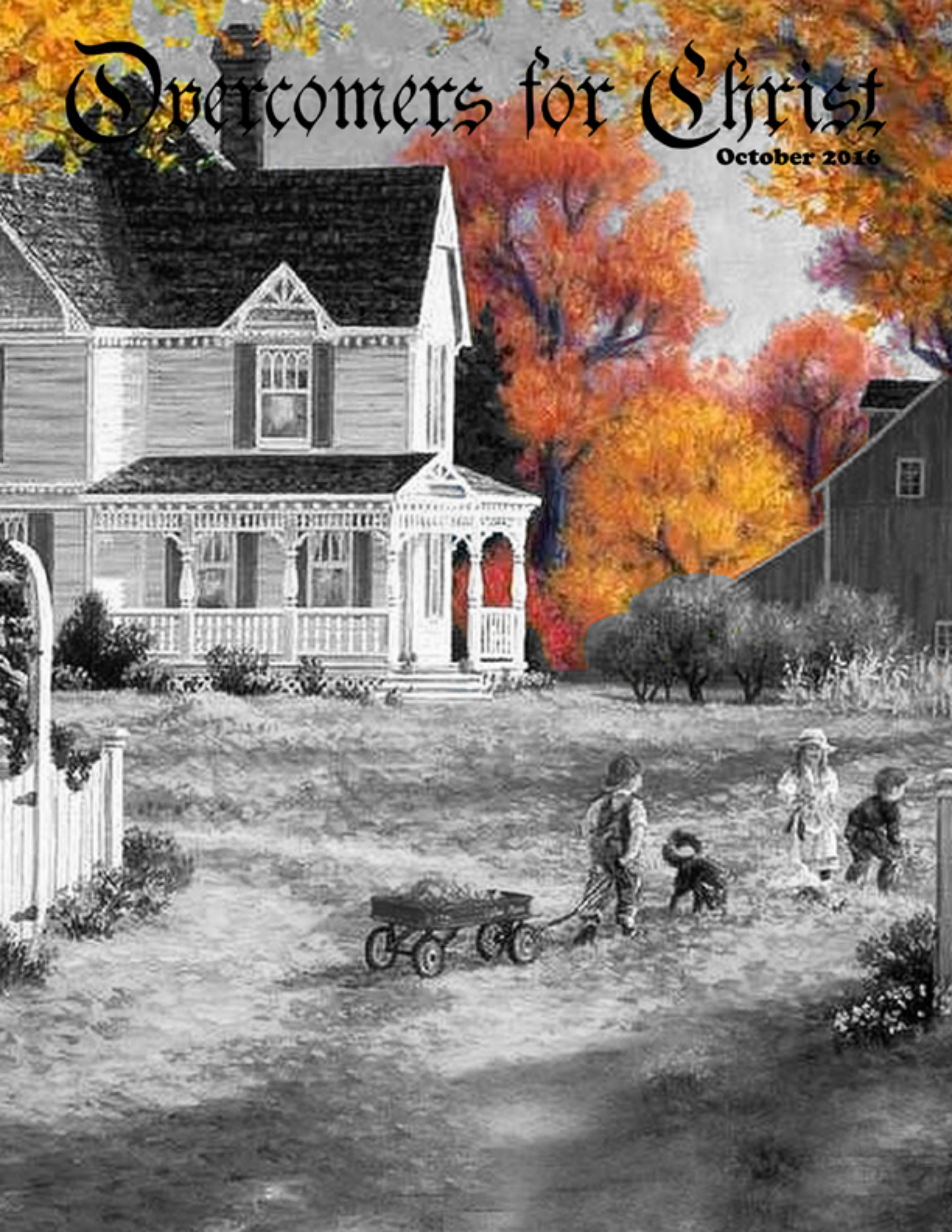


Overcomers for Christ

October 2016



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

June 2016



Building libraries with Christian materials for the "Inside"!!!



Grace Through Faith By Wade Anderson

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -" (Ephesians 2:8) "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to ALL men." (Titus 2:11) These are two foundational Scriptures that show it doesn't matter who we use to be or what we think we did wrong God's grace has been made (past tense) available to EVERYONE by faith. As we continue on we'll see our works separate from faith are worthless.

I want to begin here by saying, if you have already asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life you have got to stop thinking and saying, "I'm just an ole sinner saved by grace." You are no longer an ole sinner! **First Peter 1:23** tells us, **"Having been born again, NOT of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever ..."** Let's see what this means?

Let's pray: *Gracious and Almighty heavenly Father, as I stand here today and always in Your presence I invite Your Holy Spirit to be the teacher. Jesus You said that the same Spirit that raised You from the dead NOW lives inside of each and every one of us, to teach us, to train us, to correct us and even tell us of things to come. Today we open our hearts, prepared and ready to receive the TRUTH that is in Your Word. As we bind Your Word around us and allow Your Spirit to teach us, today Lord, I declare that many will begin to be loosed from the chains of legalism and religious bondage! I ask that everything that is NOT of You here in this message be washed away in the precious blood of Your Son, Christ Jesus. Wash us in Your Word Lord that our lives begin to bear the evidence of Your presence to those around us, for Your glory Lord. Teach us who we truly are in Your sight. Amen and Amen!*

When we ALL were born into this world it was through the seed of our earthly parents. The KJV and NKJV use the term 'corruptible seed' where other translations of the Bible use the phrase 'perishable seed'. The one thing that is inevitable amongst every person born into this world is ... we all will one day perish/die. The Scripture above (and many, many more) share with us a way to have eternal life, after our life here on this earth.

