

Overcomers for Christ

September 2020

I WAS ON THE ROAD DELIVERING PRODUCTS FOR MY EMPLOYER
AT WORK AND WE WENT ON LOCKDOWN
ON ACTIVE DUTY AT FORT HOOD
I WAS IN AN OFFICE
MINING SITE
I WAS IN THE
ORTHODONTIST CHAIR
FOR AN ADJUSTMENT
ON MY BRACES
I WAS WORKING ON
FLYERS FOR
OUR AUCTION
I WAS AT THE
SCHOOL
WORKING ON
I WAS ON A PLANE
HEADING TO ST. LOUIS
MY BOSS INNOCENCE
WAS ON HIS WAY TO NYC TO
RECEIVE HIS HALL OF FAME
AWARD FROM THE OAAA
CONVENTION
GRIEF LEAVING
CRACKER
BARREL
WITH A CLIENT
I WAS IN CMSU
COLLEGE AT
I WAS AT WORK
DOING TIME CARDS
FOR THE WEEK
CONFUSION
MY SISTER WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
ON A PLANE
GOING TO NJ
THAT MORNING
8:46 AM
NEW
YORK

PACKING FOR
A ROAD TRIP
FEEDING MY
BABY IN THE
LIVING ROOM
FEAR
I WAS AT THE
DOCTOR'S
OFFICE WITH MY
GRANDMOTHER
AS
ON MY WAY TO
THE OBIES
I WAS IN
MY SPANISH
CLASS IN
HIGH
SCHOOL
SADNESS
SEVERAL KEY EXECUTIVES LEAVING FROM THE ORLANDO
AIRPORT TO FLY TO NEW YORK CITY
MY AUNT'S BOSS WAS
ON ONE OF THE
PLANES THAT
CRASHED INTO THE
TOWERS DENIAL
FOR A
PARENT
TEACHER
CONFERENCE
SCHOOL
ELEMENTARY
CHILD'S
WALKED
INTO MY
JUST
I HAD
I WAS
STRANDED
FOR MANY
DAYS
IN NY
LIVING
WITH
STRANGERS
NEW YORK
I WAS OUTSIDE
THE WTC WHEN
THE FIRST TOWER
WAS HIT



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

October 2019



A Message of Tithing - A Call To Repentance

By Wade and Michelle Anderson

As many of you may well know there has been only one other time that we have spoken in the newsletter about tithes and offerings. Yes, we do run a little spot in the back page sharing how tithes and offerings are to be filled out and where to send them as God places it on your hearts. But, many of you might look right over that area excluding yourselves because of your incarceration. We haven't done this for the simple reason that I personally know the value of fifty cents from where you sit. In me just saying that I almost feel, in my spirit, that I am trying to lay a sob story at God's feet. God isn't looking for any sob stories folks. What He is looking for is repentance to obedience and that is why I'm presenting this message as an article, because I know you all read the articles. He holds me accountable when He speaks to me. This is exactly what James is speaking about here, **"Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly."** (James 3:1) In **Proverbs 27:17**, it tells us, **"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend."** I thank God that I'm not accountable for what you all do with these messages. But I do remain accountable to God to share what He has laid on my heart. Which leads me to this ...

God has spoken to me, in my spirit, over the past month or so to write this message but I've hemmed and hawed around dragging my feet, doing this and doing that. Holy Spirit kept laying little things on my heart prompting me to write this. A little at a time I jotted down what was being given to me but listen what Paul says in **Romans 2:12-13 MSG** about my delayed obedience, **"If you sin without knowing what you're doing, God takes that into account. But if you sin knowing full well what you're doing, that's a different story entirely. Merely hearing God's law is a waste of your time if you don't do what He commands. Doing, not hearing, is what makes the difference with God."** Because delayed obedience is still disobedience, and after my own act of repentance and now transparency, I'm finally giving all of you the opportunity to be blessed the way God's Word wishes to bless you. **James 4:17** again reminds me, **"Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it."**

God has again said to me, "Why is it that you will share and encourage everyone with everything else in My Word, but not the one message where I wish to draw them away from their old ways of thinking and back to Me so that I can bless them the way that I bless you?" YES SIR ...

