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Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

July 2016



Our Family Christmas 2016

By Wade Anderson

Hello everyone! Here we are, Christmas 2016 and another year has come and gone. To some time drags on where others, like myself, the days, weeks and years seem to get shorter and shorter. But the one thing I can assure us all is, each and every one of us has the same 24 hours in a single day as every other person alive. So that in its self should draw us ALL to be more aware of the urgency, to the best of our ability, to have as many of our minutes count for the glory of God.

Time is the one thing that once it's gone we never get it back. Similar to money we can waste, spend or invest our time. What do I mean? Think about this. When we've wasted our money or time we have nothing to show for what we 'had'. Most times, when we've 'spent' our money or time we at least have something to show for it. But when we 'invest' our money or time this process usually brings with it a greater return. So what am I saying? God showed me that if I would intentionally 'invest' some of the 24 hours that He has given me into people, He would guarantee me a greater return on that time. In other words, if we are willing to 'invest' however many of our own 24 hours sharing Jesus, encouraging and building others up He will return that 'investment' back to us in things that money can buy and things that money cannot buy! What we've actually done is we've given that person or those people a certain portion of our own life. And let me assure you, there is even a definite difference between 'spending' and 'investing' time with someone. Let me ask you all this. How much of your 24 hours are you willing to 'invest' into those there around you? How much has someone else already 'invested' in you? If God wishes that not even one should perish (**2 Peter 3:9**) and He has already 'invested' His best for you how much are you willing to 'invest' in to helping someone else secure their eternity in heaven??! Jesus tells us, in **John 15:13**, *"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."* I truly don't believe that Jesus is meaning to literally die. What I do believe He is saying is, "Lay aside your selfishness and self-centeredness, 'invest' of yourself and learn to help each other."

When God created each and every one of us He had three specific things in mind. The first thing was love. **John 3:16-17** (Message) shows us that, *"This is how much God loved the world: He gave His Son, His One and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need to be destroyed; by believing in Him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life."* As we read in **Romans 5:8**, *"... God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."* Knowing firsthand the lifestyle that we've lived against God, many of us may struggle with why God would give His only Son for the person we once were. Just like so many others at one point I wondered this myself. There is no way any of us can ever fully comprehend this level of love. But as we continue on this adventure with God, reading His Word and drawing closer to Him in our prayer life the more we begin to feel His love pour over us with a deeper revelation of love. Don't forget that God knows the beginning from the end and the potential He has placed inside of each of us. In other words, it's not so much how we started but more importantly how we finish.

And that leads me to the second and third things God created us for ... relationship and family. Back in 2007, when God gave me this vision for this newsletter I felt Him say to me, "You'll never be lonely again." At that time I never really understood what that truly meant. I already had a family that loved me. And quite frankly they were waiting for me to be more engaged with them than I had been. My family hadn't given up on me even though I was wearing them all very thin in many areas. I see today that their love for me then, in a sense, kind of held them in limbo with their own lives.

As this major change in my life was underway, about 7 to 9 months in, while holding Michelle's hands and praying one morning something came over me so intensely. As we stood there I gripped her hands even tighter and with tears rolling down my face I said, "I've never asked you to forgive me of the things I'd done or been a part of, until now." As she looked right in my eyes she said, "I never held it against you. I knew the day would come that our lives would turn completely around." I am not lying to anyone, at that point I broke down even more. Please believe me when I say that I am in no way comparing Michelle to God but it was through her unconditional love that began to open my eyes even wider to the greater level of love that God must also have for us all. Love is a great motivator!

In **Genesis Chapter 1:1-25**, God created the heavens and the earth, day and night, water and land, vegetation and every seed bearing plant, the moon and the stars, every fish in the ocean and bird in the sky, and every living creature and wild animal. God did all of this in a very specific order. Why? Because He was about to create His most precious of creations, man and woman. God created Adam for relationship with Himself. After Adam's creation God looked at him and said, *"It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."* (**Genesis 2:18**) After Adam had named all of the animals God seen that there was not a suitable helper for him so He caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, took one of Adam's ribs from his side and created woman. (**Genesis 2:19-22**) Why did I say all of this? To show that *"... God created man in His own image, in the image of Him He created him; male and female He created them."* (**Genesis 1:27**) NOTHING else that God created is more precious to Him than you and I. In fact after God created the woman, Eve, He never created anything else. God made us out of His love; for relationship ... to be His eternal family.

