

# Overcomers for Christ

September 2014

**PAID IN FULL**

*Obey The Word of God. You can do this...*

*In Loving Memory*

**th**

*Dolores Ann Mankin*

THE LIFE  
WILL  
GET ENDS  
SHOULD NOT  
BEING SET IN ME  
NEIGHBOR WELLS  
I MYSELF  
PROTECTING WILL

*"God's Report"*  
by George H. Johnson

God will not be in any place  
till we have been to his  
The presence then each  
And in the thought of  
So what will we do  
And have as in a  
Which is saying  
The substantial  
But what will we do  
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And what will we do  
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So what will we do  
In the  
So what will we do  
In the

**Anniversary**

GOD is in the world  
This He  
I am  
I am

...so in Christ we who are many form one body...

**GOD THAT IS IN CHRIST**  
**JESUS OUR LORD**  
ROMANS 8:35-39

*Ephesians 6:12*



**God is in the business of providing hope and restoration of families. In April 2014, Wade and I went to Niagara Falls with his youngest brother and his wife, and then we went to Ohio and went fishing with one of his other brothers. Wade and his two brothers were men who have served time and who were lost. Now they are free and enjoying the beauty of the world that God created. God gets all the praise and glory for the lives that we all live today.**



**"For You have been my hope, Sovereign Lord ... You will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth You will bring me up ... My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you - I whom You have delivered." - Psalm 71:5, 20, 23**

## From Death Row to Paradise Row - Part II by W.R.

I want to take this opportunity now to share with you some of the events which led me to lay down my sword and pick up God's sword. By the way that is how He refers to "His Word" as a sword. Believe me, it's a powerful weapon, and it has the power to change your life, to give you a new life, a new heart, and a new hope for a better tomorrow. If He can do it for me, then I know there is hope for you. There's a better way, man, and Jesus is that Way. I'm going to keep it real with you from the beginning to the end. I don't know how to do it any other way. I don't sugarcoat nothing, don't sidestep nothing, and I'm sure not going to be half stepping about nothing, for everything I've served to you has been real. It's from the heart. I'm just being straight up with you. Jesus kept it real when He went to the cross, and I'm going to keep it real with Him and with you.

### Jesus Kept It Real

Jesus kept it real brother, when He walked upon the Earth  
For He had come to free us, from that ancient curse  
Jesus kept it real brother, from the beginning to the end  
For He came into the world brother, to cleanse us from our sins.

And Jesus kept it real brother, when He hung upon the Cross  
He didn't die for the righteous, but for those who were lost  
They say He came to free the captives, those imprisoned by their sins  
And to free us from bondage, and to break the chains within.

To free us from our prisons, whatever they may be  
Jesus kept it real brother, just for you and me  
He was a man of many sorrows and He shared in our grief  
He came into the world brother, to make our lives complete.

And Jesus kept it real brother, when He was despised and rejected by men  
Jesus kept it real brother, when betrayed by His friends  
Jesus kept it real brother, when Judas sold Him out  
And He promised never to forsake us, that's what Jesus is about.

He was spat upon and mocked, by those He came to save  
But Jesus kept it real brother, that was the price He had to pay.

Others may abandon you, and sell you out for a price  
But Jesus will keep it real brother, when you accept Him into your life  
So keep it real with Jesus, brother, that's the least we can do  
Jesus kept it real brother, when He died for me and you!

I know you are probably thinking I broke weak, that I couldn't do this time anymore, so now I'm clinging to Jesus, but it wasn't like that, man. I wasn't looking for God when He came into my life, and I sure wasn't expecting Him to come to me. That was the last thing that I wanted in my life. I didn't need no God ... no Jesus ... no one. I always saw Christians as being weak, misguided people who couldn't deal with life or with their own problems, so they clung to Jesus because they couldn't make it on their own. I remember my lawyer sending me a Bible when I was on Death Row, and I felt resentment towards him for doing that. I wasn't looking for that kind of help. I needed my appeal processed, and from what I knew about Jesus, He wasn't in the appeal business. That Bible sat on my shelf for the next twenty-six years collecting dust.

One day I got a letter from a home girl. She was looking good, way too fine. She was talking to me about God and things in the Bible, and being I never read it, I was totally in the dark as to what she was saying, so I decided to check it out so I could communicate with her about spiritual things. I didn't want her to think I was stupid. So, I started reading the Scriptures to impress her, to get next to her. What I didn't know at the time was that the Lord was using her as "bait" to draw me out there, and it goes without saying that He was using the right bait, for I always had an eye for the girls. Then one day I was reading the story in the Bible in which Jesus was talking to the religious leaders, and He was dogging them out, calling them hypocrites and vipers, telling them that they were like whitewashed tombs on the outside, but filled with dead men's bones on the inside. That got my attention, for I had enough sense to know that the people He was talking to had the power to put Him in prison or to execute Him.