Can you remember anywhere in the Bible where childbirth had manifest without two human beings? I know you can. The only place I can find is when Mary gave birth to her son, our Savior, Jesus. God had given the angel Gabriel this message to take to Mary, **"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call Him Jesus." (Luke 1:31)** Of course we all can relate to Mary's confusion since she had never yet slept with a man. Confused but not doubtful Mary asked, **"How will this be since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34)** In **Luke 1:35** the angel answered Mary and said, **"The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God."** We can see here that Joseph had absolutely nothing to do with Mary conceiving Jesus. Every other person EVER born came and will always come the natural way, and in that sense under the curse of Adam. However, Jesus was born of the supernatural Holy Spirit. God does NOT want even one of us to remain under that curse. **(Romans 5:12-14)**

The Word of God always affirms itself through multiple Scriptures so let's look again at **1 Peter 1:23**, where it says, **"Through the (Word of God) which lives and abides forever."** (parenthesis are mine)

Israel believed they were the only ones to be God's chosen people but their hearts had grown hard towards God throughout time so He gave Isaiah this word of prophesy. In **Isaiah 65:9** we read, **"I will bring forth descendents from Jacob, and from Judah those who will possess My mountains; My chosen people will inherit them, and there will My servants live."** This is a prophecy of Salvation through Jesus! In order to see this prophesy being fulfilled turn over to **Luke 3:23-37**. Luke recorded Jesus' ancestors from Adam to Joseph, specifically in **verses 33-34**, **"The son of Judah, the son of Jacob."** Isn't that what we just read in **Isaiah 65:9**? Maybe you think there is a contradiction now in Scripture because Joseph is listed in Jesus' genealogy. Let me show you real quickly how that is cleared up. In **Luke 3:23b** it is real clear, **"He (Jesus) was the son, SO IT WAS THOUGHT, of Joseph."** 'People' knew that Mary was with Joseph so they assumed that this child Mary was carrying was his. After all, natural child birth was all the world knew until Jesus came. Let me assure you, the Bible NEVER contradicts itself it's simply our own lack of understanding. Look above where I mentioned the parenthesis are mine. Watch closely as Scripture sheds light on that phrase (Word of God). John truly had a revelation of who Jesus was ... listen, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ... The Word became flesh and made His dwelling amongst us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH."** **(John 1:1-5, 14)**

It may seem like I am bouncing all over the place but stay with me and allow the Holy Spirit to minister these truths as we continue. I want you all to see clearly through the Bible, that Grace IS the Person of Jesus Christ and by faith in His finished work and God's faithfulness God NOW sees you as righteous! As we look back at the prophesy God gave Isaiah in **Isaiah 65:1**, God said, **"I revealed Myself to those who did not ask of Me; I was found by those who did not seek**

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Me. To a nation that did not call on My name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'" What God was saying here was, "If you Israelites, the very ones I have called to be My own people, won't receive and believe Me I'll go to the Gentile nations!" (my paraphrase) Listen as the Apostle Paul speaks of this grafting 'IN' that Isaiah prophesied. **"For we are God's handiwork, created IN Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. THEREFORE, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called 'uncircumcised' by those who call themselves 'the circumcision' (which is done in the body by human hands) - remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from the citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God IN THE WORLD. BUT now IN CHRIST JESUS you who were once far away have been brought near BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST."** (Romans 2:10-13) WOW! Can you begin to see that God has always had a plan? God Has ALREADY provided It All, for every single one of us!!

Instead of an 'ole sinner saved by grace' everything in Scripture is telling us, "You are NOW the righteousness of God IN CHRIST JESUS!" (2 Corinthians 5:21) Sometimes we mope around wondering why things always seem to be coming against us. We wonder why we aren't seeing the kind of fruit in our lives that Jesus talks about. Let me encourage you to stop and listen to the words that you allow to cross your lips. Listen here how the New American Standard Bible (NASB) reads in Proverbs 18:20-21, **"With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."** In other words, the fruit you are experiencing in your life could be a direct result of what you are speaking. Let me encourage everyone to also go back and reread James 3:9-12. Read Romans chapters 1-7 and then ask yourselves, "Do my words line up with who God's Word says I am IN CHRIST JESUS? I truly believe that every time we confess "I am the righteousness of God in Christ" it pleases God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Every time we confess "I am the righteousness of God in Christ" it lets God know that we are grateful that He has declared us righteous, that we acknowledge and accept His sacrifice when He gave us His one and only Son. (John 3:16, Romans 3:26) Every time Jesus hears us confess "I am the righteousness of God in Christ" I'm sure it fills His heart with joy, because He knows we are now getting a hold of what He suffered and died to supply for us. The Holy Spirit's job is to convict us of unrighteousness. (John 16:5-10) So, I also believe that every time we confess "I am the righteousness of God in Christ" the Holy Spirit smiles and says, "You are listening and hearing Me, keep coming this way." To put it simply, righteous/righteousness means that God has declared us in right standing with Him when we believe, by faith, what He has provided through the finished work of Jesus at the Cross. That right there should make us ALL stand up and shout HALLELUJAH!