By **Genesis Chapter 3**, Adam and Eve had already been deceived. They were the only ones that walked in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day and heard God's voice and still they were tricked. The deceiver, satan, thought he had torn apart what God had made to be so special. That is when God said, **"And I will put enmity (hatred and hostility) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel."** (**Genesis 3:15**)

God had just set in motion a plan to bring us ALL back to Him. The woman's 'Offspring' would be Jesus! This verse pointed to the Cross, on the other side of the Cross. In the grave Jesus DID crush satan's head and DID triumph over him as He resurrected. In **Colossians 2:15** we read, **"In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory on the cross."** It is so important that we know the victory is NOW ours, **"And you have been made complete in Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority."** (**Colossians 2:10**) **"This is how much God loved the world: He gave His Son, His One and only Son. And this is why: so that no one be destroyed; by believing in Him, ANYONE can have a whole and lasting life."** (**John 3:16** Message) All of this has been God's master plan ... to restore us to His family!

Even though our first newsletter was printed and sent to 35 people, within the first 6 months the mailing list had grown to close to 75 people. That was when I began to realize just what God meant when He said, "You'll never be lonely again." What was happening? God was building His family through relationship. It was through the mail that kept pouring in day after day that I started to see what God meant. As God began placing each and every one of you in my new life it became easier and easier for me NOT to listen to the lies the devil had flooded me with for so many years. The more I listened to God's direction for my life and stayed focused on answering your letters the easier those old familiar places and faces seem to fade away. I was no longer feeling that false sense of loneliness that used to attack my emotions, causing me to gravitate back to that same ole vomit. What I'm saying here is this. Right before my eyes I was watching as God was powerfully moving from one heart to another! As God began to build this ministry we seen that He was more importantly building a family, His family, His body, the church. The whole vision/mission to send hope, love and encouragement became increasingly evident that these three things were exactly what so many of us had lost sight of and chased after for so long in our lives. As the mail continued to flood our desk here my own heart began to ache for so many of you as the letters revealed over and over again the loss of family in your lives. That's when I truly recognized that the **Overcomers for Christ** was growing into something much more than a newsletter. We were growing together in God's Word and He was raising us up as the **Overcomers for Christ** family!!

Being the December issue some of you may be wondering what all of this has to do with Christmas. Well, it's Christmas time that we celebrate the birth of Jesus. That's when God sent His Son into the world as the Christ child, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. All of this took place and fulfilled the prophecy in **Isaiah 7:14**, **"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."** - which means **"God with us."** (**Matthew 1:23**) It's all relevant.

Being transparent I'll close with this ... Through the years I've wondered where my walk with Jesus might have been if He hadn't brought us all together. All of us here feel this way so we do our best to keep it real and keep it Jesus! This is why we often say and believe, **"WE NEED EACH OTHER!!"** From your **Overcomers for Christ** family here ... We wish ALL of you a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS**, filled with the joy of the Lord!

"Foot" Notes

Love and blessings to all of you Overcomers. As another year comes to a close and our thoughts are strong for Jesus as the celebration of His birth is upon us I'd like to share with you all some very basic math regarding our thoughts and words. I recently read that dark is nothing more than the absence of light and that negative thoughts are nothing more than the absence of positive thoughts. Very basic math, que no? Now if you add to that the words "you reap what you sow" you all should easily come to the conclusion that if we think or say dark and negative things all we're going to get in return are dark and negative things. So by using this simple math, if we only think of light and say only positive things what we get in return is light and positivity. This in return allows for joy, peace, happiness and contentment in our lives. Peace on earth is only a possibility when we all have peace within ourselves. Know that, in life, the only things we really have complete control over is what we think and what we speak. May you all end this year with a spirit of gratitude for all that you have been blessed with this past year. Love to you all short and tall. Vaya Con Dios!

