



**THERE IS  
NO GREATER  
LOVE THAN TO  
LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE  
FOR ONE'S FRIENDS.**  
JOHN 15:13

THEY HAVE GIVEN THEIR  
SONS TO THE MILITARY  
SERVICES. THEY HAVE  
STOKED THE FURNACES  
AND HURRIED THE  
FACTORY WHEELS. THEY  
HAVE MADE THE PLANES  
AND WELDED THE TANKS,  
RIVETED THE SHIPS AND  
ROLLED THE SHELLS.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

PEARL HARBOR  
DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE  
WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...  
NO MATTER HOW LONG IT  
MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME  
THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,  
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN  
THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,  
WILL WIN THROUGH  
TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



## Veterans' Day Message By Wade Anderson

Michelle and I pray, after 9 years with you all, as our 'family', you know that we love taking you along with us wherever we travel. We visited Washington, DC back in March. From the very thought and planning, we did it with full intentions, everyday, to honor ALL of the Veterans of War through this newsletter. Even though all of you are invited to come along, this time is quite a bit different.

I personally had my grandfather, my father, numerous uncles, three brothers, multiple cousins and many, many friends that have stood to the call of duty, to proudly serve the United States of America both in wartime and in peacetime. To those of you in our family of **Overcomers** that are Veterans, we salute you and honor you not only on this particular day, but every day and we thank you for your service to this wonderful United States of America.

This was the very first time I had ever been to Washington, DC. It was one of the most educational and emotional places I have ever been. Every place we turned there were historical buildings and landmarks that the very foundation of our country was built on and around. While we were there for those few days, we visited so many wonderful and beautiful places that are still standing today because of the many men and women that have, and continue to, literally lay down their lives that we ALL might live a life of freedom here in the U.S.A. This is why we've all heard it said, 'Freedom is NOT free by any means'. The overwhelming emotions that I personally felt while standing at most of these Memorial sights literally moved me to tears many times. Having read and studied about many of these landmarks early on in school it was almost surreal. All of what I'd ever read paled in comparison now, while standing in and walking through many of these monuments and memorials. If you have the opportunity, it is absolutely a must experience place!

Growing up in a small town back East, I still remember observing Veterans' Day and Memorial Day where the whole town/community gathered together and even celebrated with parades. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, the two days are often confused. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered, Veterans' Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans' Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

The first observance of Memorial Day was May 28, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. These ceremonies were centered around the mourning - draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of General Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After World War I, the holiday was extended to all soldiers who had fallen in all American wars. Every year at Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Army Military District of Washington conducts a presidential Armed Forces full-honor wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown soldiers. Each year a group of men and women known as the American Legion Riders come from across the nation to ride in the ceremony to honor the entombed remains of 2,111 Confederate and Union soldiers. This year there were around 150 of these motorcycle riders present in the ceremony.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Veterans' Day has its origins in the early 20th Century. On June 28, 1919, WWI had officially ended with the Treaty of Versailles, in France. However, the fighting continued for an additional seven months and finally ended with an armistice, or a peace agreement, between the Allied Nations and Germany, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. In November 1919, one year after the armistice ending World War I went into effect. On this day President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day and spoke these following words: *"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the counsels of the nations ..."* This date was intended to dedicate a day to remind nations to always seek peaceful relationships between one another, in hopes that we would never be divided again. Unfortunately, from the number of casualties listed two paragraphs below, we all can see that "PEACE" has not been the case. **Psalm 133:1** says, **"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"**

In 1938, Congress approved a bill that made November 11th an annual legal holiday known as 'Armistice Day' that would honor the cause of peace, it was primarily used to honor World War I veterans. By 1954, our country had survived two more major wars, WWII and the Korean War. America had pulled together and brought great effort during World War II (1941-1945) and saw the greatest mobilization of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force in the nation's history (more than 16 million people); and additional 5.7 million more served in the Korean War (1950-1953). Then in 1954, after World War II, the law was amended and the word *Armistice* was changed to *Veterans'* to honor veterans of all American wars.

