its way in to our room. Our mom was the protector of us all. But, we all know how that goes most of the time. She ended up getting the brunt of his anger regardless because she stood in the gap for us.

For many years, wherever we lived, my mom served as a nurse in several different hospitals. Our mom had great work ethics so she always helped find different ways to keep us fed and a roof over our head. My mom was a great provider and stay at home mom when she was handed the opportunity to do so. I am not saying that mom didn't have a part to play in all of the chaos that went on. Somewhere along the way I guess she made up her mind to not stand down or how/when to pick and choose her battles, more times than not, she rose to every occasion. And from the stories I heard my mom and my grandfather tell, maybe that's why he had to 'backhand' her and put her through a wall or two. Again, there is NO disrespect to my mom or my grandfather here. I love them deeply and in MANY, MANY ways they helped shape me into the man that I am today.

By the time I was 10 years old the abuse between my mom and dad had escalated to the point that they both physically BEAT each other out of the 'family life' they both so desperately desired. That night mom took all five boys ranging from the ages of 10 to 1 in a 1957 Chevy station wagon and literally ran for her life. We went to live with our grandparents, mom's parents. That's where the turnaround in our lives began, for the most part. I'll explain. It wasn't that mom didn't share God or Jesus with us but, living around my grandmother, aunts and a certain uncle is where we began to see "church" more consistently. They all did the best they could with me after all that had previously gone on in my life. But, I was the oldest and now the one in charge of the other four boys AND everything that had to be done at home when mom worked. It didn't take long and I guess I began to act like my mom. NOW my grandfather was attempting to knock me straight like he did my mom.

At the age of 14, I turned to running with an older group of guys. Being the oldest son and knowing everything that went on between our parents ... I loved my mother dearly but I missed my dad, too. When I got around these guys I seen them wrenching and racing cars and not only was I drawn in like a magnet, I was invited in. They all were schooling me like I wished my dad was there to do. Before long my passion turned first to car motors then to motorcycles. Go figure huh? Of course we all know what happens then. In what seemed like a brief second, I was smoking Panama Red pot and doing every sort of chemical that was available back then. (I hope that last sentence doesn't cause some of you to have flash-backs.) In all of this I don't ever remember getting disrespectful to my mom. Although, before we leave this spot, I must disclose that I'm saddened to say that disrespect did come along a few years later in our relationship.

By the time I was of legal age to get a driver's license the court system already had a hold on my license for driving so much without one. Living outside of town, in the country, presented lots of space and opportunity to drive the fields and along the railroad tracks in some of my \$10 - \$30 cars and my Cushman motorcycle. By the time I was 16 years old or so I had already driven from Ohio to the state of Washington in a 1957 Chevy Belair and was hitch hiking back and forth from Ohio to Colorado, and most of the places I went. As you can see, I was gone more and more to the point that now my brothers were left somewhat alone to find their way. Not a good role model I now know.

Fast forwarding some ... I was in and out of two marriages. The first one only lasted 1 year. The second one lasted 12 years but was full of hollering and yelling at each other, similar to the relationship I watched my parents display before me as a child. Not that I am blaming them at all. By the time this second relationship was over my heart had grown cold. After watching my parent's relationship I thought I had formed a vision of what I would NOT allow to happen in my marriage. I guess I didn't have as good a vision as I thought OR I hadn't dealt with the root of it all and failed myself. Although out of the second marriage I was BLESSED and came away with a beautiful daughter. I'm sure you all have heard the phrase "The sins of the father are the sins of the son," right? In my heart I KNEW I was NEVER going to be an alcoholic. Instead, you can already see from above that all I had done was to simply switch lanes into the fast lane where I became a speed freak that LOVED fast motorcycles! From where I am at in life today I'm sure it all happened the same way with my dad, one wrong choice at a time until it consumed him like it did me. Anyways, I felt that I was a good dad to my daughter. I loved her more than anything in my life at that time. That is truly what I had in my heart but the toxic relationship her mother and I had drove me away from the family, I too so desired. I wanted my daughter to come with me but she felt that her mother needed her more than I did. What a decision for an 8 year old girl to have on her plate. So, you can see, I obviously left my daughter in about the same place my dad left me, heartbroken, wondering what love was really supposed to look like and full of hopelessness. I know you probably think that would be the breaking point, the place where my life would turn about face. It wasn't. With my heart ripped out and nothing in my life to somewhat ground me, I spiraled totally out of control.

