

The Congress, ...
The ... Declaration ... State of ...

Overcomers for Christ

July 2015

We the people of the United States

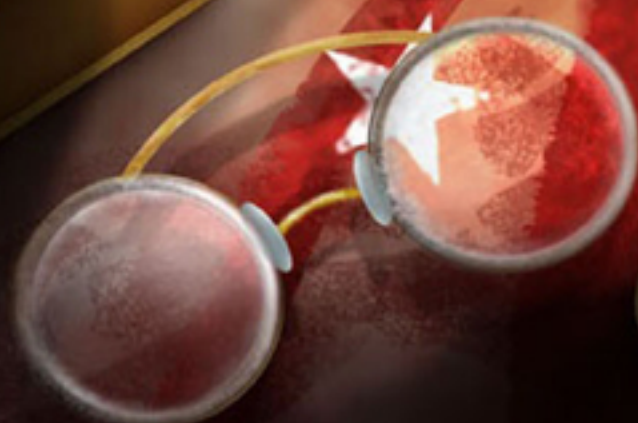
Article 1

Section 1 ...

Section 2

Section 3

Section 5



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

March 2015



Wade's Testimony - Part Two

By Wade Anderson

Let's pray: *"Gracious and ALL Mighty Heavenly Father I thank You for Your saving Grace. I am both grateful and thankful that You have taken the mess I WAS in, shaped it and formed it into a message. I pray that it helps others see that You can pierce what seems to be even the hearts of stone AND have a specific purpose for each and every one of our lives! As people continue to read these words that You have placed on my heart I know that Your Holy Spirit is reaching deep inside of them, peeling back the layers of brokenness and showing them in only a way that You can and that it doesn't matter who we were, where we have come from or what we have done YOU LOVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US! I pray that anything written on these pages that are NOT of You be washed away in the precious Blood of Your Son, Jesus. I ask these things with complete confidence and expectation, in Jesus' name. AMEN!"*

With all those new feelings that were going on inside of me I began searching for a church that might allow some long haired, bearded, ole scooter guy in the back door to listen for a minute. Not every time but a few times I could feel the eyes of certain ones in congregations staring at me. Sometimes this caused me to feel uncomfortable but the greater desire inside of me to know Jesus always caused me to stay for the whole service. Because of that I feel it's important that I mention again that the uncomfortableness could have been only my perception of their reactions. Who knows? Instead, when I walked in they quite possibly could have been praising Jesus. Why? Maybe they had been praying for one of their lost loved ones and when they seen the likes of me they were not in judgment but in a state of thankfulness that there is always hope!

There was one particular person, from the past, still in my life that had already taken the leap from the chaos to Jesus. And truthfully, prior to the accident, it was seeing something so different in her that was now drawing me to want this same Jesus in my life. So with Michelle and her together we began our quest to find a church. Then one day I heard an advertisement on a Christian radio station that Brian "HEAD" Welch, former lead guitarist of the rock band 'Korn' was coming to one of the churches that we had already been to. The radio said he was coming to share his testimony of how Jesus came into his life. WHAT?!! I was never into that kind of music but I did remember 'KORN' and having listened to some of the lyrics of their songs, I was more than curious to hear what God had done that affected a cat like that. I KNOW, I KNOW! Sounds a bit arrogant huh? Like his sins were any worse than mine. Anyways, a small group of us decided we weren't going to miss hearing his testimony. We showed up early and had seats in about the 5th or 6th row from the front. OH MY GOSH! The place was packed. Hundreds and hundreds of people! There were people of all ages with an overflowing amount of young people, even the balcony's were full! After God had the entire place in tears of joy Brian wanted to pray over and for people. I ran! I was probably the 10th person to the altar. I honestly don't know how long we were down there at the altar. But, as I turned to head back to my seat it was then that I saw the flow of people now in front of me. It was quite obvious how God had used Brian's testimony and affected nearly every single person there. You want to talk about an altar call!!!? As I said, when I turned around I seen that nearly every seat in the church was empty now. Why? Because EVERYONE was either at the altar or in the isles trying to reach the altar!! PRAISE GOD!

I'd like to share a couple paragraphs from the introduction of Brian 'HEAD' Welch's book titled SAVE ME FROM MYSELF. As you read this see if any of it sounds familiar.

