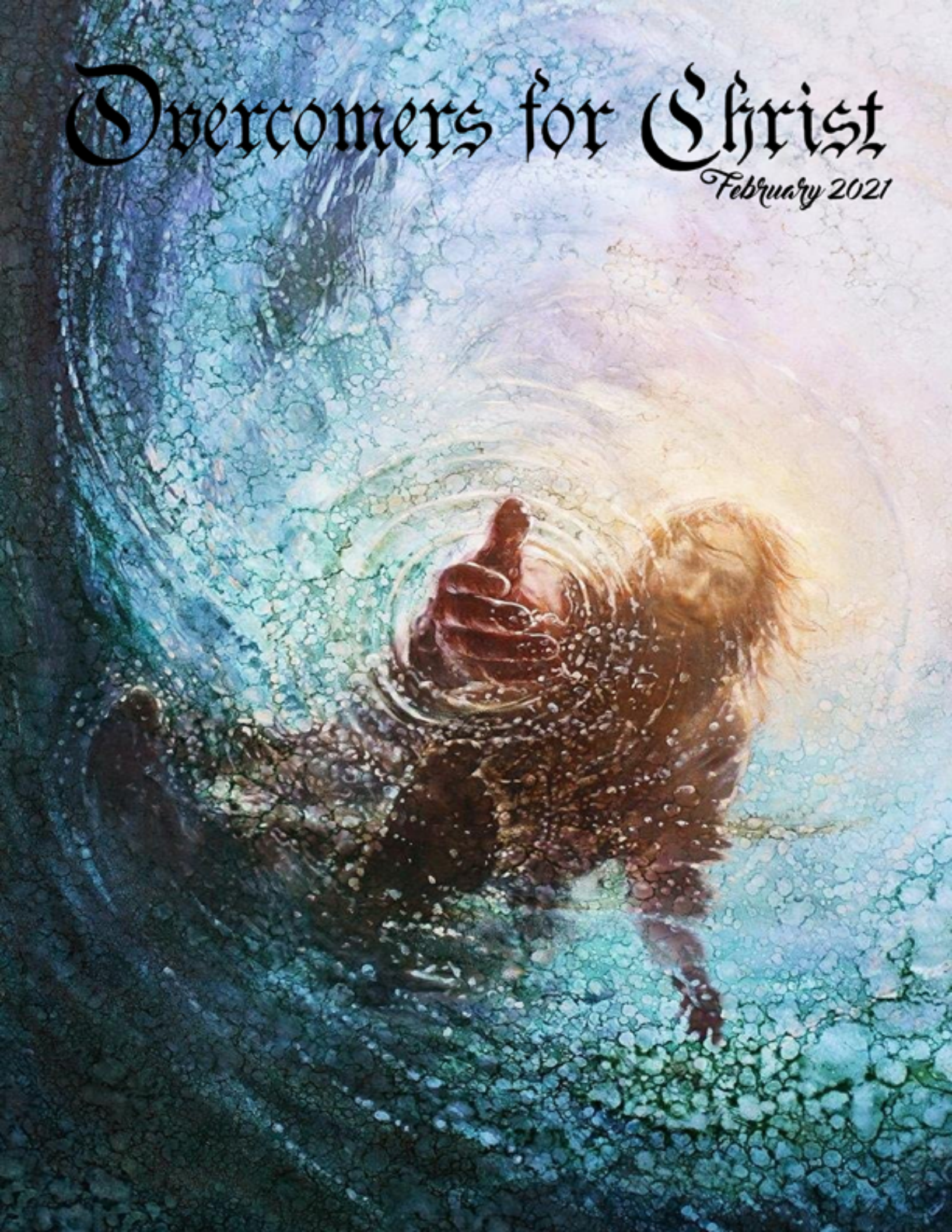


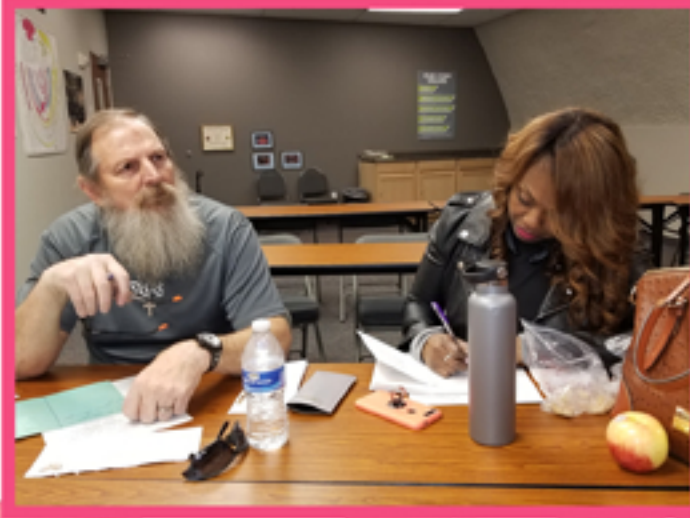
Overcomers for Christ

February 2021



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

January 2020



RADICAL AGAIN

By Arthur Lavato

It was January 1992, seventeen years prior to that I started experimenting with drugs, but on that mid-winters morning in early 1992, it was clear the experimenting had long passed.

It was all about full blown research! La Neta I was all about it. Substance abuse was not even in the equation! Can somebody say Chemically Dependent? My habit and the sin that my lifestyle employed owned me. It occupied all my abilities with the sole purpose, of not allowing myself to run out of drugs. I was naked, blind, and poor! Naked in that I was clothed in the garments of a drug addict, and the criminal life that was thrust upon me by the devils in my veins!

I was exposed for all to see what was left of me, NAKED! I was blind in that I could not see myself in a true light. I never considered that I was chemically dependent. I mean I knew I was Prendido! Still I never before considered myself a 'Dope Fiend'! I liked to think I was a really cool guy, who liked to get high! I was poor, as in straight up Spiritually bankrupt. I had been a long time running.

By January 1992 I'd lost my genuine smile, my joy, and family were long ago sacrificed on the altar of addiction. Sorrow was my constant companion. I was NAKED, BLIND, AND POOR! I had prayed the sinners prayer before, but in the first week of January 1992, I understood that I was a man in need of a Savior. I responded to the voice of God, and was set free in a moment of time! Nobody who ever knew me, could deny, something supernatural happened to me! I had an encounter with the Creator of all things created. All I had to offer Him was my troubled life, and gladly He accepted my broken, and shattered life.