I want to continue on a little further with righteous/righteousness from Romans 3:19-25 so hang on. **"Now we know that whatever the Law (written on stone tablets) says, it says to those who are under the Law (Jews), so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore NO ONE will be declared righteous in God's sight by the 'works' of the Law; rather, through the Law we become conscious of our sin. BUT NOW apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS GIVEN THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST TO ALL WHO BELIEVE. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and ALL are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came BY Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood - to be received BY FAITH. He did this to demonstrate His righteousness."** (parenthesis are mine) Brothers and sisters I'm NOT saying that God loves sin in any shape, size or fashion. But do you see that God is NOT mad at any of us anymore. His love is NOT based on our performance. We just read that God made us righteous in His sight by the sacrifice of Jesus at the Cross through our faith. Since God sees us through the blood of Jesus He obviously isn't even in a bad mood. Praise Jesus! (1John 4:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:9, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

We were all lost and in a messy worldly way at one point in our lives but, Ephesians 2:4-6a (NKJV) tells us, **"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places IN CHRIST JESUS ..."** Brothers and sisters there is so much to look at in just these few verses of Scripture. Paul begins here by assuring us that God is rich in mercy. Then he goes on to let us all know that with His great love God loved us EVEN when we were a mess and lost in sin. Now watch this, the very second we received Jesus as Lord of our lives God made us alive IN Christ and seated us in heavenly places. Praise Jesus!

We are NOT saved by grace alone. True, we would NEVER have the life we do have, in Christ, with God, if Jesus hadn't walked in obedience to become the spotless Sacrifice to obtain and redeem us from the mess we were in. Listen deeply to what is written here in 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT), **"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom He paid was NOT mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God."** Look now at Ephesians 2:8-9, **"For by grace you have been saved THROUGH faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone**

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

Prayer Requests

Please add me to your prayer list. I have been here at this location since September of 2014, suffering from a stroke and then falling face down on the floor. They rushed me to the hospital and during that same time I also needed a replacement pacemaker. After the surgery in July of 2015 I found out that the surgeon said the old pacemaker was dislodged so he left it inside of me. This has caused a very bad infection to this date. It is to the point that they cannot overpower the infection with the best medications that they have ... I also just found out that my daughter was killed in a car accident. This is the second daughter that I have lost in two years. This has taken so much out of me. I am 72 years old. My children are suppose to outlive me. I know there is power in prayer, unity and agreement ... **A.B.**

I applied for work release a month and a half back and about three weeks back, I got a blister on my right big toe. I was breaking in a new pair of shoes. The blister would not heal and it turned into an infection. I was put on a low grade, cheap antibiotic that did little good. I ended up in an outside hospital and the infection had entered into the bone just behind the toe nail. The surgeon told me if he could, he would scrape the infection off the bone but if it is in the bone he would take it off as far back as the good bone. I was extremely scared and unable to contact my family for prayers and support. I was able to get a hold of the hospital chaplain and received prayer. I knew God was with me but I was still scared. I lost half the toe and with my diabetes healing is slow. It is still trying to heal. I have also been on a medical hold for getting work release. I need prayers for quick healing and being able to get into work release. I know I've put everything in God's hands. **Psalm 118:13-14, "I was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped me. The Lord is my strength and my defense, He has become my Salvation."** I praise Him every day and thank Him for all He has done for me and all that HE is doing for me ... **B.B.**

I would like to submit a prayer request. Please pray that I have a smooth transition from prison to the half-way house. Also that when I get out I will be able to find a good Bible teaching church. I will be released no later than September ... **J.L.**

I'm coming up on one year for my appeal and haven't heard anything yet. Keep this in your prayers if you don't mind. I hope that this will bring me home soon as I'm really excited to see and meet all of you very soon ... **S.F.**

Please keep me and my family in your prayers ... **N.L.**

My request is that I be put on your prayer list, please and thank you ... **A.A.**

Praise Reports

I finally received a letter from you all there. Any form of acknowledgement is well appreciated. I want to thank you for that. Well I hope everyone in the church is felling God's grace and living life to the fullest. As for myself, I'm doing fine, and reading the Word daily. I must say that your letter touched me, I no longer feel alone. It is amazing how the Lord can make all things seem better, if you believe. I knew Jesus would not leave me, but at times my faith is weak and I stumble in my walk. However, you showed me that the Lord is always at work ... **C.J.**

The yard I'm on is a blessing from God. Two man cells, A/C, and some semblance of peace. Way better situation, all the way around. And now that I can see the light at the end of the tunnel, two years left, it's all good ... **D.G.**

