

Overcomers for Christ

January 2014





In November, I went to New York City on a business trip and I was blessed to have Wash be able to go with me. Before we got saved and gave our hearts to the Lord, we didn't take trips like this together. Now that Jesus is first in our life, he has blessed us with the ability to make a trip like this together.

In this edition of the newsletter we are sharing with you the many pictures that we took on this trip. God gets all the glory for the life that we have today.

God bless you all and have a prosperous New Year.

Michelle Anderson

God Provides By Megan Normandin

Hello you beautiful people! I hope my letter finds you well and happy, I am "fasting" from Facebook for a month, so when I got the newsletter and saw that Michelle passed the CPA exam, I had to write and share the joy!

We haven't spoken in such a long time, I would like to update you on things around here and if you would like to share any of it with others, you are welcome to do so. Let me start by saying WOW. I am looking back even just in the three years since this Jesus Freak group of bikers "crashed" my ASM graduation and I can say that God has moved in amazing ways ... There have been many ups and downs and many struggles I have had to overcome. After being told I could never have custody of my bi-polar son, Jon, God granted me custody last year. He is doing AMAZING. He is in football and doing wonderful in school. He has friends and is stable with his meds. We don't have traditional resources, such as insurance, AHCCS, etc. to get him help and for a long time I struggled with that. "How will I be able to provide the care and stability he needs? I can't do this! I need a doctor for his prescriptions, what will I do?" Time and time again I have poured my heart out to the Creator of the Universe and I have found Him ever so faithful. Long story short, we have a REAL doctor who does his labs and physicals and scrips for little or no cost ... God provided! We have been granted 2 YEARS of free medication from Abilify, THAT IS \$25,000.00 IN MEDICATION ABSOLUTELY FREE ... God provided! During a very bad time we had to go to ER at Phoenix Children's Hospital. God gave me three bonuses in three weeks that completely overturned that debt ... God provided! In the meantime I had the opportunity to be an Along Side Mentor to one of our young ladies who had fallen away into the dope life again. I had the extreme pleasure of placing her well-earned crown upon her head ... God provides blessing upon blessing!

So you are thinking this is so wonderful, right?

Let me tell you that appearances can be so deceiving. All this time, my God is meeting me at every turn, being so faithful and so loving, and every day I found myself becoming angrier and more depressed. Hating my life, wishing I could take it all back and just be a loser. This is hard to explain, but it started with the failure to control my temper. I have been praying and BEGGING God to help me not be so easily inflamed by people and situations. Over time, I have seen all the leaves of that particular habit of anger stripped away, providing SOME relief but leaving me with the trunk and root of the problem ... a consistent, nagging failure, leaving me depressed and faithless. Is this my thorn, Lord? To never be kind and gracious? To always yell and scream at my children or be rude and condescending in my job on the phones? Surely, He cannot be pleased with this. He isn't being honored, and He isn't getting glory. This anger is CANCELING OUT all the good testimony that surrounds my life.

So, one day I am working on the phones and found myself in a screaming match with someone yet again. Two days later I am working and get a message from the boss to log out and come to the office for a meeting. I was devastated. I knew I was going to be fired and I knew that I deserved it! I felt so helpless and hopeless. I wanted to run away. I was just going to email my resignation so I wouldn't have to face the humiliation of my guilt in person. I wanted to end my life, because in my mind this was just never going to get better. This cursed attitude problem!

I wept at the feet of Christ, all day and all night. I went to the office for my meeting, face and eyes puffy and swollen and heart-broken, I sat down and was granted ONE MORE chance. Oh my most gracious and merciful God! I do not deserve this chance. I went home suspended for the week and so grateful, but still in despair. How can I possibly NOT fail? I WILL fail. I will become angry and rude because in spite of God's supreme graciousness I still have this leafless tree that is sticking out of my front yard. Except now there is the noose of failure attached to its branch and it is so high and unattainable that I will for sure not be able to remove the impending threat of sure failure. I prayed all day and worried all day. I decided to go to Bible Study that night. We read out of the book *The Peacemaker* by Ken Sande, chapter 5 talks about idols. We all know what idols are, right? So I am thinking this doesn't really apply to me. And then the speaker started to read from **James 4: "What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."** So, I am sitting there and asking God, "What is it that I am wanting so badly that is causing me to be so abrasive?" The speaker came to a part in *The Peacemaker* book that stated when a good desire becomes an all-consuming focus, it becomes an idol. She started reading things off for examples, she came to the word "respect" and God took over my mind. He took that one little word and said THIS is your problem. He showed me example after example from the time I was a teenager until now that the desire to be treated with dignity and respect is the root of my anger issues and that it has become an idol in my life. Then He went on to say to me from **James 4, "You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God."** What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? But He gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires.