Again, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Department of Defense they've recorded these astonishing numbers of American soldiers that gave up their lives while fighting in major conflicts. These numbers reflect both served and those that gave their lives in wartime periods.

- American Revolution War - 4,435 gave their lives
- Civil War - 3.3 million served and 498,332 gave their lives
- Spanish American War - 306,760 served and 2,246 gave their lives
- World War I - 4.7 million served and 116,516 gave their lives
- World War II - 16.1 million served and 405,399 gave their lives
- Korean War - 5.7 million served and 54,246 gave their lives
- Vietnam War - 8.7 million served and 90,220 gave their lives
- Persian Gulf War - 5.6 million served and 13,104 gave their lives
- Iraq War and Afghanistan War (Post 9/11) - 6.0 million served and 14,501 gave their lives

After being there in DC these numbers help me understand why I felt so many emotions there. It's easy to see that our FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!! **John 15:13** says, *"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

In this issue we have included photos of many of the war memorials in DC and Pearl Harbor. We have also included many photos of the national monuments in DC. We live in a magnificent nation and let's stand together to honor the men and women who have served and are serving our country.

According to a 2014 study by the Pew Research Center, 70.6% of the American population identified themselves as Christians. These people who identify themselves as Christians are part of God's Army. Let's stand together and fight the good fight of faith. Let's change our nation through prayer, and being a light in your sphere of influence.

### **Thankfulness In Spite Of** by Steve Arterburn

***"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God." - Psalm 42:11***

Consider this short summary of the life of one man who knew the importance of a thankful heart:

When he was nine, his mother died. Though he loved books, he received little formal education. His sister died in childbirth. At age twenty-four he found himself deep in debt when a store he invested in failed. When he was twenty-five the woman he loved caught fever and died causing him to sink into deep depression.

Three years later he proposed to another woman and she turned him down. At thirty-four he lost the nomination for U.S. Congress. Only one of his four sons lived to adulthood: one died just short of age 4, one at age 11, one at 18. Who was this man? Abraham Lincoln. And in 1863 he asked Congress to establish the annual celebration of Thanksgiving.

In spite of his failings, his sorrow, his depression, his disappointments, he chose to express gratitude to God and lead a nation to do the same.

What's your "In spite of . . . ?" It doesn't matter what it is: hurt, pain, sorrow, depression, loss, disappointments, or anything else. You can choose to have a thankful spirit.

### **Brain Teasers**

1. What disappears the moment you say its name?
2. In a lake, there is a patch of lily pads. Every day, the patch doubles in size. If it takes 48 days for the patch to cover the entire lake, how long would it take for the patch to cover half the lake?
3. A farmer in Australia grows a beautiful pear tree, which he harvests to supply fruit to all the nearby grocery stores. One of the store owners has called the farmer to see how much fruit is available that he can buy. Unfortunately the farmer isn't currently near the tree, so he has to work it out in his head. He knows that the main trunk of the tree has 24 branches. That each branch has 12 boughs and that each bough has only got 6 twigs. Each one of these twigs bears one piece of fruit, so how many plums will he be able to sell to the store owner?

Answers: 1) Silence 2) The patch doubles in size every day and so on the 47th day the patch will be half the size it is on the 48th day 3) None! He doesn't own a PLUM tree ... he owns a PEAR tree

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 have a quick prayer request. My mother, Debra, has to go in for a liver biopsy soon ... would you all join us in praying for her complete healing and a completely healthy liver? If her liver is healthy then no further procedures need to be done.