Let's pray: *"Heavenly Father, because I know my timing was not Your timing I know I was disobedient. I do repent for this and today I believe that Your Spirit will rest on all these words, Your Words, and stir up within Your people a new and deeper understanding of tithes and offerings. We love You Lord! We know that You, Sir, are the Provider of all things good. We know that You only wish to prosper us in every area of our lives but to completely do so You need our participation. Holy Spirit we invite You to quicken our spirits and draw us all to repentance in these areas. We know there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, so we listen with intent to serve and please You. We Love You Lord and we appreciate Your Word because it is truth and You are faithful to Your Word. We open our hearts ready to receive as You speak to each of us individually and corporately as Your children. In Jesus name we pray and believe to receive all that You have prepared for us. AMEN!"*

I know that many of you are beginning to elevate your voice as you say to me, "HOW CAN I TITHE WHEN I BARELY HAVE ANYTHING MYSELF?" And that makes sense from a human perspective. There are some people that read **Matthew 10:39**, *"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it,"* and **Matthew 20:26-27**, *"But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave,"* and **First Peter 5:6**, *"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor"* and they think to themselves, "This is ridiculous!" From a human perspective you are right, the Bible 'appears' to be a Book of paradox. Here's the definition of **paradox**, *a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition ... but wait there's more, that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true.* Participating with God in this one principle helps us experience the spiritual realm come into the physical realm. Let's just admit it, the way we receive Salvation and eternal life doesn't make a whole lot of sense from a human perspective either, until we believe and receive His Spirit to teach us, does it? If I asked for a show of hands of those of you that KNOW you KNOW you KNOW you are saved 'nearly' every one of you would have your hands in the air, right? You believe that so I would encourage you to NOT miss out on the blessings God promises through obedience in tithes and offerings.

The true message of offerings, is not about the amount you give but that it is given from your heart. Look here for a minute at **Luke 21:1-4**, *"While Jesus was in the Temple, He watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus said, 'this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.'" I love how the **Message Translation in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7** reads, **"Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take***

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plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving."

Here's another important thing about your offerings, don't just throw your offering up in the wind. Hold it to God and attach a special need or desire for it to accomplish, sow it with a purpose. Holding our offerings with our hands clutched together, Michelle and I literally hold our offerings up to God, and attach a desire to it. We tell God, *"Father, You've already promised to meet all of our needs according to Your riches and glory through Christ Jesus. Because of Your promises our needs are few and we thank You for that. Our desire today, as we place this seed offering into Your hands, is that You use it to increase Your Kingdom. With the resources You've entrusted to us to produce and mail the newsletter, we believe that You are helping us to reach those in need of Your love. We thank You that You bless the hearts of every person that reads them. Help us all as we dig deeper for the intimate relationship You call us to as we begin to understand who we are in Christ Jesus. We thank You Lord for Your faithfulness. Today, we sow with an expectation of a great return, and all for Your glory. In Jesus name, AMEN!"*

Your offerings are seeds. No farmer buys a bag of seed, plants it in the ground and hopes it produces what they want! NO! The principle is that they KNOW when they sow a specific seed they will receive a specific harvest. Also, keep in mind that these passages thus far are speaking about offerings. Offerings are one thing and tithes are yet another. As I begin this next thought please believe me when I say, God loves what many of you are doing there on the yards in regards to helping other believers and new arrivals with some store and hygiene as they are in need. As I said, this pleases God's heart to see us reacting to the needs of others the way the early church did in **Acts 2:44-45 AMP**, **"And all those who had believed [in Jesus as Savior] were together and had all things in common [considering their possessions to belong to the group as a whole]. And they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing the proceeds with all [the other believers], as anyone had need."** Now I'm not alluding to you selling your TV or sneakers and giving all your belongings away. BUT if you hear God say this to you then by all means be obedient. He will return it multiplied back to you. God always blesses our obedience. I'm simply showing you in Scripture that your acts of generosity, right where you're at are Biblical.

