

SUBDUE
 TRIUMPH
 ANNIHILATE
 OVERWHELM
 SLAUGHTER
 DEFEAT
 PREVAILE
 OVERTHROW
 OVERMATCH
 CONQUER
 TRANSCEND
 SURPASS
 SUCCEED
 EXCEL
 ō-ver-'kəm
OVERCOME
 BEST
 OUTDISTANCE
 GET
 OUTFIGHT
 EXCEED
 OVERPOWER
 DISPATCH
 CRUSH
 SWEEP
 ECLIPSE
 WIN
 BREAK
 VANQUISH
 OUTSHINE
 UPEND
 BETTER
 MASTER
 FLOURISH
 UPSET
 SUBJUGATE
 TROUNCE
 STOP
 BEAT
 OUTDO
 FIGHTEN

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ April & May 2015



Praise to the God of All Comfort

By Michelle Anderson

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort." - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

May 7, 2014 was the worst day of my life ... my mother passed away suddenly. I was at work and I received a phone call from my brother and he was hysterical. He said, "Mom, stopped breathing." He was crying so heavily I could barely make out what he was saying. I got him to calm down a bit, and I found out that my brother was on his way to the hospital where the paramedics took my mom. I told him that everything was going to be okay and that the paramedics would get her breathing again. I told him to call me when he got to the hospital. About 10 minutes later, he calls me and he is sobbing and making a guttural cry and he said, "Mom's dead." I couldn't believe it, it was the last thing I was expecting to hear. I could not stop crying ... and I am crying now just recounting that moment.

During the last 15 months, I have gone through many different emotions and through it all God was/is my comforter. I know that because of my strong, grounded relationship with Christ that I was able to overcome each emotional obstacle. What was/is required of me is to not dwell in that emotional place, but to place all my pain and grief at the foot of the Cross. Jesus died on the Cross to carry all my pain and grief.

I want to share with you how God has helped me through my grieving process. He loves me and He does not want me to be stuck in grief mode, He wants me to grow from this. There have been several specific situations in which I was hurting and in the flesh and the Lord responded to my pain and sadness and showed the truth ... His truth ... His peace!!!

The first thing that happened was during the first few days after my mom's death, I just kept saying, "I am too young to not have a mom ... I am not ready to not have my mom ... It is too soon ... I still thought I would have many more years with my mom."

Almost immediately, God said to me, "You had 17 more years than you were going to have." That statement stopped me in my tracks and I was like, "Wow!!" That is so true. About 17 years ago, my mom was intubated due to severe breathing problems, and I was told to go to California and see her because she may not make it. Ultimately, my mom did recover and I remember her always telling me that she knows that she was healed and saved at that time. After that experience, she always would tell me that prayer works and that she knew that God answered prayers and she was healed.

As soon as I heard the Lord speak to my spirit with this message, I stopped saying that. I immediately became thankful for all the years and memories that I had with my mom.

The second thing that happened was about three months after my mom died. I was really sad and I just kept thinking if only I had been able to be there when she died maybe I would feel different ... maybe I wouldn't be so deeply sad, if I could have been with her during her final moments of life. I told Wade how I was feeling and I told him, "I know that that feeling is irrational and that it would not matter if I had been there, I still would be this sad." But even though I knew how irrational the feeling was ... it was still the feeling I had.

Well, about 3 or 4 days after I shared this feeling, I received a letter from an inmate in Florida. He said that he had been receiving the newsletter for several years and that often times he wanted to write to us but never followed through with it. He went on to say that he had received the June 2014 newsletter in which I wrote an article about my mom and he was so moved to write that he had to write to me.

He said that he enjoyed my article and that the things that I said about my mom reminded him of the relationship that he had with his mom. He shared with me that his mother lived in South Florida and he was in prison in North Florida, and that his mother made that journey to see him. He said that they had a great visit and that as she was leaving, she kept hugging him and crying and saying, "I wish I could take you home." As she pulled away, she had a heart attack and died right there in front of him. He said that he felt so helpless; there was nothing he could do. He was so sad and he felt so helpless. He ended the letter saying that his mom died on May 7, 2014. That was the same day my mom died.

