

Gifts for Christ

December 2017



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

April 2017



Memories of Christmas By Wade Anderson

Let me say this as we begin, "Just because someone is 'taught' something doesn't mean that they truly understand it. Understanding, for me, came many years later and only by God's Holy Spirit."

In all that I'm about to share here I want you to know that my brothers and I were 'taught' that the true reason for Christmas was not about what gifts we were going to get, but instead it was about the Greatest GIFT God had already given the whole world. It was out of His GREAT LOVE that God FIRST GAVE us Jesus. Listen here to what's recorded, in **John 3:16**. "**For God so LOVED the world (you and I) that He GAVE His one and only Son ...**" Many of us wonder if or how we could ever qualify to receive this Gift? Let me say this, "NONE of us could ever qualify in and of ourselves! Jesus became our Qualifier!" With one simple but yet life changing act from us listen as John explains in **John 3:16**, "**That WHOSOEVER believes in Him (Jesus) shall NOT perish but have eternal life.**" So what are the qualifications? First you have to be a WHOSOEVER. Are you a WHOSOEVER? If you're struggling to answer that question the answer is YES! The only other thing that is asked of 'us' is to BELIEVE in the One that God has sent. Jesus explains it all very simply when He said, in **John 6:29**, "**The work of God is this; to BELIEVE in the One that He has sent.**" Jesus again, in **John 12:44** says, "**WHOEVER BELIEVES in Me does not believe in Me only, but in the One (God) who sent Me.**"

As we look around and head into this most joyous time of year it's not hard to see that for the most part our fast pace society is just flying by the true reason for this celebration season. In the business of people running everywhere it blesses my heart to watch as, during this season, 'gift giving' is in just about every culture. The spirit of giving gifts just seems to fall on the world like a soft blanket. While even in the hardest of hearts people find themselves being a little more generous. So what is the true reason for this Season? He's one of God's greatest Gifts to mankind, the earthly birth and life of His Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

At a minimum of 700 years before Christ's birth, Isaiah prophesied Jesus' coming in the flesh in **Isaiah 9:6**, "**For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**" John shared the revelation he received from God's Holy Spirit of who Jesus was in **John 1:1-5** and goes on in **John 1:14** to say, "**The WORD (Jesus) became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only Son, who came from the Father, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**"

The memories that I share here are ones of gratefulness and happy times. My hope is that this will trigger and hopefully fill your hearts with a new excitement in your own memories. As we dust off the cobwebs of the memories way in the backs of our minds let's bring them out and look at them in a different light. "I pray that deep in our hearts we ALL experience some of the greatest memories of people both in our lives today and from years gone by." The great thing about memories is we don't have to be in a specific place to remember, we can just simply flip the ole 'roll-a-dex' to 'great memories' and revisit. Remember, you do have the ability to separate and not revisit the unpleasant events in your own lives, unless you're directed to, because you do have the mind of Christ. (**1 Corinthians 2:16**)

I know firsthand that not ALL of our childhood memories were like Leave it to Beaver or Ozzy and Harriet. I know I just lost a whole bunch of the younger crowd with those two examples. But simply put, these were TV shows from the 1950's and 1960's. They stereotyped what a picture perfect American family should look like. In reality though, some of our memories may be more like an 'Ozzy Osborn' family, huh?! Just kidding. Just kidding. I couldn't resist the opportunity to say that and I KNOW that many of those we lost a minute ago we just picked back up because I'm pretty certain they have seen that TV show for sure. How did I get so far off the topic? I guess I forgot to stop that 'roll-a-dex' from spinning out of control.

People begin their next year's Christmas shopping list immediately after this year's stuff goes on sale. I know this because I too do the same thing. But not for gifts. I can barely wait for the day after Christmas because that's when I get busy hitting all of the Lowe's and Home Depot's to buy more 50% to 75% off Christmas decorations for the outside of our home. In fact every year, I end up with at least another full plastic tub of more lights and two or three more of those blow up yard decorations. Then the next year I have to figure out how I'm going to redesign it all to fit. I know, I know ... but it's because we didn't have those kinds of things when I was a kid is why I love to do it today.