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

I'm here in California because when I was in New York my two sons, Jorge Jr. and Jose, moved to Texas and California. Jorge Jr. went to Texas with my sister and now has a family of five of his own. Jose was in the US Navy and when he got out he moved here. I missed my sons so much that I came out here to be with him. After 6 months, I was accused of a crime. My lawyers all sold me out and helped the D.A. win the case against me. My Appellant Attorney also sold me out and only submitted two sentencing issues in my direct appeal. And me, as I did my research for eight years found that the Judge committed judicial misconduct, the D.A. didn't just commit prosecutorial misconduct but committed the crime of subordination of perjury by inducing the witness to commit perjury on the stand. I have to file a writ of habeas corpus and prove all this, only I don't have the skills to put a writ of habeas corpus together. People want too much money to do that, and I can't afford it. I'm only hoping that you have everyone pray that whoever does one for me will do a good one and help me get a reversal and allow me to go back to New York to care for my elderly mother who lives alone. I want to make it home before she dies on me. So please, if you all pray as I do we can be in agreement and the Lord will hear our prayers. I have been saved since 1984 and I know the Word of God. I just have a bad memory problem due to a long time of drug use. But I have faith! I know God will work it out for me. God Bless in Yeshua's name ... **J.R.**

I'm getting this letter off to you as fast as I can write. I'm truly in need of some prayer support if you don't mind. I am a guy that needs the Lord to take over the problems I am facing in my life. First, that I remain with my thoughts, heart, mind, body and soul on God. Second, for God to take control of this pay problem at my work. Third, for me to find an address for me to parole to in 8 1/2 months. Fourth, for a better job in and out of prison. Fifth, to remain strong in the Spirit and be able to hear His voice through all of this madness going on in my life. Sixth, to always stand in the victory of Jesus and allow Him to be in control in all the areas of my life ... **C.H.**

I just really want to grow in my faith and allow God to change me into the person He wants me to be. I would like to have a prayer request that I'll be able to start school soon so I can do my reading test to be able to start college, and for my family to be safe, healthy, and to build a relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

God Bless you always ... **B.B.**

Praise Reports

Hope you all are doing great, physically, and spiritually. Thank God I'm blessed and standing firm in His Word. I recently gave my life to our Lord ... got baptized June 3, 2016. It's been a new walk for me! I'm 35 now, and mostly all my life I've been dedicated to a life of crime and all that follows behind. But since my baptism, I've become a whole new person! Something I never thought of doing ... especially in prison! I've been down on this new term for six years in December. I still got 18 years more to do. But before I gave my life to Christ, I was going through some hardships in my life with personal family issues, my brother was murdered in November of 2010, my incarceration in December 2010 which led to my sentence of 25 years, and last but not least, my lil' daughter was put in child protective services on three different occasions due to her mother being around negative activity. My daughter is six years old now. But I started to attend church here in February of 2015, and went three times a week, and I still attend three days a week. I prayed and prayed for all those issues in my life to mend and to bring peace, joy and no more worries. God started answering prayer after prayer!! Amen!!! God's done enough for me and is still working in my life. My daughter is now with my mother legally. I'm finally going to meet my daughter for the first time in six years. My mom is bringing her to visit. She was only ten months when I got locked up. So, I thank God for all He's done in my life. I can only repay Him by being obedient to Him!! God's good ... **S.L.**

As I read the cards you sent I feel so blessed to have such amazing people in my life, or should I say "a gift from God", that has never met me but through your words it seems like you have known me all of my life. Thank you!! I pray for the **Overcomers for Christ** and in case you don't know, you all bring God's Light into a place of darkness or as I call it "the devil's playground" and show God's love when I feel lost and it helps me to know I am found. When I feel like no one cares you write me and it shows me how truly blessed I am. All glory be to God above for what all of you do for this hurting soul and all the other lives you touch with His kindness and caring ... **C.H.**

I just recently accepted Jesus Christ into my heart and I do believe God sent His Son and that Jesus died on the Cross for our sins and was resurrected three days later. I've been Asatru since 2009 but I'm now a Christian and I thank God that He opened my eyes. I have about 3.5 years left out of a 6.5 year sentence. I ask you to pray for me as a newbie in faith and also for my mom, sister, brother and grandma. I haven't heard from them at all since 2013, and I just hope that they are in good health and strong in spirit. Thank you for what you are doing and I'll pray for you and ask that you keep me in your prayers ... **A.A.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