"Like most people, I've had enough ups and downs to drive a man crazy. Like most people, my heart has been beaten up pretty badly throughout the years by myself and by others. Like most people, many of the things that I've chased after in my life have left me feeling empty and unsatisfied ... Unlike most people, I gave all this up - my music, my band, my career, everything - when I had an encounter with God. After that, all I wanted to do was focus on my future, sweeping everything from my past under the rug and moving on with my new life. Or, at least, that was my plan ... Well, I prayed about it, and after a lot of thought, I came to the conclusion that exposing all the darkness from my past would be part of my healing process. I also came to see that discussing some of the stupid things I've done might save a lot of people from going down the same roads of destruction that I traveled on." (Brian "HEAD" Welch)

God placed this very same desire in me when He nudged me to write my testimony, to share some of the darkness from my past with others in hopes that you or someone you know can also avoid the chaos that I came to know all too well. It's important to understand that I'm not trying to glamorize any of my drug using, gun packing, you fill in the blanks past ... honestly, I'm simply attempting to be obedient to God. I really feel like God wanted me to tell my story and how this new life has unfolded to be what it is today, since I've given Him the 'handlebars' of my life. God has begun taking the very things 'I' was putting myself through and is turning it around, and eventually He will use it ALL to bring Him glory! AMEN?! **That's not just what He does, but that's His character, Who He truly IS!** My life has never been happier. And if He did it for me, and He did, He WILL do it for anybody.

After the service was over we were moving through the hallway on our way out when all of a sudden we ran into several other people that I believed had simply disappeared a few years earlier. With mouths wide open in amazement and pointing at each other like, "You're in a church?" I just had to know so I asked, "Is this where you've been all this time?"

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

With big grins on their faces they simply responded, "Yep! This is where all the cool cats hang out now! Jesus is real and God is Good!" That day we all decided to make it a point to keep in touch. "Maybe we could stay in contact with each other and see what God is doing in each other's lives," we said. And that is exactly what we did. Those couple little rendezvous began to fan some sparks until ... someone spoke up and said, "Hey, I remember a couple of years ago feeling this very same thing we're talking about!" I was shocked and amazed when I heard this. In a quickness I responded, "Then what have you been waiting for? That's what we're going to do!" And that my brothers and sisters turned out to be, and is what we still 8 years later refer to as the "*Glory Meetings of the Overcomers for Christ!*"

We first began meeting in someone's kitchen, at 2 p.m. every Sunday afternoon. There were 8 of us at the first meeting. In just a couple of weeks our numbers grew until we had to take the meeting to a larger kitchen, then a living room, then, eventually, we were in a backyard with 43 people setting in a huge circle, having church. People were asking around and coming to see if it were true, "Are ALL those people really clean, sober, happy and sitting around talking about Jesus?" We quickly grew out of that backyard and had to find a place to take the meetings. Someone that was coming to the meetings pretty regular asked the church he was going to if they might be able to help us with this situation. Praise God! They blessed us with two adjacent rooms and all the chairs we needed. It was crazy though, most of the people that were coming didn't really want to go into 'the' church building. It was obvious that 'church' is not a building but, a gathering of the people. In fact Jesus tells us, in **Matthew 18:19-20** in the Message Bible that, "*When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, My Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of Me, you can be sure that I'll be there.*" NO PROBLEM! So, just like in the backyard, we took all of the chairs out of the rooms we were blessed with and sat them in a circle outside on the concrete and the people kept coming!

The numbers started to dwindle down but there were still two of us that shared the vision. It was at that point that we felt in our spirits, "Send hope, Love and encouragement." I was a little confused at first because the only people I knew were prostitutes, murderers, thieves and convicts. While in the middle of that thought I felt, "Exactly! These are the ones that have lost sight of all three of these things!" Almost immediately it seemed like I was always writing something down from either a church service I'd been to or from what I was reading in the Bible. Within a few days these 'things' were typed and edited. Then we printed and sent the very first *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter in September of 2007. It was a single 8 1/2 x 11 piece of paper. On the front was a group picture from one of our first meetings with a caption below it that read, "LOOK CLOSELY, DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE PEOPLE?" On the back side was the poem I'd written called *A Promise Is a Promise* and a big red "UNDO" button. We prayed over them and then put them in the mail to some friends that were incarcerated. God knew we knew way more incarcerated people than the 35 people that received the first copy. As you look at the copy you have in your hands today you can see the growth. The newsletter has grown due to the fact that all of you now see the vision and have come on board to FILL the mailbox with volumes of material that the Holy Spirit has also inspired each of you to write. **Together** we have grown, and will continue to grow, to reach an even greater level of wisdom and knowledge along with a deeper understanding of God's Word. None of us are to our destination yet, BUT for sure we're Not where we used to be! AMEN?!

I pray that all of you can see, at this point, that this has already changed from my testimony to 'OUR' testimonies. Like any church it's not just the pastor that builds a church. In fact it's the congregation's responsibility to bring in the sheep and that's exactly what all of you have done over these eight years. The pastor is there to feed the sheep that come in to God's house. ALL of you have responded to the Holy Spirit, whether you were first aware of it or not. How do I know this? Because the devil would NEVER lay it on your hearts to write to us because he knows the things we're going to tell you about. And the last thing he wants you to hear is that Jesus loves you, that He died for your sins and that He wants to give you a better life by simply choosing Him to be your Lord and Savior! Of course with God's guidance it has taken ALL of us together, listening to the Holy Spirit, to get this ministry where it is today. Many of you believe that there is some huge team of people out here that have been doing what you've been reading. That's not the truth.