When I was a young boy, I remember my mom driving us through what we thought were the 'rich' areas of town and being filled with excitement as we "Oooed" and "Ahhed" at their outdoor decorations. Our family, like many others, were considered to be 'those kids from the other side of the tracks'. Today, as I decorate the outside of our home people drive up and even walk up while I'm in the process and say, "We're always excited to see what all you're going to put up each year." As parents drive by the kids hang out the window while I'm still on the roof and yell, "Thank you 'dinosaur house guy' for putting up the lights!" Even though we didn't have those things as we were kids I see it still brings joy and excitement to the kids around me today.

It seemed to us then that the people that decorated the outside of their homes were few. But on the inside most of the homes there were traditional Christmas decorations hanging everywhere. The smell of fresh baked breads, pies, cookies and food of all kinds lingered in the air from Thanksgiving until well after Christmas. I'm sure some of you more 'well mature' folks can remember those candy dishes of HARD ribbon candies and bowls of nuts just begging to be cracked. I swear, whatever HARD candy that didn't get eaten one year got shoved back in the bag and was there to greet us the next year! I guess there was no 'shelf life' standard, unless something was obviously rotten!

As far back as I can remember, we always had a Christmas tree and at least one bigger gift under that tree. Most of the years that I was at home I remember we had a real cut down tree. A couple of those years, when we lived in Colorado, I even remember us going out as a family and cutting down our own tree and bringing it home. I thought it to be strange that the tree we cut down in the woods always looked much better in the woods than it did when we got it home and stood it up. And yes, there were a couple of years when those fake silver trees with the four colored turn wheel lights were the 'hottest thing'. So even 'from the other side of the tracks' my mom attempted to keep us in the proverbial 'loop'.

The first thing that went on the tree were the lights. Keep in mind when I say Christmas lights, I'm talking about those BIG burn the skin off your arm if you touched them lights. Being the oldest of the FIVE boys I guess I had earned the 'rite of passage', if you will, of stringing the rows of lights on the tree. And oh yah, I always placed the star on the top of the Christmas trees. The ole 'roll-a-dex' slows and there is a tear in my eye today as I can still see my mom and my brothers sitting there anxiously with the Christmas music playing on the hy-fy waiting for me to finish. When the lights were finally on mom would release my brothers to begin putting TONS of those old colored glass bulb decorations on the tree. Mom always encouraged us with what a great job we were doing. But honestly, I remember only the bottom two thirds of the tree being COVERED due to the fact that 3 out of the 4 brothers could only reach so high on the tree. I bet that any of you with children or grandchildren can relate to the abundance of Christmas decorations my mother had accumulated over the years from FIVE boys. Everything we had ever made in school my mother kept. And guess what? Even all those years of old decorations mom still had us hang them on the Christmas tree every year.

Through the years I was always 'the light hanger'. Through writing this little piece it has become obvious to me that I'm still that guy. I know that Jesus wasn't talking about us being 'showy' and He said so in these next Scriptures. But instead He wants us to allow Him to shine through us to the rest of the world around us. Listen, *"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:14-16) I want people to see the Jesus IN me and I guess I just bumped it up a couple more notches with the outside 'light' decorations.

Each year it surprises me how many more people in our neighborhood get out there and decorate with something. I'll close with this.

I guess shepherds were sort of like 'those guys from the other side of the tracks'. In **Luke 2:8-14** we read, *"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.'" In these Scriptures and the ones in **Matthew 1:18-25** we see the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy in **Isaiah 9:6**. And you know what? Wise men/women from 'both sides of the tracks' still seek Him!! Merry Christmas!*

"Rejoice Greatly ... Your King has Come" - Zechariah 9:9

By Michelle Anderson

Merry Christmas to all the **Overcomers for Christ** family. During the holidays, many people feel alone even when they are in a room (living room, rec room, dining room, chow hall, etc.) full of people. I don't say this to be a downer, I say it to be an upper!! What I want to say to any of you feeling that way, is that you are never alone, you have God, Jesus (your Friend and Comforter) and the Holy Spirit with you. God's Word says in **Isaiah 41:10**, *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Just think about it, if you feel that way there are probably other people in that same room feeling the same way, so reach out and smile and say to someone, "Merry Christmas!!" First **Thessalonians 5:11** says, *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."* You have your family at **Overcomers for Christ** always thinking about you and praying for you ... Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