Jesus says, *"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."* (**Luke 6:38**) Brothers and sisters, I don't know about you but I not only want, but so desire that my everyday life reveal Jesus in this way. Since I've given my life to Jesus and gotten a hold of this one principle my heart has been set on this one thing, "Where ever I go I see myself pushing a heaping wheel barrow full of God's blessings. Everywhere I go people keep yelling at me saying, 'Pick up all this 'stuff' falling off the edges of that wheelbarrow here on the ground!' I tell them, "You can have it. Be blessed." In **Proverbs 11:25 MSG** we read, **"The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped."** Many of us are eager to declare, "You can't out give God." Yet we don't put this one principle to the test.

There are quite a few of you that have already gotten a hold of this principle and are faithful to what Holy Spirit has spoken to you. And some of you may not even understand this is one of the greatest principles that God has set before us to test His Word in. This verse in **Malachi 3:10**, is one of the first places most people start when they talk about tithes and offerings, **"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. 'Test Me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'"**

But the message really begins in **Malachi 3:6** where God is explaining through Malachi how they have been disobedient. The heading for this subject in my Bible reads, **A Call to Repentance**. Then the Lord states to His people, just like He does to us, **"I am the LORD, and I do not change."** Declaring that He doesn't change, means we too should be thankful that He hasn't changed for us either! HALLELUJAH! He then reminds them, **"That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed (because He never changes). Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have scorned My decrees and failed to obey them."** Look how God always intends to redirect us and bring us back to Him. **"Now return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.**" (**Malachi 3:7**)

If you are one of those, like the Israelites and think, **"How can we return when we have never gone away?" ... 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat (rob) You?'"** Well here's God's simple answer. **"Should people cheat (rob) God? Yet you have cheated (robbed) Me! You have cheated (robbed) Me of the tithes and offerings due to Me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating (robbing) Me."** (**Malachi 3:8-9**) Some translations use the word 'rob' in place of 'cheat' so I added it to further enlighten us to what God is saying.

Now listen in these two verses, how quickly God desires to pour out His love and blessings on us. **"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in My Temple. If you do,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take**

continued on page 9 ...

THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

Prayer Requests

A prayer request for Nancy, for continued strength and healing for her and her addiction, for her children and their children, her grandchildren. And for me and mine as well. I'll pray for you guys and the people at *Overcomers for Christ* ...

S.M.

I'm requesting that you please add me to your monthly mailing list and also request prayer for my children and grandchildren, I haven't seen or heard anything from them in many years. Pray also for me, that I stay strong in our Lord Jesus Christ, in my walk with the Lord and that I'd be released at the earliest time possible ... **V.B.**

Please pray for me, my wife Nancy, my brother Will, my sister Brenda, our two daughters Athena and Sarha, my son Sandy and grandson Sylnan. I'll continue to pray in faith and know that if He brought us to it, He will bring us through it ... **S.M.**

I want to ask all of you for a little help along the lines of prayer. My only big sister, who is always trying to help everyone is sick. We had a free phone call so I called my other sister and she told me a bunch of sad news. My older sister asked her not to tell me but she did. She thought I should know that she is real sick and can't take care of herself any more. They have put a bag on her so she can go to the restroom and her son is taking care of her. She had cancer once before and now something is wrong with her insides. Her name is Verna, would you all help me pray for her. Thank you kindly ... **B.T.**

I've got a couple prayer requests. They are for my daughter Tanya, my mom Ruby and the rest of the family, that they stay safe, strong and healthy. Every night when I get knee bound, everybody at the *Overcomers* are in my thoughts and prayers ... **S.J.**

All of my prayers go out to everyone there during these perilous times. Please continue to pray for me, that God would one day free me from this physical prison ... **J.C.**

Please keep praying for me, as I continue my journey with Christ. And pray for my cellie N.C. and his grandma, Amelia ... **F.L.**

I would like it if you all would agree in prayer with us, for our God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ to make a way and open a door so that myself and all the inmates here on the waiting list could be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ ... Amen ... **J.A.**

Please, to all the prayer warriors in the *OC&C* family, pray for my mom, father and brother as they're all getting older and having a hard time with their health. Agree with me that God would give them all the strength to deal with these issues. After being away for these last 10 years, I want to be able to spend some time with them upon my release. Thank you all ... **P.B.**