Let's stand in agreement that her liver be healthy and the pain in her legs and neck to be gone as well so she no longer needs pain meds. Also, please pray that my children, Kain, Korbyn and Kiyana and the rest of my family are healthy and safe ... **J.W.**

I was so excited to get the card you sent. It is an awesome card and it brought me so much enjoyment and hope of a better life once I'm released. I really appreciate the love and kindness you have shown me. I don't get that much especially in here. I want to ask the whole **OC&S** family to pray for me because I got a letter from my sister wanting to know why I've all of a sudden decided to give my life to the Lord and she said she doesn't know why I would change who I was. My sister is still on drugs and she loves the person I used to be and wants me thinking bad thoughts and it opened me up to temptation and unbelief and doubt. I'm trying my best not to idolize who I used to be but I got satan beating me down every minute. So please pray that I can overcome these negative unhealthy thoughts. I'm trying to live by **Proverbs 3:5-7, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil."** I want to thank you all for the encouraging words. Please keep me in your prayers. You are all in my prayers every day ... **J.Y.**

I'm writing to you with a disappointed heart, Let me explain.

In February of this year, I submitted a clemency packet asking for relief of five years after serving ten years flat. As you can imagine, I was denied recently. It was like a gut punch as my mother and many family and friends were praying and believed that God would intercede and cause a decision of 'approved'. I am concerned about my mom as this was devastating news to her. I am her only living son and immediate family. I'm feeling that I didn't believe that God would do a miracle on my behalf. I see Him doing things for others all the time but not for me. I know this is not correct thinking but I'm tormented by not being worthy enough and not understanding God's plan for my life. I would embrace words of wisdom/encouragement as well as prayer for my mom, her name is Kay, and for me and this situation ... **R.W.**

### Praise Reports

Thank you for taking the time to wish me a happy birthday, that means the world to me. I was feeling a bit down about being in this place for my birthday, but the **Overcomers** for **Christ** put an unmovable smile on my face and joy and love in my heart. So, I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I do feel like all of you are such a blessing from the Lord above and to know all of you care is an answer to my prayers. To know that the Lord placed all of you in my path when I felt so alone just amazes me, and shows me how great the love of our Father in heaven is for all of His children here on earth ... **C.H.**

I was recently moved to a lockdown facility, so I'll be finishing out my term here. It has been a blessing. There are a couple of Christian brothers in close proximity and we were able to fellowship the other day during our rec period. It was refreshing for all of us as we spoke of the inner peace and joy that our Lord and Savior provides us with. All the glory be to God for the much needed recharge during these trying times ... **R.Q.**

I just wanted to say hello and thank you for the encouraging card you sent me the other day, and it was around my birthday too. So, that was a blessing as well. **"But He gives more grace."** - **James 4:6** Praise God for His awesome grace. I do pray for y'all and your families and the **Overcomers** for **Christ** ministry. May His provision be manifested to you, for His glory. Sharing the love and truth of Christ by the power of His might. May God's hedge of protection be with y'all as well. Praise God for His provision for the church. Again thank you for the encouragement in Christ, for your faithfulness in the ministry. I've just got another year to go only by God's mercy. Each day at a time by His strength. Praise God for His true agape love ... **D.C.**

Hello there ... I want to give God glory through this praise report/testimony. I used to be an ex gang member. Now, I'm a re-nonuser who is serving God. In June of 2015 I surrendered to God. I finally realized that my ways won't work and NEVER WILL!! Praise God! Honestly I did stray away for awhile until I finally got rescued from a vicious drug addiction lifestyle I was living. On that day in June 2015 when I had handcuffs placed on me I thank God because He wanted me to come back home. Yes I was that one lost sheep that Jesus Christ brought out of the darkness. One thing that I never had done in my whole life as a gangster was to look back. But on this day I did and when I did I seen that my Lord Jesus Christ was there with open arms telling me, "Come here" and I did. I now serve the Lord whole heartedly. Praise God! Today I'm here, in prison serving a 10 1/2 year sentence, leading Bible studies 7 days a week. Now I'm on a mission field looking for other lost sheep to rescue and lead back to God ... **T.D.**

# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

Do Not Judge, or You Too Will Be Judged

By W.N.

Yes, praise Jesus, it was awesome and a real blessing to hear from you. Once I received the March newsletter I knew I'd be hearing from you soon. You know, your words were touching and good for my heart and soul. I have always felt a tight bond with you and Michelle. However, I did allow the "evil one" to put a wedge between us. That is what he does when he sees the Lord's people coming together as one, as the body of Christ and he works to tear it apart.