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

Michelle, sorry to hear about your mother, know that we were praying and are praying for you. I can't even imagine how you felt or what you went through. The thing that has played in my head is you know your mother loved Jesus Christ and that she was born again. That's my reason for getting closer to mine is to show her Jesus, because I can show you better than I can tell you. My mother doesn't have a relationship and is not saved "yet" or my brothers. But LORD willing, they will turn to Him and know that He is Who He says He is, and that His love is real and that it is for them. Thanks for your prayers, He hears you. **(James 5:16) ... J.W.**

I need prayer in two areas ... I'm in the hole for a fight and can't get it out of my head to continue this when I get back on the yard and second I've lost my love for reading and doing what the Word says. It is hard being around so much negativity and always trying to do the right thing ... **P.B.**

The main problem that I'm having is that I got a family member who can't stay out of trouble in here due to his mouth. And my uncle is in a wheelchair, and can't stay off dope out there on the streets. Please, can you pray for my family members and myself ... **M.F.**

The Lord has really shaken things up here recently and several guys have given their lives to the Lord and later got baptized. But the enemy immediately made a counter move and sent a pretty militant Jehovah's Witness into their pod, to confuse the gospel of grace message. Please join me in praying that God would shatter this stronghold and bring this sincere (but sincerely wrong) man to his knees. Would you all mind lifting up my family in prayer? My wife of 25 years struggles with anxiety and she has been unable to drive for the past few years. My older kids help her a lot, but I'm praying that God would give her a breakthrough, that she might drive again. It would really build her faith as well. All of my kids know the Lord, which is a blessing, but concern goes out to my oldest daughter (23) who might not be making really good choices with friends right now. She is an artist (like her dad) and took my incarceration pretty hard. I just hope she stays safe and makes some good Christian friends as she hangs out more with "party" people from her work. My youngest son is 15, please pray for him to be strong while I am away and that he would be the spiritual man that I know he is. He helps my wife the most around the house. My eldest son (24) and youngest daughter (19) seem to be doing well – both of them are in good relationships and my youngest girl actually has an 8 month old baby girl and is married to a capable young man. My eldest son is engaged to a nice girl. I think their marriage will be in October. Anyway, I think that's all for now. Again, I am so pleased that ya'll found me and I pray that God would richly bless your ministry as you serve Him thru "the least of these", meaning, we who are incarcerated. His Grace Abounds **(Psalm 86:11) ... B.M.**

Praise Reports

Thank you so much for your support and words and prayers. Thank you for studying with me. I am especially blessed by your support because I know that you understand what it's like in here. That is exactly the testimony of God coming to earth. From birth to death, Jesus knows exactly what it's like and we take comfort that He knows. You all are a very picture of that, a testimony of Christ on earth. Thank you for that. I wanted to share with you a boast in my Lord. On December 10, 2014. I sent out my 1,000th Firestorm letter to a church. That was the number I committed to do for the Lord, when I first started Firestorm Ministries. It's been a long and hard three years. To have finally laid at God's feet what I committed to Him is a wonderful joy, and I praise God for all of it. Of course, I wouldn't have done it without everyone at O.C.C. I'm sure you all have the same joy when you do your ministry that God laid at your feet to do. The greatest thing is that the long, sometimes impossible task proved the promise of God's Word, **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."** **(Philippians 4:13)** May my boast in the Lord bring you joy and happiness and know that all of you, your witness of Christ in the hearts of His people have always been a source of encouragement and strength to me ... **J.I.**