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

As the Scriptures say, **"God opposes the proud but favors the humble. So, humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor. Don't speak evil against each other, dear brothers and sisters. If you criticize and judge each other, then you are criticizing and judging God's law. But your job is to obey the law, not to judge whether it applies to you. God alone, who gave the law, is the Judge. He alone has the power to save or to destroy. So what right do you have to judge your neighbor?"** (James 4:6-12)

I realized that I yell at my kids because I want them to respect me and each other. This has become so important that I treat God's Word and His commands as secondary next to it! This desire for respect and dignity is not wrong in and of itself. But when I place it in my life as more important than loving my neighbor then I am loving myself and not God. As I confess this idol and begin the murky process of trying to figure out how tearing it down works, I trust that the same God who is shepherding me and providing for me at every turn, will show me how to tear this idol down. Pray for me in this journey as I don't quite know how to go about it. May I just end by saying our God has restored my hope and that He remains ever faithful to hold us in the palm of His hands? Yes, even with all of our mess ... He provides!!!

Please keep me updated and I am so grateful I get the newsletter still. I enjoy it so much. I love you guys!!!!

The #1 Weapon of the Believer **By Waterwalker**

I was just reviewing the current events that have recently happened in our country, the government shutdown, the killing that went on in one of our airports, don't remember the location of the airport but that it was the shooter who did get killed, what he was trying to prove, I don't know, I didn't watch the TV long enough to get additional details. Finally the Obamacare, which I saw the President saying that we can choose our own health care, then the people they had on the news saying the President was lying, we can't choose our own health care plan. I normally, as you know, don't watch the news but when you have it going on in the break room where you work, it's hard to avoid.

Question ... Waterwalker, what's your response to all of this? Well, the killing that went on in that airport was tragic; I hate to see anyone die. The government shutdown I saw as a blame game, no one wanted to be responsible for the shutdown. The Obamacare, I won't comment either way because it brings me to my message I'd like to share with all of you.

Ephesians 6:10-18 talks about putting on the whole Armor of God, but if you look at your King James Bible it shows a diacritical mark at **verse 10** through and including **verse 18** shows a complete thought. We only talk about the armor and putting it on, but we don't talk too much about the last verse ... look at **verse 18** ... **"Praying always in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication."** This is the #1 weapon of the believer. So in answer to the situations I mentioned above, I certainly would pray for comforting the families of the person that died in that airport shooting. As for the government shutdown, my prayers were for both parties involved to work together in peace and harmony and come to an agreeable conclusion in order to stop the shutdown. I believe the news said it cost our nation \$20 million to shut the government down for one week. Guess who's paying for it? We are. As for the Obamacare, I just pray in the Spirit not only for our President but for the leaders of our country, for their salvation, because God's Word commands it. **1 Timothy 2:1-2** commands us to pray for all our leaders so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life.

I can tell you from the books I have read from Smith Wigglesworth, Andrew Murray, A.W. Tozer, R.A. Torrey, and George Mueller that these men have expressed the massive impact prayer has had on their family, ministry, our country and their own personal life. Yet most do not realize the awesome power God has given us, but satan is well aware of it, and tries to keep you and me from using this power. We have this available when we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. If we could only realize what it is that we have that dwells on the inside of us, we could change the world and the situations that we are currently going through right now. You understand my brothers and sisters in Christ as I write this, that all hell will take notice of this and prevent you from taking the time to pray. I know because as I write this, it has been several months since I have written because of this ... at the same time all is well and I'm back. What happened to me is not that I didn't pray but that I was praying for the ministries, The Persecuted Church and Voice of the Martyrs, which deal with Christians being persecuted in foreign countries, as well as my four little girls in India, I pray for them too. Two have left the support center; I now support only two, but pray for the other two as well.

All kinds of stuff was going wrong from work to my truck, yet I still remained faithful to God in prayer. I didn't know what was going on but God did. So, I haven't backslid just kept from writing by distractions in many forms. I can only tell the more I prayed for the persecuted as well as our own country, the more satan was busy trying to keep me from praying. That's why I am glad I received the gift of speaking in tongues, this is something I have fought against for so long and was told a lie ... that it wasn't for today. When God opened my eyes and I received the massive power that this gift of God

... continued on page 9

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

Please pray for my son that is now without a mommy ... temporarily. He's very confused and has been acting out in school due to me not being there for him. I hate myself for that but I will (we will) get through this through Jesus Christ ... **L.H.**