I just wanted to say hello and thank you for your faithful encouragement through your newsletter. I do appreciate it and the time and expense it takes to share the encouragement of Christ with us prisoners. He gives more grace. **(James 4:6)** Praise God for His true peace. I just wanted to let you know of my change of address, I'm now at a minimum custody level ... Praise God. Possibly getting to pre-release soon after 16 1/2 years of high security prison, it is a blessing to be moving forward by God's grace. I just got to continue to grow in Christ, not to get caught up in the world, but to grow in sanctification, to live for Christ by the power of His might. So, may God's grace, peace, mercy and blessings be with you and yours, to be uplifted and comforted in Christ. Praise God for His saving love ... **D.C.**

THIS IS HUGE! This unit is the only unit in the state that has a computer lab via Eastern Arizona College that offers an Associate's degree ... I know, huh?! But one better than that is I'M GOING TO COLLEGE BROTHER!! PRAISE GOD!!! EAC does not care if you are a lifer or not, you can still go to school. I'm not sure what the A.A. is in but who cares, I think business? I suppose I should find out, huh? Anyhow, I started today! The computer lab is open A.M. and afternoons AND you can go at your own pace. Naturally, I pushed my way to the front of the crowd to take full advantage of this God presented opportunity! Praise God for new beginnings! ... **FOOT**

God bless each and every one of you. I am doing good and staying out of trouble and focused on the Word and serving God. I was able to bring my cellie through the Salvation prayer and now he is studying the Word, too. It's an AWESOME feeling being able to lead someone to God!! Praise God! ... **J.Y.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God is with Me in All Circumstances

By C.P.

I got your lovely card and also the monthly newsletter from D&C, it made my day, I'm thankful to have such wonderful people like you all at D&C in my life. I look forward to getting to know God and you all during my walk in this journey as a Christian. It's unfortunate that it had to take the situation I was in, to come to realize how powerful God is. My release date is July 17, 2038. I got 25 years, flat time. I took the fall for the others. I learn to forgive and not to have revenge/hate in my heart. God showed me that there is hope in my life. Therefore, I want to live God's purpose that He has for me, whether it being inside these walls or on the outside. God answers my prayers to show me He's there in my life. He may not answer all my prayers at once, but I stand firm in His faith and wait patiently upon the Lord. I wear God's armor (*Ephesians 6*) while I'm in prison.

So, God is with me at all times, helping me block these fiery darts from satan. I am thankful for God in my life. I can't wait to learn and grow as a Christian. I'm not going to allow my charges to define me as a bad person. I repented of my sins and gave it all up to the Lord, and moved on with myself. I am thankful to be alive today, God has given me a chance to spread His love around to others.

Long Over Due

By Foot

As always, blessings to you and all of yours. I figured I'd better set the paint brushes aside for a minute and do a little catching up. I think I need to start with the November 2015 newsletter first because there was one huge item I forgot to mention in a previous letter I sent. And that is, the bright orange shirt's you and Michelle were wearing in this "Over the pond" issue. I've got to admit when I seen those bright orange shirts and the looks on both your faces and immediately it looked like a prison break! I loved the picture of y'all going into the Harley Davidson dealership there in London. I knew this could not have been a coincidence so I will just say to you both, "Thanks for the ride along!" One more thing from that November issue ... being a library clerk and seeing the library Michelle was standing in ... WOW!! But I was wondering if they put the books that nobody reads way up top or possibly the popular books way up top so as to insure that the couch potato - book worms get some form of exercise?

Now, as for the December 2015 issue of the *Overcomers for Christ*. WOW! You still have the ability to throw an ole friend a curve ball! Okay, let's discuss the elephant in the room ... the picture of Santa's Garage. I can only say a totally humbled and sincere WOW! You weren't kidding when you said you had a surprise for this year's 'one off' Christmas card. I love that this year's 'one off' card could be enjoyed by all of the mailing list and beyond. I remember you mentioned in a past letter that the mailing list for the D&C was right at 1,000 recipients, so it's really cool to think that so many people got to enjoy my goofy art work.

Cory's splash in the 'Duck pond' and then the rather familiar piece of art work he was holding in the other picture really warmed my heart. I truly enjoyed reading *Cory's Corner*. Arthur's piece was great for us all to read also. It's good for those of us in here looking to get out to read the stories like Arthur, Tracy and Cory who have gone on ahead of us and are successfully continuing their walk with the Lord and being blessed in it! In fact the whole newsletter was way cool with all of the input from everybody out there! I'll tell you what Duck, if anyone who reads those two newsletters don't feel the love or at least know they are thought of then they have some serious issues.

A special thanks to John, Courtney, Michelle and of course you Duck. You all need to take it to heart that the work, through the will of God, is greatly appreciated. I really, really enjoyed how everybody put in their two cents for the December 2015 newsletter.

Hope

By T.F.

I am blessed and I hope that this letter finds you all blessed as well. I must say I loved the December 2015 news letter cover. I love Jesus and Harley Davidson's and you guys brought them both together in an amazing way! I also really liked the article in *Cory's Corner*. I am 10 weeks from the gate right now and this article really gives me hope that I too will

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From the Inside

make it. I know I just need to keep Jesus with me and not leave Him behind because I also know He won't leave me.

I'm also really excited about getting baptized when I am released. The baptism pictures in the January 2015 issue were fantastic. I really appreciate your ministry and can't wait to help you all!