The devil is at work in the church, the more of us that come together, the stronger we get, and the stronger we get as a church, the stronger the Lord is, which makes the devil weak. I ain't telling you anything you don't already know. I just write what is in my heart and on my mind. My point is that I will not allow the devil to put that wedge between us again. I do feel that you are my brother, you and Michelle are family. I have always known that when I came over a couple times to help you do some work at your house, I did not do it for a fish dinner, I could get that at the Red Lobster at the Metro Center, I did it out of love for ya. The fish and fries were just a tasty bonus. God bless Michelle, that girl can cook.

Okay, so I got your letter and in your uplifting and encouraging words you asked me to read **Genesis 50: 20-21**. It was cool because about an hour before I got your letter I was in **Genesis** reading about Abraham and his bond servant Hagar and their son, Ishmael. I was there studying because I read in some book, many years back that Ishmael became the father of Islam. I now see that Isaac is the father of Jacob, who is the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. My point is, I was already in **Genesis** when your letter asked me to go there. I did gain some wisdom and knowledge from what I was reading about Jacob, Esau and what you asked me to read. So, thank you.

I've been finding it hard to forgive the two guys, who called the shot to have my head stomped into a concrete floor, causing the brain hemorrhage that almost killed me. I already forgave the youngsters that did it. I was young in here and did some bad things to people because I used to think I needed to prove myself. But after reading what you asked me to read, I was given some enlightenment. If Joseph could forgive his brothers for selling him into slavery, how could I not forgive these cats? So, tonight before I rest my head, I am going to pray for them and forgive them, and after I do, I'll meditate on it. Not only will it be good for them, but it will bring me some peace.

I am going through some crazy times due to this issue. However, it has been an eye opening experience (in a good way). So, not only should I forgive, I should thank them. Being in this situation has brought me closer to the Lord, so I am happy and content. I have had a lot of time to think in this isolation cell, and I realize everything I've ever judged people for, and all the bad things I've done to people are happening to me. I was never a heroin addict. I tried it the first time in 2004, from then until 2008 I had only done it three times, maybe four. It just was not my thing.

When I got out in 2010 my best friend's sister-in-law was 17 years old and a full blown heroin addict. Instead of trying to help her, I judged her "nasty lil heroin addict". I was living in a half-way house that the parole office forced me into. I had to do an AA or NA meeting every night. Every Wednesday night they had a meeting for people addicted to heroin. I would go, just to get my meeting paper signed for the half-way house. There was a 20-year-old girl who would come every Wednesday and tell her story, about how at the age of 15 she was hooked on pills and by 17 she was on heroin. By 18 her boyfriend was pimping her out to get high. I would judge her "dirty t..."

Less than a year later in 2011, I ended up addicted to pills. Then heroin made me feel good, or at peace about my mother's death. I ended up back in prison. The first 9 ½ I did, I wanted to be the prison "king". I ran my mission, even life-flighted a guy out of Buckeye in 2003. In 2015, I got life-flighted out of Buckeye. I was always programmed and taught to hate the guys on the P.C. yards, so I judged them all, now I might end up here too. I am content with whatever, so it is what it is.

I spent my adult life as Asatru, which is the prayer religion of Northern Europe. I was always taught that Christianity was weak. But in 2011, after many months of enlightenment and insight from my girlfriend and Overcomers for Christ, I gave my life to Christ. I spent 9 ½ years in here looking down my nose and downing Christians. Yet, I come back to prison in 2012 as a Christian. Wouldn't ya know it, there was a newsletter from O4C and a picture of me sitting on Santa's lap at my girl's house. Santa was Wade, it was taken in December of 2010, right after I got out on bond. I had my shirt off and you could see the Thor's Hammer on my chest, plain as day.

