



Semi-frequent  
OO Newsletter  
June 2006 V1B



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**A bridge between traditional 12 step groups and the church.**

*Please make copies of this newsletter for your group members.*

...When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, **dressed and in his right mind**....

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but **Jesus sent him** away, saying, **Return home and tell how much God has done for you.**

*Luke 8:34-39 NIV*

Greetings fellow Overcomers.

In this newsletter you will find; exiting news, articles from the founders and chairperson, 3 testimonies, answers to some of your questions and a little business. Please read this and inform your groups.

**Thanks to the Lord**, the OO Board of Directors, the OO Founders, Several very generous donors, volunteers and many prayers we are still up and running. Inside the front and back cover of this newsletter is information pertaining to questions some of you have asked. Also you will find a message from the founders, chairperson and 3 personal stories/testimonies.

**Groups:** We have sent out many “Group Starter Kits” so far this year. We are still working on cleaning up the meeting list. Those who have not replied to the survey or phone messages are being pulled off the list. Some meetings are not listed; if you have not checked the website recently please do so. Many of the surveys asked questions pertaining to meeting growth. A few principles seem to me to be in need of attention.

1.) Easy Contact. Some of the Meeting contact information makes getting information very hard. When someone is to the point of deciding to look for a meeting, a church answering machine that might result in the group leader getting a message in a few days is not making contact easy, and for the sake of the newcomer easy is helpful.

2.) Other Churches. Many people will not go to a meeting in their own church. Make sure that the other churches in the area are aware of your group.

3.) Other Groups: One of the Greatest places to find people that are interested in our “Bridge” method of

recovery are other recovery groups. Clearly not everyone you will meet will be interested, but if you plant the seeds, He will water. I know that some of you have had uncomfortable experiences mentioning Jesus in traditional 12 step groups. It seems that I read somewhere that we are to be a light in the darkness, and that we would be persecuted for our faith. Compared to what happens in other parts of the world, I think it’s not too bad here.

4.) Stick to the Format. The “Freed Books” meeting format is a great design. I am aware that in its exact context it won’t work for every group, but give it a try and adapt by group conscience and be open to readapting again.

5.) Rotation of Leadership. This is not only good for the personality of the meeting but a survival necessity. Group attendee’s are encouraged to take turns leading the meeting, and eventually gain the confidence to take on larger commitments when encouraged.

6.) No Teaching No Preaching. Overcomers Outreach meetings are a place where individuals come to share their experience, strength & hope, where we learn from each other and the Holy Spirit

7.) Follow the OO Group Traditions. Pages 11-12 in the “Freed Book”

**Finances:** By now, I suspect that you understand that we are still far from out of

the woods financially. I do realize that some groups are in a situation that does not allow helping the OO office out financially; I do understand and appreciate that. For those that can; I would like to offer three different suggestions to take to your groups that would make a world of difference to Overcomers Outreach.

- 1.) 7<sup>th</sup> tradition donations. Donations above + beyond the group expenses get sent to the OO office.
- 2.) Tithes. 10% or more of your Group donations get sent to the OO office.
- 3.) Monthly commitment. If every group sent \$20 or more a month more than it is, we would be doing much better.

Please do make sending group donations a monthly habit, regardless of the amount. When sending donations, please designate whether the donation is a group or personal donation. The funds that you donate not only keep the phones on but also: Send literature to inmates and others in need without a means of paying, keep the groups listed in the internet, work in the direction of getting the OO name out into many places, eventually gets literature revised, and much much more. And of course please pray for Overcomers Outreach.

**Literature:** I would very much like to at this point be able to tell you that we have updated all of our literature added on new items and lowered the prices. I simply can not at this time claim any of these statements to be true.

Some of you have asked about the OO Big Book "**A Bridge to Recovery**". This is currently out of print. We have a few new and used copies available, contact the office for details. If you pray really hard, you might see revised edition next year.

We are currently working on a new pamphlet on "Sponsorship" which should be available soon.

Someone compared the page to page value of the OO Freed Books to the AA Big Book. Clearly for about the same price you get more pages in the AA Big Book. AA pricing on that item goes up and down to the distribution network based of 7<sup>th</sup> tradition income. If AA had the same amount of 7<sup>th</sup> tradition that OO does, that book could be over \$100. In the months of July + August 2006 we will be have a **sale on freed books** at the price of \$5 each, or in quantities of 20 or more \$4 each.