He forgave me of all my sins, gave me a new life, a fresh start, and He gave me something to really live for! I knew it was real, forgiveness, redemption, and my Salvation. And I knew that He had the authority to call it, because 2000 years prior, He gave His own life, a perfectly sinless life, as a ransom for all the sins of the world. I was so grateful, I was all about my Father's business! I devoured the Word with the tenacity of a Pit-bull on a pork chop! I repeated every sermon I ever heard to anyone who would come within the sound of my voice. I was so in love with Jesus that I could not refrain from telling others.

Within a month of my conversion, I had been warned, threatened, and disregarded the local police who subsequently arrested me and three of my companions for street preaching. What I know now to be immaturity and unbridled zeal got me arrested, Praise God! I called it Radical Faith! I saw Jesus as a Radical and I loved the idea of boldly declaring and defending the TRUTH!

I said all of that to say ... It's time to get **Radical Again!** We are to preach a message of love, hope and peace. We are to preach in word when opportunity presents herself. One man once said, preach always and when necessary use words! If you will follow Jesus, your character and your behavior will preach a message of hope that will glorify God! I wish I could say I had a perfect attendance and never failed since that day. The truth is I fell short, and got off track more than once. But I've learned this, that the answers for all life's problems are in the Word of God! If you fall short the Lord will lift you up when you come to Him with a heart of repentance. Gladly He will rejoice and embracing you. **First John 1:9** tells us, **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

I know that when you come to the Father it is vital that you lay down that old life, and walk in the new life. **"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."** (Galatians 2:20) You must surrender, or give up your rights to your own life. **"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?'"** (Matthew 16:24-26) So I ask you, "Is anything worth more than your soul?" Spring is upon us, and soon our day will come to evangelize our city in force!

We must seek His face and consecrate ourselves unto God, redeeming the time we were in quarantine. The call has already been DECLARED! By the Power and authority of The Lord Jesus Christ, we're going to get RADICAL AGAIN!!!