Again, as soon as I read that letter, the tears flowed and I looked at Wade and said, "This letter was sent by God. This is God showing me that it didn't matter if I was with my mom when she died or in another state, it still would hurt and I would still feel helpless." God's message to me was ... "Do not dwell here." God loves me so much that He does not want me

to be stuck in grief and He used someone else's experience to speak to me. He doesn't have to do that but He wants to do that for us ... He is the Comforter. He speaks to each of us in a way that is unique to each of us.

In November 2014, the third thing happened that really spoke to my spirit. During this time, I really was sad and I felt like my heart would never be the same. Wade and I were attending the Faith Explosion at Living Word Bible Church and we were staying at a hotel in Mesa. When I was young, I lived in the Mesa area with my mom. So, while Wade and I were driving back and forth to the hotel and church, we would pass places that my mom took me as a kid. We passed by Organ Stop Pizza and I cried.

Six months into the grieving process and I could not understand how my heart would ever feel normal. I felt like a piece of my heart was missing. I kept saying to myself ... I am a Christian ... I am strong in my faith ... I know she is in a better place ... I am going to see her again ... I have no regrets, I always told her how I feel ... blah, blah, blah!!!

How do you get passed something when you feel like you are not dwelling, but maybe you are?

Obed Martinez was one of the speakers at the Faith Explosion and I remember him speaking and saying something about letting go. I remember thinking how do I let go of something, when I already know ... she is in a better place ... death is a natural part of life ... we all are going to have to go through it. In my head, I said these things and I said to myself ... I am going to go up to Obed after the service and ask him, "How do you get over something when you feel like you have all the rational answers?" As soon as I said that in my head, I heard Obed answer me.

Again, I stopped in my tracks ... God answered my prayer immediately. He gave Obed the words to speak to my soul at that minute. The crazy part is today, I cannot tell you what Obed said, I just remember how soothing and comforting his words were. I walked out of that service with a heart that felt better and a heart that was healing.

The other blessing in my life is that God has given me a spirit of forgetfulness - meaning that I do not dwell on things. Once I have gone through something and released it, it is gone. Often times, I do not even remember the details of the problem or the details of the resolution. I wipe it out of my mind and heart, so that I don't carry any negative baggage. This is truly a blessing. It allows me to not hold onto hurts, pain, grudges, resentments or offense. I love the relationship that I have with God.

The fourth thing that happened was ... in May 2015, I was driving and all of sudden I started to cry. I told the Lord, I said, "I miss talking to my mom." He said, "You still can talk to your mom and you do talk to her." I said, "I know, I can talk to her, but I miss hearing her voice." As soon as I said that I started to sob more. My routine with my mom was that I would talk to her while I was in the car on my way home from work. So, here I am in the car and remembering our talking times.

Then two nights after that I told God that I missed hearing my mom's voice, I was woken from a sound sleep by the voice of my mom. I heard her voice as clear as day, and her voice was so soothing and comforting. I don't know what she said, but I know the words were sweet and we were in my car driving. Even now, that memory brings tears to my eyes ... God is so awesome and He loves me so much, He will give me anything I need so that I will not dwell in sadness and loss.

"And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for." - 1 John 5:14-15

I am going to close with this scripture ... it says it all. God is our Comforter and He shows us how to be a comforter to those around us.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort." - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

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 got a letter from our sister, Kim, she's really going through it right now. The liar is hitting her from all angles right now. So, keep her in your prayers ... **Foot**

Could you please pray for my mother and father, they're in their 70's and I worry a lot about them. I know I will probably never be with them again and it hurts me worse than death ... **S.M.**

I have two girls, ages 12 and 14, that live with my ex-husband in New York. I write to them faithfully every week but do not hear anything in return. I left them when they were 3 and 5, so I understand that they are hurt and mad, but it kills me every day. I've given it to God but I find myself continuously taking it back. My girls names are Kayla and Liana, and any and all prayers I could get would be greatly appreciated ... **C.R.**

I would appreciate if you could pray for me ... I used to be a bad drug user and I used to sell drugs. I ended up in prison for five years. I pray every day that I don't go back to those same old ways. I go to church, read the Bible and talk to the women in here, in prison that are true believers. They talk about the Lord. I think sometimes that I am left here in prison all by myself because my family really don't have much to do with me. But God always seems to pick my spirits up, to tell me He's got me and I love you. Praise Me and I will take care of you. Praise Me and you won't have no worries, and have faith. I would like for you to pray for my mom, she has bone cancer. I would like if you could send my prayer to God. I struggle and stress a lot please help me ... **R.E.**