In the first two or three years there was a larger group consistently coming and helping, as I'm sure you've seen in the pictures. We so APPRECIATE ALL the helping hands and hearts that God has brought to us. However, in the last 4 1/2 years it has been Michelle, our daughter Courtney, our son-in-law John, our grandsons now and then, Julie and myself on the outside. AND EVERY ONE OF YOU ON THE INSIDE that has helped keep this vision (church) alive! In this past year God has begun to bring more people to help in many various ways! Praise God! What's my point here? The point is that it doesn't take a huge group to reach multitudes of people. In fact, in the beginning of Jesus' ministry He used 12 men and various women to help change the whole world. What it does take though is for people to surrender and respond to His call. Our first heart's desire should be to serve our King, Jesus. I truly believe that this new expansion is due to the even greater things that He has planned for us all.

Okay, now I'm going to ask you to slightly shift yourselves in your chairs and hopefully stay with me as we continue on, about vision. Let's start in **1 Samuel 3:1** (AMP) where we read that, "... **The word of the Lord was rare and precious in**

... 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

Hello, all the Overcomers, I'd like to ask for some help in praying for my brother, Magic. I just got word he's been Stage 4 and in bad shape for quite awhile. I ask that we all ask the Lord's help in easing Magic's situation and keeping his faith strong while he deals with this hated battle. I would like to let my brother Magic know that he has the love of the Overcomers in his time of struggle ... **Foot**

This is the first prayer request that I have asked for, I just don't feel as if I can do it alone cause it's a "Bigg'un". Well, I just received word from my mom that my grandpa went home to be with our Lord. My aunt started legal action of some sort to contest the will, which is expensive. She has the spirit of greediness and even though my mom is executor of the will, my grandmother has dementia and is in a nursing home and my aunt is living off her Social Security checks. My aunt wants everything. My mom has got enough to worry about without any of this extra-legal stuff. I would like intercessory prayer to have God help with the legal problems and touch my aunt's heart and rid her of the spirit of covetousness/greediness and just ease or rid my mother of her other burdens as well as financial and health issues. If it be God's will I would like to meet my wife and be released from prison. I was sentenced to 2 aggravated terms of 60 years each, that's 120 years! Only our Almighty Father can have me released from prison. That's what I am also praying for. It states in **Matthew 18:19**, "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it shall be done for them by My Father in heaven." I stand on what Jesus said with faith that it's already done ... **R.B.**

So I had to take a trip to the hospital the other morning. It seems as I've had a mini stroke but I know that God has His hands all over me. It's going to be a long road over these next 4 years and my prayer request is that you all will remain with me through it. I have gone through a lot of loss and pain but I do my best to remain faithful in my walk with Jesus. Even though I have been through a lot and have seen a lot I know I will walk away from anyone who is trying to do wrong to others. I've went to many places where most men I know would NEVER go. Today, for myself anyways, I know that Jesus Christ is with me ALWAYS! The only other person I knew out there or wrote to was my best friend since we were 5 - 6 years old and she passed away 5 1/2 years ago. So, I've made you all my new family! I know that our Father has a much better plan for me, that's the good news. Let's ALL keep the homeless out there in our prayers, please ... **G.B.B.**

Please pray for all of the prisoners who feel alone and need to receive Jesus in their hearts. Pray for their families well being. I also ask that you pray for my early release. I have the faith and know that God can move mountains ... **M.V.**

Please pray for my wife and sons to be saved and be true disciples of Jesus ... **J.C.**

Praise Reports

Look, I have a few children that I thought I would never see. One by my first wife and a second one by my last wife. So two weeks ago my daughter, Kari, by my first wife found me and wrote to me. And guess what? She has two children and so that means that I have a new granddaughter and a new grandson! Then shortly after that connection I heard from my son Jeffrey. It seems as though he has gotten himself locked up as well. The last time that I seen him he was 3 years old and I was holding him in my arms. Today he is 22 years old. I am so thankful that they both have found me AND they want to be in my life! Boy let me tell you, I have never cried so much. I truly thank God so much ... **G.B.B.**

I am better than ever in spite of the fact that I am in prison. I have received the biggest blessing on the 21st of April. Do you recall that I wrote to you and asked for you to pray for my boys' well-being, because I hadn't heard from them in months? Well, God is great and He is always with us! I have received a letter from my ex-husband and my youngest son! My son is 15 years old and he tells me that he attends Christian services. Also, my ex tells me that he promised our son that he would stop using drugs. He has been clean for one month. My ex-husband told me he has to start changing his way of life and that his goal is to be baptized! Hallelujah!! I am so happy and I cried so much that day that my eyes were swollen for two days ... **M.V.**

Great news! God did divinely heal the high blood pressure I had for years! I don't have it anymore. I have been off the three meds that I used to take to keep my blood pressure normal. It's been seven months now and not once has my pressure been abnormal. In fact, I have had better than textbook normal readings. I thank God for that ... **J.C.**