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# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

Some dude, not meaning any harm started showing that picture to everyone. You know I got downed for being a weak Christian. I just let it go, cuz I'm still the same warrior I've always been, except now I'm a warrior for Christ. There is so much more, but I'm trying not to be a bore, so I'll keep it short. What keeps popping up in my head is, as I'm locked in this cell is what Jesus said in **Matthew 7:1-2** says, *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

Let me tell you brother, that is the pure truth, because everything I've judged people for or any bad I've done to people is coming back on me. And it has opened my eyes and my heart. If you see some stuff in here worth printing, some stuff that could help people, feel free to put any of this in your newsletter. I love you guys and God bless you. Your brother in Christ and in life.

### All Things Will Be Made New By M.G.

As we think about making changes in our life, we may find ourselves dwelling on the defects in our character. Removing our defects may seem to be an overwhelming task, despite the fact that God has promised to do the work. Perhaps if we could just catch a glimpse of life beyond recovery, our hope would be revived. There is hope for all of us, no matter how terrible our past, or the problems we face today. All things will be made new.

If you are not happy with your job it is because you're working for the people. You need to work for God, so that you can enjoy the job. Now as you ask God for this job and you get it, well, you're working for Him. Otherwise you'll never be happy.

God tells you, "Come to me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being transformed by the renewing of your mind. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye, because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you in everlasting love. I also know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My presence." Read **Romans 12:2** and **Jeremiah 29:11**.

Relax in the presence of God, spend more time with Him, leave your problems to God, and you will be just fine.

### Nurture Your Relationship with God ... This Relationship is Vital By J.W.

I am taking the time to really dig and allow the Holy Spirit to guide me through the Word. I am learning so much. It was amazing for me to learn that you really only have to work on the relationship with Him, then everything else just seems to fit into place. He will put others in your path that you can help or that will assist you, if needed.

We have eternity set in our hearts and have learned to love with actions and truth by giving and guiding; not just words. I am so very thankful that He has put me in this situation. I would not have taken the time to get so close if distracted by the outside world. Sometimes it takes to be stripped of all to realize, "Wow, I really need to look into this more." Then you learn of His truths and promises and ask for understanding and knowledge.

Soon He gives you the wisdom needed to discern all matters that you are being led through. I was truly amazed! You start to long for His Presence, it feels great. I just want to spread His love like a fire and use His Word to inspire. You will never know that God is all you need until God is all you have. Thank You Jesus! I now realize that it is God who gives out the assignments and the rewards, not us. It is time to find and know eternal values!!!

## 1 Chronicles 16:37-21:30

David prayed by humbling himself (17:16-18), praising God (17:19-20), recognizing God's blessings (17:21-22), and accepting God's decisions, promises, and commands. (17:23-24) Sometimes we are quick to make requests to God and tell Him our troubles, but these other dimensions of prayer can deepen our spiritual life. Take time to praise God, to count His blessings, and to affirm your commitment to do what He has already said to do. (17:16-27)

Just as David acknowledged God's role in his success, so should we. Don't take credit for the work God does. (18:13)

Hanun misread David's intentions. He was overly suspicious and brought disaster upon himself. Because of past experiences, it is easy to be overly suspicious of others, questioning every move and second guessing their motives. While we should be cautious and wise as we deal with others, we should not assume their every action is ill-intended. (19:2-3)

The Bible text says satan caused David to take a census. Can satan force people to do wrong? So, satan only tempted David with the idea, but David decided to act on the temptation. Ever since the Garden of Eden, satan has been tempting people to sin. David's census was not against God's law, but his reason for the census was wrong - pride in his mighty army. He forgot that his real strength came from God. Even Joab, not known for his high moral ideals, recognized the census as a sin. From David's example, we learn that an action that may not be wrong in itself can be sinful if it is motivated by greed, arrogance, or selfishness. Often our motives, not the action itself, contain the sin. We must constantly weigh our motives before we act. (21:1)

## Romans 2:1-3:8

As Christians we must ask God to point out our sins, so that He can heal them. Unfortunately, we are more likely to be amazed at God's patience with others than humbled at His patience with us. (2:4)

People are condemned not only for what they don't know but for what they do with what they do know. (2:12-15)