I am truly blessed by the great favor of our gracious Father in every way, especially spiritual prosperity. For the past eight years, the power of His Spirit has counseled and renewed me in the word of truth. Even as He comforts me with His love and mercy and by the grace of God, I've been enabled to lead Bible studies at every rec period ever since I renounced my leadership. I now shepherd the Lord's chosen ones, teaching other ex-gang members their true identity as children of God in the truth of Christ, crucified and risen! There's about 15 (out of 100 in my cell block) who are being enlightened and encouraged to live fully surrendered lives and walk truthfully the path of light that our glorious Father has prepared especially for each of them. Please keep us in daily prayers, as we do your ministry ... **L.P.**

The Lord is very much at work here. I spend my time in three Bible Studies, two of which might get me on my way to a degree in Biblical Studies. I also draw and am currently writing a fantasy novel. I am blessed to be a part of the worship team here ... **B.M.**

I've been born again for 16 years now and I am still in awe of God's mercy and His love for someone like me. I'm not used to that. Punishment I understand, but to show someone like me mercy and to love me so much that You'd die for me, I break down and weep just thinking about it ... **W.R.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God is a Life-Saver

By G.B.

I want to thank you so much; you have truly helped this old soul. Trust me; I'm no stranger to violence, for I have been its victim many times throughout the years. I have been beaten, jumped and stabbed on many different occasions. As I look back today I see faithfully our Father had never left my side. In here they have a convict code and trust me, I have always stayed out of others business. The penitentiary is no playground. It's where the most dangerous convicts are, I've seen a lot of men die right in front of me! But finding your newsletter the day I did saved my life, honestly, that day they came in and beat me. I packed up what little they left me with and walked out to the guard covered in blood. Trust me; I tried to stop the bleeding.

Anyway, the day I found your newsletter, I laid down the sword and picked up the Bible and I do this with guts. I am a soldier in His army and this took courage. Anyone can be a convict gangster or killer but not everyone can be a soldier in His Army.

Acacia Wood

By B.M.

I was studying the tabernacle and how it points to Christ. Something I hadn't really seen before is in **Exodus 26:15**, "**Make upright frames of acacia wood for the tabernacle.**" This verse talks about the boards that they would put up that would serve as the walls of the tabernacle. Well, these boards are from acacia wood - that really durable desert wood that had to be chopped and shaped into those planks and then they were covered with gold and set upon a foundation of silver.

The study guide I went through compares those boards to us as believers who are fitted together in Christ. We are shaped and conformed to the shape he wants us to be here in the wilderness and then we are covered with Christ's righteousness. But the silver part is what's neat - silver is a symbol of redemption and it just happens to be the foundation on which those boards rest. Just like how our common foundation is in Christ and His completed work on the Cross for our salvation. Pretty neat huh? And there are details about the connector pieces (rings) are how Christ holds us all together. It's pretty exciting stuff.

Offer Up a Joyful Heart

By R.D.

Psalm 78:41 ... "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel."

What I have learned in these last 3 months is when I murmur, complain and object, it puts limits on God moving in my life. God is all powerful and He can do everything. But, my lack of praise and worship during times of tribulation limits Him in His power to deliver. Paul and Silas were bound in the lowest part of the prison and they praised God at the darkest hour and He moved with an earthquake to set them free. Our Great God was limited by Israel's constant complaining about His provision and in their hearts they desired the leeks, fish and melons of Egyptian slavery over the freedom of manna from heaven in the wilderness.

Israel was so worldly minded that heaven was a reproach to them. See, if we want our Great God and Redeeming Savior to shake this hell bound world to free the shackled prisoners, then we must give thanks and praise for everything in our lives, both good and bad, and by this act of love is a sacrifice, well pleasing to Him. Now, we are offering up a joyful and thankful heart, even if we don't feel like it, it does not matter as long as it is done in faith and a pure heart.

Word of Thanks

By A.P.