A prayer to all ... all of God's promises are backed by His wisdom, love, and power. Lord, thank You for choosing to expose Your divine power on the needs of my life. When my strength is weak, teach me to trust. Your Almighty arm is able to guard, protect, and deliver. Stay strong and God will take care of you. God's love enables us to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. Receive love and give love ... **M.G.**

Can you pray for me, for the real bad major migraines? My dad passed away from a brain tumor in 2001 and my little brother was 42 years old when he passed away from the same thing. I pray for a healing every day. Prayers, reading the Bible and listening to positive, beautiful Christian music, relaxes me. I get them so bad, they are caused by bright lights, loud noises, and yelling makes them so bad. I don't let it bring me down because I have faith, love and trust in God. Our Father in heaven and our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are my medicine and the Word of God calms the storm. Please pray for my wife too. She just had surgery for cancer in her stomach ... **D.G.**

Can you please start sending the newsletters to me, I could really use them. I fought my case in county for two years and I also had a suicide attempt which put me in the hospital for about a week. I've lost everything! The only thing I ever wanted to be was a mother and I finally fought back against my husband after thirteen years of abuse and it ended bad. I'm trying to find God, I know He forgives me, but I haven't forgive myself ... **K.S.**

I am trying to get a better paying job here, to be better economically. Please have me in your prayers ... **M.V.**

I would ask you and your church to lift the saints on this yard up in prayer. I used to do prison ministry with Church on the Streets, now I'm ministering from the inside. We need a strong prayer covering for the revival coming to this yard ... **R.P.**

I have two children who live with my mother. My family disowned me. I don't blame them; this is my 3rd time here in prison. So, I'm always lost, but I know Jesus and believe in Him 100%. I miss my boys and need my mom more than anything. I keep praying and still nothing. Will you please keep me in your prayers and ask that God softens my mother's heart and that she'll forgive me?

How can I forgive myself, if she won't? I feel lost and lonely and at times I am really hard on myself. I ask that you pray for me too please ... **J.H.**

Praise Reports

Back in February 2013, I asked that you pray for Tom, the president of the company I work for, he had been diagnosed with cancer. Here is an update from him ... "I have not given a health update for a while so here is the latest: I have been through several rounds of chemo and radiation treatment. As many of you know from experience, chemo is no fun at all and I am glad that those treatments are over. These traditional treatments have kept the disease from progressing, and all of the bodily functions I need to survive for decades are intact and unimpaired. From that standpoint I am in remarkably good shape. I am now moving on to the next phase of treatment which involves finding the right high tech drug to kill off the remnants of cancer within me. This is the future of cancer treatment. These new drugs can produce remarkable results, often by using the body's own defenses to identify the mutations in the genetic code that caused the cancer to begin with and to attack those mutations directly. It is wonderful and vastly encouraging to learn how far advanced the treatments are. In ten years, all cancer will be treated this way. I greatly appreciate the prayers and good thoughts that you have offered up on my behalf so far. If you are so inclined to send up a few more, I truly believe such intercessions will combine to tilt the playing field even more in my favor. I am all in favor of that, and it is one of the things that allows me to continue my treatments with optimism and good cheer." It is so amazing how God takes what satan means for evil and God turns it in to a praise report, something that is going to glorify Him ... Keep on praying, God loves to hear from us ... **Michelle Anderson**

I am fairly new to the faith, and I am devouring information in the Word every day. Just today, I saw the chaplain and I asked him if he knew of a program that would help set me up with a mentor to help me along in my faith. He did not know of any, so I prayed on the matter. I have had the picture of the *Overcomers for Christ* from May 2011 for quite some time and never have I ever noticed the back had a picture of people rejoicing and celebrating Christ at a Glory Meeting of the *Overcomers for Christ* and at the bottom was an address. I am interested to know if maybe you can help me with my situation, someone to help mentor me in my faith. I feel the Lord pointed me to you after my prayer ... **R.H.**

Every time it seems I'm short on funds, I haven't sent in my tithe for the month yet. God's ways are so far beyond our understanding, but I know once I tithe I'll have no lack in anything and even plenty to give others. Many quote *Philippians 4:19*, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus," but I wonder how many look at the context ... tithing. So though I don't understand God's ways all the time, I do know that His ways are perfect ... **C.L.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

In Christ, Believe It
By S.B.