It is much easier to tell others how to behave than to behave properly ourselves. It is easier to say the right words than to allow them to take root in our own life. Do you ever advise others to do something you are unwilling to do yourself? Make sure that your actions match your words. (2:21-27)

## Psalms 10:16-18

"The Lord is King," these words suggest there is truly only one king and it is in Him we must trust and let anyone who trust in any others be swept away. (10:16)

## Proverbs 19:8-12

Is it good to love yourself? Yes, when your soul is at stake! This Proverb does not condone the self-centered person, who loves and protects his or her selfish interests and will do anything to serve them. Instead, it encourages those who really care about themselves to seek wisdom. (19:8)

The descriptions of a lion's roar and dew on the grass are especially fitting when a monarch has all power. His rage may be violent and unpredictable, his pleasure gracious and restorative. A good king will display rage and spread favor for the right reasons. (19:12)

## “Foot” Notes

Hey ya'll, well it's that time of year where we all want to load up on turkey and pumpkin pie then loosen the belt and be miserable for our behavior. That being said I thought I'd offer ya'll a small glimpse at the words ... thank, thankful, etc. My first glimpse is in **Psalm 7:17, "I will thank the Lord because He is just."** You all know life in the world can be really unfair on many different levels. Yet all we have to do is reach out to God and He will always treat us fair and just, which gives us reason to "thank" Him for His presence in our lives. Another glimpse is **Psalm 95:2, "Let us come before Him with thanksgiving."** Makes you wonder how could we ever think of going before our Lord without a thankful heart. For He does so much for us, more than we could ever realize I'm sure. So this Thanksgiving I do believe I'll be thanking God for caring about all of us Overcomers who stick to our faith through sometimes monumental trials.

Love to ya'll short and tall. Vaya on Dios, don't ride faster than your angels can fly.



## Pumpkin Pie 'n' Praise

By Jeenie Gordon

"Gimme some more of those mashed potatoes 'n heap on the gravy," I begged as a skinny kid. I then loaded up on turkey and dressing - mounds of it. Topping it off with pumpkin pie and lots of whipped cream (to kill the taste of the pumpkin), I went through another Thanksgiving dinner. But, as a kid, I gained not an ounce.

Well, those days are long gone! As an adult, I've gone through too many Thanksgivings where I actually laid on the floor - groaning. Stomach overload.

It finally dawned on me that it's supposed to be a day of Thanksgiving, rather than stuffing - that's for the turkey.

Hans Selye was an Eastern European physician, who discovered the correlation between our physical bodies and stress. "One of the greatest stress relievers," he reasoned, "is to have a grateful heart." Interesting, God recorded that theory several thousand years earlier. **"In everything give thanks." (2 Thessalonians 5:18)**

A few years back I received a wonderful idea to help my journey toward being grateful. I say the ABCs and list one attribute of God in praise. Here's an example, "I thank You, Father, because You are ...

- A. Awesome
- B. a God of Bounty
- C. Care for me
- D. my Defender
- E. Eternal
- F. my Friend

I continue through the alphabet and end the praise with, "You are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End." A grateful heart begins to emerge - one of thanksgiving and one in which food is secondary.

Think on these things, **"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute." - Philippians 4:8**

It was our first Thanksgiving alone. My former husband had left the marriage for someone else, and our extended family was out of town. I was feeling sorry for myself. Big time!

Fixing a yummy Thanksgiving dinner, my daughter and I invited students from the nearby Christian University, even pulled one young man from the dorms to fill our table. None of us knew each other. Sitting down rather stiffly amid the china and crystal, at a table laden with food, the blessing was offered.

"Now," I suggested, "we're going to tell stories of thankfulness." Here's how it goes - start out the story by saying, "I'm so thankful I never got caught the time I ..." As tales of childhood antics emerged, raucous laughter filled the room. We were soon well acquainted and the afternoon was filled with fun.