Over the years a lot of people tried to talk to me about Jesus, and they always portrayed Him as a lamb, as being meek and humble; but the Jesus that I was reading about, when He was talking to the religious leaders, was a warrior. I admired and respected His courage and His strength in taking the stand that He did, and those were qualities in Him that drew me to Him. I wanted to know who this guy Jesus was and what He was really about, so I began to read the Bible and I began

to see Jesus differently from the stories that I'd heard or been told about. There were things in His life that He had experienced that I could relate to, like His execution. I had been sentenced to death myself, but I was guilty and He wasn't. I could relate to His being spit upon, mocked and beaten, for I'd been beaten by prison guards. I could relate to Him being stabbed in the side, for I had been stabbed. I could relate to them pulling out His beard, for guards had ripped out patches of my hair. When I read about His death on the Cross, I started seeing this guy Jesus through different eyes. He hung up there on that Cross and died like a man, and I respected and admired His strength and courage. I cried when I read about His crucifixion and how they had beaten Him, mocked Him, and spit upon Him. He said nothing. He took it like a man, and I wanted to know more about this Man Jesus, the King of the Jews. So, I started reading my Bible every day, and God began opening and softening my heart to the Scriptures, to His Son, Jesus, and to His Word.

One day while reading the Bible, I came across a story about a centurion soldier in the Roman army who had asked Jesus to heal his servant. He told Jesus that he wasn't worthy to have Him come into his house, but if He would just speak the word, his servant would be healed. Jesus told him to go, that his servant would be healed, just as he believed, and so he was. That story got my attention. I found the Spirit leading me to another story in the Bible about the woman with the bleeding issue. She suffered for years, and the doctors could not help her. Her condition only grew worse. One day as Jesus was walking through a crowd of people, she said to herself, "If I can just touch the hem of His garment, I'll be healed." So, she reached out and touched His garment and was healed. These two stories got my attention, and the Spirit kept drawing me back to them. I wasn't even saved. I didn't know anything about the Holy Spirit, but I knew something kept drawing me back to these Scriptures. They got my attention because I was being treated by doctors for a bone disease in my fourth, fifth, and sixth vertebrae caused by arthritis, which led to my having bone spurs which were digging into the nerves in my vertebrae. This was causing me to have spasms throughout my shoulders, arms, and fingers. The doctors told me that it would eventually cripple me. There was nothing they could do. They were giving me nerve blocks and medication, but nothing helped. The pain was always there, and I'm no stranger to pain. It was intense, it was unbearable. I'd lived with it for three years, and it was getting worse. The doctors told me it would continue to get worse and eventually I'd lose all mobility in my arms. I had already made up my mind that I would make them kill me before it got to that stage. I wasn't going to go out like that!

One day I was reading the story about the woman with the bleeding issue, and the Spirit was speaking to my heart and told me, "If you would reach out to Jesus, He'll heal you." At that time, I was scheduled to go to the hospital for another nerve block. I told the doctors that I was going to let God heal me. They thought, as I knew they would, that I had lost my mind, and as a result they referred me over for counseling. Not long after that, I saw a minister on TV talking about sending in a prayer cloth and you'd be healed. I didn't know what a prayer cloth was, and my first instinct was "a hustle". I still had that old convict/hustling mentality, and my first thought was this guy's hustling God's Word. I don't take nothing people say at face value, but I wanted to believe it. When you're in the kind of pain that I was, you'll try anything. So, I started searching the Bible for anything in relation to prayer cloths and healing. After hours of research, I found some Scriptures in which the Apostle Paul had torn off pieces of his apron and sent them out to people, and as a result they were healed; I thought maybe there was something to this. I tore a handkerchief in half, put it in an envelope with a note explaining my condition, and I dropped it in the mailbox. I felt stupid. Later I sat down on my bunk, and I pretended that Jesus was walking by, and I reached out and touched His garment. I felt like a fool. I had never done anything so ridiculous in my life. Nothing happened. I felt like a complete fool. Then one day I got up and for the first time in three years, I wasn't feeling any pain. Another day passed by and no pain ... a week passed by, then a month. I knew by then that I had been healed. That was in the summer of 1998, and I knew that this God that people talked about was real. Jesus was real, and He still healed people. I knew in those moments that I had to be real with Him. I've never been the type of person to be half-stepping about anything I did, and I sure wasn't going to be half-stepping with Jesus. He wasn't half-stepping when He walked to that Cross to die. He kept it real for me, and I'm going to keep it real with Him.

When God healed me of that bone disease, I knew a miracle had taken place, and I wasn't even saved then. But the greatest miracle/healing that I have experienced wasn't the healing of my body, but that of my mind and my heart. I thank God every day for freeing me from my prison of hatred and for reaching down into my heart and softening my heart, for giving me a new heart and filling it with His peace, His joy, and His love. Before Jesus came into my life, I had no heart. Somewhere along the way, my heart had been ripped out of me, and I was left empty, void of all emotions, of everything that makes a human being gentle and kind. In my world, kindness is a weakness and to show kindness in any form was just to invite more pain into your life, so you put up a wall, a barrier, and you don't let anyone in. When Jesus came into my life, those walls came down. He broke the chains that had kept me in bondage. He freed me from a life of drug addiction, hatred, and violence.