True Forgiveness

By Steve Arterburn

"God exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel." Acts 5:31

Without true forgiveness, bitterness will inevitably tear our relationships apart. No relationship or family will hold together for long if the people involved are unable to grant forgiveness. I don't just mean saying the words "I forgive you" but actually relating to your spouse, child, parent, or friend with your actions that display forgiveness. Giving voice to forgiveness might create peace temporarily, but when that forgiveness isn't evidenced by the way you live, true reconciliation will never result.

Let's learn from a man who went before us. Absalom, the third son of King David, suffered much and also caused much suffering because forgiveness wasn't a part of his life. When Absalom discovered that his sister had been raped by his half brother, anger and hatred built up in him for two years until he finally killed him. Then to avoid the wrath of his father, he was on the run for a period of three years. And even after he returned he and his father, David, didn't speak to one another for two more years. And you thought your family had issues!

Well, Absalom never regained the love he had for his father. In fact, Absalom spent the rest of his life scheming against his father, King David. His life ended while he led a rebellion against his father. Absalom is an example of the wasted years and broken hearts that can result when we harbor bitterness and are unwilling to forgive.

"To forgive is the highest, most beautiful form of love. In return, you will receive untold peace and happiness." - Robert Muller

God is Love

A C Y P D H B B S A C Q P U C C L
A E C A R G V U R E D H W K S Y N
C C W T J L R W W V I K M J S D I
T X V I E X Y Z N L Z B G B E N E
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D I R U E Q X O E E F S J V G Z S
J N L E E L F M K Y S I N E T L S
A J Y J Y R T S I N I M Q Z N D W

PATIENCE	PEACE	SIN	FAITHFULNESS
AWANAS	MINISTRY	OBEDIENCE	PHILEO
AGAPE	EROS	GRACE	SALVATION
MERCY	FORGIVENESS	LOVE	

THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

Prayer Requests

The Lord's abundant blessing to you, I wanted to write you to tell you that it brings me joy and happiness when I pray.

Praise the Lord every day. It makes the devil tremble and blesses the Lord our Father. I wanted to tell you that I got your letter, I'm glad to pray for you and **OC4C** newsletter and all the glory to God. I want you to know that I hope and pray that you're staying healthy and your family too. I'm so blessed! I've been praying every day and night that I stay healthy and I don't catch COVID-19. I want everyone and my family in Christ to stay strong and positive and come to Christ and pray to Him that He keeps you healthy and provides for your family. I pray that the world can come to peace and let all the destruction in this world go away, for people to get back to work and spend time with their family and go on lovely adventure trips. I want churches to open back up, so everyone can praise the Lord, and thank Him for everything. If God can change my life around, then He can do it for anyone, they just got to believe and have faith in our Creator in heaven because He is real and He can do anything. I'm ready to walk in a different path and I want to just be able to praise the Lord Jesus Christ, and let Him know that I truly love Him. I am ready to walk in His ways and help people come to Christ, and not go through the things I've been through in my life. I hope this letter brings you a smile and touches your heart. I'll be praying for the **OC4C** family ... Amen ... **M.C.**

To **Overcomers for Christ**, I've been reading for years, been thinking and praying and today found a copy of the November issue. I would love and be blessed to be put on the monthly mailing list. I got 17 months left and only by the grace and love of Jesus, I'll make it out of this place. Please put me on a prayer list for medical. I have COPD and other medical issues ... **E.V.**

Please pray for: 1) Food to come from around the world to help the people who are hungry, 2) Revival in the prisons, 3) For Gayle, Mark, and Adam to be made whole, spirit, soul and bodies, 4) For Mike and other Christians to have victories with their proposition 57 hearings in 2021. In Jesus name ... Amen ... **G.M.L.**

I received your card and the joy your words brought to me are unexplainable. I suppose it's easy to get complacent in here thinking life is good. Excuse the last sentence, things are good but what a blessing to be refreshed by your card. Shortly after I wrote the letter my CO3 informed me central office took my November date with a senate bill and now push me back to my original date. I suppose God has a different plan. Please pray for my children's mother who is drinking heavy with the kids in the house ... **A.T.**