There has been a lot of opposition on this yard; surprisingly from the brethren, but it is okay because I know it's the Spirit of Christ Who makes the Truth be known. (**Galatians 1:10-12**) We know that the law, even our old sinful nature, understands "the law – get what you deserve". But it is the Holy Spirit that helps us understand, "GRACE – get the good you don't deserve." It's time for us to be transformed, not self-disciplined, not self-righteous, but completely changed by the renewing of our minds, by believing who the Lord says we are IN HIM we are. (**Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17**) Be changed by beholding the glory of the LORD, which is full of GRACE and TRUTH. (**2 Corinthians 3:18, John 1:14**)

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you REST." (**Matthew 11:28**) Don't spend so much time trying to fight the sin; spend more time strengthening the spirit (the seat of knowledge, the conscience), which then governs the soul (mind, will and emotions), which govern the flesh; which is the FRUIT brought forth of the nourishments from the ROOT (conscience, seat of knowledge –spirit).

Praise God for His Amazing Grace towards us IN CHRIST; may the Lord give you revelation. (**Galatians 1:10-12**) I am against sin; we are against sin. (**1 John 3:5**) AMEN! Sin is the transgression of the law, and we are also become dead to the law by the body of Christ. (**1 John 3:4, Romans 7:4**) Therefore, sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under law, but under Grace. (**Romans 6:14**)

Our old man (Adam's sinful nature) is crucified WITH CHRIST. (**Romans 6:6**) "For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. The death He died, he died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin (noun- the thing, not the verb-action) but alive to God IN CHRIST JESUS." (**Romans 6:9-11**)

I encourage you to read these words of Paul's very carefully. If it's your first time reading **Romans 7:14-25** you might want to draw the conclusion that Paul may be using his sinful nature as a cop out. As you continue reading you will see in **verse 24**, Paul referring to himself as a "wretched man". Paul is not referring to himself as a piece of crap! He knows that he is human and still lives in an earthly body, of which, still wages war against the New Spirit in him. This word 'wretched' comes from two different Greek words that simply mean, Paul realized that during his misery, affliction and calamity he was in the middle of a battle. Like Paul, we too are tested and walk through trials that will lead our faith to being strengthened as we press in to reach the other side. And even though Paul asks the question, "**Who will rescue me?**", you will quickly see this was a rhetorical question. Paul not only knew the answer but he shared it with us as well when he said, in **verse 25**, "**Thanks be to God, Who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!**" It is NOT God that tests or tempts us in any case! God HAS ALREADY given us His strength to walk through ALL things; by FAITH, we MUST begin to realize that we are IN CHRIST JESUS!!

Now then it is no more I that do it, but the sin that dwells in me (that is, in my flesh). (**Romans 7:17-18**) While we are in this corruptible body (**1 Corinthians 15:53-57**), God wants us to exercise our faith by doing perfect in our conscience (**Hebrews 9:9, 14, 10:2, 14**); we walk by faith; not by sight. (**Romans 1:17**)

Let the precious Blood of Jesus Christ purge your conscience of sins (**Hebrew 10:2**), for your sinful nature has died WITH CHRIST, and you have been BORN AGAIN into the Righteousness of God IN CHRIST; you are a New Creation IN CHRIST JESUS; in God's sight you are perfect, blameless, holy, righteous, complete, a child of light, in Whom there is no darkness (**John 3:3, Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21, Colossians 1:22, 2:10, Hebrew 10:10, 14, 1 Thessalonians 5:5**); this is God's Grace established IN CHRIST JESUS. (**Hebrews 13:8**)

The TRUTH is: there may be sin in our performance, but there is No sin in our position. There may be sin in what we do, but there is No sin in who we are. Yes, there may be sin in our conduct ... but there is NO SIN in our relationship with God! PRAISE JESUS!! Exercise thyself unto godliness (**1 Timothy 4:7**), holding faith and a good conscience. (**1 Timothy 1:19**) Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (**Romans 12:2**) "**And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.**" (**Acts 24:16**)

I believe that this is some blessed food, right here, so chew on it, savor it, meditate on it, pray over it and be blessed by it. AMEN!

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Putting It Out There

By R.R.

One of my cellies once told me the secret to getting what you want is to "put it out there." Voice what you want and it will come true, these words came from a non-believer at that time, and I even experienced what he was asking for. He is a follower now ... Thank God.

One day I was listening to the oldies radio channel and I heard a song that caught my attention, and other prisoners were singing along. I thought that they were, "Putting it out there." They sang, "Put me in jail if I fail, if I don't give you all my love." Then I thought, "Would you sing these words to God?" If not, then why would you sing these words out loud? Praising the prince of hell, the one who will lead you to jail. God speaks only of one jail, do you know of it? It's known by these names ... hell, hellfire, everlasting fire, Hades, lake of fire and brimstone, and bottomless pit. *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill and to destroy. I (Jesus) have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10) Now ask yourself, "Would I sing these words to God?" If your answer is no, and you said no out of pure fear, then ask yourself this question, "What is keeping me from singing these words to the One and Only True God?" Whatever your answer is, Jesus Christ has shown us how to overcome our stumbling blocks.