Praise Reports

First and foremost, Glory to God and all the praise, for without Him we are lost. Every day we are blessed to invite the Holy Spirit to fill each of us and guide us. I know I'm blessed and I give my all. I AM ALL IN! I've come a long way since I found this ministry, and heard your testimony. WOW, really close to mine. It was when I witnessed your fire, obedience and devotion as a faithful servant first hand on the streets, that got me on board even more for the Lord. As you say, "I'm ALL in!" I thank the Lord for my *Overcomers for Christ* family and I love you all ... **B.E.**

Hello everyone there at *OC&C*. Thought I'd get busy and drop you a few lines. First off, I hope and pray that the squad there at *OC&C* is forever blessed with God's love and that you all are safe and healthy. The card you sent put a smile in my heart and brightened my day. Thanks for welcoming me into the *OC&C* family. To be honest, I've only recently accepted the Lord Jesus into my life and since, have been lost in His Word. AND IT FEELS GOOD! GOD IS AWESOME! Again, thanks for the card. It touched down when I needed it most. I've been struggling and going through things in here. But as you know, prison is an ugly place ... **S.J.**

I am an Overcomer in Christ Jesus! I have beat TB, Hep-C, PTSD and I have been clean and sober for eight years. I have been delivered from drug and alcohol addiction! I now get high on the Most High! I am an O.G. for the Big G.O.D. AND I am going to be released early! Praise the Lord! Upon my release I am planning on starting a motorcycle ministry to raise funds for the St. Judes Hospital so less kids die from cancer ... **S.N.**

My prayers have been answered! Thank you for taking the time to send your blessings. My mind is going a million miles an hour. I'm happy, scared and everything in between. I've prayed for years to be able to go home 'one day' and make things right. I made my board and I'm going home soon ... **R.R.**

To the staff of *Overcomers for Christ*, greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I am an inmate currently housed here in Florence, Arizona. I have been blessed with the presence of fellow believers who are keeping me focused on my walk of faith with daily Bible studies and convening every Sunday in faithful worship! Glory be to God! I'm even considering learning guitar to be a part of the weekly worship and praise choir ... **V.R.**

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God Answers Prayer

By C.S.

Did you know that in 1918 the world suffered a lot of deaths due to a virus similar to this one? It killed hundreds of thousands around the world. When life is moving along smoothly it's easy to say, "God answers prayer." But when a crisis like this comes along it can bring with it doubt, especially if the Lord is not responding as quickly as 'we' might like.

Today, we regularly see images of calamity in our world because of the COVID virus. And sadly, there are some people who may begin to find fault with God thinking, "He knows what will happen before we do, nothing is hidden from His sight. And if this is so, then why would He let all this happen? If He truly loved us, He would intervene and bring relief?"

My simple answer to that is, "Just by knowing who God is should enable us to trust Him through all the crisis of life." In **2 Chronicles 7:14** God says, **"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."** I'm in no way stating that God is mad at us or has turned His back on the world! NO! Because of what is going on in the world today like; same sex marriages, marijuana is now legal in many states, cussing and sex on many channels of the TV, etc. I wholeheartedly believe that this Scripture applies to us today. No matter where we find ourselves in this crisis of uncertainty, God still calls us to be devoted to Him and one another through service, prayer and hospitality because in ourselves there is NO WAY we can muster contentment in every situation. In fact, **Romans 14:7** states it this way, **"For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself."** That is, we are accountable to both God and each other.

God uses all kinds of life situations to teach us about who He is. Jesus tells us in **John 16:33**, **"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."** This clearly states that none of us should expect to be free of problems. Life is often difficult and harrowing but we should maintain a biblical outlook through it all. Look at it like this. If He were to remove all situations from our lives, we may never learn He's sufficient for all our needs. We should seek to view this crisis from God's perspective by asking ourselves these questions.


- 1) Which is the greater faith builder - Seeing God's deliverance from every difficulty OR experiencing His presence and strengthening in the midst of the trials?
- 2) Which reward is greater - Immediate relief from discomfort OR tested and refined faith that will result in praise and glory when Christ returns?

I was reminded of these words, by Jesus, in **Matthew 6:26**, **"Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"** His love never fails and He also has surpassing comfort for every hurt.

Everyone stay safe, wherever you may be!

Good News and Bad News

By R.H.

Hello my  family! Tell all at the round tables I send my love and pray **Psalm 91** covering over everyone, every morning. I pray you all are not sick in any way during this crazy Coronavirus. I feel this is Biblical and the world will not be the same again. I've got good news and bad news.