Praise Reports

Someone told me that I had mail and I said, "Yah, right!" Then they told me, "For reals, for reals!" Again I said, "Yah, right!" Sure enough, when I went and asked the CO, I had mail! The words on the card were what I needed to hear and even though I'm reading them I know those are God's words. We **ARE Overcomers for Christ** and I am a believer. Just the other day I was speaking to the King of kings and I asked Him if He was still there. Then I got a card from His children ... **J.H.**

I Praise God for all of you there at the **OC4C**! Thank you very much for all the cards and letters filled with godly wisdom and words that have encouraged me. I've been in prison since 2009. I have no living family and what friends I once had have long since forgotten me. The holidays are the worst. But you **Overcomers for Christ** have been there for me for years and years. You all are very faithful doers of **Hebrews 13:3**, "**Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.**" ... **J.C.**

Thank you for sending that poetry and some of my writings to my family. It means a lot to me knowing that someday, some of my great-grandchildren will read them. And I pray that when they do so, that they will see and acknowledge God's life changing power and mercy in my life. But even more importantly, that it will be carried over into their own lives if they don't know Christ. Long after we are gone our blood lines will go on. The time that God gives us with our loved ones is a gift. Everything we have with them is surely a blessing ... **W.R.**

I just wanted to write to keep you updated. Everything on my end is going very good. My marriage has truly been restored and continues to grow stronger as time goes by. I truly thank our Lord for Sandra. She is such a blessing and I'm very proud of her growth in Christ. She also greets people at the door of our church before services and she is involved in the women's group there. I'm more than thrilled over this. But most importantly, my marriage to Jesus Christ has also been restored! Praise God! I love Him so very much my friend ... **M.M.**

May the Lord shower you with His blessings. Thank you so much for writing. I was so glad to hear from you again. It's hard to explain how cool it is to get a letter in the mail. It seems so little to some, but it's not to me. It makes my whole week. God has blessed me so immensely. Every day is filled with God's blessings. Because of Him, I choose to focus on the positive in life and not the negative ... **Z.G.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Consistent Love

By J.H

By His stripes we are healed! First and foremost, I would love to thank your organization for its consistent love and concern. That's the main difference from the love of the world and its fallen nature, its inconsistencies!

Your publication was one of the first to publish my poetry, one of my poems came up again in your newsletter called Rejected Stone. You have been sending me your publications for over five years. Rain, sleet, hail and pandemic I can count on you guys to bring some positive words and insight.

A lot of things have happened during this time. I managed to earn my associates degree in Behavioral Science, I graduated from a Bible college called The Urban Ministry Institute. I've also written a poetry book called Wounds from a Friend taken from **Proverbs 27:6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."** This powerful verse has allowed me to understand that old saying, "Truth hurts" is what everybody needs sometimes. We all need those people who will tell us, not what we want to hear, but what we need to hear.

I was also blessed to help create a nonprofit called Prisonerskey.org. We have the site up but we are currently working on funding. This organization helps those who are taking positive steps in prison, like going to college, navigate the hurdle of family reunification. In **2 Timothy 3:12** it states, **"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."**

Perfect Heart

By L.V.

One day a young man was standing in the middle of the town proclaiming that he had the most beautiful heart in the whole valley. A large crowd gathered and they all admired his heart for it was perfect, there was not a mark or a flaw in it. Yes, they all agreed it truly was the most beautiful heart that they had ever seen. The young man was very proud and boasted more loudly about his beautiful heart.

Suddenly, an old man appeared at the front of the crowd and said, "Why your heart is not nearly as beautiful as mine." The crowd and the young man looked at the old man's heart. It was beating strongly, but full of scars, it had places where pieces had been removed and other pieces put in, but they didn't fit quite right and there were several jagged edges. In fact, in some places there were deep gouges where whole pieces were missing. The people stared, "How can he say his heart is more beautiful" they thought?

The young man looked at the old man's heart, saw its state and laughed. He said, "You must be joking. Compare your heart with mine, mine is perfect and yours is a mess of scars and tears," he said. "Yes", said the old man, "Yours is perfect looking but I would never trade with you, you see, every scar represents a person to whom I've given my love. I tear out a piece and I give it to them, and often they give me a piece of heart which fits into the empty place in my heart. But because the pieces aren't exact, I have some rough edges which I cherish, because they remind me of the love that we shared. Sometimes I have given pieces of my heart away and the other person hasn't returned a piece of their heart to me. Those are the empty gouges - giving love is taking a chance. And although these gouges are painful, they stay open, reminding me of the love I have for these people too. I hope someday that they may return and fix the space, I have been waiting. So now do you see what true beauty is?"