The Overcomers for Christ ministry has blessed me time and time again, and I thank God for the work in serving Christ that your ministry has done. In my own personal life, I owe so much to O*F*C for helping me find the Lord and showing me a way to open up the treasures of my heart to let the Holy Spirit come in and set me free. This ministry is truly blessed and I pray that God continues to strengthen His house, I pray that He strengthens the body of Christ because this spiritual

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From the Inside

warfare is getting even more intense, but God's chosen people must stand firm and stay strong in faith. May He continue to send out mighty blessings through the Holy Spirit's work through your ministry. May lives and souls continue to be saved. Hallelujah to the Lamb of heaven!!! Thank you for helping to guide me through all the truths of the Bible. There was a point in time when I didn't know where to start reading, when to start reading, or if I was going to even understand the written Word of God, but you all showed me that one of the greatest gifts in this world is God's Word to man. I know this is a little seed I'm sowing, but I pray to God that it's able to benefit this ministry in helping to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!! Praise the Almighty God may glory, honor, and praise be given to Him forever and ever ... Amen!!!

He Transformed Human Suffering

By M.G.

You know, Jesus was human. He felt pain as we do. And in many ways He experienced pain and suffering more deeply than we will ever know. Yet in the face of it all, He transformed human suffering into something greater and His ability to walk with the afflicted and to empty Himself so that His loving Father could work more fully through Him.

As we look upon the Cross and recall the specific ways by which people share in its mystery, there are many perspectives to be considered. The essential mystery of the Cross is that it gives rise to a certain kind of loneliness, an ability to see clearly how things are unfolding, an inability to see that, ultimately, all things will work for our good, and that we are indeed not alone.

This sense of being abandoned, this extreme experience of loneliness is evident in Jesus' cry, *"My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (**Matthew 27:46**) If the Lord experienced pain and suffering, can we, as His disciples expect anything less? No!! Like Jesus, we too must expect pain. There is, however, a decisive difference between our pain as disciples and that experienced by those who are not the Lord's disciples.

We suffer in communion with the Lord. And that makes all the difference in the world. So, as you can see we all suffer in different ways, but WE try to be a positive person, so nothing can harm us. The devil is a liar!!!

Gospel of Grace Abounds

By C.L.

I am excited about the Gospel of Grace going forth. His Word cannot be bound! Satan has kept the truth from the church for way too long, but watch what God is about to do as the truth is revealed to the church. Watch the church's anger at being lied to, transformed into fire for the Ministry of Righteousness.

God will be glorified mightily in what is culminating right now. More than ever in history there is a desperate need among mankind and when God begins to be properly revealed through His church by an unexplainable peace and joy in the midst of great tribulation, the world is going to come running for what we have and Who we have. That is Christ in us!!

It is so exciting to see people set free, people who have been saved for years, being free for the first time as grace is revealed to them. I pray God gives you boldness my fellow laborers to never ever compromise and back off of grace. It IS the power to save. **Romans 1:16** - *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."*

Foot's Bible Study Notes

1 Kings 1:1-3:2

God-fearing people like David and Samuel were used by God to lead nations. Nevertheless, they had problems in family relationships. God-fearing leaders cannot take for granted the spiritual well-being of their children. They are used to having others follow their orders, but they cannot expect their children to manufacture faith upon request. Moral and spiritual character takes years to build, and it requires constant attention and patient discipline. David served God well as king, but as a parent he often failed both God and his children. Don't let your service to God, even in leadership positions, take up so much of your time and energy that you neglect your other God-given responsibilities. **(1:6)**

David gives his final instructions to Solomon. He explains to Solomon how to get rid of the men who by betraying David had also betrayed God. By Solomon getting rid of Adonijah, Joab, and forcing Abiathar out as priest, Solomon secured his grip on the kingdom. By executing justice and tying up loose ends Solomon was promoting peace. **(2:46)**

Acts 4:1-5:42

Christians are to be open-minded on many issues but not on how we are saved from sin. **(4:12)** How do you feel about your possessions? We should adopt the attitude that everything we have comes from God, and we are only sharing what is already His. **(4:32)**

Even after the Holy Spirit had come, the believers were not immune to Satan's temptations. Although, Satan was defeated by Christ at the Cross, he was still actively trying to make believers stumble - as he does today. **(Ephesians 6:12, Peter 5:8)** Satan's overthrow is inevitable, but it will not occur until the last days, when Christ returns to judge the world. **(Revelation 20:10) (5:3)**

