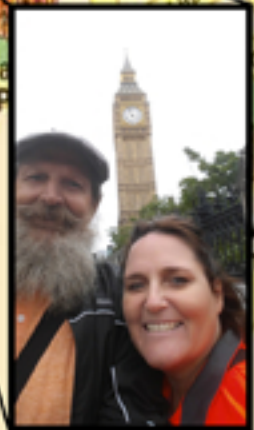
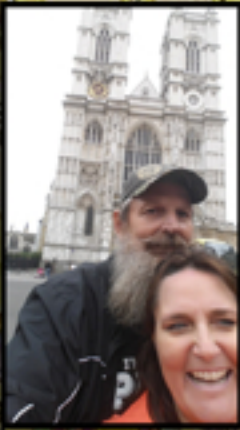


Overcomers for Christ

November 2015



LONDON

OUR TRIP TO IRELAND

VISITOR CENTRE



Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602) 472-8747 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

Take a Trip with Us By Wade and Michelle Anderson

In this issue, Wade and I are sharing pictures from our trip this past September where we went to London and Ireland. This was a very special trip for Wade and I. Even though we have traveled to a few places here in America, this would be our first vacation out of the country together. We had begun to plan this trip so far in advance that we didn't even realize, until later, that this trip would also double as a 21 year wedding anniversary trip for us. Yes, we have been married 21 years!!! For the first 13 years of our marriage, we lived very worldly lives. These last 8 years we have been serving the Lord and I'll be the first to tell you, "He has blessed us more than we could have ever imagined, and in every area of our lives!"

As a child, I travelled a lot, some of the most memorable trips were to Washington D.C., Disney World, Hawaii, and New Zealand. My dad worked for an airline company and he had flight benefits, so we could go anywhere almost anytime we wanted. As a young adult, I also went on some great cruises: one with my grandma to Aruba, Venezuela, Grenada, and Puerto Rico; another with my dad, stepmom and daughter to the Bahamas; and another with my mom, daughter, and niece to Jamaica, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel. I love travelling. A year or so ago, I thought to myself ... my life is so great ... Wade and I have a great, loving life together; we have great relationships and great times with our kids and grand kids; we both have achieved great success in our lives and I have achieved great successes in my education and my career; and we do not have financial worries. I thought ... the one thing that I am missing in our life's is travel, and it is something that I loved doing when I was young. Then God showed me that He would fulfill this desire of my heart as well. At first, I thought it is too extravagant to take a 10-day vacation and we should probably use that money on home improvements or something more sensible. But I realized that sometimes you need to seize the opportunity to do something special like this and just do it!

I want you all to know, and not in a prideful way, that Wade loves to take all of you along with us nearly everywhere we travel. As many of you know he likes to share our experiences with all of you through his letters, cards and in the newsletters. You all bring such joy to our lives and we want to share these pictures and experiences with you as well. We pray that sharing our experiences and these beautiful pictures with all of you will bring hope and encouragement into your lives even while you are incarcerated.

I have said all of this to really say ... **GOD IS AWESOME!** All of the great things in life are because of Him. As Wade and I, or any of us for that matter, focus on Him, He **LOVES** to give us the desires of our hearts. It is never too late to change your ways and place your focus on God!

Several years ago, Pastor Scot Anderson from Living Word Bible Church did a teaching titled *My Miracles*. In part of his teaching he gave us paint stir sticks and said to write on it, the things that you want to accomplish. On the stir stick was printed **2 Corinthians 1:20, "All God's promises are Yes and Amen!"** I wrote five things on that stir stick ... new car, new kitchen, concrete finishing, vacation and passing the CPA exam. I also wrote on the stir stick, "I know I can have all things and do all things through Christ. God wants to bless me, I need to believe in that blessing." Recently, I found the stir stick in my Bible case and four of the five things have come to fruition. You have to on purpose decide what you want to accomplish and then determine how you can reach that goal, and stay focused on God's provision and blessing, and tithe. Then there are steps that you have to take to reach that goal. Just like when Wade and I decided to go on this vacation, we started planning and saving money. It took less than one year to reach this goal.

Hello everyone, it's me, Captain Duck here, I'll be your 'captain'/narrator for most of this trip so, **BUCKLE UP!** We're about to take off on an 11 hour flight! We will be flying at a speed of over 600 MPH and at an altitude of over 38,000 feet ... our first stop ... **London, England!** Are you all ready? Let's go!