The young man stood silently with tears running down his cheeks, he walked up to the old man, reached into his perfect and beautiful heart, and ripped a piece out as he offered it to the old man with trembling hands. The old man took his offering, placed it in his heart. Now taking a piece from his old scarred heart and placed it in the wound in the young man's heart. The young man looked at his heart, not perfect any longer but more beautiful than ever. Since love from the old man flowed into his, they embraced and walked away side by side.

How sad it must be to go through life with a whole heart. Remember, work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt and dance like nobody is watching.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Love Above All

By M.D.

Love is the greatest thing in the world. **First Corinthians 12:31**, "**Now eagerly desire the greater gift,**" teaches us that love should be number one on our spiritual priority list. My Amplified Bible reads, "**But earnestly desire and strive for the greater gifts [if acquiring them is going to be your goal]. And yet I will show you a still more excellent way [one of the choicest graces and the highest of them all: unselfish love].**" We should study love, pray about love and develop the fruit of love by practicing loving others. **Galatians 5:22-23** states, "**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**" You can see here that love is one of the nine fruit of the Spirit available to all of us when God's Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us.

In **1 John 4:8** we see, "**God is love.**" So when we walk in His love we abide in Him. Because we walk in God's love by receiving it and expressing it, we must not deceive ourselves into thinking that we can love God while we say we hate other people. Listen to **1 John 4:20**, "**Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.**" We all seek many things during our lifetime hoping to find fulfillment in them. But without love these things fall short of the desired goal. When we put our time and energy into things that do not fulfill us, we feel frustrated. At this point many of us have turned to drugs for help only to be worse off than we were before. Love is the best thing we can commit our lives to!

Let's read **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** together, "**If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.**" Here Paul begins a discourse on love. It tells us clearly that no matter how many gifts of the Spirit we may operate in, if we are not operating in love, ALL other gifts are useless. If we speak in tongues, but do not love, we are just making a big noise. If we operate in prophetic power, or power to understand and interpret secrets and mysteries, if we have all knowledge and so much faith that we can move mountains, but have no love, according to the Apostle Paul, we are useless nobodies. Even if we give away all that we have to feed the poor and surrender our very lives, and do it with wrong motives and not out of love, we gain nothing!

Love is the greatest thing in life! Here's **1 Corinthians 13:13**, "**Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.**" Walking in love should be our main focus. God is love, and He wants us to love one another. **First John 4:8,11** read, "**But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love ... Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.**" We can only truly love others by receiving and expressing God's love. In order to do so, we MUST understand that He loves us and accept His love. When we finally do, we begin a love walk that causes us to live in a new way - have a new way of thinking - a new way of speaking and a new way of acting. Love is expressed in many different ways, but one factor is always the same; love gives!

I Miss My Friend

By A.V.

Thank you for finding the time to look back through your files and locate the newsletter with the article about our brother 'Magic' passing. It's been a little over five years and I still get choked up and struggle with his passing. I miss my friend. The Christian me knows I should celebrate that he is with our Father now, not in any more pain and that I will see him again. But the worldly selfish me still misses him. I hope that makes sense. When that CO took the picture I had of him it really made me angry, and I stayed that way until I received your mail. The part that blew me away was that CO's action. But because of his actions it caused me to react and write to you, which in turn caused you to go through all the old newsletters. Then while you were going through those old newsletters it sent you down memory lane, that in turn lifted your spirits. Then as I opened your mail and seen that specific issue and picture, it lifted my spirits once again. In that, I can now see where God used something that upset me, but turned it all around to lift both of our spirits. That whole scenario blows me away.