A prayer request for my legal work, for my kids, and family, and the court to hear my case, and it goes well for me. Also, that the Lord gives me strength for staying with Him ... **R.V.**

Prayer request ... My mother is going through some health issues right now. Me and my fiancé are hoping to get some time back so I could be home sooner also. If you could just pray for anyone and everyone who's going through any trial in life right now. God bless to everyone ... **S.S.**

Please pray for us here ... this yard is flooded with drugs and sorcery and the cops just let it happen. In the chapel, those who are responsible for preaching and teaching God's Word are presenting mixed messages ... Legalism/Grace with a touch of mysticism. Please pray for God to take back this yard and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are standing on the Word of God, firm in our faith. We know that through our prayers offered in faith that God will move in this place and Jesus will be glorified ... **N.K.**

Praise Reports

I know it's been a while since I last contacted you guys. I fell back into old ways up until a couple days ago. It's pretty amazing that when Jesus wants to get your attention He sure does know how to get it. I want to let you guys know that I have fully given my life to Jesus and have never felt better in my life. I have been very blessed these last couple days and I was blessed with this envelope to write you guys. All glory to Jesus ... **K.H.**

"Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me." - Psalm 103:1-2

Blessings in the Name of our Father! So, I love the joy and peace I found here in FL. I have never did time like this in all my time doing time. Jesus Christ is all over this facility. My health has become 100% great, no more stress, no more heart attacks, and let me tell you I've felt so high on God's love and peace. Grace is free and all you have to do is let go and ask Him in ... **G.B.**

"With all my heart, I will praise the LORD. Let all who are helpless, listen and be glad." - Psalm 34:2

All your prayers were surely felt this past year. Early 2014, my wife was diagnosed with breast and lung cancer, which she is now in full remission. As we were dealing with her diagnosis and treatment, I was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery for colon cancer. It was to the point of negligence by our healthcare providers. If I hadn't had intervention I would have died in days. In the hospital, I did have heartfelt prayers directed my way. I want to thank all those who have had me in their prayers over the years ... **L.P.**

"I will praise the LORD God with a song and a thankful heart." - Psalm 69:30

The newsletter is a hit around here! We have Christian retreats here about every three months. They last all weekend and are awesome! They bring in around 25-30 volunteers to praise God and we all here at this camp have one heck of a Christian band and praise God the whole time ... **B.B.**

"You have rescued me! I will celebrate and shout, singing praises to you with all my heart." - Psalm 71:23

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Godly Sorrow
By N.K.

2 Corinthians 7:9 - *"I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance. For you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us."*

Let's first look at the words *repent* and *repentance*, the word *repent* in the New Testament is the Greek word *metanoeo*, it means to change one's mind or purpose. *Repentance* is the Greek word *metanio*, it means change of mind.

We place our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, He then through the Holy Spirit indwells the believer and our purpose is to allow the Light of Christ to shine from the lamp stand of our life to honor, and glorify with gratitude His sacrifice on the Cross for our sins. He now changes our minds for the purpose of His glory.

1 Corinthians 2:16 - *"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he will instruct Him. But we have the mind of Christ."*

2 Corinthians 7:10 - *"For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret leading to salvation but the sorrow of the world produces death."* The worldly sorrow is shame - a hinderance of people coming to God this is the work of the devil, he gets people to think, "I'm too bad of a person to go to church and seek Christ!"

The devil pours on condemnation, he tries to keep you separated from Christ. Godly sorrow brought or brings you to God, and allows you to receive salvation and to give you purpose and direction! We are no longer under condemnation or God's wrath. **Romans 8:1-2**, *"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death."*

Our sins have been covered by the Blood of Jesus, Hallelujah!! The devil, the accuser of the brethren, has to shut his mouth when it comes to the saints. That's right, we are no longer sinners, but we are the saints by the Holy Blood of Jesus. When the devil tries to accuse us about sin to God and says, "Look what he did," Jesus then thunders from His throne and says, "That's My child who was bought with a price ... My Blood!!! My child is holy and blameless that's what I did." We are God's elect.

Romans 8:33 - *"Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the One Who justifies."*

Romans 12:1-2 - *"Therefore, I urge you brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may prove what the will of God is that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

How do we do this? We respond to God and His Word in faith, this pleases God.