At first, we looked at having a travel agent book the trip for us. But, we soon learned that it really wasn't any cheaper so, Michelle took the reins and did all of the mapping and planning herself. For the next 8 months or so, she was always on the computer showing me this place and that place. All through the evenings she would show me pictures of castles and special places of interest saying, "You would love to see this. You would love to go here! Wouldn't you love to spend the night here? I'm sure you would love the food here." The simplest and my all time best answer, after 22 years, to all of that is, "Yes dear." Me, I'm more of a fly by the seat of my pants guy. Not to say that I don't like to have somewhat of a plan but I'm okay with finding a place to sleep wherever we end up at the end of that day. **NOT Michelle!** She's more secure **KNOWING** as much as she can, about it all. I didn't just suggest that Michelle has some control issues, did I? Anyways, we had many, many historical sites mapped out and planned for us to see each day while we were in London. In spite of the long flight, the huge 8 hour time difference and knowing we were only going to be in London for three days we also knew we had to hit the ground running in order to see all that we had planned. And that we did. Here are a few of our stops and some of the historical information about them.

Early our first day there, which was a Sunday, we walked these amazing pathways through **Hyde Park**, an enormous park

full of families and dogs just enjoying the sun-shiny day. These pathways seemed to be endless and coming from every direction and they eventually led us past a lake that was right in front of **Kensington Palace**. Kensington Palace has a queen's entrance and a king's entrance. The king's grand entrance had a stair case which was 16 to 20 feet wide and close to 40 to 50 feet high, with floors and walls made of beautiful hardwood. The queen's entrance had a really wide carpeted staircase and the steps were half the rise as normal steps, this was so the women could take small graceful steps, this helped maneuvering their large ball gowns. Kensington Palace has been a residence of the British Royal Family since the 17th century. Part of this palace is the museum while the other serves as the home of Prince William and Kate while they are in London. Since this was the first palace we toured it seemed large but we later realized it was nowhere near the size of some of these other palaces. Walking through all of these palaces we had to keep reminding ourselves that these were all palaces that royalty once lived and still roamed the halls of. As you continue to read on you'll eventually realize our general consensus was, "We were always amazed that we were now standing in front of or inside of some of the very places that we had either heard about, seen on TV or read about throughout our lives. WOW!"

Michelle had already purchased a two day pass which allowed us to hop on and off a double-decker open top tour bus. From up there I filled our phones, camera and iPad full of pictures. As we traveled throughout the city that morning we eventually crossed the **River Thames** on the **Tower Bridge** and jumped off the bus to tour the **Tower of London**. Tower of London is actually a historic castle located on the north bank of the River Thames in central London. It was founded towards the end of 1066 as part of the Norman Conquest of England. The castle was used as a prison from 1100 until 1952, although that was not its primary purpose. As a grand palace early in its history, it served as a royal residence. As a whole, the Tower is a complex of several buildings set within two concentric rings of defensive walls and a moat. The moat no longer has water in it, at this time, but we were told the queen has said, "What is a castle without a water moat?" The Tower has served variously as an armory, a treasury, a menagerie, the home of the Royal Mint, a public records office, and the home of the Crown Jewels of England. Our tour guide through the Tower of London was what is referred to as a 'Beefeater'. These men, even though they are retired from the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth, are far from retired. These men are like the elite and chosen because of their service to the country. They are ceremonial guardians of the Tower of London, body guards and safeguards of the **Crown Jewels**. They are so informative and as they spoke they did it with such pride, authority and understanding that it kept us in awe and seemed to bring every step to life. Michelle and I caught ourselves many times just stopping in our tracks as we looked around trying to take it all in. Over and over we would say, "This was their whole world! Everything they did or had was inside these walls. What a small world. There is NO WAY we'll ever be able to comprehend the life and style they lived, for safety reasons." It is also one of the country's most popular tourist attractions. By the way, the Crown Jewels are not always available for display, due to the simple fact that royalty will use them for ceremonial functions. But guess what? God blessed us again! We were able to see them! NO PICTURES were allowed but if you could see them you would understand why these guards carry machine guns with bayonets on the end of the barrel!

After this amazing tour of the Tower of London, we boarded a ferry for ride up the Thames River. The ferry ride, full of historical facts and sites lasted between 30 and 40 minutes. On our way up the river the tour guide pointed out the 'new' **London Bridge**. He told us that there have been several different London Bridges erected in that same spot. He also mentioned that Arizona had purchased one of the many London Bridges from them and that it now actually stood in Lake Havasu, Arizona. I'm not sure why we didn't hoot and holler when he said that, but we didn't. The reason they sold the bridge to America is because the bridge was sinking in the Thames. The ferry ride/tour dropped us off right next to The House of Parliament. Throughout the day we had heard that the weather was suppose to change by the next morning and start raining. Having the London Eye as one of our 'must see' places we decided, in spite of how tired we already were maybe we should get one more site in before we caught the bus back to the hotel for the evening. **The London Eye** is a giant Ferris wheel that sits on the South Bank of the Thames River. You get inside of a large glass capsule that's approximately 12' deep by 10' across and 8' tall. The capsule itself actually rotates as the Ferris wheel also slowly rotates and in doing so it gives you a 360 degree view for miles and miles. In this process, we were lifted to 442 feet 10 inches in the air. One complete revolution takes over 30 minutes. It was absolutely stunning as we watched the sun begin to set from that capsule! We were now OVER all these spectacular places in London we had just seen while we were at ground level! BEAUTIFUL!