Not long after I had gotten saved, I was reading a story in the **Book of Malachi** in which the Lord was telling His people that He'd bless them if they would pay their tithes. He told them to test Him. When I read this, it got my attention. I still had that street and old convict mentality, and I took it as a challenge, so I sent a hundred dollars to some ministries expecting to get paid. I didn't want to bust loose with that hundred dollars, for I had read stories in the Bible in which it tells us that

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

### Prayer Requests

Well I'm staying busy, please keep me in your prayers. Things are really well, working full time continuing to edify, encourage and help my brothers with the flock, getting them in spiritual shape (**Hebrews 5:13-14, Hebrews 6:1-3, 2 Timothy 2:15-16, Hebrews 3:16-17, Romans 10:17 and Hebrews 11:1**) Things are really well at the job. I'm the clerk at waste water, please pray for my boss, she is trying to move forward in the Lord but there is just so many things taking her mind out of focus. I continue to speak the Word to her, so hopefully she listens to the still small voice, we're praying ... **C.B.**

This prison is a violent one. We continue to pray for protection on this prison and I'm certain that God intends to act - He always keeps His promises ... **R.A.**

Keep my two friends in your prayers, these are the two that I spoke of earlier. It kills me watching them swallowed up by addiction ... **S.C.**

My uncle got his Christian pastor's degree to preach, to start his prison bikers for Christ ministry. If you can, say some prayers for him, me, and the whole family, and prayers for his bikers prison ministry ... **D.G.**

I'm not feeling well so just bear with me. I've been having problems with my back for years now and I finally got an x-ray four weeks ago and it shows that I have lesions and a bad infection in my 4th and 5th lower vertebrae. My feet are going numb - can't sleep - can't walk, I'm in so much pain. Two doctors told me I needed to get an MRI and be put in the hospital ASAP - that was four weeks ago. I was supposed to have gone out for the MRI, but they keep messing my paperwork up. Please pray for me - I'm trusting in the Lord to heal me. They've been trying to put me on morphine for a month now but I told them I don't use no hard drugs - Pray for a healing for me and that God will give me the grace to deal with this pain. My God tells me that He's the God who will heal me of ALL my diseases. My thoughts are scattered - bear with me. My God says He will raise me up from my sick bed to declare His good works - He goes on to say that I'll live and not die - I believe His report - not the labs or these doctors. God bless you ALL and the work that you are doing. I love you ... **W.R.**

Thank you for keeping my brother, Juan Jr., the one that has cancer in your prayers. Juan thanks you all as well. I ask that you continue praying for my mom, Maria, my daughter, Jacklyn, and the rest of my brothers and sisters well being ... **E.G.**

It's coming upon a year since I lost my mom and I need the strength to get through it. She was my best friend. I was incarcerated when she passed and I wasn't able to go to the services. So, please say a prayer for me that I get through this. I really appreciate it ... **E.D.**

### Praise Reports

I have something I want to share with you and it was a big blessing that my family received. My wife and I were talking about wanting to own a home because renting, well, gets you nowhere. So, I just told my wife, let's ask our Lord for a house, so we did. We prayed and stood on His promises for His children and declared that whatever we ask in His name we will receive so we put it in His hands. Now get this my brother, two weeks later I call my wife and guess what she tells me? We have been given a home!! My wife and I know a Vietnamese couple that owns a nail salon, but anyway my wife said the couple just showed up at the house we live in that we are renting, and told her that "we want to show you something." So, they get in the car and went to a house and said, "We bought this house for you!!" WOW!! I don't think it was even two weeks and the Lord answered this prayer for us. I am so grateful, I truly am. I thought I would share that with you ... **M.M.**

It's good to hear from you all and it's very timely because I had met a sister indirectly through the mail. I had been asking God if she were the one and at the end of your card was written "God is always faithful and that woman is not the one He has prepared for you!" Since I can't remember exactly what I wrote that would cause you to say that, I just take it the woman I've been praying about these last two weeks is not the one, so praise God either way ~ Amen! Six years ago on 4-10-08 I signed my ten year plea agreement and it was on that day I believe that He spoke to my heart, He would give me a wife when I came to prison, and so getting your card on 4-10-14 had a double meaning ... **R.D.**

I've always considered myself a Christian. But it is only as of recent that I've started living a Christian life and walking with our Savior Jesus Christ. It's only been a couple of months and I have had to face and overcome some tough situations. I was fortunate that I had a contact visit with my mother. But then two weeks later I got a call to the chaplain's office. It was that dreaded call from a family member. My mother had a massive stroke and still is, as of this letter, in the hospital. My faith in our Most High God has given me the strength and courage in these very trying times. I have now witnessed for the first time in my life how powerful prayer can be. Thanks to prayer my mother is doing better and is responding to the nurses and has her faculties about her ... **R.Q.**

# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### My Condolences

By A.B.