See yourself in the Bible
By G.B.B

The Apostle Paul, I think of him when I think of the miracle being performed in me. Saul, whose name was later changed to Paul, who was on a mission to hunt down Christians, was found by Christ. Paul, like myself, was full of arrogance and misguided, but God saw something else, something greater in Paul, and in me likewise. I do not consider myself to be as great a godly man as the Apostle Paul following his miraculous conversion. I mean, wow, Paul was chosen to write over two-thirds of the New Testament of God's Holy Word. God told Ananias that Paul, when he was still Saul and misguided that he was a chosen vessel. What a wonderful and miraculous thing! That God could see and deal with and bring a man such as that to a place of redemption and purpose. And not just an ordinary purpose but a purpose for the Living God! One thing I can relate to when I compare myself to the Apostle Paul is when Paul referred to himself as being the chief of sinners, for I know how truly awfully sinful that I and my sins once were. When I think about it I am amazed at how God could see anything of value in me, let alone forgive me of such sinful and horrible transgressions, but God did. As the Apostle Paul once was, I too am in prison. The difference is that I am here for a crime that I committed and for laws that I broke while I was still in sin and unsaved. I have been locked up since June of 2006. The remarkable thing is that just as God did with Saul, the Apostle Paul, God too has done more with my life and used me more in prison than what I ever could have been purposed for, before being broken and humbled.

Does God want anyone to go through such unfortunate events? No! God has a perfect will for each of us. Unfortunately, many of us don't willingly seek after God's perfect will for our lives. So God, in His great mercy comes along in the midst of the mess we have made of our life and turns it into something good for His glory, because He is so very good, merciful and perfectly patient. I must honestly say that I do not like my current situation, being imprisoned at all! I also must say that I in no way blame God for my imprisonment, for I know that I am imprisoned because of sin and my choices. But instead, I praise God! Not because of my unpleasant circumstances but because through them God has helped bring me to Himself. How wonderful and merciful is God, that He would pursue a sinful man like me! That is truly perfect patience and love, at the lowest point in my life, when I was broken into pieces and my whole life was shattered, God gently reached down with love and picked me up. Praise God for His wonderful goodness! God's love is so amazing and beyond comprehension! Since January of 2007, the Living God has been using me to tell others of His goodness.

Not only is Jesus the Author of my faith but He is also the Author of everything. So even in the worst of situations, sitting in a 7x12 prison cell, possibly facing a day in the future when my day may come, God is still perfectly capable of performing a daily purpose with what is left of me and my life. Personally, just as the Apostle Paul spent his remaining earth days in prison, I too may very well do the same, though not as great a man of God as the Apostle Paul. I am still certain and convinced of this one thing, that God through His infinite wisdom has truly performed a miracle concerning me, and His purpose for me, though I allowed sin to cast me and my life down, God loved me enough though I was completely destroyed! God, through Jesus Christ my Savior redeemed my eternal soul and saved me from eternal death and hell. This is God's miracle in me. Just read the Word. Amen!!

His Love Blows Me Away

By C.H.

It amazes me that Jesus loves us so much and knows our every need at the perfect timing, it blows me away. To know I was a sinner and that He still loves me more than I'll ever know or understand; it blows me away. I am so grateful that He allows us to repent and that He has fully forgiven us, and He loves His children more than our earthly parents.

I am so honored to be covered in the blood of Jesus and made clean and as white as snow and to know in my heart and soul that He lives, He loves us, and He went to the Cross to save us blows me away. How could someone deny Him or not have love for Him? Jesus put His life on that Cross for all of us that's the greatest love this world will ever see.

You are in all my thoughts and prayers and you made my heart sing and cry tears of joy. I am truly blessed to have all of you as my new family in Christ Jesus. I love you all.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Finishing Well
By J.R.

I hope you are all doing well. I enjoyed reading that wonderful card you sent. It added some joy to my life that day. God never lets a righteous man fall without lifting him up. We have all been given purposes and assignments in life. The best thing is to finish well. To leave a legacy that reflects the glory and power of God. I believe my life will be about finishing well. Restoration is what God is all about. We all have time; God has lots of it. Sometimes we find the most glorious aspects of the God-life in the darkest moments of life, when we are in the valley there is nowhere to look for help but from above. I never try to make a man trust me I only show him I'm trustworthy. A good name is better than gold.

We must be more conscious and mindful of our anxiety and anger, because our feelings come from thinking. Worry destroys faith as we become focused on our fears instead of God's plan and the possibilities He offers for our lives. One of the best ways to evaluate the condition of your mind is to keep a journal of the negative and fearful things that enter your mind during the day. Just write words or phrases that reflect any thoughts or feelings that naturally come to your mind. Writing these things down gets them out of your head and onto paper where you can evaluate them. You will probably be amazed at how many times your mind drifts in the direction of fear, anger, lust, pride, jealousy and self-condemnation.