The next day we toured all through **Westminster Abbey**. From the outside you can't even imagine how HUGE this place is inside. It's mainly Gothic abbey church full of tombs that still has services and choirs there. It is one of the most notable religious buildings in the United Kingdom and has been the traditional place of coronation and burial site for English, and later, British monarchs. Maybe you remember the Beatles singing about Westminster Abbey and the Tower Big Ben? Well, come to find out, and the locals made sure we knew, the tower they were singing about is not actually named that. Its true name is the **Elizabeth Tower** and it sits at the edge of the River Thames, and on the corner of the House of Parliament buildings. Big Ben is not a clock it is the bell that rings in the top of Elizabeth Tower. Our next stop was the **Churchill War Rooms**. This is the actual place that Winston Churchill and many others rallied the nation together against Hitler in the

... continued on page 9

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

Prayer Requests

This is a prayer request for my boy, Miguel Sandoval, for our Lord to place His holy hands upon him with His blessings as he entered adulthood from childhood. May our Lord guide and keep him on the right path in life. May our Lord open his eyes and make him understand that he needs Him more now than ever before. As I was there for him many times, I need him there for me. To click and open his eyes, life is a two way path, not just a one way path. To understand that prison is a very lonely place to be and we need love from someone as we are in prison. Also, that our Lord open his eyes before it's too late, and to understand that I won't be around very long.

My time is coming up soon. Also, I ask our Lord that no matter what, I will always love my boy and to let my boy know this ... **A.S.**

I have a couple of prayer requests. First I ask you all to pray with me for my appeal. Pray also that my kids mother and I can become friends again and my kids are able to get up here regularly to visit me. I continue to pray that God blesses me with the motivation to read, study, seek and attend church here because I know it's His Comforter that draws me to church. I also pray all is going strong for the **Overcomers for Christ** ministry, and the money is coming in so you can continue to reach out to us. It's priceless! ... **J.H.**

I would like a request, if you all could come in prayer and ask God to loosen up my ex-wife's heart for her to let my son come and visit me or at least write me. It's been seven years, I have been praying to God constantly. If you could pray for this, I would greatly appreciate it ... **J.S.**

To my brothers and sisters at **Overcomers for Christ** ... my oldest sister Juanita, she got out of the hospital and the doctor said that she has a cancer tumor, and on top of that she has cirrhosis of the liver. So, she has cirrhosis of the liver and a tumor on her liver and I am asking for prayer for her please. Thank you ... God bless you all and take care of each other ... **E.G.**

I want you guys to keep praying for me, I have 11 months to go. Please pray for all the women in Perryville. I want to be prayed over for God to continue to guide and strengthen me and give me favor for words of encouragement to others ... **R.E.**

I would like to do a prayer request. I want to pray for Sonja and Noelle and both of their families and that they are doing good. I want to pray that my best friend, Christina, is doing good and that we will see each other again, but I really want to pray for Sonja that she keeps her head up and remembers that she is loved. I pray that everyone is doing good at **Overcomers for Christ**. I am keeping you and everyone in my prayers ... **K.H.**

Praise Reports

Sorry, I haven't been writing you guys to let you know my steps with the Lord. I kind of had fallen off just for a brief moment. But I had to repent and follow the path of my Savior. I'm still reading every day and staying in prayer. I have like over 60 Scriptures memorized and it feels so good to have God in my life. He keeps me going. When I'm down, I pick up the Bible and He talks to me through the Scriptures. Like tonight, I just read the **Book of Job** and wow it talks to you if you carefully listen to what He is trying to tell you. As much as I was a sinner, He always seems to forgive me. Well, let me share a testimony of what has happened this month. Well, I'm still in the hole until hopefully December, then to a yard. So, I had spoken to my mother a few weeks ago and she mentioned that she had a heart attack because something was wrong with her heart, and she was scheduled to have surgery in August, and I got terrified and impatient. I couldn't stand it, I felt that things were getting worse in my life and this kind of surgery that she was going to have was the same one that her sister had a few years back, and she passed away. So, I prayed constantly and Praise God, Who is mighty that when I called last, she said that she wasn't going to have surgery after all, everything was okay with her heart. Glory to God, I got on my knees and thanked Him. God does answer prayers only on His time, just got to have faith in our Lord Jesus because He loves us ... **J.S.**