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

Prayer Requests

Dear prayer teams, please pray for complete healing and deliverance in my body from witchcraft. Also, please pray for protection for my life, that the Lord will stop the Host of enemies all around me from taking my picture when they see me all through my living room window and bedroom and in shopping malls, driving in cars calling me an ugly name. Please pray for me that the Lord will destroy all of the pictures that the enemy took and takes of me now. Also, please pray for my grandsons healing and for his protection from abuse and that the Lord will return them back home to me now. They were taken away from me going on light years now by injustice and lies. Also, please pray for my grandson Diamond's salvation. He is in jail for light years. Also, my son Robert's salvation and Darlene, Sharie, Elton, Danny, Ellen, John and Danny all need salvation ... **I.A.**

Well, I'm doing good thank God. Just sitting here in intake, I've been here in max-intake for the past 52 days without anything brother. All I have is my boxers, t-shirt, sheet, and blanket. They can't break a Godly man. Can you please join in prayer so this place could change direction? They don't let us order from store, and we can't use the phone. It's something they are doing that is not part of the D.O.C. rules; they are just doing it on their own. All I can do is pray bro. There are times that I get so upset that I want to go back to my old ways, but I know that is what the enemy wants but I try my hardest to stay cool. I even wrote the chaplain so he could send me a Bible, but he still hasn't sent me one. I'm telling you brother, this place is something else, they don't follow rules. The only reason they have me here is because of my past, my points are low, I shouldn't even be here. But I know it is God's will, not mine. I've been doing what I was sent here for and that is to tell people about our Lord Jesus Christ. I don't let the enemy shoot me down. Like it says in **Romans 8:31, "What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?"** and **Romans 8:37, "No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us."** ... **O.T.**

I would like to ask you all to please keep my mother Patricia in your prayers as well as my nieces and my nephews. They are all growing up so fast ... **W.B.**

Last year my kids' mom passed away and my son has been taking it the hardest. He's turning towards the bad things. My daughters live in St. Louis and are acting up as well. No matter how many times I tell them this is not the life I want for them they seem to be determined to follow in my footsteps, Javon is 13, Ameriannah is 15 and Heaven is 8. I ask that you all please keep them in your prayers ... **J.H.**

Can you pray that I get to see my almost 81-year-old grandma? ... **T.D.**

Praise Reports

Thank you for your kindness, and your help to keep my spirits lifted. You are a person who knows how to lift somebody's spirits. Thank you for praying for my mom, she's good, no surgery has been done, thank God in the name of Jesus Christ ... Amen ... they are trying other things to prevent surgery ... **M.A.**

I wanted you all to know ... I just received a boat load of goodtime back that I had lost before I met my **OC** family and Jesus through the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletters back in 2007-2008. At the time of this letter, I now have only 1 year and 8 months before I get out and start my life out there doing the Lord's work. I've got to admit, I'm a little scared my friends. I don't have any place to land the day that I'm released, and honestly I don't know how I'll react after being in prison since 1976. Regardless, I'm trusting in the Lord to guide me ... **A.M.**

Okay, I do have a little testimony/praise report to share with all of you. See, I have been praying and fasting for one of my friends here at the prison to stop doing drugs. Well, God has come through like He always does! The other day this dude came to me and told me that he had not been high in a week. Praise God for that!! I so believe in the power of prayer! It's a real epidemic here with this synthetic weed. After they smoke it they either pass out or start trippin'. While others in here laugh at them I DON'T because it is drugs that got me in here. As weird as it may sound, I do understand that most of these people are just trying to cope with where they are at. I do my best to let them know that there is a better way with the Lord Jesus Christ! Okay, I feel a little better since I have talked with you all (SMILE) ... **R.G.**

Hello sisters and brothers! I'm just writing to say "Keep up the good work" and God bless each and every one of you. I am a friend of Foot's and he loves you guys, and I love you all too! There's so many great people that the Lord has blessed my life with and He has put it in my heart to contact you ... I don't know why? I write my family so much that it takes all of my letter writing time and envelopes. But I felt, like I said, that I MUST WRITE. May I please be placed on your mailing list. I want to keep up with your church and see all your good works, in Jesus name ... **M.B.**


Overcomers for Christ ... Thank you so much for my birthday card and the personal notes. Your attention to detail and the time you take to reach out truly reflect the intimate nature of our Lord and Savior. The number of your works are known! A new law has passed in California, it will knock off about 8 years of my sentence. It is not automatic, I have the opportunity to earn it through college and self help groups. This truly is a blessing! ... **J.H.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Be Good Soil
By T.D.