The Good News is that God is AWESOME! He has shown me that He loves me even when I mess up. In this, He also showed me that I'm an addict when I really didn't realize I was. I slipped up and used some Meth, next thing I knew I was full blown on it and crazy! I lost my mind and everything and got caught with a little bit of drugs and paraphernalia and here I am for three years in prison. I'm already down to eighteen months.

As I said, I now realize I'm an addict and that's a good thing. I'm in NA working the steps so I will not ever have to go to jail again that is unless I do it for God. I'm studying the Bible and putting it all in Jesus' hands. I now know that it only takes

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From the Inside

one use to mess up your life. It's up to me to take action in my own life to guard against the lies of the world.

I wish I'd never left you all there at the round tables. I thank you all for what you've done for me.

Maybe there was no bad news.

The Father at Work

By H.O.

Overcomers for Christ, I sent away for some Gospel tracts from the address that you all sent me. I read them out loud several times to some of the other inmates here and it made the place so quiet you could hear a pin drop. That's the power of God, the Father at work! Normally I have to wear ear plugs and it's still loud.

All of the staff here in this facility are wearing bandanas covering their faces because of this 'virus' thing. I believe this whole scene is letting everybody know they better be right with God. There might be a tomorrow but TODAY is the day of Salvation.

If you're not right with God, the place you're going is so bad we wouldn't wish it on our worst enemies.

Those of us who have accepted God's free Gift are all looking up. Thank You Jesus!

The Devil's Best Tool ... DISCOURAGEMENT

Contributed by H.O.

It was once announced that the devil was going out of business and would offer all his tools for sale to whoever would pay his price. On the night of the sale they were all attractively displayed, and a bad-looking lot they were. Malice, hatred, envy, jealousy, sensuality, deceit and all the other implements of evil were spread out, each marked with its price. Apart from the rest lay a harmless-looking wedge-shaped tool, greatly worn and priced higher than any of them.

Someone asked the devil what it was. "That's discouragement," the devil replied. "Why do you have it priced so high," the inquiring person asked.

"Because it is more useful to me than any of the others. I can pry open and get inside a man's consciousness with that when I could not get near him with any of these others. And once inside I can use him in whatever way suits me best. It is so much more worn because I use it with nearly everybody, as very few people yet know it belongs to me," the devil responded.

It hardly need to be added that the devil's price for discouragement was so high that it was never sold. The devil still owns it and is still using it.

Our best defense against a deceiving, lying devil is to simply believe God's Word and the precious promises it contains for us personally. ***"But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil."*** (2 Thessalonians 3:3)

Don't entertain evil, discouraging thoughts but rather keep your mind and your heart on the Lord. ***"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee."*** (Isaiah 26:3)

A thankful trusting heart will have no time for discouragement. ***"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*** (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2 Corinthians 10:5)

God Will Carry Me

By J.H.

I get out this August and I will head for a halfway house, I am a little nervous. What's crazy is I'm more nervous getting out than I was coming in. I will know no one and I'll only have what I have on my back and in my pockets. BUT, I have faith that I will do well because I know now more than ever about only seeing one set of Footprints in the sand

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Isaiah 57:15-62:6

We cannot gain our Salvation through good works because our best works are not good enough to outweigh our sins. Salvation is a gift from God, received only through faith in Christ, not good works. See **Ephesians 2:8-9. (57:12)**

The high and holy God came down to our level to save us because it is impossible for us to go up to His level and save ourselves. **(57:14-21)**

People who die with their life of sin un-forgiven, separates themselves eternally from God. God wants them to live with Him forever, but He cannot take them into His holy presence unless their sin is removed. Have you confessed your sin to God, allowing Him to remove it? The Lord can save you if you turn to Him. **(59:1-14)**

Don't be discouraged when you look around and see so few people turning to God. One day people throughout the earth will recognize Him as the One True God. **(60:6-7)**

Under the old covenant, God ordained priests of Israel to stand between Him and His people. They brought God's Word to the people and the people's needs and sins to God. Under the new covenant, all believers are priests of the Lord, reading God's Word and seeking to understand it. Confessing their sins directly to God and ministering to others. **(61:6)**