Hello to **Overcomers for Christ**, I hope you guys are doing good in the eyes of God. Well, let me tell you a little about how I am doing. Well, God is moving good in my life, I've been going to church as much as I can ... Praising the Lord!! And going to Bible school as much as I can. My sister, Sharon, has been sending me letters every three weeks telling me how much she and the family love me. And she also sends me money to help me out where it is needed. I want you to know my sister, Sharon, stays prayed up. My sons are in different parts of LA and they are doing good. I have two grandchildren by my older son. That is all that is going on with me and I am very happy and pleased what God is doing in my life today and every day ... **R.E.**

Thank you for the uplifting card. I did receive it right on time as well as my newsletter. Although I'm going through a trying time with my family, my positive focus is trusting in our Heavenly Father to take care of my children, to soften my heart, to get me through the cruelty at work, to continue to be grateful for what I have, to appreciate the people in my life, including the people who don't like me. My positive focus is on the woman I've become and my relationship with God ... I know God is directing my path ... **D.D.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Release Toxic Relationships

By A.L.

Thank you, for being concerned about how I might be feeling about me and Dee Dee splitting. I'm good.

My confidence is in Him, despite situations or circumstances. He is the giver of life, and He sustains me and fills my life with joy, even when the storms of life are raging, even then He is Lord of all!

"Every good gift, and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." - James 1:17

You see, He is my God, He is my everything! Everything else is just of the blessings that stem and flow from His love.

I'm about Jesus! It was actually a very easy choice for me to release a toxic relationship. I want a woman who loves God more than she loves me! I ain't in no hurry either! Still, I do understand how a man, or some men get twisted behind a woman. Not this kid!

Walk in Obedience - God Knows Best

By M.M.

Lord we come before You under Your grace, love and mercy, we thank You Lord for all things You continue to do in our lives both spiritually and physically, we ask that You continue to guide our hearts and minds in Your beautiful Love! We thank You Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we pray, Amen!

Well, I have something to share with you. Do you remember when I wrote you about me smashing all the cassette tapes of all the old music I used to listen to? The Holy Spirit kept speaking to my mind and heart to do so! That was a battle for my flesh to let go of, but once it was done, WOW, it was the biggest load off of my shoulders. Well, let's put it this way, I had another conviction for about the last 5 years, of something I held in pride in my flesh and it was attached to me, it was my hair. I know that it doesn't matter if you have long hair or not, but when it came to me I had so much pride and attachment to it that it was keeping me from growing. The Spirit was telling me to cut it for years, but I was battling it, and what can I say, I was done.

For many reasons the hair had to go, and a very big one is that I no longer wanted strange women coming around me, I am a very married man and all of me is with her. You know how long hair can attract. I don't need or want that for me or my wife, and the very conviction I was getting from the Spirit, was its time! So, I talked with my wife about this and with no hesitation she asked me to cut it. So, there it was, confirmation. For 15 years, I've had long hair that came down to my butt and now it's very short. It feels good to walk in obedience to what our Lord asks of us. Personally, He knows what's best and we must listen. I am going to keep my hair short from now on.

Well, I thought I would share that with you, life is good. The Lord is blessing me and my family all the time.

Only You Lord Understand

By A.S.

As I sit in my cubical at night or day, I sit and look around me and wonder what this place holds for me, if good or bad. If by any chance it will do me any good or bad in the long run as I'm here. Then I stop and think and wonder, "Why am I here?" Could it be by mistake or what could it be? Yes, I understand it was my doing or was it someone else's doing? Who could answer me or make me understand, because I can't blame no one but myself.

Yes, I've read books on that the Lord Himself had me put in here. Is that true? Oh yes to find my expected end. The Lord's followers also were in prison and I am now to fulfill their mission for the Lord Himself. Am I here for that reason or some other reason? Only You Lord knows the reason of it all. But as I wonder I say, "Lord, please give me some kind of answer or understanding to it all."

Yes, I do try my best to be Your follower, to do as You ask from me. No one is perfect but You my Lord. All we can do is to do our best and try our best to do good, and when we fail, ask for forgiveness, and do our best to walk Your path over

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

again. You say "come as we are," You accept us as we are, and that You Yourself will change us as we get our cross and follow You, and to take a hold of Your Holy hand as we walk Your path with You. When we stumble and fall we'll grab a hold of Your Holy hand and pick ourselves up and start walking again with You. Oh Lord, many argue my point of You being a convict Yourself, as we are now, being here in prison ourselves.

So only You Yourself know and understand my wondering mind and can answer me and give me understanding on it all. So, until then, keep Your hands upon all Your followers to come closer to You.

LTRHP ... Love God, Trust God, Respect God, Honor God and Praise God

By B.B.

I just got your March newsletter and I'm happy to hear about your recovery and that you are riding again, Praise God always!

I'm sure you remember me; I was there when Overcomers first started and I'm glad to see that it's going strong! I've done it this time, I'm locked up in Illinois for 3 months right now and on the 14th I go back to Logan County to hopefully accept five years all concurrent at 50%. I went back to using drugs and did a burglary to buy another 10 second high.