In **Matthew 19:26**, Jesus looked and said to them, *"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."* That's right, with God all things are possible even giving all your love to God. If you are willing He is willing to make it possible at His timing not yours. Just follow the instructions in **Matthew 22:37-40**. God bless you all and fight the good fight. Victory is ours!

Today, Through the Cross, No Holds

By J.H.

This is not a woe is me message, instead it is a revelation today. I am so glad you folks find the time to write us all letters. Many of us don't receive mail, even from our families.

For myself, I'm not angry nor do I hold a grudge. I realize, today, that I have no right to judge them. The Bible says, "Judge not or ye shall be judged." I do wish my family would be a little more supportive though. Most of our families have given up on us while we are in here.

But I have the King of kings in my corner today. I know that Jesus loves me and wants me to succeed. And today, I have brothers and sisters in Christ to share and help me. So, I win in the biggest way!! The devil doesn't have a hold on me anymore! Never again! Today I have a new and prosperous life with God in my heart. I no longer only call on God as a crutch when I'm broken or down. I don't know how many times in the past, when I was in trouble I would cry out, "God get me out of this and I won't ever do wrong again." And before I knew it I would just turn right back around and do the same junk stuff I was doing before. Well, NO MORE!! I still have huge improvements to make in my life, but I'm doing them one careful step at a time while the Good Lord is preparing the path for me. We are blessed to have a caring and loving Father like God in our lives. Today, I feel the Spirit of the Lord working in me! Today I am a new born again man with a hunger to learn and know everything about Christ Jesus! God gave His only Son so that I might live a good life. Jesus sacrificed everything, even His life for me! What a Gift we have as Christians, to follow Jesus!

Who? By Him

By C.E.

Great things happen when you continually confess the mercy of God. Faith rises up on the inside of you. The reality that God loves you begins to flow through your spirit. What's more, it brings honor to your Father when you believe His Word and magnify His love and mercy. You honor Him when you speak of His goodness and loving kindness, Who does only good. It blesses Him when you praise Him as the great God of the universe Who is eager to bless and Who even gave His own Son because He so loved the world.

Put His words continually on your lips. You will soon begin to experience the thrill and the joy of realizing that God IS indeed "Rich in Mercy" because of His great love with which He gives us. Your faith will rise to new heights and your Father will be blessed and you will be blessed. ***"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."*** (Hebrews 13:15)

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



1 Samuel 5:1-9:27

Today, many people don't respond to Biblical truth until they experience pain. Are you willing to listen to God for truth's sake or do you turn to Him only when you are hurting? **(5:6-7)**

How easy is it for us to complain about our problems, even to God, while we refuse to act, change, and do what He requires? We don't even take the advice He has already given us. Do you ever feel as if God has abandoned you? Check to see if there is anything He has already told you to do. You may not receive new guidance from God until you have acted on His previous directions. **(7:2-3)**

Often we let other's values and actions dictate our attitudes and behavior. Have you ever made a wrong choice because you wanted to be like everyone else? Be careful that the values of your friends or heroes don't pull you away from what God says is right. When God's people want to be like unbelievers, they are heading for spiritual disaster. **(8:19-20)**

At times, we think events just happen to us, but as we learn from this story about Saul, God may use common occurrences to lead us where He wants. It is important to evaluate all situations as potential "divine appointments" designed to shape our lives. Think if all the good and bad circumstances that have affected you lately. Can you see God's purpose in them? Perhaps He is building a certain quality in you or leading you to serve Him in a new area. **(9:3)**

John 6:1-42

If we offer nothing to God, He will have nothing to use. But He can take what little we have and turn it into something great. **(6:8-9)**

Faith is a mindset that expects God to act. When we act on this expectation, we can overcome our fears. **(6:18-19)**

We can satisfy spiritual hunger and sustain spiritual life only by a right relationship with Jesus Christ. **(6:35)**

Jesus said He would not lose even one person whom the Father has given Him. Thus anyone who makes a sincere commitment to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior is secure in God's promise of eternal life. Christ will not let His people be overcome by Satan and lose their salvation. **(6:39)**

Psalms 106:13-48

In the wilderness, the Israelites were so intent on getting the food and water they wanted that they became blind to what God wanted. They were more concerned about immediate physical gratification than lasting spiritual satisfaction. They did not want what was best for them, and refused to trust in God's care and provisions. **(Numbers 11:18-35)** If you complain enough, God may give you what you ask for, even if it is not the best for you. If you're not getting what you want, perhaps God knows it's not in your best interest. Trust in His care and provision. **(106:13-15)**

Israel constantly turned away from God. How could they turn from God and worship the idols of the land after the great miracles they saw? We also have seen God's great miracles but sometimes find ourselves enticed by the world's gods ... money, power, convenience, fame, sex, and pleasure. As Israel forgot God, so we are susceptible to forgetting Him and giving in to the pressures of an evil world. Remember all that God has done for you so that you won't be drawn away from Him by the world's pleasures. **(106:34-39)**

Proverbs 14:32-35

Those with understanding hearts are where you can find wisdom stored. You will never find wisdom among fools.