Hebrews 11:6 - *"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is rewarder of those who seek Him."*

1 John 5:4 - *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world ..."* Hallelujah!

Hebrews 12:2 - *"Fixing our eyes on Jesus the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross despising the shame and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Hebrews 13:15-16 - *"Through Him, then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips, that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good, and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*

So, if the sorrow you're experiencing doesn't produce love, appreciation, perseverance, steadfastness and greater love for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, it's not from God. Rebuke that in the Name of Jesus, stand on the truths of the Bible, firm in

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

your faith, knowing God loves you and that you are the righteousness of Jesus Christ ... Hallelujah in Jesus Christ ... I pray Amen!!!

Stay Focused on Jesus

By G.B.

I pray this letter reaches you all in the best of health and living in all the blessings of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ. I would like to talk to you about how we deal with our daily troubles. The Bible tells us we are to bring all of them to God first. I will be the first to admit I struggle with obeying the Scriptures in this matter. I tend to want to fix my problems on my own. Let's see what the Bible has to say on the matter.

The first passage that comes to mind is **Proverbs 3:5-6** which tells us to, **"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct our paths."** The first word in the verse is very important. We are told to TRUST God. In our walk with Jesus it is very important that we learn to trust Him first and foremost in all matters. We err greatly when we attempt to seek answers through the means of the world. All of our thoughts should go to God before we act. If we feel depressed, sick, or worried we should go to God with it before we go to the doctor. Prayer should always come before pills to cure ailments. That is not to say God won't send us to a doctor. We need to learn to give God the opportunity to heal us before we let man get his hands on us. We are told in **Psalm 37:5** to, **"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass."** When what we want in life is in accordance with God's will, He will bring it to pass. This is why prayer and Bible study are so important. Only through these two avenues can we learn what God's will for our life is.

Psalms 37:23-24 tells us, **"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down for the Lord upholdeth him with his hands."** Jesus is the only one who never fell into sin during His earthly journey.

All the rest of us have fallen and will fall numerous times before we get to be with our Heavenly Father. We are held by the hand of God and when we fall we fall into His palm. When we cry out and reach for Him, He picks us up. When Peter stepped out of the boat and walked on water he did fine until he took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the storm. At the moment he looked away, he started to sink into the water but as soon as he cried, **"Lord save me,"** Jesus immediately stretched forth His hand and caught him. God will do the same for us when we cry out for His help. Most of our problems come when we take our focus off God and focus on the things of the world. In **Colossians 3:2**, Paul warns us against doing this. He told us to set your affections on things above not on things on the earth. We err greatly when we lose focus on what is really important.

It is easy to lose focus with all the enticements the devil throws at us every day. In **Matthew 6:33**, Jesus told us to, **"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."** As the children of God we do not have to seek the things of the world. If we keep our focus on Him and seek to do His will He will be there in every aspect of our lives.

He will give us above and beyond everything we need. This will only happen when we learn to live in the Spirit. **Romans 8:5** says, **"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."** Walking in the Spirit is not easy at first like anything else it takes a lot of daily practice. Sometimes it is really hard but God assures us that if we are obedient He will direct our path. We are told in **1 Peter 5:7** to, **"Cast all your care upon Him for He careth for you."** He does not say some of your cares or just the ones you can't handle. The Word of God commands us to cast all our cares upon Him. Our lives will be much more peaceful and fulfilling when we learn to do this.

My closing prayer is for us to ask God to search our lives and point out to us any areas where we are not depending on Him. I pray we never forget what Paul said in **2 Timothy 2:3-4**, **"Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen Him to be a soldier."** Father I ask that You give us victory through You in all the battles that lay before us. You have given us victory over the world, give us the wisdom to claim the victory and live in it ... Amen!! Amen!!

1 Kings 22:1-53

Ahab could not escape God's judgment. The King of Aram sent 32 of his best chariot commanders with the sole purpose of killing Ahab. Thinking he could escape, Ahab tried a disguise, but a random arrow struck him while the chariots chased the wrong king - Jehoshaphat. It was foolish for Ahab to think he could escape wearing a disguise. Sometimes people try to escape reality by disguising themselves - changing jobs, moving to a new town, even changing spouses. But God sees and evaluates the motives of each person. Any attempted disguise is futile. (22:34)

Acts 13:16-14:7

This is the focus of the Good News, forgiveness of sins and freedom from guilt are available through faith in Christ to all people - including you. Have you received this forgiveness? Are you refreshed each day by the thought that you are right with God? (13:38-39)