I get a lot of time to think in here as you know and I just got done reading the newsletter and spent most of the night thinking. I've come to a realization! I've been on a ride to somewhere, I just never knew where. I've been on this ride for 22 years now and during that time I've been going nowhere. While on this ride I've become an alcoholic and an addict. I've tried meetings, rehab, inpatient and outpatient; I've tried psych doctors, mental health, NA, AA, CA and every other "A" I could find, to no avail. I think though that God finally got tired of me trying on my own and falling and now it's time for me to do it His way!

I've been reading the New Testament and a passage that stuck with me is **Romans 7:14-25**, "*I don't really understand myself, for I do want to do what is right, but I don't do it, instead I do that what I hate ...*" What I'm getting at is that now I realize that God is in control and I have turned everything over to Him, finally!

I've been talking about Overcomers while at this yard and I've got a couple of guys wanting to read it, awesome! I have this little saying that I call LTRHP ... Love God, Trust God, Respect God, Honor God and Praise God!! I repeat that to myself all day! I also like **Psalms 145:6** - "*Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness,*" and **Lamentations 3:25** - "*The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him.*" These verses and many more mean a lot to me. For the first time in a long while I understand what I'm reading when I read the Word! Praise God!

Immersed in His Love

By E.D.

I wanted to let you know that on Father's Day I was baptized by one of the Christian brothers here on the yard. It was really kinda informal, with just a small group of my friends (believers) and a bucket of water. I wanted to do it on Father's Day because, God IS my Father and I love Him very much and I want to please Him with the way that I live my life. It was really cool to make the proclamation of faith in Jesus in front of others, and to tell you the truth I got kinda choked up when I read from **Matthew 3:13-17**. Even though I know it was God speaking about Jesus, when I got to **verse 17** where it reads, "*Then a voice said from heaven, This is My own dear Son with Whom I am pleased*" I felt like He was also talking about me, so the emotions ran high and the tears came ... tears of love and joy. AMEN?!

Quote Worthy

"There is no such thing as a minor lapse of integrity."

• Tom Peters ... an American writer on business management practices, best known for In Search of Excellence

2 Kings 6:1-9:13

Faith reveals that God is doing more for His people than we can ever realize through sight alone. When you face difficulties that seem insurmountable, remember that spiritual resources are there even if you can't see them. Look through the eyes of faith, and let God show you His resources. If you don't see God working in your life, the problem may be your spiritual eyesight, not God's power. (6:16-17)

Sometimes we become preoccupied with problems when we should be looking for opportunities. Instead of focusing on the negatives, develop an attitude of expectancy. To say that God cannot rescue someone or that a situation is impossible demonstrates a lack of faith. (7:1-2)

When Elisha told Hazael he would sin greatly, Hazael protested that he would never do that sort of thing. He did not acknowledge his personal potential for evil. In our enlightened society, it is easy to think we are above gross sin and in control of our actions. We think that we would never sink so low. Instead, we should take a more biblical, realistic look at ourselves and admit our sinful potential. Then we will ask for God's strength to resist such evil. (8:12-13)

Elijah had prophesied that many people would be killed when Jehu became king (1 Kings 19:16-17). Thus Elisha advised the young prophet to get out of the area as soon as he delivered his message before the slaughter began. Jehu's actions seem harsh as he hunted down relatives and friends of Ahab (2 Chronicles 22:8-9), but unchecked Baal worship was destroying the nation. If Israel was to survive, the followers of Baal had to be eliminated. Jehu fulfilled the need of the hour - justice. (9:3)

Acts 15:36-16:15

God works even through conflict and disagreements. Christians do not always agree, but problems can be solved by agreeing to disagree and letting God work His will. (15:36-39)

As we seek God's will, it is important to know what God wants us to do and where He wants us to go, but it is equally important to know what God does not want us to do and where He does not want us to go. (16:7-9)

Psalms 142:1-7

Have you ever felt that no one cares what happens to you? David had good reason to feel that way, and he wrote, "**Hear my cry, for I am very low.**" Through prayer, we can pull out of our tailspin and be reminded that God cares for us deeply. (142:6)

Proverbs 17:24-25

While there is something to be said for having big dreams, this Proverb points out the folly of chasing fantasies. How much better to align your goals with God's, being the kind of person He wants you to be! Such goals (wisdom, honesty, patience, love) may not seem exciting, but they will determine your eternal future. Take time to think about your dreams and goals, and make sure they cover the really important areas of life. (17:24)

“Foot” Notes

When it comes to who we are as people and who we want to become as children of God, I'll put it like this, it's kind of like remodeling a home, you have to do some substantial deconstructing or losing of the ways and wants of the world before the reconstructing or rejuvenating of our lives can begin, and who we want to be with the help of the Word and promises of God, Amen? Love to ya'll short and tall ... Vaya con Dios!