Philippians 1:27-2:18

When we suffer for our faith, it doesn't mean we have done something wrong. In fact, the opposite is often true. It verifies that we have been faithful. Use suffering to build your character. Don't resent it or let it tear you down. **(1:29)**


Being humble involves having a true perspective about ourselves. See Romans 12:3. It does not mean that we should put ourselves down. **(2:3)**

Psalms 72:1-20

God cares for the poor, oppressed, weak, and needy because they are precious to Him. If God feels so strongly about these needy ones and loves them so deeply, how can we ignore their plight? Examine what you are doing to reach out with God's love. Are you ignoring their plight or are you meeting their needs? **(72:12-14)**

Proverbs 24:21-22

Never knowing where the punishment from the Lord will end, we should keep a healthy fear of the Lord and not get involved in the behaviors of evil people. **(24:21-22)**

 **"Foot" Notes**

I'm sitting here pondering the thoughts of being thankful. I've come up with this thought. As we all walk our journey towards Christ there are times that God will have us cross paths with people who give us that extra kick in the pants and reignite our inner spirit.

A few years ago I was fortunate enough to spend a couple of years in and around Chaplain Thibodaux down at Red Rock. I wish the whole DC&C family could experience the Chaplain, he's one of a kind. And since our time together there, things have grown exponentially down there at Red Rock Academy. I just want the Chaplain to know that I personally know of many lives he has influenced for the better, especially my own. There is a great amount of love and respect for Chaplain Thibodaux from this side of the pen.

All of us should take time to reflect and acknowledge those who've crossed our paths and influenced change for the better. May God bless them all.

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

it in! Try it! Put Me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies." (Malachi 3:10-11)

You may be saying, "I don't have crop or a vineyard." Well then plant some seed and watch a rich harvest be returned back to you. Michelle and I know for a fact that when we are obedient and bless God's House He is always faithful to bless ours. Today, there is NO WAY anyone or anything could EVER keep us from tithing! We KNOW that God is faithful as we are blessed in every area of our lives. I don't mean to sound like we have no problems in our lives from time to time. But we refuse to focus on the things life throws at us. Instead, we focus on the promises of God and always remember what He has already brought us out of knowing, in His hands, He is faithful.

Earlier I painted a mental picture of a wheelbarrow full of blessings, where people everywhere are being blessed by standing on this part of the promise. ***"Then all nations will call you blessed, for your land will be such a delight,' says the LORD of Heaven's Armies." (Malachi 3:12)***

We may not always understand God but be assured that He will continue to draw closer to increase our understanding as long as we are willing to draw closer to Him for that understanding. We are no different than the Israelites were. We 'think' we are following God in all of 'our' ways but yet many times we are not totally surrendered to His ways either. ***Isaiah 55:8-9*** shows us this very thing, ***"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."***

I speak of this many times but it's always worth repeating. When we started this newsletter ministry we had not a clue what we were doing. However, what we did know was Who we were following. God would be an unjust God to give us a vision and not provide the provision for the vision. To this day we never stress about whether or not we will be able to print and mail you all these newsletters. Don't take that the wrong way. We do everything we know to do to be good stewards of the resources God continues to make available for this vision/mission.

Even before Michelle was saved, giving when she went to church always came easy to her. Even then she did not give to get, she just KNEW that she KNEW that God would bless her offering. She also knew that God blessed her joyful, giving spirit. Michelle and I have a testimony to share that illustrates God's blessings and that His Word is true.

In the October of 2019, a friend of ours was going on a mission trip to Uganda. When she shared with our church that we could sow into her trip, the Holy Spirit said to Michelle, "Give 10% of the amount of her trip." At that point, Michelle believed it was going to be a \$3,000 trip, so Michelle and I sowed \$300 into her mission trip. In late November, Michelle found out the trip was closer to \$4,000, so we sowed another \$100 to completely cover the 10% that the Holy Spirit spoke to Michelle.

We know deep in our hearts that God continues to place the needs of the **Overcomers for Christ** ministries on people's hearts everywhere. Now, let's continue with the testimony.