When we see others succeed where we haven't or receiving the affirmation we crave, it is hard to rejoice with them. Jealousy is our natural reaction. But how tragic it is when our own jealous feelings make us try to stop God's work. If a work is God's work, rejoice in it - no matter who is doing it. (13:42-45)

When we share Christ carefully and sensitively, God does not hold us responsible for the other person's decision. (13:51)

Psalms 138:1-139:24

As we praise and thank God for material and spiritual blessings, we should also thank Him for answered prayers. Remember when you asked God for protection, strength, comfort, patience, love or other special needs, and He supplied them. Beware of taking God's provision and answered prayer for granted. (138:1-3)

God is with us through every situation, in every trial - protecting, loving and guiding. He knows and loves us completely. (139:1-5)

Proverbs 17:17-21

What kind of friend are you? There is a vast difference between knowing someone well and being a true friend. The greatest evidence of genuine friendship is loyalty (see **1 Corinthians 13:7**) - being able to help in times of distress or personal struggle. Too many people are fair-weather friends. They stick around when the friendship helps them and leave when they're not getting anything out of the relationship. Think of your friends and assess your loyalty to them. Be the kind of true friend the Bible encourages. (17:17)

These Scriptures are more of what I call common sense Scriptures, that being said, **17:21** says, **"It's painful to be a parent of a fool, there is no joy for the father of a rebel."** Granted there may be no joy, we still as parents need to love and support even our rebel children for my rebel children have a rebel dad who never broke the circle of rebellion. Although their mother has done her best to change the family tradition. Are we not guilty or responsible for our children's behavior?

“Foot” Notes

Hello to ya'll, I got a letter from my amiga and sister in Christ, "K", and her situation prompted me to share with you. So, I want to share how the devil will come at you at what should of been nothing but glory. So here we go. Mi amiga got baptized on February 23rd, which is awesome. She was surrounded by folks who love her during this considerably life changing event, beautiful right? Well, hang on cuz, here we go. So "K" was still in her wet clothes when the liar cut loose on her. First, her grandson flipped out on Xanax getting violent with her and others, then her Facebook lit up with haters calling her out saying she gives Christians a bad name, basically, being hit from all sides. A fellow Christian brother in here gave me this to share, "Different level, different devil," which was right on time.

You know that every time we take a step forward in our growth, the devil also steps it up. Now amongst all this chaos "K" received a letter from me which I had written my new favorite scripture that had literally jumped out at me while I was reading it on the day it got here, February 6th. So, if you pay attention you'll see God was in this way back then. So, in the letter I had received "K" said, "The Scripture you sent me helped me so much! Oh my gosh! **Matthew 10:22, 'And you will be hated by all for My name sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.'**" She stated, "Wow, this blew me away - it is exactly what I'm living right now!" Then she finished with, "This Scripture confirmed I'm going the right way."

So, I've got to tell you God is on it, He's definitely putting in work around me and mine. Praise God we may struggle but we're making it through. Stick to the Word fellow strugglers, keep your trust in God and you'll be justified. Love to you all, short and tall ... Vaya con Dios!! Don't ride faster than your angels can fly!!

Overcomer's Testimonies

I wanted to respond to your card I received, to thank you guys and show my gratitude. I love you guys, you always show me love, and reach out to me even though I'm a total stranger. But it's amazing how God allows us to be together in Spirit. **Overcomers for Christ** is what saved me from being a lukewarm Christian and I feel totally indebted to your ministry because I realize the authentic work you all are doing for the love of Christ and He is perfecting of the saints.

I grew up in church, but amazingly so, I don't remember one Bible being opened and read to me. I never even knew that the Word was so strong and inspiring. I would just go to church and it would be like a family reunion of sorts, I would be in the farthest pew laughing and playing around with other knuckleheads my age, texting, sometimes even hitting on girls (not physically). I would hear the message but it would go in one ear and out of the other. But there's nothing like reading the true inspired Word of God, it really hits home and knocks on the door of your heart. I have come to know the awesome will of God and the full meaning of why Christ laid down His life for us. I would like to credit the whole **Overcomers for Christ** family for that.

Upon receiving your newsletters, I was absolutely oblivious to the Word of God. I didn't know where to start, what to read, or how to read it, and the Book is so huge. But receiving your newsletters and reading through it allowed me to boldly dive into the Word and realize my true calling. I'm so thankful for what you all do through this ministry, I love you guys. And whatever I can do to help the outreaching hand of God through this ministry, it's my pleasure because I truly do see the power of God working through this ministry.