"Okay, who's hungry?" I asked later in the evening. Putting the turkey and dressing on the stove top, I urged, "Dig in and pick this sucker clean." They needed no second invitation. Laughing, they used the digits on the end of their hands.

We learned that every student guest was an M.K. (missionary kid) - continents away from family.

Overeating took a back seat that year - a thankful heart took over.



### Quote Worthy

**"Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."**

**- Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)**

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# Overcomer's Testimonies

I want to thank you for your ministry. I was just introduced to you via your newsletter, and found it to be very refreshing and uplifting. I would like to be added to your mailing list.

I used to attend Living Word, in fact I still consider it my home church. Unfortunately, I allowed satan to have a foothold in my life, which ruined my family, my happiness, and most importantly my walk with Christ. And, as satan is the author of destruction, I eventually followed him down the path to my incarceration.

Thank God, however, that my Lord turns all that satan intends for evil to my good through Christ Jesus my Lord. I have been forgiven and cleansed of my sins, and the Holy Spirit is at work in me to lead me into the man He wants me to be. Praise God!

I am still working my case, but God has given me peace about it. I know that He has it all in control. Now I spend my time in the Word, and as part of the praise team on the yard. I thank God He is using me, and know He is preparing me for a ministry to go against satan's hold on men and women through addictions, especially sexual addictions. My heart breaks as I look around this facility and see all the lives caught in satan's snare. Most are still seeking after the flesh in spite of the circumstances.

God bless you all and keep up the good work. - **R.A.**

## What Others Are Saying...

"Thank you to my ~~OC~~ family. I received your birthday letter and it was very much appreciated. It feels good to know that I'm in all of your hearts. Also I want to thank you for the newsletters. I've been receiving them for about four years. I love them and always pass them on to the other sisters here. You all are amazing in glorifying our wonderful Father." - **N.L.**

"Hi ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ family! Just a short note to say hello and let you know how much I appreciate and enjoy your newsletters. God is good, NO, God is GREAT!" - **J.W.**

"It was nice to hear from you, I appreciate what you all do. I loved the reminder that I am NOT alone because it feels that way at times. I'm going through some struggles and it's nice to know there are people out there who care. I'd lost touch with God for awhile there so thank you for reminding me of the miracles He still produces in people's lives today. I don't even know who you all are, yet you bring me inspiration. And one more thing. Thank you for signing and sending a birthday card. That was unexpected and I loved it. I hope one day that I can put faces to these letters." - **A.A.**

"Thank you for the birthday wishes. It was a shock to see it signed by so many, it shows me that the 'family' is growing! I can see and feel the love that is waiting out there for me in my ~~OC~~ family. It's funny, nothing from my kids BUT my 'family' in Christ didn't forget me! My children are believers too, and I DO thank God for that. I will love them no matter what." - **S.F.**

"Hi family, I'm so glad to of heard about you all and the Living Word Bible Church. I can't wait to get home some day and meet each and every one of you. I'm thankful for your prayers, letters and more. I thank God for a church like yours and each every one of you and what you do for the family of God. In fact mom is still planning on checking out your church soon." - **S.F.**