I am truly sorry to hear of the loss of your mom. I have noticed the date, May 7th, 2014. The reason I said that is, I received a visit from my mom on that same date. I have begged her not to make the 6 hour trip from south Florida to north Florida; it would be too much for her. I think we only had a few hours together, my daughter and son had driven her here to see me. As we were hugging and kissing goodbye she was crying, saying, "I wish I could take you with me." Right then my mother grabbed me tight in pain and had a heart attack. My mother also passed away that day. I am still hurt and blaming myself, even my children are hurt for surprising me with her visit. So I know how you must feel, being beside her each day. Your mother looks beautiful. You both look so much alike, God bless you. She is in God's presence and now in peace.

I wrote a short poem within the card that I sent. I enjoyed the June's newsletter with the heart design from candles. I am only able to send a bleeding heart of roses. My family is large. Most of them live in New Jersey; a few of my children live in Florida. Yesterday, I had a mass in honor of my mother and yours for the same day of passing.

Remember, beauty does not vanish but is transformed into even greater beauty ... Love does not vanish but is transformed into even greater love.

### My Comfort Blanket

God understands my aching heart, He sees my hidden tears.  
'Tho all alone, I trust in Him to guide me through these lonely years.  
When sorrow overwhelms me, I go to God in prayer.  
I carry on with faith and hope, knowing He is always there.  
My God is my Comfort Blanket, He wraps me in His warming care.  
When the specter of loneliness shadows me, He hears my entreating prayer.

### The Love of Family

The most treasured memories in my heart, are the ones in which you each have been apart.  
The miracle of each new birth, are slices of heaven born on earth.  
We've shared our laughter and some tears, and kept the faith throughout the years.  
Our family tree will only survive, if it has our love our mom taught us to stay alive.  
Let nothing come between our love ... nor distances bring miles between us.  
It is a blessing from God above, to keep our love together as one.  
Times together bring peace of mind, when love and laughter have intertwined.  
What a wonderful gift life can be ... wrapped in the love of family, our mother has taught us in memories.

### God is Always Faithful

By S.C.

Hopefully, you have received more than one tithes for I have been sliding them under the counselors door every payday (every other week) and brother, God's promises are so true - since before I started tithing, but even more so since I started, I am rarely without anything I need. It's funny, I've been doing pin striping on Bibles. I started with my own and others saw what I did and they all wanted some form of it done. I charge one bag of coffee per section, let me explain: A cross and pinstripe along the bottom - one bag or a biker skull/cross - one bag. I had one guy have me do a cross with bottom striping for one bag, when he came back from church everyone was raving about his Bible, so I added side striping (one more bag), then he decided he wanted a dove above the cross (one more bag). So, ya see how this works. It seems when I am about out of coffee and between store days, someone will show up with a Bible to stripe, Amen!! So, that's a whole side business from my Bible paintings.

Sorry dude, I got a little sideways. Back to your card, as for Michelle's words of my job blessing; It could not be more fruitful - I was working as a shower porter when I sent that first tithe. Since then, the Lord has blessed me even better. I now work in the library as a clerk - point being, God has returned to me the wages I was making before being uprooted. So, just let me emphasize, trust in God, in ALL things! Amen! Not to mention the blessing of an Iron Horse roaring in the distance at least once a day when I'm either in route to or from work or chow, Praise God!

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# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

My brothers and sisters, I'm living way better than I deserve truly because of my love and trust in Jesus Christ. I can aggressively say that Jesus meets my needs and more. That being said, I do have an odd thought. How does one go from a nefarious outlaw/biker to a library clerk? Even better, I've got a set of wheels ... granted they're on the bottom of my chair at work but don't think for a minute that I don't spend a fair amount of time rolling back and forth and I can neither confirm or deny rumors of motorcycle noises being heard in the library ... Ha! Ha! Even funnier is watching this ol' dinosaur checking out books via the computer, Ha! Ha! God truly has a grand sense of humor.

I love being a part of D&S ministry, being able to share my somewhat different observations of Christianity. It's amazing how God fills us with such a need to try to help others however we can. What really gets me is how much God uses me in here every day, whether on the run, out at work or rec. I truly love how God uses me, even though my surroundings are knee (or possibly neck) deep in the work of the liar. At times it's very hard for me to watch people very close to me who are men of faith yet their addictions are running their lives. Yet all I can do is pray for them in that situation. Even though I've been there myself and came out the other side, they don't want to hear the truth about what they're doing.

Just in from work for lunch and had some thoughts to share. Some guy shows up in the library (old number). He and the other librarian start telling about back in the day stuff, more or less played out war story theatre, trying to suck me in, then the other librarian starts talking club stuff. Sure, I talked a little, but to be honest with you, I really don't give a care about all that. Yesterday ended at midnight baby, I'm only interested in from today going forward every day. It seems when conversations of back in the day come up it's kind of messing with my new man in Christ, ya know? Let's leave the old me dead and gone. Don't get me wrong, I'll yammer on about God, bikes and art all day, but I have no interest in my past life, because I totally love my new life. Trust me when I tell you that the good ol' days weren't that good, they lean more towards ignorant ... Ha! Ha! I had this hilarious quote I made up the other day, "Change your felonious shenanigans for faithful shenanigans."