**Conferences:** I had hoped by this time that OO would be announcing a fall 2006 Conference. After some frustration, it became clear that the Lord has a better plan. As I type plans are forming for a spring 2007 Gulf Coast Conference. The conference theme will be carrying the message of hope. Something much needed in that area. Watch the OO website for details.

**Tape Library** We are gradually converting our tape library to CD. When they become available they will be on the website.

**Website:** If you have not looked at the website lately please do so soon. You want to be sure that your group

information is accurate. Also a new feature on the website are 3 links designed to help you make meeting brochures. At the "Meeting Directory" page on the lower right corner there are 3 links. 1 is an inside page, and the other 2 optional cover pages, for 3 fold pamphlets. If you have trouble with this call or e-mail us. Also new to the website are current newsletters, some day I hope to put previous additions on as well. The website will continually, gradually change, so keep an eye on it. While talking about the web, I need your e-mail address, so that some day we can cut down on postage. A simple add me to the e-news request shall do.

**Communication:** In the coming year we hope to have a group leader or group representative structure in place that keeps group leaders and group members in touch with what is going on in OO as a whole. If being of service in this area appeals to you please e-mail [info@overcomersoutreach.org](mailto:info@overcomersoutreach.org)

**Newsletter:** As a new part of our newsletter I intend to add group members Experience, Strength & Hope for your benefit. If you are interested in having your story included in an upcoming newsletter please mail or e-mail to the office with a note indicating why. Please do understand that I simply cannot fit them all into the next edition, so please be patient with me.

**Office:** Our office is currently a part time mostly volunteer operation. To become more effective we do need a full time staff. Some of you have found it interesting when calling 800 number to find the person answering to

be driving. With this in mind I must ask that for the time being, when communicating with the OO office, when possible use e-mail, or order through the OO website. Having said that I do want to announce our new toll free line **(877)-9overcome**. Some of you even discovered that I am not perfect, and I thought that was a secret. At the moment we are not in a position to pay for a full time staff, so if we are not working at the pace you would be comfortable with.....

## Overcomers Outreach Mission Field

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Anywhere people affected by  
addictions need recovery.

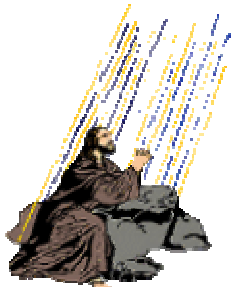


Anywhere people in recovery need  
Jesus.

....and Jesus said to them GO!.....



**"Hi, my name is Don, and I am an alcoholic."** How many times over these many years have I said those words? I guess that it really does not matter because I know that God is not done with me yet. How do I know that I am still in transformation? Because I still hear those reminders like - "Honey, you still get upset when....." or "Gee, Dad, I know that you get angry when....." The old responses in my head from childhood on are still not completely replaced by loving reactions. What to do about it? I must keep on keeping on. I pray for the "courage to change the things I can", and "Continue to take my personal inventory" daily. Ever so often, a glimmer of hope shines through and I see progress in my attempt to walk with Christ. But recovery is slow, and some days I am weary. Then the answer to my problem is, I need another meeting. My friends at Overcomers Outreach Hold me accountable and set me back on the right path. I hope to see you at the next meeting!



“Dear Fellow Overcomers Outreach Members, I am a gratefully recovering compulsive gambler and a lust and pornography addict. Through Jesus Christ as my higher power, Overcomers Outreach and my addiction-specific 12-step programs I have found a peace, joy and purpose in my life I never thought was possible. I have been a lust addict since I was 6 years old and a gambling addict since the age of 8. My addictions slowly progressed as I grew up. The gambling was at its peak one year after my marriage. Shortly thereafter, I bottomed out and joined GA and have been sober for over four years now. However, my lust and pornography addiction significantly worsened until I found peace in Jesus Christ and through my OO and SA programs. One day at a time, today, I have achieved some sanity in my life and freedom from lust, pornography, and gambling, by working the 12-steps on a daily basis with my sponsors, by giving back to Overcomers Outreach through my service as a Board Member, and by taking the time daily to pray, meditate and reflect on God’s Word and God’s Will with relation to specific events or problems I am faced with daily. The miracle of the 12-steps and of Jesus Christ’s saving grace and power is there for me if I decide to surrender to Him. Otherwise, as much as I tried initially to sober up on my own, it never worked. Thank you for allowing me to give back just a little of what God and OO have given to me. **Anonymous**”