Faith in God does not make troubles disappear, it makes troubles appear less frightening because it puts them in the right perspective. Don't expect everyone to react favorably when you share something as dynamic as your faith in Christ. Some will be jealous, afraid, or threatened. Expect some negative reactions, and remember that you must be more concerned about serving God than about the reactions of people. **(5:17-18)**

Psalms 124:1-125:5

Do you ever feel trapped by overwhelming odds? With God, there is always a way out because He is the Creator of all that exists. No problem is beyond His ability to solve, no circumstance is too difficult for Him. We can turn to the Creator for help in our time of need, for He is on our side. God will provide a way out, we need only trust Him and look for it. David compared this to a bird escaping the hunter's trap. **(124:7-8)**

Have you ever known people who were drawn to every new fad or idea? Such people are unstable and therefore unreliable. The secret to stability is to trust in God, because He never changes. He cannot be shaken by the changes in our world and He endures forever. The fads and ideas of our world, and our world itself, will not endure. **(125:1)**

Proverbs 16:24-25

Kind words are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body. **(16:24)** Speaking kind words gives us a much more harmonious atmosphere to live in. Kind words keep tempers at bay, smiles quick to appear and peacefulness the norm instead of a rarity.

There is a path before each person that seems right, but ends in death. **(16:25)** What I get out of this scripture is that we can choose a path that may seem right due to our success or our friendships, but without God in our lives we will not be given eternal life.

“Foot” Notes

I would like for you all on this Easter to think and pray for all the Christians around the world that are being persecuted. The most recent (as of this writing) were the group of Christians that were executed in mass by ISIS. It is a terrible thing to think that in 2015 people are still being killed due to their faith. I know that here in the U.S. we all (inside and out) get caught up in our own petty garbage and too easily forget about those who are truly living in danger because of their love and belief in Jesus Christ. What we have to deal with on a daily basis pales in comparison. Let us all keep them in prayer. Love to y'all short and tall.

Editor's note: I realize Easter was last month, but this message was too important and timely to hold on to for next Easter.

By this point I was in head over heels and 180% headed in the wrong direction. I wasn't intentionally doing these things against or to my daughter but nonetheless, acting like a child, I was selfishly still doing the wrong things. Instead of being there for my daughter when we were first separated I channeled my anger, fueled by fast drugs and a passion for the 'motorcycles', allowing it all to lead me directly, "Out of the pan and into the fire" as my dad used to say. Everything I did revolved around drugs, guns and motorcycles. I wasn't looking for any sort of REAL relationship with any women because I was already certain, in the unstable mindset that I had, 'THERE WAS NO SUCH THING!' Relationships came and went and that included the one my daughter truly wanted to have with me. The place I left my daughter in her life is not something I'm at all proud of.

Remember, I was NOT looking to get into a relationship at this point but somewhere in here I had met this great and wonderful girl that WAS different! She had a job, was going to college, had an 8 year old daughter, had her own car AND her own apartment. Her life was quite and it soon became a place for me to disappear, put my guard and gun down and get some sleep. Her place became a safe haven for me, away from the chaotic lifestyle that had consumed me. She had never ridden motorcycles before this. In fact I was the very first guy she had ever spent time with that had tattoos or a motorcycle. Before too long we were spending most all of our free time together. We became friends, hung out, went for long rides together and within a few months we began to have real strong feelings for each other. Somewhere in here she had even become animate that we would be married. I wasn't trying to deceive her. I even tried to talk her out of that notion, and explained to her that I was not someone she should get too involved with at this point, because I was on the run and whenever they caught me I was going to prison. Being somewhat naive in this area she thought for sure that if I took her and went to the judge, showing that she was a responsible person and she would make the difference in my life (those were her exact words not mine), he would simply slap my wrist and give me another chance allowing us to continue on with our relationship. I told you she was somewhat naive about the court system. I told her, "It's NOT going to happen that way. You weren't there to see the look on the judges face and hear his anger when he said, 'If I EVER see you in my court AGAIN ...'" Needless to say, after being on the run for more than 4 years it all finally caught up to me one night and I ended up on my way to prison. With all of the people I knew it would seem that I would have at least a few safe places to leave my things if and when I would end up in prison, right? Who do we think we are kidding? You all know the drill, out of sight out of mind, "Your stuff is safe with me 'bro'." Of all the 'people' I was connected to who do you think I felt the safest leaving my things with? This new girl in my life I'd met only several months before I was arrested. Being what I used to call "Ugly in a no ugly zone," whenever someone was on the run, and expecting the hammer to fall at any time, we had long talks about her being the ONLY person/place I was comfortable leaving my most personal items with. She was rock solid and has been from day one. And yes, you guessed it, when I was released we were married. I know you've heard it said, "The third time is a charm." I bet that if you could look that phrase up in the dictionary you'd find next to it in parenthesis (Wade's), and her picture. Meaning it was my third time and she was the charm! That's my wife today, Michelle, and we've been married now for 21 years. I'm not saying they have all been easy years, for her. In fact after about 7 - 8 years into it I'm sure she would admit, today, that she might have bitten off more than she thought she would have to chew.