Overcomers for Christ family, first off, let me tell my beginnings of how I first started getting your newsletters. It was 2009 or 2010 and I knew Joe C. or Concrete Joe. He wrote me once while I was in prison. I asked him to send money to someone to pay my drug debt. He wrote back and said, "I can't be contributing to you going down the wrong path, but I will turn you on to these people". I've been getting your newsletters and birthday cards and wishes ever since. I'm sure you guys remember him, so that's how it came to be.

So, for eight or so years the only consistent thing I've had, next to my grandma, was every month and birthday, like clockwork, I got the newsletters, and heartfelt brotherly and sisterly love birthday card.  I never sent a thank you back or let you know if I moved, for that I'm truly sorry from the bottom of my heart. I was so selfish. There was countless times I was going to and just never did, and tons of times the newsletter and birthday day blessing was spot on. God works in mysterious ways! I always did turn other people on to you guys though.

I've always read them and always believed in Jesus. I would be walking the good narrow path and time and time again I would go back to drugs and let the devil take me down such a dark place. It's like in **Matthew 13**, the story of the farmer, when Jesus was telling the crowd in Galilee. I didn't have my seeds planted in the right places. The evil one always came and stole my seed from my heart. Long story short, I hit rock bottom! Now I've built my foundation on rock. I just let Him take the wheel Amen!

Matthew 13:1-9 - *"That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."*

Matthew 13:18-23 - *"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

I still make mistakes every day, but I learn from them and try to be a better person, friend, brother and Christian every day. I finally see the light. All along, I had Jesus through you guys this whole time. I'm so glad Jesus has put you guys in my life. I feel like I know "Duck" a little bit now from reading his testimonies.

You guys are 100% absolutely doing God's work. I would like to meet you guys one day, God willing. Well, that's what was put in my heart to say. I faithfully will be praying for you guys and everyone in the newsletters Prayer Requests. Keep up the Good Fight! God Bless and thank you!!

God Knows What's Just Around the Corner. It's Worth the Wait!

By S.L.

Hello my dearest brothers and sisters! Hello to each and every single one of you in the Overcomers for Christ family. I hope this missive finds you all in the very best of health; physically, mentally and spiritually.

First I want to thank God that He has been guiding me on the right path, and avoiding all of the negativity! Even though it is hard at times, I manage to go around it, or bust a u-turn. I know you feel me on that one!

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

As many of you know, prison is a crazy environment. You may only find a good handful of men/women that really do want to change their lives around. The majority of these 'cats' don't seem to want to change. I'm only 36 years old and I've had it! I gave my life over to Christ on July 3, 2016. I've decided that I want to see a better day and better days ahead of me! I'm trying to go home and be there for my 7 year old daughter.

I wrote to you guys last year with my personal testimony and thanks to you all, it got printed in last December's issue. Thank you very much to all of you. Since then I've seen laws get passed and personally I've seen men get released from prison! Even though I only have 7 years down and still have 18 years left on my sentence, I still have faith that a law pertaining to my case will be passed and those 18 years will be cut shorter. There's already something on the ballot, I'm just praying and walking with Christ!

I received the card that you all sent me, thank you. But I really loved what it said on the front of it, "God knows what's just around the corner. It's Worth the wait!" I can see and smell freedom coming my way. Check this out. This card that I received from all of you was delayed by more than a couple of weeks. The reason there was a delay was, are you ready because I got transferred to another facility ... FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR! I just wanted to reach out to ALL my brothers and sisters in the O&C family to say, "May God watch over you all and keep you out of harm's way! You ALL are in my daily prayers and LOVE to you ALL for a blessed life!"

Walking by Faith not Sight

By D.G.