God is so amazing! When I was feeling down and having trouble dealing with my emotions, God came through. At first, I didn't know who to confide in. So, I prayed to God to help me with these emotions. Basically, this is what happened, I got back from work and there was a girl that got here, she looked familiar so I asked my neighbor if she asked her name. She did and it was who I thought it was. Her son was the one that is being charged for the murder of the father of my child. Now, I don't know if I'm supposed to say this, but it's part of my testimony. So, I was crying practically all day as I relived all the hurt and pain. I wanted to ask her questions, but I didn't have the courage. So, I fell asleep and when I woke up, I had the newsletter. I started reading it, I felt like that newsletter was for me. Then I read my prayer that I sent last year. This was amazing how it happened! I needed to read this, I held it close by. After I read it, I praised God for his comfort and I thank you, Overcomers for Christ. This was my inspiration. I have told the Lord in my prayer that I forgive them now and I have this peace within me. God is so amazing!!! Thank you my Overcomers for Christ family ... **S.P.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Just Pray
By M.G.

If your family is going through a lot of pain ... JUST PRAY ... and keep on praying especially when you are alone where you are able to listen to God's voice.

In **2 Samuel 7:18**, King David begins his prayer to the LORD humbly, but with acceptance by saying, "**Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that You have brought me this far?**" Then in **2 Samuel 7:19**, David begins to bring to the LORD's remembrance a few of the things He has promised him and his lineage, "**And if this were not enough in Your sight, Sovereign LORD, You have also spoken about the future of the house of Your servant - and this decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a mere human!**" David wasn't begging God to do anything. NO! Knowing that the LORD is always faithful to His Word, David was reminding Him of the promises He had made to him.

Now, in **2 Samuel 7:27-28** we read, "**O LORD of heavens armies, God of Israel, I have been bold enough to pray this prayer to You because You have revealed all this to Your servant, saying, 'I will build a house for you - a dynasty of kings!'**"

Let me remind us all that God's Word is filled with promise after promise for us, and God delights as we plead His promises before Him in prayer. Praying God's promises is especially helpful in the midst of a crisis. It's NOT that God needs reminding, but more importantly it's our memories that can usually use some refreshing.

By submitting to God's will and looking to Him for help, we will discover the power we need to overcome our difficulties.

Led by the Spirit
By A.L.

Let me get started here so we can see where the Spirit takes us.

In here I have a lot of brothers, many to whom I'm accountable in the faith. Still, it seems that I am every body's big brother. Not to flesh out and sound arrogant but it's just that I'm older, been doing time longer and been in the Word longer. I won't leave out the fact that I've also failed a lot.

I'm reaching out now because I need a big brother, out there, that I might also be accountable to. As you get to know me I'm sure that you'll find at times I'm a very excitable guy! This accountability, brother to brother, sometimes requires a mentor that can and will put his foot on your neck (spiritually) and cause you to see things in the right light. Someone who can step on your toes and not mess up your shine! And in my reaching out ... PRAISE GOD you responded!

I was saved in a Victory Outreach in January of 1992 and became a disciple in The Door Christian Fellowship Church in Tempe. I've failed and fallen out of fellowship more than once. I understand today that it was never God's will for me to fall away, ever, not even for a brief moment! However, I look back at Moses when he killed the Egyptian, and went into the wilderness for forty years and ask myself the question, "Was he backslid?" Only God knows. Still, in his failure, as in my own, God uses said failure to help bring us to an end of self AND self reliance, showing us that we need our Savior while teaching us to become completely dependent on Him. So, it has taken me many years to learn some things that other men learned much quicker. I believe that walking in the Spirit is a life - long journey of lessons.

I'm a Spaniard, raised among the Mexican American people in Southern California. So I guess you could say that I was raised among that 'tribe'. I speak Spanish better than most men speak English. So, in here I serve as a translator in some of our services. I also do a song service on Sunday mornings. I was taught to rise up in the Spirit and to serve God in serving the church AND others. I'm a firm believer in standing in the gap, not just in prayer but also in rising to meet the need of the hour. I know for certain that I am closer to God now than I've ever been in all my life. It's not because I take part in religious activities, but more so because prayer has become a way of life to me. I understand clearly that those things we do for God do NOT necessarily make us closer to Him, but rather are a byproduct or fruits of our relationship with God.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

I spend a lot of time working with men in evangelism meaning I witness, share the Gospel and Scripture with those that God puts in my path. Evangelism is something that seems to just spill out of my spirit and onto those around me. Jesus said, *"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, WILL draw ALL people to Myself."* (**John 12:32**) I have learned, over the years, that it is appropriate to 'preach' (The Cross) to the lost, and to 'teach' the church lest an un regenerated spirit grow familiar with holy things and they become as if they were common things. The natural man cannot receive spiritual things until one becomes born again (**John 3:3-8**), then, that new man can receive Holy Ghost revelation.