### Gratitude By C.B.

There is so much love packed in this wonderful life with the Lord and no matter how tough things get with the brothers who are truly walking of like mindedness and truly walking in the Spirit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your diligent work in the body of Christ and your continued effort to bring forth the message that our Lord and Savior has given to you, not only to be a diligent steward of but also a wonderful contributor to the rest of the brothers. Thank you for the feeding of the sheep and being vigilant, aware and alert to the needs of God's children, and always being mindful of what the Lord gives you to share ... Amen!

Oswald Chambers said, "We are not here to work for God because we have chosen to do so, but because God "laid hold of" us. And once He has done so we never have this thought, 'Well, I'm really not suited for this.' What you are to preach is also determined by God, not by your own natural leanings or desires. Every Christian must testify to the truth of God, but when it comes to the call to preach, there must be the agonizing grip of God's hand on you – your life is in the grip of God for that very purpose. How many of us are held like that? "

***Philippians 3:12 - "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 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."***

Other great scripture references are:

***1 John 1:3 - "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ."***

***1 John 5:18 - "We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them."***

***1 Timothy 1:18-19 - "Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith."***

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# Foot's Bible Study Notes

## 2 Samuel 1:1-3:39

Lying can bring disaster upon the liar, even for something he or she has not done. (1:13) It takes courage to lay aside hatred and hurt and to respect the positive side of another person, especially an enemy. (1:17-27)

Before moving ahead with what seems obvious, first bring the matter to God, Who alone knows the best timing. (2:1) Before you decide to pursue a goal, make sure it's worthy of your devotion. (2:21-23)

When you face conflict, step back from the hostilities and consider whether you and your enemy have common goals that are bigger than your differences. Appeal to those interests as you work for a settlement. (3:1) God will repay those who deserve it. (Romans 12:19) Refuse to rejoice when your enemies suffer, and don't try to get revenge. Seeking revenge will ruin your own peace of mind and increase the chances of further retaliation. (3:26-29)

## John 12:20-13:30

Jesus had to die to pay the penalty for our sin, but also to show His power over death. His resurrection proves He has eternal life. Because Jesus is God, Jesus can give this same eternal life to all who believe in Him. (12:23-25) No matter who the sincere seekers are, Jesus welcomes them. His message is for everyone. Don't allow social or racial differences to become barriers to the Good News. Take the Good News to all people. (12:26) We often wonder what God is like. How can we know the Creator when He doesn't make Himself visible? Jesus said plainly that those who see Him see God, because He is God. If you want to know what God is like, study the person and words of Jesus Christ. (12:43:43)

Jesus washes the disciples' feet. If even He, God in the flesh is willing to serve, we His followers must also be servants, willing to serve in any way that glorifies God. Are you willing to follow Christ's example of serving? Whom can you serve today? There is a special blessing for those who not only agree that humble service is Christ's way, but who also follow through and do it. (13:1-17)

## Psalms 118:19-119:16

There are days when the last thing we want to do is rejoice. Our mood is down, our situation is out of hand, and our sorrow or guilt is overwhelming. We can relate to the writers of the Psalms who often felt this way. But no matter how low the psalmists felt, they were always honest with God. And as they talked to God, their prayers ended in praise. When you don't feel like rejoicing, tell God how you truly feel. You will find that God will give you a reason to rejoice. God has given you this day to live and to serve Him – be glad! (118:24)

Remember God's Word, the Bible, is the only sure guide for living a pure life. (119:1) Hiding (keeping) God's Word in our heart is a deterrent to sin. This alone should inspire us to memorize Scripture, but memorization alone will not keep us from sin. We must also put God's Word to work in our life, making it a vital guide for everything we do. (119:11)

## Proverbs 15:27-30

The godly weigh their answers, the wicked don't think before speaking because they don't care about the effects of their words. It is important to have something to say, but it is equally important to think about it first. Do you carefully plan your words, or do you pour out your thoughts without concern for their impact? (15:28) The first half of 15:30 says, "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart." Do we even realize the affect of a smile on someone who might be having a rough day? Just that simple effort could have an amazing pay it forward affect. Have you ever thought how just one smile from you could possibly change the day of hundreds of people? What about a hundred smiles or a thousand smiles? What a cool blessing to give someone and it doesn't cost nothing. Think about it.