In December of 2019, I went to check the P.O. box for mail. As usual there were many letters there. And like always I sit in the parking lot and sift through them to see who has written. At that point, I ran across a letter without a D.O.C. number on it so I pulled it out to make sure it was in the right P.O. box before I left for home. I then realized I knew who this was from and we generally didn't get mail from them so I opened it and began to read it. This is the gist of what it said:

Hello Wade and Michelle. When we last visited with each other I had asked you several different questions about the ministry. We know that you both are doing a great work for the Lord and know even more now the cost of Bibles, printing and mailing the newsletter every month. We also know you are good stewards of the resources you receive. God has placed it on our hearts to send you this check in hopes that it will cover the cost for this coming year, 2020. God bless you for all you do. We love you.

I unfolded the check that was inside and I literally cried, thanking God for His faithfulness. It was in the evening so it was already a challenge to read in the dark car let alone through the tears of thankfulness. I looked at it several times to make sure I was really reading the correct amount. The check was for \$4,000! Let me tell you all, even as I write this I tear up. When I reached home I still could hardly compose myself as I handed it to Michelle to read. Her response was, "WOW!" She looked at the envelope to check again where it came from. Right after that I lifted the check to God and prayed, ***"We thank You God that You are already blessing their obedience in every aspect of their lives. Their health, their business, their family, their children and their finances. We're believing for a 100 fold return on their gift. In Jesus name, AMEN!"***

The way that I see it is God multiplied our seed of \$400 by 10 times, and that multiplication blessed the **Overcomers for Christ** ministry.

Listen to what Paul says here in **2 Corinthians 9:8**, **"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."** It's through our obedience and in direct connection to trust and believe God for His Word that we give back, only ten percent, to God for what He has already supplied. Paul continues on, in **2 Corinthians 9:10-11** by encouraging us with, **"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."** Let's read how the Message Translation states **2 Corinthians 9:10-11**, **"This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God."**

Folks, it doesn't matter which translation we use, these Scriptures are as plain as day. God is the One that supplies the seed for us to sow, and from that same seed it produces "bread" for us to eat. We already receive a double portion! We don't give to get, however, the promise remains, **"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."** (Luke 6:38 KJV)

Here's a simple illustration I presented to our grandsons when they were young. "Take two exact same size jars and set them on the shelf. Write 'God' on one and your name on the other. Every time you earn even a dollar take ten cents out of it as soon as you get it and place it in the 'God' jar. Then place the other ninety cents in your jar." After awhile they would ask me, "Grandpa, why is it that 'God's' jar only has a little in it and I already need another jar?" "Exactly!", I'd say. "God is not trying to take your money. He simply wants your heart to believe in Him for ALL things." Of course, we follow the very same principle in our lives that I presented to my grandsons. Whether it be \$2 from a \$20 pair of handlebars or \$800 from the sale of an \$8,000 dollar motorcycle, God always gets His ten percent before I ever spend a dime of what I received.

As I bring this in for a landing I want you all to know and understand, any and all of your tithes and offerings sown into any ministry/storehouse is to be done in obedience to God. Some people have a hard time giving to a big mega church or some seemingly well-to-do pastor. They 'think' that pastor has gotten 'rich' off of the tithes and offerings given to that church. That's what holds those people back from receiving this one principle, their lack of true understanding of who they are giving to. You are NOT giving to the man, you are giving to God! The sooner we all get past that the quicker we will begin to receive the provision given with the promise. In order to truly receive we have to trust God and participate with Him. Tithing takes faith, and He is faithful.

The Bible tells us to look at the fruit that trees/people/organizations produce. Jesus says in **Matthew 7:17-18**, **"A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit."** The Message Translation explains **Matthew 7:17-18** the 'good tree' or organization like this, **"Don't be impressed with charisma; look for character. Who preachers are is the main thing, not what they say. A genuine leader will never exploit your emotions or your pocketbook."**

Likewise, I am NOT trying to persuade you to sow or tithe to the Overcomers for Christ. I am NOT trying to get your money. I'm simply attempting to provide you with the Biblical information so that you too can be blessed at the level God intended for you to be blessed. NONE of this is a money issue. It's a heart issue that God is confronting.