P.S. Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

P.S.S. As of May 2015, I have been on my path with Christ for ten years, and I can tell you this that staying the course pays off brothers and sisters. The more you grow in your faith the easier it is to let go of and move forward from all the negativity, that is the things of the world - His mercy is enough!

TAKE A TRIP WITH US

continued from page 4

Second World War. It was from this bunker that Churchill and many of his associates led Britain to victory over Germany. All of the rooms they slept in, ate in and called the shots from are exactly the way they walked out of them after the war was over. Even though we both had read and studied these events, **we never dreamed we would ever be walking the very halls of Winston Churchill's command center!** Today this wartime bunker is a museum and tells the story of Winston Churchill's life and legacy. It too had MORE information and artifacts to see and hear about than anyone could ever comprehend in one viewing.

A couple of times, while we were on the bus tour we went past the **St. Paul's Cathedral**. This is the cathedral where Princess Diana married Prince Charles. The cathedral is one of the most famous and most recognizable sights of London. Its dome dominated the skyline for 300 years. At 365 feet high, it was the tallest building in London from 1710 to 1962. No buildings can be built near it that are higher than it is, because the dome must be seen from the river. St Paul's is the second largest church building, in area, in the United Kingdom. St Paul's Cathedral occupies a significant place in the national identity. Services held at St Paul's have included the funerals of Lord Nelson, the Duke of Wellington and Sir Winston Churchill; Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria; peace services marking the end of the First and Second World Wars; the launch of the Festival of Britain and the thanksgiving services for the Golden Jubilee, the 80th Birthday and the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II.

Even though tours are available for the **House of Parliament**, we did not go inside. The building was so stunning, huge and covered with such beautiful ornate carvings everywhere that we walked back and forth in front of it a couple of times admiring and taking pictures of it. We did however tour **Buckingham Palace** (home of Queen Elizabeth II). We entered on one side and exited a few hours later into the beautiful grassy courtyard at the rear of the palace. Again, this palace has so many rooms and everyone of them is full of so many historical artifacts and treasures. We admired endless amounts of huge paintings hanging everywhere. Some areas we were not allowed to take pictures in, and some areas were roped off. I can only imagine how many more extravagant wonders there were to see.

And of course, we went to the only Harley Davidson dealership in London ... **WARRS Harley Davidson**. WARRS was established in 1924 and is the oldest Harley Davidson dealership in Europe. Here's a funny story, or least I thought it was funny. While I was off in another end of the showroom looking at motorcycles, Michelle was in the clothing department searching for t-shirts and souvenirs. One of the managers of the clothing area had been explaining to her about the different front and back logos available for the shirts. Then Michelle and I were checking everything out and this manager came back around to where we were talking. As he approached he asked Michelle, "Oh, have you explained to your 'dad' the different available shirt logos?" With a straight face, I looked at him and said, "I'm not her dad, I'm her boyfriend." Then I grabbed her ring finger, held it up for this manager to see and with a huge grin said, "I buy her Harley Davidson t-shirts. Her husband buys her these BIG beautiful diamond rings." I smiled at the guy as he was completely embarrassed and confused at this point and said, "It's great for me that they are the same person!" The manager looked at me and said, "You're a lucky man." I quickly answered him, "NO! I'm a BLESSED man!" I love to see peoples reaction to this so I like to do it everywhere we go. It not only gets many different reactions, but it always changes the atmosphere and fills the taxi or room with laughter as well.

The next day, we knew we better be up and ready to go by 3:30 a.m. because we had to leave the London airport at 5:00 a.m., so we made reservations with the hotel desk to 'please' have a taxi that takes credit cards available the next morning. AFTER we arrived at the airport the taxi driver informed us that he did not take credit cards. WHAT!! We didn't have enough Pounds left to pay his fee, and now we were at his mercy because he has our luggage in his trunk. The guy would not budge until Michelle told him we also had Euros. Sensing that I was starting to growl, Michelle quickly asked the driver, "Okay, what exactly do you need in each exchange?" Even though Michelle and I never discussed it, I know the driver beat us up on the money exchange but we were able to get our luggage and get into the airport on time. As we were checking our luggage in, we quickly learned that the luggage conveyer belts weren't working AND we were told we had to carry them OURSELVES to another location and LEAVE them in the middle of the floor with hundreds of others, then hurry to catch our flight. But wait there's more. As we were trying to go through the first security area, we quickly learned that my carry-on bag was now too large to carry on. WHY, I have been carrying it on all the way from Phoenix? So, we ran to pay for that bag to be checked in. Then we carried it to the same place we left the others, which was now an even larger heap in the floor and THEN we were able to continue forward. We visited and experienced ALL of these places, events and even more in just three days. Then we boarded a plane and off to **Ireland** we went.