## “Foot” Notes

Hello brothers and sisters, I got some stuff to share with you to let you know that satan is forever trying to break us down. A few days ago, another Christian brother and I got into a squabble over something that was really a non-issue yet escalated to the two of us wrestling around on the dish room floor like two idiots. Thank God neither of us was hurt and we were stopped before we got in trouble. You'd think that after giving my life to the Lord, seven years ago, that by now I would have grown enough to be able to diffuse such stuff from happening. But it just shows, it only takes the right button pushed and we find ourselves right where we started. Thankfully, our God is a forgiving God. So, I guess what my point is, is that we need to stay vigilant in our faith in Jesus Christ, for the devil is just as vigilant for us to throw in our armor of faith and return to who we were before God entered our lives. Love to you all ... vaya con dios!



some people will use God's Word for their own gain, and I remembered seeing some stories on the news about ministries getting busted for (as I call it) pimping God's word. So, I was somewhat reluctant to bust loose with that hundred dollars, but I was going to take God up on His challenge and test Him, so I sent the money. Six months passed and nothing happened, and I had forgotten all about it for God was blessing me in other areas of my life spiritually. You can't put a price tag on those kinds of blessings. They are the true treasures. Then one day I received a letter from an old friend of mine that I had helped out years ago. She was an ex-prostitute and drug addict, but she had gotten saved and had received some kind of inheritance. She told me that the Lord had put it on her heart to send me some money. She gave me twelve hundred dollars. I had my brother, who's an atheist, send me a thousand one time, I've been paying tithes ever since. Not to get anything in return, for God has already given me the greatest treasure that I could ever possess (His Son). No matter how deep I go into my pocket to kick the Lord down His ten percent, He always goes a little deeper into His pocket to bless me, and those blessings come in many ways.

God has put a hunger in my heart for His Word, for I didn't know anything about God or His Son, Jesus, or anything. One day while I was reading the story about Jesus' crucifixion, I wept. I had a guy ask me once what kind of God would kill His own Son? I had only been a Christian for a few months when I was asked that question, and I didn't know how to answer it. Not long after that, the Lord gave me the answer to that question in a vision. He took me to the Cross. He took me back to Jerusalem to the night of Jesus' arrest, and I saw Him being questioned by the religious leaders, blindfolded, and spat upon. He was mocked and slapped in His face. I was a spectator watching these things happening. I saw the Lord go before Pilate. I saw Him stripped naked and tied to a whipping post. I saw His flesh being ripped open from the whip. I heard Him cry out in pain, in agony. I could see the sweat from His body drip with His blood on the ground. I saw the Roman soldiers mocking Him, placing a crown of thorns upon His head. I saw Him wrench in pain as the thorns dug into His flesh. I saw them place a purple robe across His shoulders and bow down to Him, mocking Him, laughing at Him. I could hear the crowd screaming out in a frenzy, "Crucify Him!" as he was being led to Calvary. I saw Him stumble and fall and struggle to get back up from the weight of the cross beam that He carried across His shoulders. He got back up for you and for me. He kept walking toward Calvary to His death. I was there in the crowd, just watching. When He got to Calvary, I saw the soldiers strip Him naked, and one held His arm down on the cross beam while another one hammered the spikes through his wrists, first one, then another. I saw the blood gush from His wrists as the spikes ripped through His flesh. I heard Jesus cry out in pain, in agony. I saw them pierce His feet and nail Him to the Cross, and I could hear the sound of the hammer striking the metal spike, and it echoed above the noise of the crowd. I saw the soldiers in a circle, gambling for His clothes, drinking wine, and laughing as Jesus hung on the Cross. I saw the sky darken as lightning shot across the sky. I looked at the Cross, and I saw Jesus looking down at me, and I heard Him say, "I love you." It broke my heart. I wept. I knew that it was me who had crucified the Son of God, that it was me who had nailed Him to that Cross, that it was my sins that killed Him. Then I knew the answer to the question, what kind of God would kill His own Son? One who loves you!

### **I Was That Soldier**

You took off Your robe, Your crowns of gold  
To fulfill the prophecies that were foretold  
You came into the world that You created  
Where You would be crucified, scorned and hated

You gave up Your throne for a wooden cross  
So You could save those who were lost  
You exchanged Your crown for a crown of thorns  
Discarded all the glory that You had worn

You exchanged Your robe for a robe of flesh  
To live amongst us and to conquer death  
You walked amongst us, a carpenter by trade  
And at night You would pray under the stars You made

You came down from heaven to die for our sins  
And we betrayed You at the end  
You brought us the truth but we rejected that, too  
We chose the darkness over You

You came to our world and the people You created  
To show us love, but we still hated  
We had You arrested for committing the crime  
Claiming to be God's Son and being divine

You claimed to be the Messiah who had come in the flesh  
And I cried out to crucify You like all the rest  
I was there in the garden the night You were arrested  
And Your disciples deserted You when their faith was tested

I heard Peter deny You not once but three times  
When You were being judged, though innocent of any crime  
I saw them mock You and spit in Your face  
Place a robe upon You in shame and disgrace

I saw them bow before You, You claimed to be a king  
But we did not understand the peace that You would bring  
I saw You walk by, carrying Your cross  
On Your way to Calvary to save the lost

I saw You stumble and fall to the ground  
And I cursed You like the others around  
You tried to get up but You could not rise  
So I kicked You in the side

I gave Your cross to Simon, he was a strong lad  
To carry for You, and he looked kind of sad  
Then I spit upon You with hatred and scorn  
I even gambled for the clothes that You had worn

I was that soldier who cast lots for Your robe  
I took it back to Rome where it was sold  
I was that soldier who tore off Your clothes  
I was that soldier who struck the first blow

I was that soldier who ripped open Your flesh  
The law required forty lashes, but I gave You one less  
I was that soldier who ripped out Your beard  
You looked like a sheep that had gone under the shears

I was that soldier who made You a crown  
From thorns You had created before man was around  
I was at Calvary the day You died  
I was that soldier who pierced your side

I was that soldier who nailed You to the Cross  
And You said "Father, forgive them for they are lost"  
I was that soldier who guarded Your grave  
I was that soldier that You came to save!