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

Jeremiah 9:1-12:17

People tend to admire three things about others, wisdom, power, and riches. But God puts a higher priority on knowing Him personally and living a life that reflects His justice and righteousness. What do you want people to admire most about you? (9:23-24)

God's ability to direct our life is far superior to our ability. Sometimes, we are afraid of God's power and plans because we know His power would easily crush us, if He used it against us. Don't be afraid to let God correct your plans. He will give you wisdom, if you are willing. (10:23-24)

At first glance, this command is shocking. God tells Jeremiah not to pray and says He won't listen to the people, if they pray. A time comes when God must dispense justice. Sin brings its own bitter reward. If the people were unrepentant and continued in their sin, neither their prayers nor Jeremiah's would prevent God's judgment. Their only hope was repentance. Sorrow for sin, turning from it, and turning to God. How can we keep praying for God's help if we haven't committed our life to Him? God's blessings come when we are committed to His, not when we selfishly hang on to our sinful ways. (11:14)

Life was extremely difficult for Jeremiah despite his love and obedience to God. When he called for God's relief, God's reply in effect was, "If you think this is bad, how are you going to cope when it gets really tough?" God's answers to prayers are not always nice or easy to handle. Any Christian who has experienced one, bereavement or a serious illness, knows this. We are to be committed to God even when the going gets tough and when our prayers for relief are not immediately answered. (12:5-6)

Colossians 4:1-18

Paul makes it clear in Colossians that Christ alone is the source of our spiritual life, the head of the body of believers. Christ is Lord of both the physical and spiritual worlds. The path to deeper spiritual life is not through religious duties, special knowledge or secrets. It is only through clear connection with the Lord, Jesus Christ. We must never let anything come between us and our Savior. (4:18)

Psalms 80:1-81:16

Repentance involves humbling ourselves and turning to God to receive His forgiveness. As we turn to God, He helps us see ourselves, including our sin, more clearly. Then, as we see our sin, we must repeat the process of repentance, only then can we constantly be restored to fellowship with God. (80:3, 7, 19)

God has provided in His covenant that He would restore His people, if they would listen to Him and return to Him. Read *Exodus 23:22-27, Leviticus 26:3-13, Deuteronomy 7:12-26; 28:1-14. (81:13-16)*

Proverbs 25:1-10

Hastily to court in our own litigious age, this group of verses has an unusual relevance. Seek to deal with complaints in private or outside of court or even with an arbiter. (25:8-10)

"Foot" Notes

Hey everyone! I was just thinking how we all love to spend time with those we love especially on Valentine's day. It warms the hearts of all involved. Yet how often have we forgotten or pushed aside the one who has always loved us unconditionally way before we even knew what love was or had significant others and close friends?

So this time around how about spending a little time with Jesus Christ when the cards, flowers, and chocolates come around!

Love to y'all short and tall! Vaya Con Dios! Don't ride faster than your Angels can fly!!!

What Others Are Saying...

"Well brothers and sisters, nothing worldly has changed in my life. BUT, in my spirit I feel the love of our Lord and Savior changing my born again spirit every day. I love the newsletters every month. I have June through August and February hanging on my walls here. That way people know and can see God's Word. I love those pictures inside. I hope one day that I will be able to help *DS&S* and my mug will make it in as one of those pictures. It looks like so much fun. Those pictures help me see what kind of life I want and can have, with God and His love. I thank you for showing your love and caring about me. It gives me a great hope for the future." - **M.G.**

"Hello people, blessings to all of you there. I just celebrated another birthday, thanks be to Jesus I've made it another year. I've signed my release papers, my release photo was taken and I told D.O.C. that I want to parole to Tucson. I'm still reading my Bible and regardless of my faults, I'm still a believer in our Savior and I still have faith. Yes, I'm still going to go through some tough times but God promises to never leave me nor forsake me. Thank you for all the newsletters, letters and words of encouragement. There were many times when my spirit was down and 'I just so happened' to get a letter from you all." - **Harrison** (*He's out now, working and doing well. In fact we visited and prayed together just yesterday - Wade Anderson*)

"I am 79 years old serving a life sentence, flat time. My neighbor here let me look at Foot's Bible study and Cory's Corner and they both lifted me up. Please put me on your mailing list for the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter." - **D.B.**

"Thank you for the card and the Bible verse, it made a lot of sense. I was very surprised to even get a response, I figured you all were way too busy. You all are a blessing and I pray and give thanks for the wonderful people who go out of their way to hear us and acknowledge us the way you all do! I am very grateful! Keep up the good work and keep spreading the Word!" - **G.G.**