We had already made reservations to pick up a rental car when we landed at the airport and then spend the first night there in Dublin. It was a good thing we did because when we got off the airplane we were informed that our luggage ... you guessed it ... was still in the London airport ... on the floor. I had all kinds of personal things that I didn't feel comfortable putting in my checked luggage when we began this trip, that's why I carried it with us. After some of what I'll call grumbling, the next thing we did was we began to come into agreement, through prayer, that we were NOT going to let this stop us from continuing to have a great time. I'll admit that even after that prayer we were struggling a little bit to really

leave it in God's hands. We quickly realized that instead of stressing we'd better open our hands and drop it into God's hands so He could bring it ALL safely to us.

At that point we caught a shuttle to get the rental car and drove about 15 miles from there to our hotel. With everything that had already taken place since we got up that morning in London, we decided to lay down for a few hours and relax. What a difference a few hours of sleep made. When we woke up we grabbed a map of the city from the hotel desk clerk, and away we went, walking. We spent the rest of the day walking some of the beautiful little cobble stone roads referred to as the **Temple Bar** area. Again, we were blessed because we happened to be there at a time when the streets were closed down so that these little open air shops, full of all kinds of artists, could set up shop and display their goods. There was everything from coffee shops, locally made food shops, as well as jewelry and art work of every kind. There was even live folk and blues music being played in the streets in a couple different areas. We had a great day!

We left there and we walked back to our hotel room. By the time we reached the room it was close to 10:00 p.m. and with no news on our luggage we were ready to shower and lay down to rest. Then, at 1:00 a.m. the hotel front desk rang our room and said, "We have your luggage. Would you like for us to bring it to your room?" With a tear in my eye and a lump in my throat I answered, "Yes! Thank you very much." When Michelle and I opened our luggage it was almost like Christmas. Remember the carry on I was reluctant to check? EVERYTHING was there. I was so thankful that we decided to let loose of it with both hands and drop it into God's hands! Remember, God is NEVER too early or NEVER too late ... He is ALWAYS right on time! We woke up that morning and headed on our way to the northwest corner of Ireland like we never missed a beat. Thank You, Jesus!

As I mentioned earlier, we had been planning and looking at all the different cars and roadways in Ireland for several months. Some of the things we decided on was that I would do the driving; we were going to purchase the rental car insurance AND we would also rent the GPS they offered so we would be less likely to get lost! In case you didn't know the roadways are very small over there, the steering wheels are on the opposite side of the vehicle and they drive on the opposite side of the road. So now you can probably see why we decided to take their insurance and the GPS. By the way, the GPS which I continually referred to as the Holy Spirit, was sure worth the investment. Why? Because the very first turn that we made out of the rental car location, we went the wrong direction but she redirected us through a few more turns until we made our way back onto the easiest route to our hotel. I said, "That's exactly the way the Holy Spirit operates. He's never pushy, never demanding yet always knows the best route for our lives." And you know what? How true that was/is. After we made that first wrong turn we continually kept our eyes and ears tuned to 'the Holy Spirit box' and I'm pretty sure we only over shot one or two of her directions in the 6 days and close to 1,500 miles that we drove that rental car there in Ireland.

We had reservations to stay for one night at a castle in the northwest part of Ireland. In the process of having our luggage carried to our room, we got acquainted with the porter, a really nice guy. We then decided to take a walk around the castle grounds before dinner to take pictures as it began to rain. It was so beautiful and so amazing to be in the grandness of the castle that we went right in and booked a room for a second night. It was a treat. The castle was next to a river and there were walking paths, green gardens and colorful flowers everywhere. As we spoke with the porter a few more times that evening, he told us of all sorts of local attractions to make sure that we saw the next day. When we headed out that next day, we made it to every place he told us about.

Here's another funny story about that 'Holy Spirit box'. At one point, we were headed in the general direction to find a certain smoked fish house that our new friend had told us about. Every time we left one place we would pick another short location and reset the GPS. We also had a map to go by and could see that we were still headed in the right direction, so we decided not to punch in our next destination to see what would happen. As we drove on, the GPS screen revealed we were running out of land. I am not kidding you when I say, after several attempts to have us TURN AROUND we began to detect somewhat of an attitude in her voice! And when she completely stopped talking we found ourselves right in front of the smoked fish house. As we got out of the car we could see more clearly what she already knew. The building sat on the last little piece of rock before the Atlantic Ocean! In other words, she knew there was nowhere else for us to go and if we were going to continue, well, her job was done and the REAL HOLY SPIRIT would be the next voice we would hear as we headed for heaven! But as soon as we turned the car around and headed the other direction she began to show us love again! Sounds familiar doesn't it?