About the age of 15, I started to be rebellious and act out, I also ended up falling into the gang life, proclaiming myself to be a Blood, shoot outs, wild parties, drinking, smoking, multiple women ... these things became the norm. My father was a reverend at a church in Phoenix. I ended up losing him to a senseless act of violence at the age of 17, which totally spun me out of control. By the age of 18, I was sitting in the county jail waiting to receive prison time. When I got to prison I was still rebellious for the first three years. From time to time, I would attend service but I still wasn't getting the fullness of the message. I met a brother that introduced me to this ministry. I remember beginning to receive the newsletters, I would get them, read the poems and throw them on the shelf to collect dust, no lie. Man that is such a testimony to my life, doing things half-heartedly and never giving it my all. Never judge a book by its cover. Eventually, I wound up in the hole, looking back on it I shake my head because how many times do we find ourselves in a hole or pit that we've dug ourselves into, but end up crying to God to help us out of the pit. So that's basically what happened.

Sitting in the hole I had nothing, I was bored out of my mind and the only company I had in that cell was God. He reached out to me and I began to read the newsletters, I even had the CO's retrieve me a Bible, so I could read the reference scriptures. Man oh man, how those newsletters changed my life for the better and helped me to overcome myself. God is still helping me grow everyday more and more, but the thing is that because of the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletters, now I am aware that God's Spirit dwells in me, and I just give all my thanks to my church family and to God, our Father. I pray that He continues to grow, bless, and perfect this ministry. Amen!!

I am now a better man. By the power of God I have broken my gang ties, I'm witnessing to my family and friends, it's just beautiful. One day, I was just sitting at my bunk, and I was meditating on how much I love God, but the realization of how much more He loves me and the body of Christ. He loves us more than we can ever fathom. He loves us so much that He has prepared a Kingdom for us, a Kingdom in which we have abundance and lack nothing. Praise the Lord! - **A.P.**

Anagram Triplets

There are two groups of four-letter words used in the sentences below. The first missing words of each sentence are anagrams of each other, and the second missing words are also anagrams of each other. Can you find them?

1. The _____ gender of this king of animals has an astounding _____ of hair around his regal and fearful face.
2. That's a _____ excuse, you cannot get away without giving us the _____ of the person who helped you in this theft.
3. Before each _____, it is customary to say Grace and end with _____.

Answer:
1. MALE (Group 1); MANE (Group 2)
2. LAME (Group 1); NAME (Group 2)
3. MEAL (Group 1); AMEN (Group 2)

What Others Are Saying...

"I want you to know how much your newsletter was a blessing to me. I became acquainted with your newsletter through a very good brother in Christ. I am writing to ask if I could be added to your newsletter list. I have been reading his and I believe it has increased my time in my studies of the Scripture. Especially, Foot's Bible Study notes and Praise Reports, they are truly a blessing to me. They touch every area of my life. I'm 54 years old and I finally found peace in my life. And it's all due to the Holy Spirit that is working in my life." - **D.H.**

"Just wanted to say hello and thank you for your edifying encouraging newsletters. It is always a blessing to receive your Biblical encouragement. I do appreciate your focus on Christ, the Love of Christ. May God's blessings be with your ministry - **D.C.**

"First off, I'd like to thank every single person who participates in putting the *Overcomers for Christ* packet together. You guys don't even know how motivating it is to receive love in a place like this. It inspires us to believe and to strive to become better people. You've definitely encouraged me to continue building my faith and to depend on what the Word says." - **C.W.**

"I want to thank you all for the birthday card. Thank you all for reaching out to me, and making sure I am remembered on my birthday. All of you Overcomers have made this last six years pass with minimal heartache and a constant reminder that God loves me as much as He loves everyone else. I look forward to meeting all of you, and that will be possible real soon. Thank you again for everything." - **D.R.**

"Thank you very much for your magazine, your prayers, and the card. You all have truly showed me the love of God and I am thankful for you. The Scripture **1 Peter 5:7** is one of my favorites. I had the guys in here singing the song, "Cast all your cares upon the Lord." It was in the middle of the card you sent me. You really don't know how much that impacted me and the guys in here with me." - **W.B.**

Christian Comedy Senior Wedding

Jacob, age 81 and Rebecca, age 80, living in Miami, are all excited about their decision to get married. They go for a stroll to discuss the wedding, and on the way they pass a drugstore. Jacob suggests they go in.