Godliness and those who follow God can only make a nation better, whereas sin will only make a nation worse.

“Foot” Notes

Okay, so I don't know if I had an epiphany or this ole biker's finally starting to get it. You know we all go through life and life happens, whether it's easy times or hard times, it happens. Now we can go through it all alone, or if we're smart we'll go through it with God. Naturally it's not the easy times when we feel alone. It's the hard times, the trials in which we cry out for help or comfort. Que no? So that being said, since I gave everything over to God in 2005, I can tell you that easy and hard times still happen but with God in control my reality is doable. I know that no matter what comes my way, I'm NEVER alone. So I guess what I'm trying to say is that if any of you that are reading this are on the fence about your faith, give God a chance, He's waiting for you. God bless all the Overcomers for Christ family ... Vaya con Dios

holds, I use it every day. That's what keeps satan off my back and gets me back on my purpose to do what He wants me to do. I will tell you as you start this adventure in prayer, you will have to be on your guard every day for the rest of your life; satan doesn't rest, he never sleeps, he is constantly on the attack.

You see in **Ephesians** regarding the armor, if you don't use the Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God), then satan doesn't mess with you. If you don't read the Word, if you don't speak the Word or if you don't encourage anyone with the Word, then you're doing what he wants you to do ... nothing!! But when you start praying, believe me as I write this, satan will take notice and do something about it. Just speak the Word and he'll back off, he hates when you start praising God. He can't stand the name Jesus. So, I praise God every chance I get. You have to remember brothers and sisters in Christ, most of my encounters are not frontal attacks, they are behind the scenes, distractions to keep me from spending time with God. A good part of my time is just sitting still, no radio, turn the cell off, the TV off, go into another room or outside and just be quiet and still in God's presence. Many Christians I know can't do this; they think it's a waste of time. Quiet time that includes no reading, nothing ... just being quiet and still. Don't take my word for this; let me give you the Word on it ... **Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." Isaiah 30:15, "... In quietness and confidence will be your strength ..."** There is power in being quiet and still and you can bet satan will do everything he can to disrupt your quiet time, if you let him, don't let him. Speak the Word, you have the authority to, God gave it to you, speak what God speaks.

I don't want you to take my word on this, I want to show you from the Word of God, just how powerful prayer really is and how much satan wants to prevent us from using this powerful weapon. Go to **Matthew 26:36-46**, this is where Jesus is in the garden of Gethsemane with His disciples praying. If you study the word Gethsemane in the Greek it means oil press, some translations say a place of pressure. I can't tell how much pressure Jesus had went through except it says He sweated great drops of blood. Jesus, who before the foundations of the world, knew He would come to this place of trial and testing, still was exceeding sorrowful and grieved, the pressure was so great that the disciples couldn't even stay awake, why? They were human just like Jesus, Jesus wasn't deity, He laid it down, and He was a man just like the disciples. You could look at it as if satan purposely put them to sleep, that way he had only One Person to stop... Jesus. You have to remember He wasn't going to the cross for just one person ... he went for the whole world; He went to die for those who will never receive Him. I can only imagine what Jesus may have gone through ... the inner strivings, struggles, etc. It probably isn't close to what He actually experienced, there had to be a massive warfare in the Spirit that would cause our Lord to sweat to the point of sweating blood when He was praying.

Question ... What if Jesus didn't pray? Answer ... I would say our eternal security as we know it today would be non-existent. I can't say for sure absolutely, but I wouldn't want to bet on the difference. If prayer, communicating with the Father in the garden was no big deal, then why did satan put so much pressure on Jesus not to pray? I believe satan caused the disciples to sleep to stop this, he knew what Jesus was going to do. **Matthew 18:19** says, *"... If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."* I see Jesus as being totally dependent on the Father for release, but He didn't get it. I see Jesus praying alone and thus fulfilling the call on His life alone. The thoughts could be controversial, but the value of prayer can't be valued enough by the very life our Lord gave to give us life. You know as well as I do, if you search the Scriptures that Jesus was a Man of prayer, the perfect example, and the perfect sacrifice when He went to the cross for all of us. I searched the Scriptures for the words ... pray, prayer, praying ... they are listed 439 times in the Word. It certainly would suggest to us how much He values our time with Him in prayer, quiet time, and meditation, just to let Him know that we love Him. The Father already knows this, but it's sure nice to verbally say, "Thank You Lord for dying for me."