After the Lord had shown me this vision, I knew I would never be the same. I asked Him to never let me forget what He did for me at the Cross, and He hasn't. Since that time, He has taken me back to the scene of the crucifixion several times, and every time it breaks my heart. Even today I weep whenever I read about it in the Scriptures. Jesus kept it real when He hung on that Cross and died, and I've got to keep it real and live my life for Him today.

## What Others Are Saying...

"I hope this long, long, long overdue letter finds you and all my Christian brothers and sisters doing well and in the best of health. As for me, I'm doing nothing short of spectacular. There ought to be a law against feeling this good, looking this good and being locked up. I want to thank you for everything. It was really good to hear from you ... the resource letter ... it don't get any better. The birthday paper was right on time. I only got two, one from my aunt and yours. It's not the quantity, it's the quality. I also want to thank you for the newsletters. You guys do a great job. I'm very lucky to have you in my life, if it wasn't for you I wouldn't be getting any mail, and I like mail, it's really all I have to look forward to here." - **R.F.**

"I want you all to know, I love you and thank you for not forgetting my birthday each year. It's good to be loved." - **L.W.**

"I'm writing you to request to be put on your mailing list. C.C. is a good friend of mine and I used to just read his when he got it, but now that he is gone home I don't want to have to go and hunt one down. Also, I know C.C. is going to submit his writings and I like reading those. I also like to read the Footnotes. I've recently got my life together and it's been a long hard road just to get to this point. It's funny that the people that are in the circle I kick it with are all Christians, I know my hand had nothing to do with that ... Amen!" - **C.S.**

"Dearest *Overcomers for Christ*, this is the second newsletter that I've greatly appreciated to receive. I want to thank you and the others that have made the newsletter possible, it's really helped me with my everyday fight reading heartfelt messages. I pass it along after I read it. Most newsletters let me know that I've still got feelings, even after everything that goes on around me. Now, I do realize I'm not the only one out there." - **D.L.**

"Dear *Overcomers for Christ*, God bless you and thank you for the Birthday card it really picked me up." - **N.K.**

"I read your poems and letters, I do not get your *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter but my Christian brother does. I love the words of wisdom and understanding that I get from your Bible verses. I just would like to thank you for your time, and love that you all put in. I like the pictures and everything about them. I have a dog that looks like yours, he is an American bulldog and boxer with a white neck. I would just like to say thank you again." - **W.B.**

"Though I have never written to you, I feel as though I'm corresponding with dear old friends. This I attribute to the Holy Spirit. However, I thought it prudent to at least express to you my gratitude for keeping me on your mailing list and especially for the birthday letter. You guys are awesome. Every time I receive your publication, I share it with as many as will accept it. I know what you do is a labor of love and you should know that your work is not in vain. We all appreciate the testimonies and praise reports and loving attention, you never fail to apply to your efforts. I have personally found the newsletter to be an invaluable tool in reaching those otherwise near impossible to reach. Which stands to reason, that all things are possible with God." - **D.W.**

"Just read the newsletter and loved your "candy colors" and yes it is truly amazing to what lengths the devil will go to, to trick us into thinking that whatever we're doin' is all good. He just never gives up. You know I've been thinking over your words about prescription meds and it's so true how the devil can get us headed for the ruts we've dug in the past. Knowing of our addictive behaviors and yet slowly dragging you back in through prescription drugs. I can only say thanks and praise to God for the people you have around you to help you see through the devil's lies." - **S.C.**

"Well, I just received the newsletter and it brought a big smile to my face. I am very grateful and thankful for everything your newsletter offers us incarcerated. I love the pictures and the words of wisdom are truly a blessing. With all of your constant encouragement, from people who have never met me puts a warm smile on my face. Thank you for reaching out and touching hearts like mine. God bless all of you there." - **E.G.**

# Overcomer's Testimonies

I was paroled after doing a ten year S.H.U. program in April of 2010. I was let out with two strikes and in my heart I knew I would rather die than do life in prison. So, after four months of not being able to find and keep solid work - I felt I was drowning ... and not going to make it "the right way," so I went back to what I knew ... crime. But this time I armed myself, and I knew when the end came I would not let them take me alive. Well about three months into my crime spree, that night came. The sheriff had me trapped, and my brand new Glock that I had just paid \$600 for refused to go off. To this day I can't explain it, it had worked fine just days before, but that night it would not fire ... against them or myself - so obviously I was taken in alive. I knew that gun, plus the other charges pending that I'd be getting my third strike ... and I would be there for 25 to life. So, after being booked in the county jail, and being housed in the tank with the rest of my brothers - I called and wrote my people (family) and said goodbye and that I was sorry.