The Lord Jesus Christ knows what is best for us, and He has good intentions for us. His thoughts about us are in the light of eternity and not just our limited perspective. I would willingly suffer a lifetime to spend eternity with the Lord. The Bible is full of examples of people who suffered for their faith, and suffering tends to purify our faith and motives for everything. Suffering helps us to simplify life and focus on what is really important. It unclutters our soul. Hardships truly do shape our character. A man stands or falls on character. Suffering makes us bitter or better. There is nothing quite like the gravity of anointing and wisdom that comes from a man who has suffered much and chosen to be better, instead of worse.

No person can control your response to your situation. It is an awesome thing to learn to be content, no matter the circumstances and to learn to find something to be grateful for in every situation. We, as Christians must love one another in the Lord and have compassion for those who are lost. I'm not saying it is easy, but it is necessary to live a life like Christ. The more we practice it the better we get. My hope is for all believers to be steadfast in the Lord and to live a life of fruitfulness. We must value and reproduce our gifts in other people, and learn to be flexible. Because there is always someone who can show you a better way to do what you do. I want to be able to choose to do things in a way that makes people feel valued.

As I pray and focus on my mind I ask God to renew it. All our battles and sin begin in the mind. If you can win the battle of the mind, you can win all your battles. The mind is the difference between victory and defeat. Stay in the Word!!!

The Great Commission

By R.H.

Blessings to you all at *Overcomers for Christ!* Robert has shared your newsletters with me as they come in. What a blessing it has been for me and others, to see what the Lord has done and is doing here at this complex. Despite what people might think about inmates of prison, there are a huge number of believers, both those whom have returned to their faith and new believers.

"The Great Commission" is that we take the word of love, hope and Salvation into all the nations. There is a great move of the (Ruach Ha-Kodesh), The Holy Spirit of Yahweh, God the Father moving in these times. On this yard alone, there are many, many, many believers. I myself am a Messianic Jew (tribe of Yissachar). I have been a believer in Yeshua (Jesus) for over 20 years, if not more. As I have studied Scripture most of my life, it does not take a brain surgeon to see that the Scriptures all point to and proclaim that Jesus is our Messiah.

1 Chronicles 22:1-26:11

God can use our sins for good purposes if we are sorry for them and seek His forgiveness. When we confess our sins, the way is opened for God to bring good from a bad situation. (22:1)

No matter what place of service you have in the church, you are important to the healthy functioning of the congregation. (23:28-32)

As we read we find that there were many ways to contribute to the worship in the tabernacle. Some proclaimed God's messages (25:1), some offered thanks in praise (25:3), and others played instruments (25:6-7). The same holds true in our churches of today, God wants all His people to participate in worship. You may not be a master musician, a prophet, or a teacher, but God appreciates whatever you have to offer. Develop your special gifts to offer in service to God (Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:29-31). (25:1-7)

Romans 3:9-4:12

After all this bad news about our sinfulness and God's condemnation, Paul gives the wonderful news. There is a way to be declared not guilty - by trusting Jesus Christ to take away our sins. Trusting means putting our confidence in Christ to forgive our sins, to make us right with God, and to empower us to live the way He taught us. God's solution is available to all of us regardless of our background or past behavior. (3:21-29)

This verse means that if a person could earn right standing with God by being good, the granting of that gift wouldn't be a free act. It would be an obligation. Our self-reliance is futile, all we can do is cast ourselves on God's mercy and grace. (4:4)

Ceremonies and rituals serve as reminders of our faith as well as instruct new or young believers. But we should not think that they give us any special merit before God. They are outward signs and seals that demonstrate inner belief and trust. The focus of our faith should be on Christ and His saving work, not on our own actions. (4:10-12)

Psalms 11:1-13:6

Faith in God keeps us from losing hope and helps us resist fear. David's advisers were afraid because they saw only frightening circumstances and crumbling foundations. David was comforted and optimistic because he knew God was greater than anything his enemies could bring against him. (11:1-4)

We may believe that lies are relatively harmless, or even useful at times. But God does not overlook lies, flattery, deception or boasting. Each of these sins originates from a bad attitude that is eventually expressed in our speech. The tongue can be our greatest enemy because, though small, it can do great damage. (James 3:5-6) Be careful how you use yours. (12:2-4)