Dear friends in Christ, please know that the cards I receive from you are truly appreciated and enjoyed. It's nice to get some mail. Thanks to Cash for the kind words sincerely accepted and also from Bobbie for the reminder of God's healing power. I am now 74 years old and I will be 75 two months after I get released, Lord willing. I do enjoy your newsletters and I like the pictures. I pray the Lord will bless each of you for the good work you are doing for Him and in His name." - **J.M.**

"I'm doing good, praise be to God! I just wanted to say thank you all for these newsletters, I really enjoy them. And to let you know, now that my money is right I'll be able to correspond more with you. As **1 Corinthians 13:13** says, '**And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.**' So, I'm sending all of my brotherly love to all of you." - **O.A.**

"Everyone at *Overcomers for Christ*, I want to thank you all for the newsletters and cards. I really get happy when I get them. I'll keep in touch and let you know how I'm doing when I get released. Thanks again for everything you do for Christ." - **N.R.**

"Hello my brother in Christ! I'm currently incarcerated in A.D.O.C. I'm not sure if you remember me, but you visited me in the Towers jail in 2015. I just want to express my love and gratitude for your counsel during that rough time where I shared with you that my dad had cancer. Well, he went home to be with the Lord. I have since become more involved with recovery and currently certified as a Peer Support Specialist through Arizona State Health. Both you and Tracy Kovach were and are a great inspiration for me and the path I am on in this journey. I thank God for both of you and everyone at the *Overcomers for Christ*." - **J.M.**

"Greetings, I continue to pray for your safety, health and above all, that you would be filled with the abundance of God's grace and peace. I thank God for your faithfulness and partnership in this ministry as we are called to live and love among our brothers and sisters. What great joy it is to live in community fellowship and grow in Christ each day. Thank you for your continuing care for all who abide in Him, at various jails and prisons." - **G.H.**

Quote Worthy

"God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume. It is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever."

- Vance Havner - Called to preach and licensed at twelve, ordained at fifteen, and preached all over America. He became one of the best-loved and renowned revivalist of the twentieth century. His home-spun storytelling, quick wit and powerful Christ centered preaching made him a favorite preacher for over seventy years. Billy Graham called him the most quoted preacher in America. He authored over thirty books; you can still hear his sermons on radio and online, and he continues to be quoted today by some of America's favorite preachers.

Overcomer's Testimonies

Grateful For So Much

Hello there Overcomers for Christ! My name is E.O. but my friends all call me 'Eddie Boy'. I've been meaning to write you for awhile now. I used to see you when I was in SMU at 4th Avenue jail. You used to visit my neighbor. I was back there on a new case from Florence. Sad to say, I got 17 more years added to my already 12 year sentence, from which I was supposed to be released in July of 2020.

Well, I know you don't know me but I guess I can give you some insight about me and my life. You're the first pastor I'm going to give my testimony to. I'm sure you've heard many, from many good men.

I read a book after I renounced my almost 20 year membership to the Mexican Mafia. The book was a testimonial book called Rescued not Arrested by a man named Roger Munchian. On page 198 of that book he wrote about me and my old colleague J."C".G. They changed our names in this book, but the information given in it was pretty much on point. They tried to charge me and "C" for that particular hit. I went back to the Fed's in 2002 then got out again in 2009. I'm not sure if you met "C" when we were in 4th Avenue but anyways I think he mentioned you to me while I was there.

I've been back here in the A.D.O.C. since 2011. I started off here in the state prison system in 1990. Then I went to the U.S.P. in 1995 at the young age of 24. I did two tours in the Fed's in five different states. I was coast to coast putting in what we call "work" as I'm described doing in the previous mentioned book. Anyhow, on to the present.

I have been here in the 'Renouncers Unit' for almost a year now. I first received your newsletter while I was recovery from a near death experience that changed my life. I used to think of myself as one of the strongest men I knew, until that dreadful day I was given a "Hotshot" of pure fentanyl. That one "shot" killed the deadly man I use to be, and brought back the new born again man I am today! I've been reading my Bible daily since then.