I hope you are encouraged, we don't realize how we impact the spiritual realm with our prayers, I'm still learning. I know what prayer can do; I wanted to share this powerful weapon with you, because it's free. God bless you!!!

LOGIC PUZZLE

Arthur, Ben and Charley are athletes. Can you figure out how fast and strong they are in relation to each other based on the following statements? Put an X in the space on the grid when you determine the athlete who does not fit that category. For example, in clue #1 Arthur is compared to the slowest athlete, so that means he cannot be the slowest athlete.

1. Arthur is weaker than the slowest athlete.
2. Ben is not the fastest athlete.
3. Charley is faster than the strongest athlete, and weaker than the fastest athlete.

	Speed			Strength		
	Slowest	Middle	Fastest	Weakest	Middle	Strongest
Arthur	X					
Ben						
Charley						

Answer: Arthur: middle in strength, fastest; Ben: strongest, slowest; Charley: weakest, middle in speed

What Others Are Saying...

"I just wanted to tell you that I view Pastor Maureen's program every chance I get and it is a blessing." – S.I.

"Just a quick note (long overdue) to say thank you for all that you do. Through all the gray around us, you spread light, hope, and love. Thank you to everyone for my birthday wishes. Your newsletter is always full of encouragement and I look forward to each new day closer to its arrival. You accept me and others without judgment that alone is rare and proof of God's love. Again, thank you. God bless you all." – L.C.

"I don't ever want to miss another issue of *OC* in the mail each month. I draw great strength from the contents within – especially the Foot Notes study and I enjoyed March 2012 Bible crossword puzzle ... thank you everybody." – A.M.

"Well, to start off I just want to say thank you all for your support and hanging there with me these last few years. I am truly grateful to you all because you have brought a smile to my face, time and time again. You are the only mail I get sometimes, so you're all special, that's for sure. Thank you all so much ... keep up the good work because you all really do make people happy in more ways than you can count." – M.B.

Overcomer's Testimonies

I have a long testimony, in order to not bore every one; I will have to give you the Readers Digest version.

I was born July of 1957 in Nebraska to an unwed mother. My father was a farmhand who later in 1960 married my mother. I grew up in what is considered as the panhandle of Nebraska, a rolling prairie of sand hills covered with prairie grass ... cattle country. This area is often referred to as God's country due to its meandering streams and hidden lakes in the prairie lands. Sounds like the perfect American ideal life, huh? So, how did I get so far away from the cowboy, prairie, hay bales and feeding cattle lifestyle to being a three time convicted murdering ole biker?

I've been in prison since 1974 and have close to eight years left before I am released. This means that I have lived the majority of my adult life in prisons from Nebraska to New Mexico (where I caught a life sentence from the results of a riot there) to Arkansas, and then to Arizona. In 2002 I was released from prison, less than 6 months out and I picked up what is now my 3rd murder conviction. I am currently doing this time here in Arizona, again.

I have no immediate family left as they have all passed away while doing all of this time. But, I do have a large family of Christian brothers and sisters worldwide ... although most of you do not know me personally; we're all God's children ... that's a fact! My mother passed away at the age of 37 from sclerosis of the liver, a closet drinker for her times. She drank herself to death as a functioning alcoholic. My father, an alcoholic as well, drank himself to suicide on the highway. My father passed out at the wheel with me in the car, and hit another vehicle head-on in 1964. Three adults were killed; I was the only survivor of that accident. For the most part I was raised by my mother. She passed away when I was 14 years old. Still living in Nebraska when mom passed, I was then shipped to California to live with my grandparents. By the time I was 15, I was full blown addicted to heroin. To support my heroin addiction, I stole cars and cut them up in a chop shop. At the age of 16, I was eventually caught and sent to the California county jail. I eventually ended up in a treatment center there in California that is until I escaped back to Nebraska. It wasn't long and I was arrested there at 18 years old. Landing myself in a men's reformatory there in Nebraska I received 1-3 years.