I do not fancy myself a preacher or a teacher, but some man has to rise up among us who will stand in the defense of the faith to break off right and Biblical doctrine. Why? So those new converts among us won't be burdened with the yoke of legalism, and every doctrinal wind of change that comes down the pike. So this is where I'm going with this; 'If we are men and women of God we know that the Scriptures tell us, **"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed AND who correctly handles the Word of truth."** (**2 Timothy 2:15**) What does this mean? Well, if we are men and women of God, we should be able to be able to break off or run down doctrines of the Word such as the Trinity, Salvation, sanctification, adoption and so on and so forth. And we should be ready in or out of season to share them when it is edifying. Really, I'm NOT a real religious type of cat, I'm just a simple man who loves God. And, I want to live according to His Word to the best of my understanding.

The Next Chapter of My Life

By D.J.

I am coming up to the end of my stay at this place and looking to move on to the next chapter of my life. I do not know what the Lord has in store, but I do know that if I trust in the Lord and have faith in the fact that all things happen for the greater good of those who love Him.

I know that this is just gonna be the beginning of a different type of battle, but with the Lord for me who could be against me. I am going to be victorious over satan. I will place him under my foot because Jesus Christ says that I can.

Faithful

By D.C.

First off, I want to just say thank you for your faithfulness.

I've been reading a book in a group Bible study every Sunday morning called Pilgrim's Progress. If you are familiar with the story you know the main character comes from the city of Destruction and he's travelling to Mount Zion. His name is now Christian, but his name at first was Graceless. The story is by John Bunyan.

Anyhow, there is a character named Faithful. At one point, Christian did not take good heed to his feet, he stumbled and fell, and he could not rise again until Faithful came up to help him. But through the process both Christian and Faithful's friendship and love for not only God but each other grows stronger.

Overcomers for Christ is like the character Faithful and so many of us are like Christian and we stumble or have found ourselves unable to climb the mountain or get further along in our journey without the encouragement, help, and love you share.

I also want to share that my bunkie gave me the **Acts 19:11** page (prayer blanket/page) to send to my son. He has recently got a tattoo on his arm of "666". Although, the Lord prepared me for this by sharing with me that Jesus used 6's to overcome those man's carnal 6's. Such as **Ephesians 6** We war not against flesh and blood ... **Matthew 6** ... The Lord's Prayer ... **Proverbs 3:6** ... Trust the Lord with all your might!

I'm hoping you will lift my three children and husband up in prayer. It's my heart that the prayers of restoration be lifted up to God's throne, and my children's covenant with death be annulled (**Isaiah 28**) be firm and that they give their hearts to be on fire for Jesus. I hope to share a praise report soon.

Foot's Bible Study Notes

1 Kings 7:1-8:66

Solomon sought out Hiram an expert craftsman who casted in bronze all sorts of items (furnishings) for the temple to enhance worship. Hiram's items of bronze would look strange in today's churches, but we use other articles to enhance worship. Stained glass windows, crosses, pulpits hymn books, and communion tables serve as aids to worship. While the instruments of worship may change, the purpose of worship should never change - to give honor and praise to God. (7:14-47)

In his prayer of dedication, Solomon declared that even the highest heavens cannot contain God. Isn't it amazing that though the heavens can't contain God, He is willing to live in the hearts of those who love Him? The God of the universe takes up residence in His people. (8:27)

Acts 7:30-8:13

Stephen had been accused of speaking against the temple. (6:13) Although he recognized the importance of the temple, he knew that it was not more important than God. God is not limited. He lives not only in a house of worship but also in hearts of faith that are open to receive Him. (Isaiah 66:1-2) Solomon knew this when he prayed at the dedication of the temple. (2 Chronicles 6:18) God wants to live in us, is He living in you? (7:44-50)

The Jewish leaders who had condemned Jesus to death for blasphemy would not tolerate Stephen's words, so they dragged him out and killed him. People may not kill us for witnessing about Christ, but they may let us know they don't want to hear the truth and try to silence us. Keep honoring God in your conduct and words, though many may turn against you and your message, some will follow Christ, remember, Stephen's death had a profound impact on Paul, who later became the world's greatest missionary. Even those who oppose you now may later turn to Christ. (7:55-58)

Paul is a powerful example of a person who was thought impossible for God to reach and change. (7:58)

Psalms 128:1-129:8

The psalmist wrote that good family life is a reward for following God. The values outlined in God's Word include love, service, honesty, integrity, and prayer. These help all relationships, and they are especially vital to home life. Is your home life heavenly or hectic? Reading and obeying God's Word is a good place to start to make your family all that it should be. (128:1)

The people of Israel were persecuted from their earliest days but never destroyed completely. The same is true of the church. Christians have faced times of severe persecution but the church has never been destroyed. As Jesus said to Peter, "Now I say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." (Matthew 16:18) When you face persecution and discrimination, take courage - the church will never be destroyed. (129:2)

Proverbs 16:31-17:1

Self-control is superior to conquest. Success in business, school, or home life can be ruined by a person who loses control of his or her temper. So it is a great personal victory to control your temper. When you feel yourself ready to explode, remember that losing control may cause you to forfeit what you want the most. (16:32) The greatest of feasts where no expense is spared is really nothing, if there is no peace within those in attendance. It doesn't take money to gain peace, in fact, no amount of money can buy you peace. Peace comes from God Himself and it's free.