I then had my brothers keep watch, while I went to the back of the cell and took a razor, and cut my own throat. I had cut my jugular vein, and just sat there, waiting to die. And that's the last thing I remember. I woke out of a coma three days later in I.C.U. The doctors came and told me they were not sure how I'm still alive. When I was brought in, I had lost most of my blood and was not breathing. I tried to open my mouth to say something, and no sound came out, and they were like, "Oh yeah, by the way, you'll never talk again, too much damage to your voice box." All I could think was I'm still here, still going to end up doing my life in prison. So, my mind started to drift to ... how I could finish the job? But then a sense of peace came over me, and just expressed a feeling of ... "Please give Me a chance, let Me try to fix things, what do you got to lose?" So, I said, "Fine," closed my eyes and went to sleep.

A week later, I was brought from I.C.U. to the court room, I was offered five years with half-time for the gun charge and all my other charges would be dropped (all felonies) and no strike on the gun charge. It seemed the D.A. had no idea that I already had two strikes - that's why I got the half time, I've never got half time in my life. So, I signed on the dotted line as they say and instead of 25 to life I got two years. By the way, that all took place within a week and a half's time - all three of those defining moments - my new gun all of a sudden not working - the cut jugular but not dying - and the not getting life when this state gives out your 3rd strike and 25 to life for stealing a piece of pizza. So, God is REAL and when you trust in Him, He can move mountains. Oh, by the way ... my voice came back and I can talk again. God is Great! - D.B.

## Seven Years and Counting

by John Dobbins

To all the Overcomers ... Do you know what God expects of you? Believe it or not, God has a very definite plan for each one of us. He has blessed each of us with a unique set of gifts, skills, talents and resources so we can play a special role in building up the kingdom of God here on earth. To know God's plan for us, we simply need to pray: **Lord, what do You want me to do with all the gifts You have given me?**

Since 2008 I have answered that prayer and have been able to be a part of the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry. I am asking all our readers to take some time in the days and weeks ahead to reflect on this question. I want you to pray on what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you. The challenge is that we cannot know what God wants from us unless we spend some time every day communicating with God. This next year of the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter I am asking all of our readers to do three simple things.

Make a commitment to spend more time in communication with God. Try starting your day with a few minutes of quiet prayer and ending your day with spiritual reading. When you pray, don't spend all the time telling God what problems you want Him to solve in the world. Instead, be still and ask God what He wants you to do. Then listen carefully. Listen to hear if God is calling you to a more active, conscious participation in our ministry sharing your time, talents and treasure.

God promises us that He will always give us all that we need. I believe that is true for us as individuals and as a ministry. We need more people to be involved in our ministry. I am confident that God will give our ministry what we need through you. Please ask God what He is calling you to do to build up the body of Christ. As always, I thank God for you and all that you contribute ...

## Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, assemble, and mail this newsletter every month. We thank each and every one of you who have sown a seed into this ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support from people who believe in this ministry. By sowing your financial seed into this ministry, you are helping us reach out to those incarcerated by offering them hope, love, and encouragement. You are investing in reaching lost souls, encouraging new believers, and spreading the Word of God. **"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows." - Galatians 6:7**

Any tithes or offerings that you would like to make to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry, please make your checks or money orders payable to Living Word Bible Church, in the memo section put 'For Overcomers for Christ'. Mail them to Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023, Phoenix, AZ 85080. Your donation does qualify as charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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**Walk A Little Plainer, Daddy**  
Author Unknown - Contributed by S.D.

Walk a little plainer, daddy ... said a little boy so frail,  
I am following in your footsteps, and I don't want to fail.

Sometimes your steps are so very plain,  
But at times they are hard to see,  
So walk a little plainer, daddy ... for you are leading me.

I know ... that once you walked this way many years ago,  
And what you did along the way I would really like to know.  
For times when I am tempted - I don't know what to do,  
So walk a little plainer, daddy ... for I must follow you.

Daddy ... Someday ... As I grow up I love and trust you,  
Teach me about Jesus who died for us,  
So we can share eternal life.  
Teach me God's truth ...  
Please follow Jesus daddy, As I follow you!

**From Gangs to Christ**

Author unknown - Contributed by S.D.

Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom,  
Prisoners suffering in iron chains, they stumbled.  
And there was no one to help.  
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
And He saved them from their distress.

He brought them out of darkness and the deepest of gloom,  
And broke away their chains.  
Let them give thanks to the Lord  
For He breaks down the gates of bronze,  
And cuts through bars of iron.

He sent forth His Word and healed them,  
He rescued them from the grave.  
Let them give thanks to the Lord,  
For His unflinching love and His wonderful deeds for men.

I LOVE YOU, JESUS!

**Quote Worthy**

**"If ye keep watch over your hearts, and listen for the voice of God and learn of Him, in one short hour ye can learn more from Him than ye could learn from man in a thousand years."**  
- Johannes Tauler (1300-1361) - a Catholic preacher and a theologian

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