Sometimes all we need to do is talk over a problem with a friend to help put it in perspective. In this Psalm, the phrase "how long" occurs four times in the first two verses, indicating the depth of David's distress. David expressed his feelings to God and found strength. By the end of his prayer, he was able to express hope and trust in God. Through prayer, we can express our feelings and talk our problems out with God. He helps us regain the right perspective, and gives us peace (Habakkuk 3:17-19). (13:1)

Proverbs 19:13-16

Continual dripping speaks of constant dissension within a family. A prudent wife is a woman who demonstrates wisdom or skill. Finding the right spouse is a blessing from God. (19:13-14)

The commandments we are told to obey are those found in God's Word, such as the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and other passages of instruction. To obey what God teaches in the Bible is self-persevering. To disobey is self-destructive.

Praise the Coming King

By Jack P.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned ... for to us a child is born, to us a Son is given ... and behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shown around them ... the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" (Isaiah/Luke)

Greetings and blessings to all of my **Overcomers for Christ** family! Top of the morning to you laddies! It's another day of God's abundant grace, so let us rejoice in His loving kindness and be made glad by His tender mercies. As richly blessed sons and daughters of the glorious and generous God, let us also be thankful in ALL things, for this is His will for us in Christ Jesus. Praise the Risen Lord!

I pray that the entire family of the **Overcomers for Christ** are well, as healthy in body and soul as I am strong in spirit and faith. I'm a greatly favored son of the gracious and patient Father, and it's my eternal privilege to now be His ambassador on earth (such a 'stranger' in this world; an illegal 'alien' in modern day America). As a man of God and a servant of Christ, it is also my daily responsibility to walk faithfully this path of light the Lord has prepared specifically for me. Thus I can fulfill His purpose and bear much fruit for His pleasure. And it is ONLY by the grace of God that an unworthy servant can joyfully declare, "I'm still alive and well, I remain nothing short of spectacular! YAHOO!!"

Merry Christmas to the entire **Overcomers for Christ** family, both inside and out!

I was especially blessed to receive your card and letter last night. And I want to thank you and the entire crew there at **OC** for thinking of me on this Holy day. Christmas has always been the happiest holiday and most joyous time of the year for me, even in the joint. And even existing in this 'land of the shadow of death', most folks are more generous in spirit; and with it a desire to give 'something'. Of course, now that the 'Light of Christ' has dawned, I celebrate the 'Birth of Jesus', and perceive the fullest picture of Almighty God the world has ever known ... as do you, along with ALL the true children of God!!

We know He came to this earth and lived among us, and by His divine life the heart of our loving Father was revealed! True believers also understand that Jesus had a 'purpose' in life from the moment that beautiful baby appeared in Bethlehem, He was on a 'mission' for the Father. Yes, He came to teach us the truth of God, and how to live as spiritual people, that we could have a full, intimate relationship with our Creator. But most importantly, the Son of God's true destiny was to secure eternal salvation for ANY sinner willing to place their faith in, and believe on Him. This victory over sin and death would cost Christ His life in other words, Jesus was born to die! Praise the Lord! Jesus said, in **John 8:12**, *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* So, Jesus is also telling you and me, His true followers, "You are now the light, I'm sending you into the world." Both statements are correct when we act as lanterns for Christ and allow His light to flow through us. Then, 'people walking in darkness' and stumbling in the despair of sin can look at us and see a glimmer of hope.

I know I can say these things to you and you take no glory in any of it; instead you see it as it is, hopeful encouragement. Brother, from within you glows the truth of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, and His message of Salvation through forgiveness of sins. The love of our Father shines brightest among the true men and women of God willingly and gratefully that serve the kingdom of Christ for the glory of our Creator in heaven! Your righteous words and deeds are noticed because they're so different from this selfish lifestyle that's typical of the world - the Narcissism so common in the American culture. There are a multitude who see your light shine forth and want Jesus Christ, the Living God, for themselves.

Reflecting the light of Christ is our primary God given job, and so we must fulfill this eternal obligation each day by 'Seeking' the Lord with ALL we are, our whole hearts. 'Submitting' our old selves, consistently and persistently to His power and authority over us. 'Serving' the Lord and fulfilling the Father's purpose - His perfect plan for each of His grateful sons and daughters! This is the greatest honor we will ever have in this life, and there's always someone in our sphere of influence who will need the lantern we have inside of us to shine and guide them towards the true Light of the world ... ALL for the Glory and the Honor of Almighty God! Praise the Lord!