Jacob addresses the man behind the counter, "Are you the owner?" The pharmacist answers, "Yes."

Jacob: "We're about to get married. Do you sell heart medication?"

Pharmacist: "Of course, we do."

Jacob: "How about medicine for circulation?"

Pharmacist: "All kinds."

Jacob: "Medicine for rheumatism?"

Pharmacist: "Definitely."

Jacob: "How about suppositories?"

Pharmacist: "You bet!"

Jacob: "Medicine for memory problems, arthritis and Alzheimer's?"

Pharmacist: "Yes, a large variety, the works."

Jacob: "What about vitamins, sleeping pills, Gerital, antidotes for Parkinson's disease?"

Pharmacist: "Absolutely."

Jacob: "Everything for heartburn and indigestion?"

Pharmacist: "We sure do."

Jacob: "You sell wheelchairs and walkers and canes?"

Pharmacist: "All speeds and sizes."

Jacob: "Adult diapers?"

Pharmacist: "Sure."

Jacob says to the pharmacist, "We'd like to use this store as our Bridal Registry."

A Regular Daily Devotional Builds Character

By Steve Arterburn

***"Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will. The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me, and I have listened."* - Isaiah 50:4-5**

Do you have a character-building, life-altering, standing appointment with God every morning? Is God your first priority or do you talk with Him less frequently than that? If you're wise, you'll talk to God first thing every day, without exception.

Warren Wiersbe writes, "Surrender your mind to the Lord at the beginning of each day." And that's sound advice. When you begin each day with your head bowed and your heart lifted, you are reminded of God's love, His protection, and His commandments. Then, you can align your priorities for the coming day with the teachings and commandments that God has placed upon your heart.

Each day has 1,440 minutes - can you give God a few of them? Of course you can . . . and of course you should. So if you've acquired the unfortunate habit of trying to "squeeze" God into the corners of your life, it's time to reshuffle the items on your to-do list by placing God first. And if you haven't already done so, form the habit of spending quality time each morning with your Creator. He deserves it . . . and so, for that matter, do you.

***"We must appropriate the tender mercy of God every day after conversion or problems quickly develop. We need his grace daily in order to live a righteous life."* - Jim Cymbala**

***"If you, too, will learn to wait upon God, to get alone with Him, and remain silent so that you can hear His voice when He is ready to speak to you, what a difference it will make in your life!"* - Kay Arthur**

***"The greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions, and not on our circumstances."* - Martha Washington**

***"Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus."* - Philippians 2:5**

Character builder:

Get reacquainted with God every day. Would you like a foolproof formula for a better life? Here it is: stay in close contact with God. Hannah Whitall Smith wrote, "The crucial question for each of us is this: What do you think of Jesus, and do you yet have a personal acquaintance with Him?" Think about your relationship with Jesus: what it is and what it could be.

Quote Worthy

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future."

- Paul Boese (1923-1976) - a Kansas businessman and writer, and a regular contributor to Quote magazine in the 1960's.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

There are two ways to give to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry:

1. By check or money order – Make checks payable to Living Word Bible Church and in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080
2. Online at <http://livingwordonline.com> - click in the "Give" icon - If you are a new online giver, then click on "Create Account" and then follow the account set-up. If you are an existing online giver, then select "Give Now. Once you are logged into the website, then click on "Give Now", and under the "Give To" drop-down select "05 Outreach", then from the drop-down to the right select "Overcomers for Christ | Prison Ministry"

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

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

He's Our Victory

By G.B.

From the rear we fight, all day and all night,
Through bars of steel, and walls of stone,
We fight for America, America our home.

Warriors, we the rear guard,
Kept within the prisons,
We fight the spirit, for America our home.

Darkness upon the earth that we cannot see,
Unless we walk in Christ, filled with His glory.
Glory stands with Israel glory never grows old,
Glory fills God's children they are the brave and the bold.

They stand before God in Heaven
They watch through darkest night
The darkness flees, the Son appears behold, the morning light.
Though darkness thought it had won, that life would never be
Jesus Christ just shines forth He's our Victory.

I live this with our Father each day and night
He brings me to a peaceful place
He keeps me with joy even in here.

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

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

Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

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