“Foot” Notes

God's blessings to y'all. I've got an observation for ya'll to think on. Lately, I've been hearing a lot in conversations with others how they become "weak in faith". Which of course, gets me to thinking and what keeps coming up is the mustard seed and faith. **Matthew 17:20** tells us that if you have faith even as small as a mustard seed you could move a mountain. So, how small does your faith have to be to be "weak"? Here's my thought, faith isn't the weakness. Most of our weakness is in our decision making, most of us are real good at making bad decisions which in turn gives us the consequences we wish to change. I believe that if we truly isolate what our weaknesses tend to be, I do believe "faith" would not even qualify in the top ten. I think that the more we walk in faith, the more we know that "faith" was never the problem. Love to ya'll ... short and tall ... Vaya on Dios!! Slow down a little, let those angels catch up with ya!!

those days: there was no frequent or widely spread vision." Why? By this time the prophets were rarely speaking God's messages to Israel because this was during the rule of the judges. Look now at what **Proverbs 29:18** (KJV) tells us, **"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."** The NIV version of **Proverbs 29:18** reads like this, **"Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint, but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction."** One more time. This time from the NLT translation of **Proverbs 29:18**, **"When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful."** So what is the revelation or the vision or wisdom's instruction here? It seems to me that it is both listening to and obeying the divine guidance of God. Keep coming. Now let's look to where the prophets ARE speaking the things God is giving them but the people still aren't listening. Listen to what God told Amos to tell the people this time, in **Amos 8:11** (NIV), **"The days are coming when I will send a famine through the land - not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord."**

Okay now, here it is ... Although this is still going on in the world today, where people refuse to listen and follow God's guidance, we no longer have to wait to hear God speak through a prophet. Today we have the Bible to read and follow for our everyday lives. In **2 Timothy 3:16-17** (NLT) we will read, **"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work."** Jesus is speaking these next words, in **John 14:24c-26** (NLT), to His disciples before He went to the Cross, I'm sure to encourage them, **"What I am telling you is from the Father who sent Me. I am telling you these things while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as My representative - that is, the Holy Spirit - He will teach you and remind you of everything I have told you."** Today we are Jesus' disciples and 'if' we have received Jesus as our Lord and Savior this promise of the Holy Spirit's guidance is still for us today. In **Matthew 28:18-20**, Jesus has now conquered the grave, risen and came to His disciples again (that's now us too) to say, **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations (people), baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** Those three verses are referred to as 'The Great Commission' or the vision for His church, which is now us as well. John records this same event as Jesus is challenging Peter three times by saying, **"If you love Me ... Then feed my lambs. Peter do you love Me ... Then take care of My sheep."** By the third time Jesus asked Peter whether he loved Him or not, Peter was hurt but answered Jesus by saying, **"Lord, You know everything. You know that I love You."** And one last time Jesus told Peter, **"Then feed My sheep."** (**John 21:15-17**) By the way, I believe there is a reason why Jesus said these things to Peter 'three times' but that's a whole other teaching that we won't cover this time.

This is the same commission/vision that God gave us for the newsletter when He said, "Send hope, love and encouragement to those who have lost sight of these three things" or as Jesus said, **"... go and make disciples."** And the way we are to make disciples is by teaching what the Word of God says. This doesn't mean we are to just lead people to Salvation, which is Jesus, and then leave them on their own. NO! The **whole** commission is to teach and mentor people with what the Holy Spirit has now shown each of us! And from those first 8 people, through the power of His Holy Spirit, God has continuously grown this newsletter ministry.

Even though 'we' were first given the vision for this newsletter it's NOW equally important that we share it with all of you clear enough that YOU can run with it and help build it to reach many more for the Kingdom of God! And with the help of the Holy Spirit I believe you all are seeing the vision more clearly all the time. In **Matthew 7:15** Jesus' teaching is, **"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."** And immediately in the next verse He says, **"By their fruit you will recognize them."** (**Matthew 7:16**) Then down a couple more verses, in **Matthew 7:17, 20** Jesus say's something I want us all to hone in on, **"Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit ... Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them."** So what am I saying? I'm just showing you what Jesus said. Looking here at Scripture it would seem that Jesus might recognize the **Overcomers for Christ** as a good tree because it's a tree that has produced good lasting fruit. A tree that began with first 8 people and God grew it to be 35 people. And from those 35 people God has now grown it to be over 950 people, in over 80 different facilities across 40 plus of the United States. That's Federal, State and various county facilities. **And all of you are that fruit!** Don't think for a second, after those last sentences, that ANY of us has a place to get all high and mighty! NO! Why? Because Jesus tells us point blank, **"You did NOT choose Me, but I chose you," Why? "so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last ..."** and then He promises us as we bear good lasting fruit **"... that whatever you ask in My name the Father WILL give you. This is My command: Love each other."** (**John 15:16-17**) Do you want to know what we have asked The Father? We have asked that, "He continue to use this newsletter ministry to help reach others that have been deceived and caught up in the enemies lies. Help us to share Your love, and with this love we might grow an even greater **Overcomer's for Christ** family 'tree' of fruit. Use us ALL, to first and foremost, increase Your Kingdom God." As you all can now see Jesus has been faithful to this ministry with His promise, "... that when we are bearing lasting fruit we can