I understand all too well the concept of being overwhelmed with 'things' to do. When I find myself 'too busy' with 'things' on my plate, I stop and reread the story of Mary and Martha. It was only after Jesus had raised their brother Lazarus from the dead that Martha finally understood the awesome power of Christ. There is nothing we can do to honor Him sufficiently, yet He gladly receives all things done for Him with a heart of gratitude. Mary's heart of devotion placed her at the feet of Jesus, humbling herself before the Almighty God, while cherishing the words of our Lord. To the living God be ALL Praise and Glory! Praise the Coming King!

By the time this message is revealed to the rest of the **Overcomers for Christ** family in the Christmas issue of the newsletter, I will probably have already been able to visit you in person! Why? Because I was accepted by the 'Church on the Street' at the Dream Center in Phoenix. They are the only spiritual half-way house that would accept me. It is the will of God! And as always I bow in

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grateful surrender and simply avow, "Not my way, ABBA, Your will be done." I go to the board here in the next few days and God willing, I'll be approved. I feel as though I have done everything here that He has asked me to do. Is there any other way for a true man or woman of God to respond! YAHOO! I think not!

I hear there has been a slight change or two that's taken place these past 30 years. Ha! Ha! But I'm sure there are still motorcycles to ride and wide open roads to ride them on. My plan is to 'Ride for Christ' when I'm off of parole next year. I'm going to travel those roads and bring the 'Light of Christ' to other outlaws and critters. Of course, the Lord may have another 'path of light', and I've learned to embrace His grace and enjoy His 'Plan A'.

What Others Are Saying...

"I found one of your newsletters in the day-room and enjoyed what I was reading. So I thought I would write you and hope you can give me some spiritual advice on how to endure the years I have in prison. I'm doing a 15 to life term and have been down six years. This is my first time in prison - **C.S.**

"Thank you for the best birthday card I ever received in my life. What a blessing from the Overcomers for Christ. I pray that the Lord blesses you all with all your needs and requests because I was truly feeling down and then the most amazing people on the planet, blessed me with something I will hold close to my heart for the rest of my life ... "my birthday card". It amazes me how a piece of paper can hold that amount of blessings on it and the love I have for this special card you sent me still has tears of joy running down my face every time I read it. And I read it a lot." - **C.H.**

"I wanted to take a moment to thank you and let you know that I appreciate that you all sent me B-Day wishes! It brought joy to my heart when I got mail. I really enjoy your newsletters; you all are doing an outstanding job. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments through The Most High! I pray peace is granted to you all at D&C." - **J.W.**

"I want to thank all of you for the love and care that you guys and gals show through your letters and cards. I also want to thank you for taking the time to write and send me a card while you were on your way to Hawaii. I get mail maybe 2-3 times a year from my blood family. So when I do receive a letter or card from D&C it shows me that I really do have people who care about me. Knowing that I'm cared for by the D&C makes me want to praise God all the more. In this last card that I got from you, you mentioned something I'd written to you in my last letter to you. That alone showed me that I am NOT just on a mailing list but that the D&C actually cares and is interested in what I say. It IS a blessing I never thought could come my way." - **J.Y.**

"I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me an amazing card. It brought a lot of smiles, and I am at a loss for words to describe the amount of gratitude I have for my new family, because it is you believers in Christ who bring me hope, where sometimes I just can't see any. I thank you and appreciate your time. You all are a big blessing to me and my new family as well. God bless you guys from the bottom of my heart. Adding me to your mailing list is a blessing also. I love reading your newsletters, good job!! Thank you also for letting me know I can write you guys whenever. That's something I'm gonna do more of. At this time in my life, I wanna say I never reached out to any other believers in Christ. I always just figured that as an inmate, who would really want to take the time to do something nice for them, you know? Seeing your newsletters opened a new door in my life, so that's what pushed me to reach out to you all. Therefore, that resource list you sent to me, I passed it on to other brothers in here that were really hungry for some godly material. That also was a huge blessing to receive, thank you!!" - **R.V.**

"I came across one of your magazines/newsletters and I really loved reading all the testimonies of all those brothers and sisters. I would love to be put on your mailing list. May God bless you all and I send my firmest and humblest salutes and embraces. Love you guys in Christ." - **S.L.**

"I just finished reading September's newsletter - wow!! It is like every month, it goes to a higher level. I'm in awe of what I learn about Christ in action through the letters and testimonies. This newsletter is such a wonderful blessing even for us 'free' people." - **L.A.**