(UPDATE on T.F. by Duck) I recently spoke with Theresa and I'm blessed to tell you all, she is another example of a success story! She was married several months ago, her and her husband both are walking in the light following Jesus. Together they are now raising their family with Jesus.

The Builder Contributed by S.F.

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer/contractor, of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife, enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said, "Yes," but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career. When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front door key to the carpenter and said, "This is your house. My gift to you." What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all differently. Now he had to live in the house he had built none too well.

So it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up with less than the best effort. Then, with a shock, we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house that we have built. If we realized, we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as a carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will have ever built. Even if you live it up for one more day, the day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity. The plaque on the wall says, "Life is a do-it-yourself project." Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is a result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitude and the choices you make today.

Cast Your Burdens on the Lord C.S.

I've got to be forthcoming. I am a sex offender, and so far I have been knocked out and beaten up. I try hard every day not to let my emotions overwhelm me. I realize that God does not prevent you from acting foolishly, but He does allow you to experience the consequences of your foolishness. So when I got beat up I looked at it as a test to see how I would handle the problem. After all, character is strengthened not through ease but through adversity.

I have some questions ... There are times when I ask myself what was my purpose in life? Surely it wasn't to have done this shameful thing that I have done. I don't understand. I do know that when life has meaning one can bear almost anything, without it nothing is bearable. There are times when I wonder, with all of the changes going on in my life, how can I keep it all together? How can I find contentment, regardless of life's circumstances in a place like this? What do you do when you are being measured up to others? What do you do when people murmur against you?

People judge, resent and reject me in here AND out there. I believe that God has already judged my sin for what it was and that is why I am here. Sin is sin and my actions were wrong no matter what caused them. I know I am never going to find peace within myself until I have taken responsibility for who I am and who I have become.

I am aware that the devil wants for me to remain broken inside so that I cannot handle the problems in my life. But the Word of God says, "Cast your burdens on the Lord" and He will sustain you. I live with this guilt and shame every day and these four walls in my cell remind me why I am here. I need to find self forgiveness for myself so I can move forward and not let the past control my future. Please pray for my continued spiritual guidance.

1 Chronicles 12:19-16:36

People are often drawn to a great cause and the brave, determined people who support it. As believers, we have the greatest cause ... the Salvation of people. If we are brave, determined, and faithful, others will be drawn to work with us. **(12:22)**

Often the soldiers wanted to keep souvenirs from the battle. In **2 Samuel 5:21** it states that some of the men kept some of these idols. But David ordered them to burn the idols. The only proper response to sin is to get rid of it completely. You cannot be a follower of God while continuing to hold on to parts of your life where God is not the center of your thoughts and actions. Eliminate whatever takes God's rightful place in your life, and follow Him with complete devotion. **(14:12)**

Beginning any task by praising God can inspire us to give Him our best. Develop the practice of giving praise to God, and you will experience greater joy and strength to face anything. **(15:16-25)**

The basis of praise is declaring God's character and attributes in the presence of others. When we recognize and affirm His goodness, we are holding up His perfect moral nature for all to see. Praise benefits us because it takes our mind off our problems and needs, and focuses on God's power, mercy, majesty and love. **(16:25)**

Romans 1:1-32

When you pray continually about a concern, don't be surprised at how God answers. Paul prayed to visit Rome so he could teach the Christians there. When he finally arrived in Rome, it was as a prisoner. **(Acts 28:16)** Paul prayed for a safe trip, and he did arrive safely, after getting arrested, slapped in the face, ship-wrecked, and bitten by a poisonous snake. God's ways of answering our prayers are often far from what we expect. When we sincerely pray, God will answer, although in His timing and sometimes in ways we do not expect. **(1:9-10)**

Does anyone have an excuse for not believing in God? The Bible answers an emphatic, "No." God has revealed what He is like, through His creation. Every person, therefore, either accepts or rejects God. Don't be fooled. When the day comes for God to judge your response to Him, no excuses will be accepted. Begin today to give your devotion and worship to Him. **(1:18-20)**

Psalms 9:13-10:15

The world may ignore the plight of the needy, crushing any earthly hope they may have. But God, the Champion of the weak, promises that this will not be the case forever. Wicked nations, which forget the Lord and refuse to help their people, will be judged by God. He knows our needs, He knows our tendency to despair, and He has promised to care for us. **(See also 9:9-12)** Even when others forget us, He will remember. **(9:18)**

There is an incompatibility between blind arrogance and the presence of God in our hearts. The proud person depends on himself rather than on God. This causes God's guiding influences to leave his life. When God's presence is welcome, there is no room for pride because He makes us aware of our true selves. **(10:11)**

Proverbs 19:4-7

This Proverb speaks of the effects of wealth and poverty on friendship. It does not describe how friends ought to behave, but how many friends actually do. Like a faithful spouse, a faithful friend is priceless. **(19:4)**

The behavior of brothers and friends who abandon a friend because of poverty should be contrasted with the true friend in such texts as **Proverbs 17:14** and **18:24**. **(19:7)**