ask whatever (according to His Word), in His name, and God will give it to us."

The *Overcomers for Christ* has NEVER been about how many people we can add to the mailing list. According to Scripture and witnessing the length Jesus went to save 'this' lost sheep, me, we've made it our purpose to follow His lead in always reaching for that *'one lost sheep'*. (**Matthew 18:12-14**) We NEVER go to the D.O.C. website and look for people that 'we' think need Jesus! That's the Holy Spirit's job! Nor do we look up people's charges! God made it very clear to me in the very beginning of this ministry that when He has forgiven someone, and only He knows, I sure as heck had better **NOT** judge anyone!

Even though Jesus is teaching, in the above paragraph, about false prophet's that does not mean in no way that we are to think that we can be judgmental of others. I'm not saying that we shouldn't be conscious and alert with whom we join arms because Jesus did say to beware of 'sheep in wolves clothing', but not judgmental. Isn't it crazy how we sometimes turn Jesus' message about 'Good fruit, Bad fruit' into one of where we are more conscious of someone else's fruit or sins before we ever take a look at our own? What does it say about our own walk when we are always inspecting other people's fruit? Hey, that's just a question not an accusation? Could it be that perhaps this is why Jesus taught about judgment before He taught about fruit in **Matthew 7**? Let's just look to see exactly what Jesus has to say about all this in **Matthew 7:1-2** (NLT). *"STOP judging others, and you will not be judged. For others will treat you as you treat them. Whatever measure you use in judging others, it will be used to measure how you are judged."* I believe what Jesus is saying in that last sentence is this, you may be judging others to meet your own standard of measure. But be careful, it's not 'others' that will be doing the final judging. You **will** one day stand before My Father and He **will** judge you the vary way you judged others. OUCH! I love how the Message Bible translation 'clearly' seems to give us a Christian slap of love right on the cheek as it breaks down **Matthew 7:3-5**. Listen. *"It's easy to see the smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living YOUR part. Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor."* We ALL have done this! And, I want to add, we'll probably do it again. But, when we take that slap on the face and heed the Holy Spirit's guidance by turning our judgment into real brotherly and sisterly love THAT'S when God will begin to judge 'us' with a different measuring stick.

So in closing I want to ask you this, "What do you believe the ULTIMATE message is in all of this?" I believe it is this. Simply love others, not according to the way they love or treat you, but by the way that **JESUS** loves you!

What Others Are Saying...

"I thank you my brothers and sisters and look forward to the next issue of your newsletter. I have been getting it since July of 2013 and have learned so much from Chaplain/Pastor Anderson and have started reading and studying the Bible per R.A.'s schedule in the August 2014 newsletter article, *From The Inside Reading and Studying the Word of God*. I am also blessed beyond words with the pictures from the Glory Meetings for the *OC&C*; they make me feel closer to my brothers and sisters at *OC&C*. Thank you with all of my growing Christ-filled heart. May God truly bless this ministry ~ you are winning souls for our Lord Jesus!" - **R.B.**

"I am so glad to meet a sister who is of the faith. Especially one who is willing to correspond with me. I have never done this before and already I am delighted at the prospect of learning, sharing and praying for each other, especially for an opportunity to grow in the faith with someone who has some practice at it. Please feel free to send me one of your newsletters; I would just love to get a chance to actually read one of them. Again, thank you for taking an interest in me and I just love your card! It brightens up my little room. It's one thing to feel light and sense it in your heart, but it's another kind of blessing to have a gift like that to brighten up my spirit by brightening of my living and sleeping space. And it's nice that it's not contraband. I really hope Jesus hurry's up and gets here! I'm ready for a new hope. Well, God bless you and your ministry! Thank you again for the lovely card. And I'll pray about developing new positive, healthy relations that we can share, relate and be a positive influence for each other." - **C.H.**

"I am grateful to have received the February issue of the newsletter. I am always happy, as I'm sure most of us here are, to receive some mail. It's amazing how I am always able to find someone on every yard that recognizes your address and say how awesome it is to see the outreach of Christ you all have done throughout the years. There are many who are sincere in their walk by the Spirit and are always an inspiration to me. I know that I have a long road ahead of me and I am my own worst judge of my reflection of being a Christian. That's why I am always grateful to hear from you all there at the *Overcomers for Christ*. You all lift my spirits and spread the joy of hope in my heart" - **L.H.**