I realize that I haven't been as much of a contributor as I used to be, and I apologize for that. I will try to do better. Truth be told, I am undergoing a season of pain and suffering and to tell you the truth ... I find it very difficult to write encouraging words when one is in a state of discouragement. I just continue to press on the best I know how, trying to maintain an attitude of gratitude, thanking Him every morning that I can still walk and breath. Walking by faith and not by sight is a rough piece sometimes, as I'm sure you all well know. It occurred to me the other day and I find it quit ironic, that the last article of mine that you published was God's Perspective on Suffering. Go figure. Sure preaches good, but going down through there again, after you thought the coast was clear is a whole other ball game all together. I guess the Lord is letting more iron enter my soul. At any rate, I read something yesterday that really ministered to me and I've decided to share it with 'the family.' It's called ...

The Prince of Preachers

By Charles Spurgeon in 1889

"I called Him - but He gave me no answer." (Song of Solomon 5:6)

Prayer sometimes tarries, like a petitioner at the gate, until the king comes forth to fill her bosom with the blessings which she seeks. The Lord, when He has given great faith, has been known to try it by long delays. He has allowed His servants voices to echo in their ears - as from a brazen sky. They have knocked at the golden gate - but it has remained unmovable, as though it were rusted upon its hinges. Like Jeremiah, they have cried, "You have covered Yourself with a cloud - that our prayer should not pass through."

Thus have true saints continued long in patient waiting without reply, not because their prayers were not vehement, nor because they were unaccepted - but because it so pleased Him who is sovereign, and who gives according to His own pleasure. If it pleases Him to bid our patience exercise itself - shall He not do as He wills with His own? Beggars must not be choosers - either as to time, place or form.

But we must be careful not to take delays in prayer for denials! God's long - dated bills will be punctually honored. Nor must we allow satan to shake our confidence in the God of truth - by pointing to our unanswered prayers. Unanswered prayers are not unheard. God keeps a file for our prayers - they are not blown away by the wind - they are treasured in the King's archives. This is the registry in the court of heaven - wherein every prayer is recorded. Tried believer, your Lord has a tear bottle in which the costly drops of scared grief are stored away - and a book in which your holy groanings are numbered. By-and-by, your prayers shall be answered. Can you not be content to wait a little? Will not your Lord's time - be better than your time? By-and-by He will comfortably appear, to your soul's joy, and make you put away the sackcloth and ashes of long awaiting - and put on the scarlet and fine linen of full fruition.

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2 Chronicles 35:1-36:23

Josiah ignored Necho's message because of who Necho was, king of a pagan nation. The mistaken assumption that Necho could not be part of God's larger plan cost Josiah his life. While not everyone who claims to have a message from God really does, God's message may come in unexpected ways. God has spoken to pagan kings in the past. (**Genesis 12:17-20; Genesis 20:3-7; Daniel 4:1-3**) Don't let prejudice or false assumptions blind you to God's message. (**35:21-24**)

God warned Judah about its sin and continually restored the people to His favor, only to have them turn away. Eventually, the situation was beyond remedy. Beware of harboring sin in your heart. The day will come when remedy is no longer possible and God's judgment replaces His mercy. Sin often repeated, but never repented of, invites disaster. (**36:16**)

1 Corinthians 1:1-2:5

Grace is God's free gift of salvation given to us in Christ. Receiving it brings us peace. (**Romans 5:1**) In a world of noise, confusion, and relentless pressures, people long for peace. Many give up the search, thinking it impossible to find, but true peace of heart and mind is available to us through faith in Jesus Christ. (**1:3**)

God's way of thinking is not like the world's way (normal human wisdom). And God offers eternal life, which the world can never give. We can spend a lifetime accumulating wisdom and yet never learn how to have a personal relationship with God. We must come to the crucified and risen Christ to receive eternal life and the joy of a personal relationship with our Savior. (**1:19**)

Psalms 27:1-14

David's greatest desire was to live in God's presence each day of his life. Sadly, this is not the greatest desire of many who claim to be believers. But those who desire to live in God's presence each day will be able to enjoy that relationship forever. (**27:4**)