## Ministry Tithes & Offerings

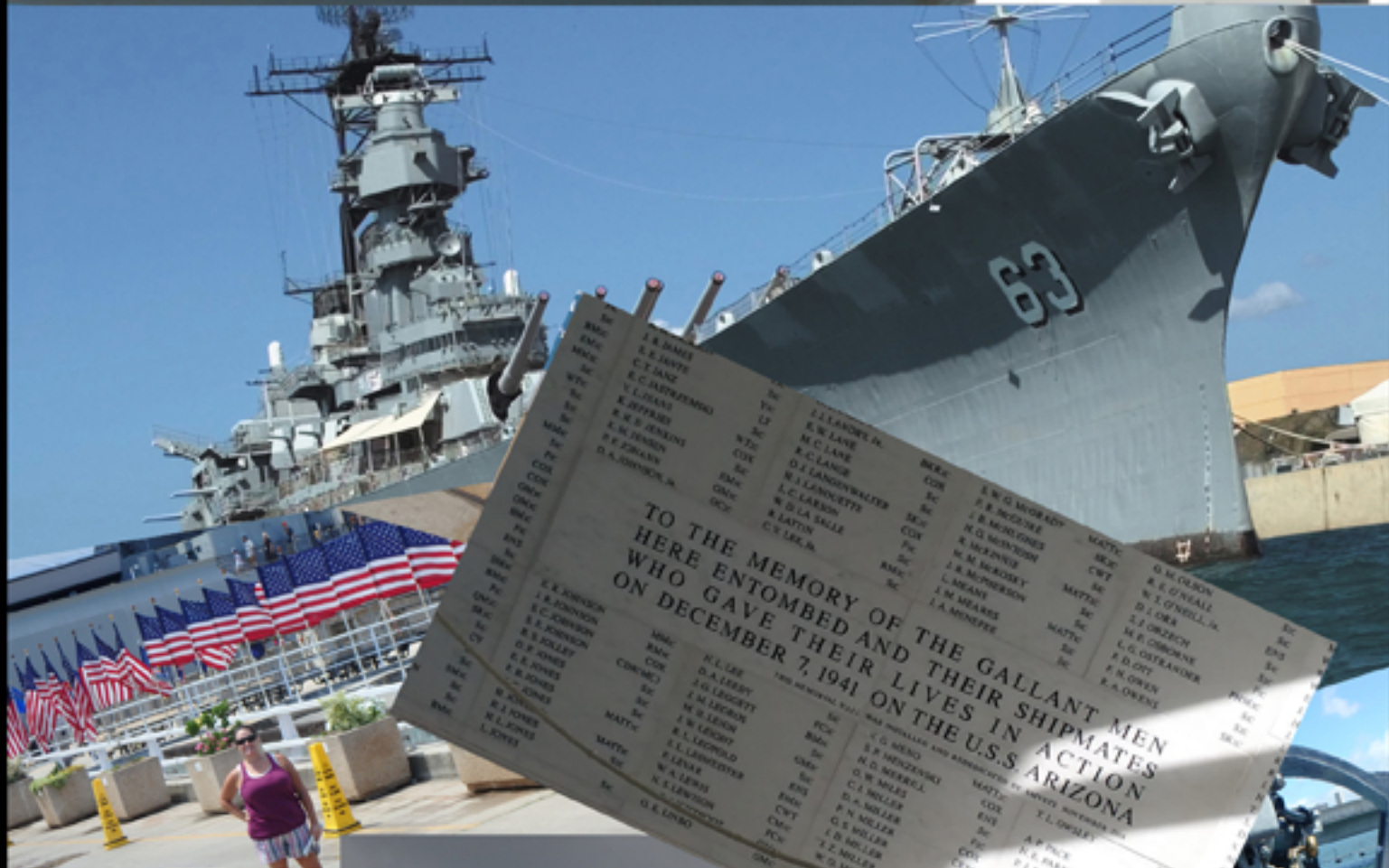
It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, and mail this newsletter. None of this would be possible without the faithful support of many people who believe in this ministry. The vision of this ministry is to offer hope, love, and encouragement to those who are incarcerated. You are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



Pearl Harbor Memorial

## **Thanksgiving** By V.H.

**Oh God, when I have food  
Help me to remember the hungry.**

**When I have work,  
Help me to remember the jobless.  
When I have a warm home,  
Help me to remember the homeless.**

**When I am without pain,  
Help me to remember those who suffer.**

**And remembering,  
Help me to destroy my complacency and boost my com-  
passion.  
Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed,  
Those who cry out for what we take for granted.**

## **Alone On a Mountain** By H.T. Lyons

**Alone on a mountain with no one in sight,  
How did I get here, I've been here all night,  
I look to the land, not a soul could I see,  
I looked up to God and asked, "How can this be?"**

**The answer was swift, and to my surprise,  
A voice in my head said, "I am your Guide."  
My hands on my heart, I knelt down to pray,  
Forgive me my Father, for my sins You have paid.**

*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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