“Foot” Notes

Hello again and blessings to you all. I've been inspired by some reading I've been doing and wanted to share it with you all. How many of us are struggling with or have struggled with forgiveness? We all at one time or another have said plenty of foul things about or to someone who has hurt us either mentally, physically or emotionally. Which would lead to forgiveness being a non-issue, as in 'it ain't happening'! In my opinion, I believe that even before we can forgive others we need to clean our own slate. We need to NOT beat ourselves down over our own mistakes/sins. In doing so this will open US up to moving forward with forgiving others. I think that the more we can learn to forgive the more we can clean our own slate so to speak. As we begin doing this we don't lose any of our own peace by getting caught up with someone else's behavior issues. Anyhow, just some more food for thought. Until next time, love to y'all short and tall. Vaya con Dios and don't ride faster than your angel's can fly.

should boast." Religion teaches that we must 'do' this, this and that in order for God to love us and if we stumble and fall on 'that' journey ... well, we have to 'work' our way back into His presence to see if He will still love us. NO!! That IS NOT what these Scriptures above tell us. It said, **"Even when we were dead in our trespasses ... God paid a ransom to save you ... it is a GIFT of God."** God paid the ransom ONCE for every single persons sins (**Hebrews 9:28**) who has lived and will ever live on the face of this earth, and it was (past tense) paid in full over 2,000 years ago. **"With the precious lifeblood of Christ."** Think about this for a second. If Jesus didn't die for past, present and future sins then we're ALL in a world of hurt. When He hung on that Cross ALL of our sins were in the future at that point, right? (**Colossians 2:13-14**) Everything we have just read has shown us that God's Gift of grace has already been provided for us. Grace IS the Person of Christ Jesus!!

I know that a lot of what I'm writing here may seem a little radical to some of you. But if you'll look closely you'll see that ALL of the bold and italicized words are not mine, they come from the Book that God inspired, the Bible. The very reason I'm showing you all this is because it IS THE TRUTH that has lifted such a heavy burden of 'works' off of me and allowed me to receive more of what God truly has had planned for all of us! Now that we know the Gift has been provided by God it is important to also understand that the ONLY way we can access that Gift of grace is by faith. There is nothing we can do or have to do to receive this Gift. The only prerequisite is to believe in/on the One that God sent (**John 6:29, John 16:9, 1 John 3:23**). The Gift has already been provided from God's end. On our end, we must believe by faith and THEN we can and will be able to receive ALL that He has provided. It is important for us to understand that our relationship with God is NOT based only on His grace or only on our faith. It is a balance of grace AND faith. I don't know about all of you but that right there really excites me!

What Others Are Saying...

"I never told you before, but when I was at SATF I found your newsletter on a shelf and I picked it up and read it. I liked it so I wrote the address on it and ever since I've been receiving your newsletter, and I really like what I read every time. The June 2016 newsletter seems like it was talking about me. It is called *Self-centeredness/Pride*. I can't wait for part 2. I would like to thank the *Overcomers for Christ*, and God bless you." - **K.L.**

"I just wanted to thank you all for being there for me. I was going through a hard time but your mail never stopped coming. I thank you for the cards, I have them on my wall. Sometimes we forget that when we don't have any family out there God gives us one from His family. I thank God for that every day. I didn't have anyone in my life to write to about the things and feelings I'm going through. I kept holding on to God and now you all are in my life. And thank you for taking me to London and Ireland with you (smile)." - **D.W.**

"I appreciate your newsletters, all the pictures touch me of all the love you share with your family of *Overcomers for Christ*. God bless you all. Thank you for allowing me to be a part too." - **A.B.**

"How are you all doing? I've been receiving your newsletters and those pictures of everyone getting baptized were awesome! You and your ministry are doing awesome things. Praise the Lord!" - **J.T.**

"I've been moved, it took 2 1/2 months to get here, so I am writing to notify you of my change of address. I would also like to thank you all for continually sending me the newsletter every month. It is good to read all of the different testimonials and messages from the many different brothers and sisters throughout the country." - **J.L.**

"First I want to thank all of you guys out there for being so persistent when it comes to making sure that I get my monthly newsletter. You guys have managed to track me down wherever I have gone! The birthday cards from you guys are just so awesome. I can't tell you how good it has felt to have you guys in my life." - **J.L.**

"Julie, I hope you get this, whoever you may be. You really lifted my spirits when I seen you said, "Your sister in Christ." May many blessings come over you as well as everyone who has been involved in picking me up, praying for me and placing blessings over me. You've allowed me in and given me a family in Christ. You all over there are really amazing to me and I hope the whole church hears me loud and clear. Just for you'se to take the time out of your day and wish me a happy birthday really means the world to me. Not that you've had to, but you all have proven to me that our Lord works in the most miraculous and mysterious ways. It is just unbelievable how awesome the power of our Lord Jesus Christ IS!! For Him to have complete strangers write to me in prison just goes to show how awesome and amazing the power and love of our Lord is." - **M.S.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

In Search of a Church Home

As you can see by the envelope I'm writing you all from prison. One of my friends here, Art, helps with the church here and he gets newsletters from the *Overcomers for Christ*. Last Sunday when I went to church, I read the part on the back of one of your newsletters titled *All About You* by R.S. and liked it. Then when I seen the front I liked it even more. That caused me to ask him if the church itself had a church branch in Tucson. When I get out I want to continue going to church where I will feel at home, with people that will accept me riding a motorcycle to church fresh out of prison. I am giving up a lot of my old ways, but I don't think I can ever give up riding bikes.