All through our marriage I continued to do drugs, and for a couple years secretly. I was only off of parole a few months and I was busted yet again. This was only a few years into our marriage but the first time with multiple firearms AND drugs. I secured a great attorney and he was able to get the charges reduced and I received probation, which I this time successfully completed. When I say, 'successfully completed' you can see from above that doesn't mean I stopped doing drugs. No, I just found a way to jump through their hoops for the biggest part of that time. Then a day came when I thought I'd pushed the envelope too far with the probation department and I was headed back to prison. I thought I was still playing 'the game' as I volunteered myself for a rehab. I did this with absolutely no real idea of what I was headed in to, other than I was not going to prison. It was during the time at the rehab that I began to see a glimpse of what they referred to as 'spirituality'. I soon realized it wasn't a rock, a doorknob or just 'some' weird spirit, but "The Holy Spirit" and a relationship with God through Jesus that I had been missing in my life. I am NOT knocking any of those programs either. Are you ready for this? That lasted only two short years and I was off the deep end AGAIN for another 13 years.

It's at the end of those 13 years that we will pick up in next month's newsletter. Next month is where I'll begin to share the rest of my testimony. This is where I began to allow the REAL POWER of God's grace to enter my life as He began to help me see and make changes for the future of what He had planned for me. By the time you all read this April 28th will have passed and it will have been eight years since I gave 100% of my life over to Jesus. (April 28, 2007)

Overcomer's Testimonies

My prayer/testimony starts like any other Monday, Wednesday or Friday. At 12:30 recreation move, I would go to an outside recreation yard and do my stretches before walking and jogging. Well, this day will be different.

I was psyched to start back running. I would have a training partner if I could run a mile between 8.30 and 9 minutes. I started with my normal fast walk, then squats and then sit ups. Now came the time I had been waiting for. I took off running at a good pace and after my third and final lap I was glad to stop. WHEH!! I checked my time and I was at 8.35 minutes. I then did my cool down laps, but afterward I still had a fast and irregular heartbeat. I did my squats and stretches again. When I checked my pulse again, I still had the same fast and irregular heartbeat even after it had been 20 minutes since I had finished running. I have had Tachycardia for some years now, but not this bad. I thought to myself, "I will go to medical after my shower if I'm not any better."

Well, after grabbing my shower stuff I stood up from my chair and I got real dizzy. I grabbed the bed post for a second, until that passed. I took my shower and took my pulse again to find the irregular beat still there, though I really couldn't tell if it were fast. I went down stairs and told the CO and he said, "Okay, go to clinic."

When I arrived at the clinic I was met by two nurses who asked what had happened, and what's going on now? Little did I know that over the next two hours I would repeat this at least another 10 times. The nurses put me on the EKG and the doctor came in and printed a strip and said, "You're in RVR (Rapid Ventricular response). What brought you here?" I repeated the story of running and stretches and then he went back over to the EKG and printed another strip. Then he said, "Uh-oh, you're in A-Fib (Artificial Fibrillation)." Being in the Fire Department, prior to incarceration, I knew what was happening to my heart was NOT good at all. He asked me to do a couple of exercises, that did not help. About 15 minutes later the doctor then said, "I'm making the call, you're going to the hospital. Don't tell anyone if they come in."