While there behind those walls, I killed my cellmate and found myself on death row. From there on I was raised by murderers and death row inmates for the next three years. I eventually escaped from those walls which led to a nationwide manhunt. Due to the nature and boldness of my escape (1979) America's Most Wanted got involved. Through a series of escapes in New Mexico, Illinois and Arkansas, I piled on numerous new charges. In 1998, I was paroled to Arizona on my charges of auto theft. There on the theft charges ... five years later... and I was eligible for parole on all of my life sentences in Nebraska and New Mexico while still on parole from Arkansas. In 2002, I won all of my paroles and was released.

After I was released I met a great woman that had five kids. I started my own business and thought that I would settle down. Needless to say it was only a short while before my past began to chase me down. I took yet another life in an unlucky blow to a man's wind pipe. Needless to say I left there and moved on. While on the run from Arizona I was arrested this time in Oregon with new charges and was returned to Arizona as a wanted man.

There I sat in the Holbrook county jail. After catching more charges for socking up a sergeant there I felt like there had to be more to life and hit my rock bottom. I wrote a letter to a buddy of mine, Jim, who I knew was a Christian. I felt there were no other answers for me so I asked him to explain God to me. Certain circumstances kept Jim from coming to visit me but he sent a great gift from Christ, a brother by the name of Mike. Mike brought me to the Lord right there in solitary confinement in the Holbrook county jail. My life has since been turned around and the Lord has amazing grace for me. Currently, I have the greatest Gift that no man can ever take from me ... I have the Lord and His Spirit in my life. – A.M.

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

Cory's Corner The Meaning of Worship

I know that when I'm engaged in worship my body is full of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes it's all I can do to bring an offering to the Lord, being me in worship mode. What I'd like to do is share with others ... the Meaning of Worship ... hoping that they too will be filled with the complete holiness and satisfaction of understanding what it means to just bring yourself in worship to the Lord and the great righteous feeling it brings. Not to mention how it brings joy to the Lord.

"Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." – 1 Chronicles 16:29

Worship refers to the honor and praise given in thought or deed to a person or thing. The Bible teaches that God alone is worthy of worship. (**Psalm 29:2**) But it also records accounts of those who worshipped inappropriately ... people (**Acts 14:8-18**), false gods (**2 Kings 10:19**), images and idols (**Isaiah 2:8**), heavenly bodies (**2 Kings 21:3**), and satan (**Revelation 13:4**).

True worship involves at least three things and important elements:

Reverence - This includes the honor and respect directed toward the Lord in thought and feeling. Jesus said that those who worship God must do so *"... in Spirit and truth."* (**John 4:24**) The term Spirit speaks of the personal nature of worship. It is from my person to God's Person and involves the intellect, emotions, and will. The word truth speaks of the content of worship. God is pleased when we worship Him, understanding His true character.

Public expression - This was particularly prevalent in the Old Testament because of the sacrificial system. For example, when a believer received a particular blessing for which he wanted to thank God, it was not sufficient to say it privately, he expressed his thanks publicly with a thanks offering. (**Leviticus 7:12**)

Service - The words for worship in both Testaments originally referred to the labor of slaves for their master. Worship especially includes the joyful service which Christians render to Christ their Master. The concept of worship involves much more than church attendance once or twice a week. It involves an entire life of obedience, service, and praise to God.

Take time everyday to worship the One and only Christ Jesus, Lord of Lords, thanking Him because His death was the ultimate expression of His love for all of us. (**1 John 4:10**)

Thanks Overcomers ... I love you all. May God's blessings be upon each and every one of you.

Christian Comedy

Perks of reaching 50 or being over 60 and heading towards 70!

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
4. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
5. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
6. Things you buy now won't wear out.
7. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
8. You sing along with elevator music.
9. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.

Quoteworthy

"There may be no trumpet sound or loud applause when we make a right decision, just a calm sense of resolution and peace." - Gloria Gaither - A Christian songwriter, author, speaker, editor, and academic.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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

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

They Never Said

By J.O.

I wrote this to my family when I was in county.

They never said when you do dope
You don't have any hope.

They never said when you get high
Your life goes by.

They never said one line
will make you go blind,
or one hit,
will make your loved ones split.

They never said this until it was too late.

Now everyday you live your life in shame
as you watch your loved ones leave one by one.
They never said getting high wouldn't be no fun
or how everyday you would be on the run.

They never said N.A. or A.A.
would be another way until today.

Dear God ...

Contributed by B.M. - Author Unknown

Please untie the "nots"
That are in my mind, my heart and my life.
Remove the have-nots, can-nots and do-nots
That I have in my mind.

Erase the will-nots, may-nots, and might-nots
That may find a home in my heart.
Release me from the could-nots, would-nots and
should-nots
That obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God ...
I ask that You remove from my mind,
My heart and my life all of the "am nots"
That I have allowed to hold me back,
Especially the thought
That I am not good enough.

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