I have pretty much lost everything and everyone that I had out there. None of my family will talk to me anymore, but I guess I did this to myself by coming right back to prison. I'm not whining, but my mom and sister live in California and won't write me. In fact, I don't even know if they know that I'm here again. Most of my other family dislikes me because I have been in trouble most of my life. I guess when I started doing good, it was already too late.

My first arrest was when I was 9 years old. I got married almost 14 years ago. I have four kids and I now also have some grandkids. My getting in trouble with the law slowed down some when I got married. My wife and kids made me want to change, but I didn't have God in my life then like I do now. My mom and my wife used to always tell me I was working on going back to prison or dying but I never listened to them. In hindsight I should have, look where I'm sitting today.

I used to take cars and then scrap them. One day this guy offered me a job and I took it, that was twelve years ago. I worked so much and so hard that I quit taking cars and ended up running the company for the owner. I guess he saw something in me that no one else seen. He trusted me with everything he had. He was heavy in to church and always tried to get me to go with him but I always thought I was too bad to go to church ... and what would my friends think. Funny thing is, now, I'm in prison with no friends EXCEPT the friends I go to church with. I feel bad that I let my boss down, he was like a father to me. He always treated me great and helped me whenever I needed anything. I finally had a good life with more than I needed. Then it all started to unwind ...

I started taking time off of work to take my wife on 3-5 day motorcycle rides everywhere. One day, I was at my house after work drinking a beer and had smoked a little pot while I was working on my motorcycle. When I turned around there was this guy, he had a gun in my face right in my own driveway and I lost it. That quick I went right back to my old ways. I ran inside to get my gun and by the time I got back he was gone. Then I started smoking Meth. I did this everyday so I could stay awake and find him after work. As that progressed, I started staying at work because my wife wanted me to stop what I was doing before I got myself killed or killed someone else.

Finally one day the cops saved me from myself. When they pulled me over they found my shotgun in my trunk box. When I went to court they seen that I was doing great before this incident and decided to put me on probation instead of six years in D.O.C. With this break I started doing good again. I was working, doing my probation the way they wanted me to and paying my fines. I was even back at home with my wife and kids. Right then my wife got real sick and ended up in the hospital, almost dying. I was there with her when my P.O. called and wanted to know why I wasn't at work. When I told him my wife was in the hospital and I was there with her he told me that I was violating my probation and he wanted me to come see him. I told him I wasn't leaving my wife! So he issued a warrant for my arrest. I later got picked up by the U.S. Marshals and went back to prison for nine months.

When I was released I went right back to work for my same old boss and fixing bikes on the side. Someone came to me with a wrecked bike to fix and I spent three weeks getting it done. That day I took it up to get gas and ride it a little when ... you guessed it, I was pulled over. The cops said the bike was stolen. I was only out of prison for five months and doing so well, I thought, and only 36 days of parole left. I was arrested for being in possession of a stolen motorcycle while on parole. This time when I went to court it didn't look so good for me. They brought up all of my priors and wanted to give me 8 1/2 - 16 1/2 years.

Once again my wife and family left me. I gave up everything including my freedom. At that moment I stopped fighting my case and gave my life to God and let Him take over. I was going to trial and was looking at twelve years flat. Then out of the blue they came at me with a plea agreement for 3 1/2 years! I signed! After that I really trust God with my life, and I only wished I had trusted Him sooner. Even though I have had a lot of hard times here in prison God has been right here with me.

When I do get out this time I don't know where I am going or what I will do but I know that God has a plan for me and He will let me know what it is when the time is right. It's true I have to start all over again, but this time I know I need to find a good church to go to and stay away from my old ways. I would love to learn everything I can about God. - **R.S.**

Dangers of Isolation

By Steve Arterburn

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2

You hear it from almost every corner ... American culture is becoming increasingly marked by loneliness and isolation. In one way it's understandable. There is a sense of safety and control in isolation and disconnection, but it's a false sense of safety. In fact, living lonely is anything but safe. It's a dangerous lifestyle because it allows a person to overlook real life, real people, and all the benefits and rewards that go with growing relationships.

And probably more important, our character has little chance to grow when we live life in isolation from others. It allows our thinking to go unchallenged, and allows damaging issues we may struggle with to grow and thrive in the fertile soil isolation provides.

If you're feeling isolated, do what an old commercial on television used to say, "Reach out and touch someone."

QuoteFalls

The object of QuoteFalls is to construct a quotation by selecting from available letters in the vertical columns. The letters in each column of the puzzle will go into the squares immediately below them, but not necessarily in the order they appear. A word broken at the end of a line will continue on the next line. A black square indicates the end of the word. When you have placed all the letters in their correct squares, you will be able to read a quotation across the grid from left to right.