Waiting for God is not easy. Often it seems that He isn't answering our prayers or doesn't understand the urgency of our situation. That kind of thinking implies that God is not in control or is not fair. But God is worth waiting for. **Lamentations 3:24-26** calls us to hope in and wait for the Lord because often God uses times of waiting to refresh, renew, and teach us. Make good use of your waiting times by discovering what God may be trying to teach you in them. (**27:14**)

Proverbs 20:20-23

Sometimes what seems to be sudden luck turns out to be a dismal turn of fortune. What seems too good to be true, often is. (**20:21**)

"Dishonest scales" refers to the loaded scales a merchant might use in order to cheat customers. Dishonesty is a difficult sin to avoid. It is easy to cheat if we think no one is looking. But dishonesty affects the very core of a person. It makes him untrustworthy and untrusting. It eventually makes him unable to know himself or relate to others. Don't take dishonesty lightly. Even the smallest portion of dishonesty contains enough of the poison of deceit in your life, tell God about it now. (**20:23**)

"Foot" Notes

Hey y'all! I pray that all is as well as can be expected with you all. I have some thoughts to share that were inspired by my closest brother.

You know we all have our 'Mission from God' that we take on and sometimes they become more than one person can handle. Okay let's be real, ALL of God's missions grow bigger than one person can handle. But that's okay because God doesn't expect anybody to do it all alone. Even Jesus Christ Himself had His disciples to help with the heavy lifting.

I guess what I'm saying is ... Don't be afraid to reach out (delegate) when it's needed to further His purpose. In fact, you'll probably be surprised to find that God has already placed someone within reach to lend a hand. It's important that we use the 'ALL' to further the purpose of 'The ONE'. Love to you all short and tall ... Vaya Con Dios!!

P.S. Don't ride faster than your angels can fly

"THE GREATEST GIFT"
Jack Flash ... "The Preacher"
Disciple of Jesus Christ

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb." (Luke 2:11, 21)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as the holidays near and our attention shifts to this Christmas season, let us celebrate the birth of our Savior but also not forget this eternal truth! That precious baby was the perfect Son of Almighty God ... Jesus was born to die! Thank you Jesus! Praise the Lord!

The eternal truth is that God created us, then had to send His Son to save us. The King of kings left the throne of heaven, in loving obedience to the Father, came to Earth as a human to His destiny ... The Lord of lords then humbled Himself by becoming a servant, in order to save us, to fulfill the Father's purpose. Thank you Jesus! Praise the Lord!

Jesus Christ came to Earth with unfailing love to teach eternal truth ... the supreme truth of the Father and the divine truth of the Son ... Jesus Christ also came to teach this ultimate truth: Humans are sinners in need of a Savior. Thankfully, that Savior is Jesus of Nazareth, the Light of the world and the love of our Father; the perfect Son of God is the truth who sets us free! Thank you Jesus! Praise the Lord!

Alas, men prefer the darkness of sin and their selfish rebellion against the truth of Christ and His love for us ... Jesus came with love but we hated Him ... Jesus came with truth but we preferred lies ... Jesus came to save us but we persecuted Him. Sinners like me falsely accused Him and abused Him; we beat and whipped Him, mocked and scorned Him ... we even spit upon the Son of God who came to save us. Thank you Jesus! Praise the Lord!

Jesus came with unfailing love because He is the eternal truth; so instead of calling down angels to smite us, He simply bowed down before the Father and humbly prayed, *"Abba Father, all things are possible for you. Take this cup of suffering from me; nevertheless, not my will, but your will be done."* Thank you Jesus! Praise the Lord!

Then in loving obedience, the precious Son of God fulfilled the Father's purpose: Jesus Christ went to the Cross, took our place and took our sin; the perfect Lamb of God died for us and rose again ... the Son of God lives and is with the Father, the King of kings back on His throne! Praise the Risen Lord! Praise the Living God!

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus this year, let us choose to remember well the Son of God came the first time with love to save us ... and with love that precious baby was born to die for us. Understand well, the end of history is upon us ... Christ is coming again soon, but this time it will be to judge us. The question is, are you ready?

"Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in Heaven and those on Earth, and of those under the Earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the Glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11).

Praise the coming King!

Merry Christmas!