The driver/EMT and paramedic that came from the Rural Metro Ambulance Service were great. We went lights and sirens a screaming to the hospital. Upon arriving I was put into a Cardiac ICU ER room, with the crash cart beside me. I thought, "WOW, I'm not that bad off." After talking with the plethora of nurses and techs, in came the doctors, and three of them. The Cardiologist said to me, "Now that you know, the Tachycardia you said you had was actually the RVR due to your A-Fib. How long have you had this?" I replied, "For years?" His reply was, "Son, do you understand that you are a very lucky man? You could have thrown a clot years ago." I wanted to start crying because I knew that Jesus Christ cared for me all the time I was on the street. And now to think that I didn't care at all for Him then. Isn't it awesome how God takes care of His own, way before they turn their lives over to Him?

Laying there, I looked at the monitor that was beside my bed and it was constantly beeping due to my Tachycardia (pulse of 180). I thought WOW, they have given me an IV push, a drip Heparin and a medication to drop my heart rate and it's still this high! Can you imagine how hard it is when you have to use the latrine (toilet) when you're handcuffed to the bed? I've got to admit that the Lieutenant and the CO's that were with me were great the whole time I was in the hospital.

Later that night I had another Cardiologist come speak with me about a procedure I could have done the next day, if I wanted. I must note that the Cardiologist's name was Muhammad, and he was a Muslim. I told him that I was praying that God would heal me. "I would love to see a miracle," he told me. The specific procedure called a Cardio version. What happens is a camera is stuck down your throat and they take an ultra sound of your heart to see if there are any blood clots. If there were any they would deal with them first, and if not I would be shocked between my heart beats to get me back into sinus rhythm.

I will now quickly explain what A-Fib and RVR are. A-Fib is where the top two chambers of your heart (the atrium) are not pumping correctly, they are only fluttering which could cause the blood to clot. With the atrium's not beating correctly the bottom two chambers (the ventricles) are caused to beat faster than normal trying to take up the slack, hence the meaning of RVR (Rapid Ventricular Response).

Doctor Muhammad told me that, "Ninety-five percent of people with A-Fib are shocked out of it, or they are given a pill form to bring them out. Throughout the evening and into the night the monitor was beeping due to the Tachycardia I mentioned in the beginning of this testimony. Then my heart rate changed to Bradycardia with BP of 90/45-41. Early Thursday morning, I was moved into the hallway because I was stabilized and they needed Cardiac ICU ER room. Trying to sleep in the hallway was difficult with everyone walking up and talking. I think I might have gotten 2-3 hours of sleep that night if I was lucky.

Well, at 9 a.m. on September 11th my nurse checked the monitor and I was still in A-Fib. About 2 minutes later, I had a little chest pain above my left pectoral muscle. I called the nurse over and she checked the monitor again and she said, "Oh my gosh!" "What?" I said? She replied, "You are not going to believe this." "What?" I said again. In awe she said, "You

just reset yourself." The first and only thing that I could think to say was, "THANK YOU JESUS!" At that point another nurse came over to verify that I was no longer in A-Fib.

It was less than 15 minutes later Dr. Muhammad came in the room. Our conversation went as follows. "Mr. C. I hear you're NO LONGER in A-Fib, that's wonderful. I guess we won't be needing to send you for the Cardio version appointment," he said. I instantly replied, "Jesus Christ still hears prayers and works miracles Doc." He agreed, "Well, I guess I seen my miracle today." After keeping me on the monitor a while longer, being safe if I were to slip back into A-Fib, they finally started taking out the IV ports, the IV's and removing the monitor and pads.

All together I was in A-Fib for about 20 hours. Of all the times that I have heard of miracles here at Faith Miracle Chapel, I never could truly say that I'd had a personal account of prayers answered by a miracle. My brothers and sisters, if there is one thing you get out of this testimony, I hope that it is that **Jesus, The Most High Physician, is still in the prayer answering and miracle working business. Believe it! - D.C.**

What Others Are Saying...