QUOTEFALL 41

N	L	E	H	S	I	N	E	A	E	O	O	F	W
B	H	E	S	E	I	G	G	S	D	C	R	O	
T		T	R		H	H	T			U	S		

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More Puzzles at: <http://biblewordgames.com>

Solution: Blessings crown the head of the righteous. (Proverbs 10:6) NIV

Quote Worthy

"Believe and do what God says. The life-changing consequences will be limitless, and the results will be confidence and peace of mind."

- Franklin Graham - an American Christian evangelist and missionary

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

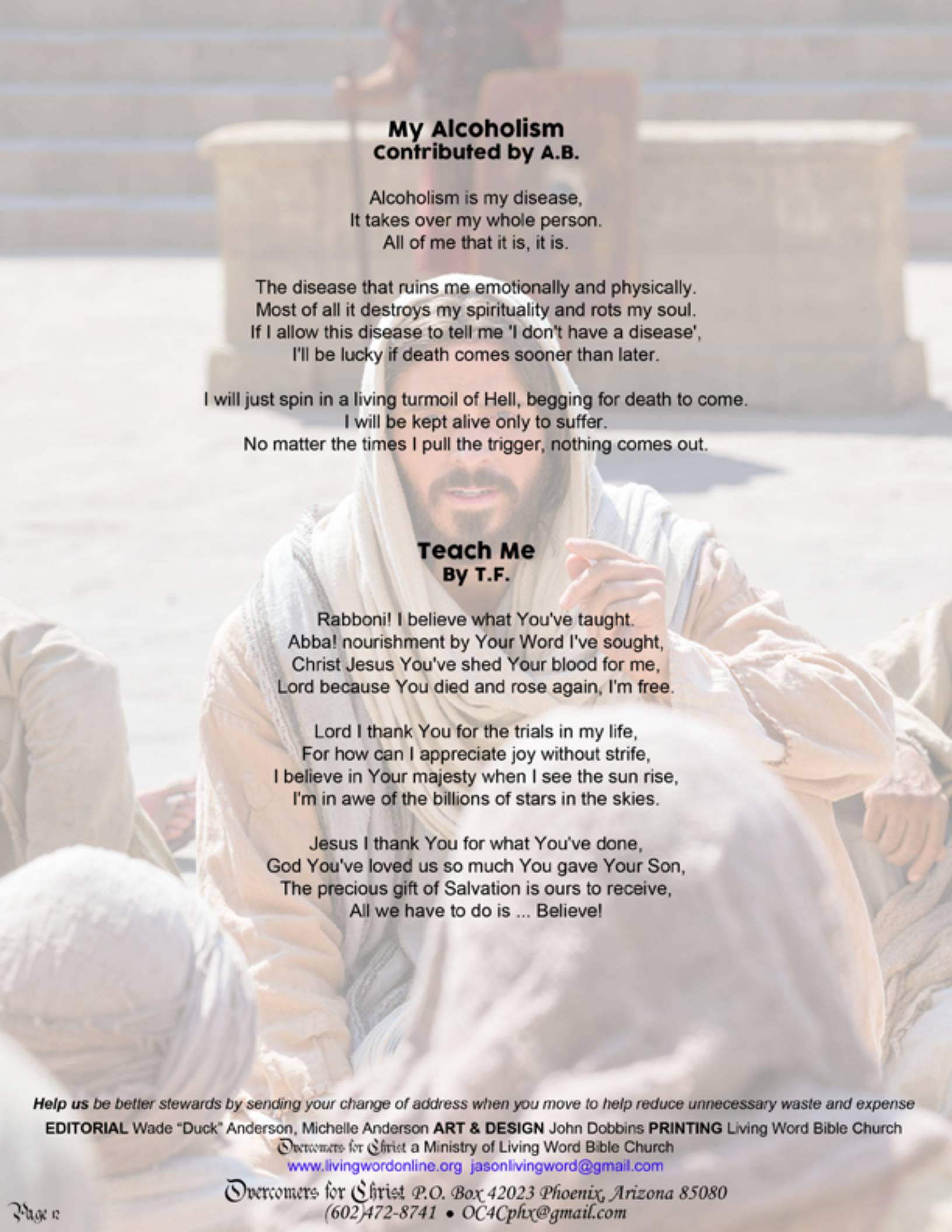
Here is how you can give to the Overcomers for Christ ministry:

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

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

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

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My Alcoholism Contributed by A.B.

Alcoholism is my disease,
It takes over my whole person.
All of me that it is, it is.

The disease that ruins me emotionally and physically.
Most of all it destroys my spirituality and rots my soul.
If I allow this disease to tell me 'I don't have a disease',
I'll be lucky if death comes sooner than later.

I will just spin in a living turmoil of Hell, begging for death to come.
I will be kept alive only to suffer.
No matter the times I pull the trigger, nothing comes out.

Teach Me By T.F.

Rabboni! I believe what You've taught.
Abba! nourishment by Your Word I've sought,
Christ Jesus You've shed Your blood for me,
Lord because You died and rose again, I'm free.

Lord I thank You for the trials in my life,
For how can I appreciate joy without strife,
I believe in Your majesty when I see the sun rise,
I'm in awe of the billions of stars in the skies.

Jesus I thank You for what You've done,
God You've loved us so much You gave Your Son,
The precious gift of Salvation is ours to receive,
All we have to do is ... Believe!

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

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