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"You know when I'm sleeping, when I'm awake and if I'm bad or good, and I have to tell you what I want?!"

Overcomer's Testimonies

Thank you for the card, and I found your words not only inspiring and uplifting but bearing witness to that of my own spirit. I pray that you and all the brothers and sisters there at O&C have a blessed Christmas. Christmas use to be a very depressing time of the year for me, for I grew up very poor and I can only remember a few Christmases in which we had gifts or anything like that. When we did get gifts, it was usually a shirt, pair of shoes or something that we really needed.

Since I have been a Christian, I find Christmas to be the most joyful time of the year for me as I am so thankful for God's gift to us "Jesus" and what He did for us at the Cross. How can I not be joyful and thankful? Of course, it's somewhat sad being separated from your family during the holidays but I only have one sister that's still living. Just in the last 2 1/2 years I've lost my father, my sister, Sherry, and last week my mother went to be with the Lord. She was almost 90 years old and we were very close. But I see her passing as being merciful and I've spent the past week just thanking the Lord for taking her home. I know someday we'll be reunited and I know she is with Jesus now, in His kingdom and that is a very comforting thought.

My mother had a very hard life. The first 45 years of her life were rough, she went through the aftermath and reconstruction of Germany after World War I and she lost one of her eyes during World War II. My mother's father by the way was Jewish, but that was kept a secret for many years for obvious reasons. You could just look at her and tell she was Jewish. I look just like her and my grandfather by the way. Anyway, my birth father married her, brought her over to this country and abandoned her to fend for herself and four children. It took me a long time to forgive him for that and his abusive treatment of her. But years later she met and married a good Christian man, Bob, who I always thought of as my father. So the latter years of my mother's life were better than the beginning and I can only thank the Lord for that! The last 45 years of my mother's life were good, and those are the years I want to remember.

I will, by the way be buried next to her when I pass. As for my health well on the most part, I think I'm doing pretty good. I have a few things going on, but nothing I'm too concerned about. I have a pause in my heartbeat every minute (I forget what they call it) and I have a diseased aorta, which will eventually cause me some problems, but I am not dwelling on none of that. I know and I've told a number of people this, "Jesus has His hand on the Pause, Stop and Restart buttons, so I'm in good hands" in that respect! One thing I know, if I don't know anything else, I know this until the Lord is finished with me I ain't going nowhere!

I understand where you are coming from in relation to not asking people about their past and I wish I could forget mine, but there's always something there to remind you of all those things that you'd like so much to forget, but can't. The reason I was given the death sentence was because the person we killed was a witness to another murder, they were hit in the head with a tire iron and thrown into a gravel pit. The person who was with me at this time was someone close to me, for they offered me a manslaughter charge (twice) if I'd turn states evidence, but of course I refused and as a result I ended up going to death row. When I came off death row, I paid two guards to bring me a pistol. I was at Lucasville then, I had been scheduled to appear in court in Columbus on my appeal, but things didn't work out and as a result, I ended up taking five guards hostage. I shot and killed one of the guards. That's why they transferred me out here. The guards back in Ohio tried to kill me several times and they almost did, but I understand it. Even when I was on death row, I had no problem with them executing me that's just how I was raised, you make your own bed and you lay in and you die in it.

I was involved with some pretty dangerous people when I was out there. I think I mentioned it in my testimonial that my brother was hooked up with the Columbia Cartel for decades and later my step brother became the president of the Dayton Outlaws. All my partners are dead now, most violently. I have a lot of blood on my hands and I'll be honest with you after I got saved it took me years before I was able to forgive myself for the things I've done. I just could not understand how a Just and Holy God could show someone like me mercy and forgive me. My mind could not comprehend that kind of love that kind of mercy. I'm crying now as I think about it. Me of all people deserved no mercy! People ask me sometimes what has kept me focused on the Lord these past 18 years and I tell them, "You don't know what the Lord brought me out of. I look at the Cross and I am reminded that Jesus died a horrible death for someone like me and I am reminded that it was me, Wayne who nailed Jesus to that Cross that it was my sins that killed Him." I tell people, "I have the blood of God's Son on my hands, how can I not love Him and live for Him?" That's how I feel about it and that's how I see it.