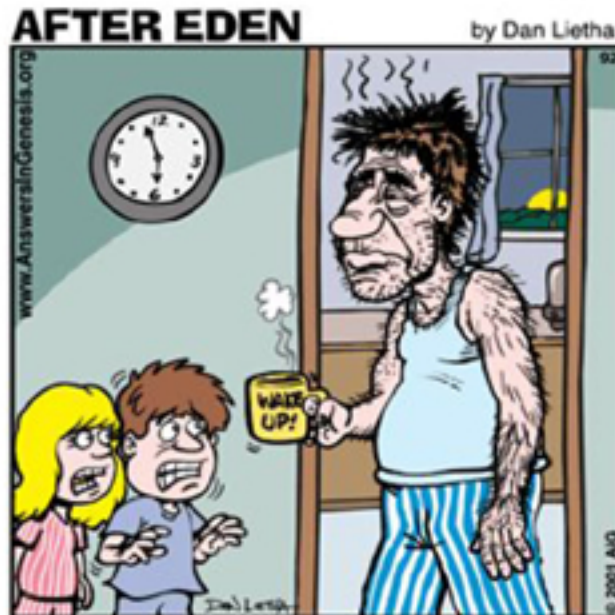
Your writings in your newsletter have inspired me as well as other Christians I come across. Today, my family call me a miracle, LOL. God changed me! I'm so 'Grateful For So Much' in my life now. But nothing compares to our Lord's mercy, grace and most importantly, His forgiveness I feel inside of me today. I no longer punish myself for my past sins since I read, feel and believe, **Romans 5:1-5, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."**

Praise God for the new found happiness I feel inside my heart. I'm eligible for a '3 yard' here in a month or so, I stayed almost 10 years in Browning as a validated STG member so I'm really enjoying my new freedom. I still have my days but nothing time out with God doesn't fix for me. **"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."** (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Man, after this testimony, I feel like we're good friends now! Ha! Ha! Praise God! At least brothers in Christ! As I said at the beginning of this long overdue letter, it's been a long time coming for me. I'm now 52 years old and yet I'm grateful for being here sharing my testimony with the Overcomers for Christ. I was inspired by a fellow Christian brother, J.A., here with me.

I'll close with these words from the Apostle Paul, in **Ephesians 3:14-21, "For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."** And **Philippians 3:13-14, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."** - E.O.

Christian Comedy



'Yes, man was created in God's image regardless of what we see here.'

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

Editor's Note

ATTENTION

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Hello everyone! Over this past year, we have been working with Andrew Wommack Ministries, Charis Bible College, to have their books and Inmate Bible Study (IBS by mail) available to ALL of you that are currently incarcerated. The request was finally approved! This is **FREE** of charge! Each month when you write they will ship your requested book, **FREE!**

To obtain these materials in either English or Spanish you simply need to write: **Andrew Wommack Ministries - P.O. Box 3333 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-3333** and begin to grow even deeper in your relationship with the Lord. Get started today, your walk will never be the same!

Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 **Ahwatukee** - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 **Gilbert** - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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.

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

A Righteous Man
By A.W.

You said it Father God, that You would not give us more than we can bear,
The problem is, many of us, without even listening to others, think that we carry more than our share.
But if I could share with you, this small, yet big and wondrous story,
About a guy named Wade "Duck" Anderson, and how he found God and His glory.

First, a friend named Bill who was about to go to prison, introduced Wade to me,
A biker with a beard, came to my cell with a repentive heart and shared his testimony.
I seen no deceit, no bitterness, he just talked about God and the Overcomers for Christ.
He said he used to work on bikes, and run the streets, before he found the perfect job.

He became a fisherman, except he didn't catch fish, he was now the fisher of men,
I felt pure passion and fire as he prayed with me, it led me to want more, AMEN!
Inside and on the outside, brother Wade "Duck" Anderson gives so many his life and time,
He does it just for the love of Christ, he does not complain and does not make a dime.

"How did you find Christ," I asked, He said he crashed his bike with his grandson on the back,
He was so concerned about his grandson, as he was protected by God from that impact.
Duck had a bruised kidney, collapsed lung, was bleeding, battered and shattered, but God spared his life,
God had a special plan for him, to share his testimony and to be there for his wife and family.

After I heard his testimony, my mouth was open, "Like Wow!" You've survived all kinds of things,
He said, "Yes, God is good, heaven and earth, marriage and birth, only good does God bring."

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