The Bible clearly indicates that we are to tithe to the 'storehouse'. In the spiritual sense it's the 'storehouse' that supplies our spiritual food. I also want to assure you that every single person here at the Overcomers for Christ are volunteers and do what we do simply because we recognize all that God has done and continues to do in our lives, and it glorifies God. Trust God. Give Him the opportunity to overflow you with MORE than your 'wheelbarrows' can contain.

What Others Are Saying...

"Thank you for your faithfulness, your love for God, your love for those of us in Christ AND those still lost. Your ever growing ministry is a great encouragement to us, as well as all you there at OC4C. The words you share, the prayers you open with, the many who not only sow in their words to the newsletter, but also the artwork. And especially the photographs Michelle so beautifully puts together of the OC4C team as loving stewards. WOW! I know firsthand just how much of your lives and how much of your time ALL of you have offered in service to our LORD, for His Kingdom. Thank you all, you have without doubt impacted many lives, especially mine." - R.V.

"I want to thank y'all at OC4C for sticking with me all these years. I started getting your newsletters back in 2013 when I was in the county jail. You have tenaciously found me on every yard that I have moved to. Your smiling faces and encouraging words have helped me navigate through this chapter in my life. You guys sent me cards when no one else would. So, thank you all so much. the encouragement matters, even if it's just a little note saying 'Praying for you'." - B.M.

Overcomer's Testimonies

I would like to share my testimony with all of you. I got saved and born again in 2006 when I was locked down in SMU 2. I started reading the Bible and God opened my eyes and heart and I knew that the Word of God was living, more powerful and sharper than any two edged sword. From that moment, I wanted to get saved and be born again, but I didn't know how to or how to pray.

Then one night in my cell, I was watching TBN and as he was preaching, I felt like he was speaking directly to me. I felt convicted in my heart and I bowed down and prayed the sinner's prayer with him. Then, as I was weeping and confessing my sins before the Lord the presence of the Lord was upon me and the Lord Jesus, our Great High Priest sprinkled me with His Blood and washed away all of my sins. And I asked the Lord to come into my heart, to be my Lord and Savior.

When I got release from prison in 2007, I just wanted to get baptized and join a good church. But, I got sidetracked and was led astray by my own evil desires. It's now been over 10 1/2 years and I still haven't been baptized. Good news though, I am currently on the waiting list to be baptized here in prison. The catch is, because of this Coronavirus they are not allowing volunteers or visitors to come in to do the baptisms. - J.A.

Christian Comedy

Laughter ... The Best Medicine Contributed by C.S.

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "it's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the LORD' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop."

Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the LORD!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. He said, "Praise the LORD" again and the horse began to trot. "Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!" he yelled and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff, he and the horse were about to go over. Suddenly Bill shouted, "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff.

Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Priase the LORD!"

Quote Worthy

"Only by contending with challenges that seem to be beyond your strength to handle at the moment, you can grow more surely toward the stars."

- Brian Tracy - a Canadian-American motivational public speaker and self-development author. He is the author of over seventy books that have been translated into dozens of languages.

Living Word Bible Church Locations

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Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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The Master Potter ... Exodus 19:5

By W.R.

Everyone had told her she was just a weed, and must live in the shadows amongst the trees
For people had told you all of your life, that you were ugly and not very bright
Tossed to and fro by life's storms, left pricked and bleeding by its thorns
And the angels looked down from heaven as if in awe, and the heavens grew silent from what
they saw

For the Master Potter was working late transforming a piece of clay, molding and shaping it
throughout the day

With loving hands He fashioned and shaped, a marred piece of clay into a beautiful face
With a brush of colors He painted your hair, and gave a crown for you to wear
The Master Potter worked late into the night, for He wanted everything to be just right

So He commanded the stars to throw off some light, then He placed a tablet upon your heart
And engraved upon it some scriptures so you'd never be apart, just to remind you of who you
are,
And to close the distance from afar

For everyone had told you that you were just a weed, and must live in the shadows amongst the
trees

So the Master kept working throughout the day, molding and shaping you from that clay
So you would stand out from all the rest, as one of God's vessels, for you've been blessed
Not with riches or treasures of this world, but with a gentle heart of a little girl

But the Master knew that His job was not through, so He placed a hedge around you
To protect and cushion you from life's storms and showers, while being transformed into a beau-
tiful flower

And when He had finished He stepped back to see, the beautiful vessel He created you to be!

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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