We visited Youghal, which is on the southern coast of Ireland. We stayed in a beautiful seaside hotel that had a view of a bay area before it poured into the Atlantic Ocean. One thing Michelle had never personally witnessed before this was the changing of the tides. In the evening, we walked to have dinner and afterwards went down by the water to take pictures as the sun was setting. I kept telling Michelle about how it was all changing but to her everything looked the same. The next morning after breakfast we went on that same walk and all of the boats were now sitting on the ocean floor! The water had dropped close to 12 feet, if not more. To her that was amazing in itself! There were so many different colors of green there, lots of sheep and cows, and rock walls EVERYWHERE. All the images that you see in the pictures are not photo

shopped it is real.

We stopped in a Cobh, also on the southern coast of Ireland. This was the last seaport that the Titanic had set sail from just before it hit that iceberg. In Cobh, we visited a magnificent cathedral, **St. Colman Cathedral**. As we were headed inside we met four men at the steps that were members of that church. They openly shared their love of Jesus and duties there. Then they asked us where we were from. We were there for more than an hour witnessing and even praying together. At one point, I went to the car and got three of the extra 'I Love My Church' t-shirts that I had brought along and gave them to these men. They couldn't believe it and even said, "No one has ever come to our church and given us gifts! Thank you!" Michelle took a few pictures of us on the front steps of that cathedral, we exchanged email addresses and off we went. As we left we again thanked God for blessing us with these new connections and for the awesome experience!

We went to the famous **Blarney Castle** and kissed the Blarney stone. The trees there were extremely huge with limbs that looked like arms, almost lifelike. All of the acreage had so many colors of vibrant greens, so beautiful!

One of the last and most amazing places we visited was the **Cliffs of Moher**. By this time in our trip we had already driven from one side of Ireland and back. We were now on the west side of Ireland headed up that coast line. Even though it had been raining for two days we were not going to leave without witnessing these cliffs. These cliffs are granite and they rise up out of the ground in some places from between 390 feet to 702 feet above the Atlantic Ocean below. The mist coming up over the edge of the cliffs and the green grass made the place breathtaking.

This is Michelle, I'm sure you enjoyed Captain Duck's tour ... Again, we are not sharing this to boast or brag about anything except God. We are simply sharing with you our experiences to let you know that God has no favorites. All that God has done for us He wants to and will do for all of you. I pray that as you read this you can close your eyes and imagine these places and escape taking yourselves on a mental vacation. The other thing we hope to do in this story is to encourage you to never give up on a dream or a desire of your heart. When you first hope or pray for something, it is always so easy to praise God and say Hallelujah when that desire is fulfilled within days, weeks or a few months. But what do you do if it takes one, five, or even ten years to come to fruition? I wrote those things on that stir stick in early 2011, so it took just over 4 years for my dream vacation to happen. Don't lose sight of your hopes, dreams and desires, and don't be discouraged ... thank God for giving you the desires of your heart and know that He provides.

UPDATE ***** Ministry Tithes & Offerings ***** UPDATE

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.

There are two ways to give to the ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ ministry:

1. 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
2. Online at <http://livingwordonline.com> - click in the "Give" icon - If you are new online giver, then click on "Create Account" and then follow the account set-up. If you are existing online giver, then select "Give Now. Once you are logged into the website, then click on "Give Now", and under the "Give To" drop-down select "05 Outreach", then from the drop-down to the right select "Overcomers for Christ | Prison Ministry"

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 your finances.

"Remember this - a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully'; And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, 'They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.' For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God." - 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

A few days before we were ready to print this month's newsletter we received this poem W.R. had written for Michelle's and my anniversary. Because our trip was sort of an anniversary celebration we decided to run this poem with this article.

Love is a Chain

By W.R.

Love is a chain worn within the heart, the links of two people while they're apart
And love is a chain, with links embroidered in gold
It can never be bought, broken or sold
And love is a chain forged throughout the years, one link maybe happiness, another just tears

But within every link a story is told, a true love is everlasting and never grows cold
And love is a chain, a link to our life
It can take you from the darkness, it can bring a new life
But within every chain a weak link may grow, sometimes departing ... causing love to fold

But every chain can be mended, every link relined with gold
All it takes is understanding, the power for love to grow
Every chain is forged differently, some stronger than the rest
But every chain has its trials, every chain has its test

If this chain should ever weaken, if it should grow weary with time
Then please be understanding, and make this love Devine
And if this chain should be broken, if its links are torn apart
Then I would be a prisoner, a prisoner of your heart

But every chain can be mended, replaced with a missing part
But some links cannot be mended, to the chain of a broken heart
Not every chain is one of happiness, some links are forged on sorrow
But every chain holds a memory, a link to every tomorrow

And love isn't always linked to a mansion, a foundation of a home
Every link is forged different, every chain builds its own
It could be a smile, a caress or a touch
But every link has its meaning, and every chain is built on trust.

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

EDITORIAL Wade "Duck" Anderson, Michelle Anderson **ART & DESIGN** John Dobbins **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church

Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080

(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com