"I have been so blessed to have you all in my life, not to mention the wonderful editorials you send every month. To have brothers and sisters take time from your godly life and spend it sharing this path we all have taken sharing and inspiring others to take in the 'walk of the Lord' has me joyous regularly." - **G.C.**

"Dear Overcomers for Christ, I've read several of your newsletters from two neighbors here and they really touched my heart. I loved the article by J.H. *Fight the Good Fight* from February. I'd like to ask to be added to your mailing list. I thank you for your uplifting ministry. Real people who have God's love and light living inside them is too rare in this day and age. God is love and He shines through your ministry and the brothers and sisters touched by your ministry. God bless you all." - **D.R.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

Here's My Little Story, It's Short

By A.A.

Greetings brothers and sisters of the *Overcomers for Christ!* First I wish to tell you a little story, it is short.

For about six months, I've been picking up copies of your newsletter off of the table that our microwave sits on. The newsletter is very well put together and spiritually grown. Even though I would read them I don't always react to all literature I see just laying around in here. I'd been praying on it and about it. Mind you I've never seen anyone of color in any of your newsletters UNTIL your January 2016 issue. So this time I said, "Okay, here's a black face, so it's obviously not only for whites. They are Christians and not a biker club or something like that." So, continuing to pray about it I felt a nudging to write this letter.

I write to a lot of churches and Christian organizations most of which never write me back. But I don't get upset I merely pray for them and keep doing me. You know, 'If it doesn't kill you it will only make you stronger, right?' I do all of the Bible studies I can and write whoever will listen. I'm only out to learn all that I can of our Lord. I have brothers from Rescued Not Arrested Ministry I've written to for over three years and they have truly been heaven send to me!

Please don't be offended by this next statement but it is also a big part of doing time. But, being who I am or the color of skin I was born into and people don't look at you the same, Christian or not, I love me and mine and mine be other believers in Christ Jesus. The Word teaches me to love even those who hate me, AMEN?! In order for me to stay right with God I must do what He commands me and not follow man's lead right?

Now back to your newsletter ... It is filled with Scriptures, prayers and poems and has always uplifted me on some of my most gray days. So this has led me to write you this letter to let you know of the job your newsletter is doing for the greater good. I usually don't write much as I get tongue tied and I don't get out my true meaning. I am a 50 year old black man with not much education but I've gotten better through writing letters to my mentor.

I have spent 30 plus years inside prison walls and gates. I know a lot about the prison life, but when it comes to living outside and free in the streets, I'm at a loss. I've written to a few transitional living residences and I would like to ask that you all join me in prayer, that one of them would write me back and it would be the right fit.

Another thing that hit me about these issues of your newsletter was, I enjoyed how it looks as if you all are one big happy family sitting around the table reading and answering letters! Thank you to all those at the *Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ.*

Quote Worthy

"God calls us to be committed to Him, to be committed to making a difference, and to be committed to reconciliation."

- Bill Hybels - founding and senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois, one of the most attended churches in North America with an average attendance of nearly 24,000. He is the founder of the Willow Creek Association and creator of the Global Leadership Summit. He is also an author of a number of Christian books, especially on the subject of Christian leadership.

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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The inspiration for this painting came from an event that happened years ago.

On a December morning in 1998, we were heading to a meeting in downtown Phoenix. Since it was a Saturday, the streets were empty, but when the two of us carrying our infant son turned a corner, we came face to face with an extremely dirty, homeless man. He looked at us with wide but lonely eyes and then gazed at our newborn, wrapped snugly in his clean quilt. The man's eyes begged for more than money. They ached for hope, so we pulled back the quilt to expose the perfect face of our sleeping child. The man reached out his hand, then hesitated, but we nodded approval. He gently touched the flawless cheek of our son. He looked back to us after only a moment, and with tears on his cheeks, mumbled, "God bless you," then grabbed his shopping cart and walked on. It was in that moment Christmas finally became real. It was more than lights, packages, and songs; it was the brokenness of mankind answered with the offered hope of a newborn child.

Christ was born to impart His perfection to our impurity, sinful man with a hopeless end embraced by a sinless Savior with endless hope. If you haven't felt His embrace yet, we pray you do today - By Charles Robson

Original artwork by Charles Robson (back cover and front cover) 2012

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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