**My name is Jon T. I'm a servant of Jesus from across the pond in Bournemouth England.**

I've been called to serve people in recovery seeking Jesus through the power of Holy Spirit & O.O. About 3 years ago I was heavily involved with N.A. and had come to know Jesus in a powerful way. I spent a week in 24/7 prayer room where God challenged me on the whole recovery set up here in Bournemouth.

We have the second largest recovering community of people in country bar London. More night clubs and drinking premises than in the west end of London, and a huge drug market. 1 in every 150 people living in Bournemouth has been in a rehabilitation Centre for one addiction or another. I could clearly see that there was some great support and recovery stuff going on here but lots of people with long lengths of clean time had no peace in there life and were still really struggling with life. My heart cried out for these people and I found myself going from meeting to meeting just praying for people in my head.

I could see many spiritual strongholds in there life, and could see that with Jesus these life long struggles could be broken, however without them knowing Jesus personally and the power in calling on his name to break through this spiritual baggage, they inevitably

continued to face the same old struggles. Many I may add have ended up using again because the pain becomes unbearable and the enemy convinces them the only way to relieve their pain is to use/drink or they just stay in a kind of long term depression where life's just sad. And I suppose last but not least God showed me a massive majority of people within the fellowships were working and claiming benefits, still committing robberies, selling stolen goods, sleeping with prostitutes, selling drugs, running pornography establishments, brothels, and abusing the women within the fellowships (what I mean by that is praying on the vulnerable new women). But above all this sin if they went to meetings and shared about their actions as long as they didn't use because of them this behavior was ok (with people justifying their actions by saying I'm not perfect). And because they have been honest about their actions, even though lots of them continued in their sin without change, it seemed ok and people would not challenge them for fear of being judgmental.

Also if someone ever mentioned Jesus in the meetings there was up roar and people were closed off and ridiculed. I suppose my biggest fear if you like was telling people in the anonymous fellowships about Jesus for fear of persecution and being bullied. And also

through talking to many addicts/alcoholics I found they had a great fear about stepping into a church building (for feeling like they didn't fit in and that they couldn't relate to the people or what was going on in there). This whole revelation led me to prayer, and through this God promised to provide a bridge to bring the gospel in a non intrusive way to these people I cared so much about. The next day a friend of mine handed me an O.O. newsletter and said God had told him it was for me. This led me to a meeting miles away in the middle of the country side. Where I received the promise of an Overcomers Outreach meeting **PRAISE GOD.** And from that moment I was so excited but petrified how can I start this in my town.

Again through prayer God said to me start the O.O. meeting and I'll bring the people, and within 3 weeks of opening the meeting with no publicity there were regularly over 20 people coming (and I think the biggest meeting was 26 people). God then started to filter out quite a few people, and we were left with a core group, and God revealed to us to sustain a scripture 12 step recovery group we needed people that had worked the 12 steps from scripture. So we separated men + women into 2 separate groups worked the steps from The Twelve Steps a Spiritual Journey over 16 weeks.

Half way through working through the steps a woman phoned me from Poole a town about 7 miles from my area and told me how God had spoken to her about the fellowships and almost word for word told me the same vision God had given me the year before in the 24/7 prayerroom. I now how ever could share about how Overcomers Outreach was working powerfully in changing people in recovery, by the way of a meeting which addicts / alcoholics felt comfortable to come to and meet with the living God. She was blown away and was so excited about starting a meeting at her church. As they have a congregation of about 60 who are all in recovery.

I went to their church in February as they asked me to come and share my testimony and tell them about my experience of Overcomers Outreach. They are just about to start an Overcomers Outreach meeting themselves. There are also 2 other meetings being discussed to hopefully be open soon. I've been so blessed to write to guys thank you for all you've done I praise God and pray that Jesus would grow ever deeper in your hearts and knowledge of him would shine from you to all the people you meet. Amen. Peace, Love, & Fellowship Always Jon T.