"Hello and salutations to the *Overcomers for Christ* staff whose diligence blesses all of us who at one time felt ... unblessable. While I was reading your piece, *Grace in Love*, my poem *Breathe* came to me. Keep inspiring us, and above all keep challenging us to study, believe, pray and be the body of Christ. May the Lord continue to be a blessing to the *Overcomers for Christ* family, so the *Overcomers for Christ* family may continue to be a blessing upon us all ... Amen!!" - **D.O.**

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

Overcomer's Testimonies

Foremost, I'll extend my profound love, respects and best of wishes to you and the family of Overcomers.

Just recently I was given a copy of your May issue of the newsletter. I've read it several times, and have become a big fan. I would enjoy being on the mailing list so I may receive my own copy each month.

I've been incarcerated for 12 years, since I was 18 years old and I'm 29 now. I have been on a long journey in this system, searching for that brighter horizon, and despite all the ranks I've earned, it was only within the year of 2014 in which I found what I was looking for.

I mean, it was right there in front of my eyes the whole time, I was just too blind to see it. Yet today, I'm proud to say that I've dropped out of the prison politics, AND have given my life to the Almighty Jesus Christ! The peace that I have found is so amazing. I didn't think it was possible to feel the way I do today. I wake up with a smile. I engage in peace filled conversations with others. It's AWESOME! I want to believe that I'm a Christian but I'm not sure about the whole religion thing, yet I do know that I do believe in God and what the Bible tells me.

For many years I've been lost in my ways, with the world at large absent in my life. Due to my political past and being of high risk status, I just received recreation and showers this early A.M. Everything I do is of limited movement and with a small group of individuals of the same security level, yet it's a program I've come to enjoy. I get to gather my thoughts, and work towards changing my uncivilized ways.

I found God, have received forgiveness and now feel like I can breathe again. As harsh as my reality may be I have NO worries. It's a new feeling for me and I can't help myself from smiling and sharing my new found joy. Most still can't believe that I gave up my 'patch' and gave my life to the One of a Higher Power, Jesus. They say that I must have went crazy! My answer to them is, "I did go crazy, crazy for peace and happiness!"

Honestly though, it ALL came to me one day ... Instead of helping 'our race', as they say, they were allowing all the wrong to pass as right. Young kids getting high with needles and separating us all by the color of our skin. People getting hurt and killed for breaking 'their' rules. Even who I was 'supposed' to be I still didn't believe in all of that! Yet as an individual I went unheard. So, I said, "I'll make positive change in here alone, starting with myself." That's when God found me wandering astray. And today, I'm going on an awesome path with the Lord guiding my every step.

I don't title my faith as a religion. I am saved because Jesus died for me, how amazing is that?! Religion, seems to me, a little too text book with its different rules and different beliefs. Instead, I follow the Bible. In my heart I KNOW that God sits on the throne. So now I spend most of my days reading my Bible and drawing a lot. I'll close with this, **"We never know God is all we need until God is all we've got."** - A.R.

Habit That Strangle By Steve Arterburn

A strange species of vine known as the matador grows in South America. Roughly translated, the Spanish word matador means 'killer' This plant has certainly earned its name.

The matador begins its life growing at the foot of a tree. At first, it looks like a harmless little plant. But as it grows, the matador relentlessly winds its way around the tree, makes its way to the top, and slowly strangles the tree. When the matador reaches the tree's top, it bursts forth in flower, as though celebrating its kill and crowning himself victor.

Many habits in our lives are like the matador. They seem harmless at first and grow slowly. But left unchecked, they're dangerous.

Is there a matador-like habit winding its way around your life right now?

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

Breathe

By D.O.

Breathe.

Breathe into me.

**Breathe the very breath You began me with
- just before You gave the whole world to me.**

Then breathe.

Breathe again into me.

Breathe.

Breathe into me.

**Breathe into me until I can find the strength
- to breathe You into the very heart of me.**

Then breathe.

Breathe again into me.

From the dirt of the earth ...

From the day sin entered in ...

- condemning me to death since the day of my birth.

With Your very last breath You breathed

- and gave it all as You hung on that Cross for me,

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

From dusk till dawn, from dawn till dusk.

So my soul will arise, alike the rising ocean's tides

- and soon past the stars to the heavens high above.

When You welcome me into Your arms, you'll welcome me with love,

- so I can ... breathe.

Breathe.

Breathe into me.

**Breathe the very breath You began with me
- just before You gave the whole world to me.**

Then breathe.

Breathe again into me.

Breathe.

Breathe into me.

**Breathe into me until I can find the strength
- to breathe You into the very heart of me.**

Then breathe.

Breathe again into me.

- so I could ... breathe.

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