"I was reading the Thanksgiving issue *Death Row to Paradise Row*. I understand that EVERYONE has a chance to know God's love. I have a question. I do ask that I could start receiving the *Overcomers for Christ*. There are good things in them. You are doing good work. It is very powerful how God uses us, when we were lost and became a light to others. I love it. Thank you for reading this letter and may the Lord continue on blessing, protecting and providing for your ministry, in Jesus' name ... Amen!" - B.L.

"I was so thrilled when I read that you'd be using my testimony - *Death Row to Paradise Row*. To God be ALL the praise and glory. I just pray that it will touch someone's heart and bring them to the Cross, for it's not my testimony, but God's testimony of what He's brought me out of what He's done in my life and more importantly of what He can and wants to do in other people's lives. If He can change someone like me, then there is hope for everyone, and I've got to let people know that. Especially those who are on the streets or in prison. That's what I love about your ministry, you go where Jesus would go if He was on earth today. You go where the need is the greatest, you reach out to the lepers, the untouchables of this world and that's what Jesus did brother, you go where no one wants to go!" - W.R.

"I have just recently encountered an older copy of your highly esteemed publication and was completely blown away by the Spirit-filled content. From cover to cover it is an absolute class act. As one who has ties to the print media publication world, I must say that you're doing an awful lot with very little, but yet all the while producing a slick look with a professional feel and not budging an inch on its editorial and copy content. Bravo, to you and the others on your esteemed staff. The integrity of your product, I can tell, is not open for compromise, and therefore once again, Bravo! What I like about your publication is that it's for people who have found redemption through our Lord and Savior, and the path that we're on now leads to the Cross. The only thing covered on this path is our sins and that is done by the blood of Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to bless *Overcomers for Christ*, so that *Overcomers for Christ* might continue to be a blessing to others. Amen!" - D.O.

"First of all I want to thank you all so very much for remembering my birthday. It was the only card I received and I can't tell you how much it meant to me ... more than any words can describe. It was heartfelt to receive such love. You all gave a very lonesome heart, much love and hope at a very down and desperate time. I liked what you said in your letter about grabbing the handle bars, thinking I've got this one. For it's in those times it seems I get into the worst wreck. You are such an inspiration and a blessing in my life. You give me hope, where I see none. You lay it down for me in a way that I can pick it up and understand it. Thank you so very much." - T.M.

Quote Worthy

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved."

- William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925) - A dominant force in the populist wing of the Democratic Party, standing three times as the Party's candidate for President of the United States

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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Poem for Memorial Day

By W.R.

The screams of young soldiers left echoing in my ears,
and their ghosts rising up to haunt me throughout the years.

Haunting memories of those who died
and there's still the question, no answer to why.

Just ghostly shadows from the past,
rising up to haunt me through the grass,
Dressed in camouflage, with faces painted black,
lurking in the darkness with rifles in their packs,
and the night lights up with enemy fire,
from exploding shells, from a trip wire.
The sound of AK 47's ringing in my ears,
I know death is stalking near.

Young soldiers are dying on my left and right,
caught in an ambush, late at night.
Just ghostly shadows amongst the trees.

Caught in a crossfire by VC
and the stench of death fills the air,
from rotting corpses of warfare.
Just ghostly shadows upon the ground,
black and white and red and brown.

Just ghostly shadows in the hallways of my mind,
of young men dying before their time.

Just out of high school they were sent to fight,
by politicians who said it was right.
In God we trust, stamped on the dollar bill,
they were sent to other countries so they could kill.
In deserts and jungles in lands far away,
going home in body bags every day.
Back home to America, the land of the free,
to protestors and politicians on TV.
The voices silenced by enemy guns
and mothers left weeping for their sons.
Dressed in camouflage with rifles in their hands,
they were sent to die in faraway lands.
Just ghostly shadows with their names upon a wall,
America's tribute to them all.

Another soldier fallen, but no taps will be played,
no bands will march and flags will be raised.
A flag draped casket is all you will see
and another mother left weeping upon her knees

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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