I ask the Lord all the time, "What kind of God are you that you would suffer and die such a horrible death for someone like me?" I always get the same answer, "One who loves you." It breaks my heart when I think about it, and that's a good thing. Like you, I don't judge others who am I to cast any stones, after all the horrible things I've done. I know how it feels to be falsely accused, due to my past. I try not to think about the past, but there is always something there to trigger a memory. You take care of yourself and know that you and all the brothers and sisters there at O&C are in my thoughts and prayers. Merry Christmas - **W.R.**

What Others Are Saying...

"I am currently incarcerated, I recently got moved to a new cell and found an editorial that was left behind. I immediately picked it up and read through it, and I thought to myself, "I should write them." As it turns out you are in my same zip code. I am born and raised in Mesa. So, I gave my life to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ back in 2012. It sure has been a daily battle! But one thing I can say is; there has been major changes in my life and my family's lives, and for that I am forever grateful. I am growing in my faith daily! Now I am finishing a 5-year sentence, I go home in November. The only worry I have at this point is finding a good church and positive people to surround myself with, this way I don't fall into temptation. I will be 30 years old and in the prime of my life, and I plan to live the rest of my life walking with the Lord. I have a truly blessed life and I plan on sharing my testimony with others that have the same struggles I once had. Hopefully to bring more to experience Christ's Love. I have so much to share and talk about, but I just wanted to make this a brief intro so you know a little about myself. I would love to hear back from you and hopefully establish something that will last!!" - **A.L.**

"God bless you brothers and sisters of *Overcomers for Christ*. I want to thank you from my heart for the list of halfway houses you blessed me with. In about a year or a year in a half, I for sure will be writing a lot of letters. The card was very beautiful and I have it hanging on my wall, amongst many others I have received over the years, they are all from you brothers and sisters, that means a whole lot to me, and shows me who cares about me. Even though you don't know me and never met me in person." - **J.M.**

"I was on your mailing list for your monthly newsletter. I've been moved, I would like you to please send me your newsletter please. I'm missing hearing from you every month. Your blessing us behind barbed-wire fences with your ministry and we do appreciate it." - **L.T.**

"First and foremost I send all of my utmost respects and thank you to your family and all members of *Overcomers for Christ*. It was an honor to receive my beautiful newsletters every month. Well you're probably wondering what this letter is all about. Well, I wanted to inform you of my release next month and to say thank you so much for your prayers and the newsletters I received every month. I have passed your address on to other inmates who absolutely loved reading all the testimonies and prayers every month. I look forward to meeting you all and to thank you personally in person for all you have done for me, and hopefully I will be a member of your fellowship. And lastly I would like to thank you for my beautiful birthday card I received, which happened to be the only birthday card I received." - **A.B.**

"Thank you for the card. It's nice to know that I am on the thoughts of you and every one there on staff. You all are truly a blessing and a nice 'pick me up' on days that can be a bit demanding. Life here in prison can be a day to day trudge just to keep the boredom out. But we keep on because there is a job to do! Bob A. sends his love and prayers." - **R.H.**

Quote Worthy

"When we are at the worst times of our lives, when we are battling with something, or struggles, whatever it may be, when we are at our highest point as well, when things are going really well, we want somebody to comfort us and be there for us and to say, 'Well done.' That's Jesus!"
- **Russell Wilson - Seattle Seahawks Quarterback**

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, encouraging, mentoring, and discipling believers.

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

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

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FRIEND OR FOE

By F.P.

Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

I sit back and think about the day that we met
You helped me get over fears and over regret
You were my idol, I followed your lead
You were always right there in my greatest need

No matter the problem, you make it go away
You carried me through nights and brightened my day
You lifted me up whenever I was down
There was never a dull moment with you around

I craved your attention, to feel you so near
It felt like true love, but now the smoke is clear
You numbed all my feelings, and blinded my eye
Everything about you was one big lie

You were so smooth, you led me astray
You gave me a little, just to take more away
I depended on you, I couldn't break free
A throne of false pretense, my life was the fee

You asked so little at first, then you took control
I gave you my body, you tried taking my soul
You poisoned my blood, you poisoned my breath
The devil has a new name, I know him as Meth

1 Peter 5:8 - "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

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