

CHECK out the website---- www.overcomersoutreach.org

A Bridge between traditional 12 step groups and the church

Executive Directors Report

In the January of 2006 OO newsletter it was stated that we would expand the way that we “Carry the Message”, define our mission field and plan to win it. Also that the communication structure of OO was about to evolve and that literature would be added and updated. Looking back at those claims I can only say THANK YOU JESUS! We have made significant strides in each of these areas. Some slower than I would have planned, but He knows best.

Carrying the message: In June of 2007 some dedicated OO volunteers set up and maintained an information booth at the 4th annual Freedom Festival in Long Beach CA. This is a recovery event geared toward AA, NA, CA, MA etc. We smuggled in a few Bibles and kept them hidden initially until people started asking for them. We went through 30 Bibles and could have passed out more. People in recovery are craving more than they are getting. This type of event happens all over the country, if you need help finding events or with planning to participate by representing OO-- contact the OO office, we want to help.

Our mission field: Anywhere people affected by addictions need recovery and anywhere people in recovery need Jesus.

Communication Structure: On June 15, 2007 Overcomers Outreach history was made. At the OO Conference in Buena Park CA. Jim B. the Chairman of the Group Communication Committee announced that OO was turning control over to the groups, like Alcoholics Anonymous did in 1955. What this means to you is that OO is looking for group representatives to meet regularly and let us know what is going on, what you need from us, plan events together, find organized ways to carry the message in teams. The first of these meetings is scheduled for August 11, 2007 in Southern California. If you are a planner and would like to help us coordinate such a meeting in your area, please let us know. We will let group leaders in the areas be aware that these meetings are planned in their area. We ask that you do go through the OO Central Service Center so that consistent OO protocol and format are followed.

Literature: In May 2007 we had our first current Literature Committee meeting. Among the people on the committee is Pauline B., who wrote most of the Overcomers literature. We are very honored and pleased to have her present for this continued work. A new pamphlet “Sharing Jesus with your 12 Step Friends” is the first tangible result of this. The committee is also working on revising some pamphlets, the Freed Book, A Bridge to Recovery, our introductory brochure and adding more pamphlets. We are interested in your ideas, but please keep in mind that we do have our limits.

In His service Bill D.

New Products: O.O. website has several new titles on it that would be worth your while to get a look at: www.overcomersoutreach.org Also just added to our website are **Overcomers Outreach Shirts.**

Freed Book Sale: July, August and September 2007: \$5 each or \$4 in quantities of 25 or more + shipping, Large Print Freed Books are also on sale.

(800) 310-3001 (877) 9overcome (818) 833-1803 fax (818) 833-1546

Conferences: We had a small turn out in Buena Park in June, but had a great conference, nonetheless. It was very exciting to have Pauline B. (OO Co-Founder) as a very active speaker and participant. The majority of the conference was recorded and will be available through the OO office later this year.

Tulsa OK, May 2-3, 2008, is our next conference in the planning. We are also starting to make plans for an OO conference in Michigan in the summer of 2009.

If you would like to participate in the conferences but cannot attend, there are a couple of ways you may consider. Donations specifically made for scholarships are used to provide for people to attend the conference that want to come but cannot afford the registration fee. A regular scholarship is used to provide admission to those in the local recovery community that simply cannot pay. OO has just started International Conference Scholarships. These are used for group leaders in other countries; to cover transportation, room, board and admission. This came about as the result of an individual in Africa sending a few e-mails and then starting a group and expressing a desire to participate in the conference.

Use of the OO name and logo in planning events: Some group leaders are doing tremendous things for Jesus and Overcomers Outreach. It has also become clear to us that some events that use the OO name and or logos do not represent Overcomers Outreach's method of recovery. At some point we will have an event agreement in print for this purpose. At this time, we do ask that if you intend to use the name or logos of Overcomers Outreach that you send us a written request 6 weeks in advance describing your request and wait for our approval before promoting in this fashion.

OO in facilities: Several folks around the US and other countries have found it very rewarding in carrying the OO message into facilities of many types. You might be surprised to see what is available in your own backyard. The prison system in US is very aware that inmates that attend Christian Recovery meetings have a lower rate of recidivism (they stop coming back). Treatment Centers, Rehabs, Sober Living homes, Jails, Psychiatric facilities are all good candidates for OO participation. The feeling you have when you leave the facility will be better than the feeling you had on the way in. Our HIM Book (Hospitals, Institutions and Missions) can be useful for this purpose.

Don't forget to register your new groups, and check the web for accuracy, perhaps there is a new group in your neighborhood.

Finances: Simply put we are struggling to get by, we make most non profits look rich. We have many physical and material needs and of course prayer. Our office is open part time and it is clear that many things that are not getting done would be very beneficial to Overcomers Outreach groups, members and to new folks trying to get to know us. By this time, we had hoped to be open full time, and as hard as it is to admit, the Board of Directors have had to consider the possibility of closing the office.

We need regular support specifically for:

- 1) Staff that is almost non existent
 - 2) Outdated or worn out equipment
 - 3) New literature development
 - 4) Conference planning
 - 5) Group Communication meetings and many other things.
- One time donations or regular commitments will all be helpful for any amount. If your group does not collect and send in a 7th tradition please pray about it. If you do not know what the 7th tradition is read your Freed Book, if you do not have a Freed Book contact us.

**Willingness-
pray for God to do
what you can't do
for yourself-pray for
willingness**

Hebrews
10:19~~25

Therefore, (Overcomers) brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ... let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together,... but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near!!!

Founder's Corner -- By Pauline B.

How I wish each and every one of you could have attended the recent OO Conference the weekend of June 15 & 16! It was held at the First Church of the Nazarene in Buena Park, CA. It was especially exciting to have radio talk show host, Rich Buhler, join us Saturday afternoon to guide us through some questions and answers concerning the ministry of Overcomers Outreach.

I must say that my favorite session was having the privilege of leading a regular OO meeting, right there in the church sanctuary. Of course we did not record this particular segment in order to protect anonymity to assure all participants that their sharing was strictly confidential.

It was especially exciting for me to be presented with a beautiful plaque at the conference--inscribed to both my dear husband, Bob (who is now in heaven) and to me. How we all missed Bob at the conference! He would have loved to have seen the OO Group Leaders who traveled from afar to be there -- Jim B. from Tulsa, OK; Dan B. from S. Lake Tahoe; Don & Carla B. from Sun City, AZ, and others within the vast So. CA. area.

One of the things I love about Overcomers Outreach is that it spans churches of all denominations. The reason this is possible is because our OO support groups do not discuss doctrine. OO's agenda is kept so simple. We concentrate on our "higher power" who is Jesus Christ, study the Bible together along with the 12 Steps of AA, share our experience, strength and hope, and wrap it up with mutual prayer. We all have wondered if perhaps Bob has already started an OO group in heaven???

God bless you all as you serve Christ, either by being active in an OO support group, or by being generous with your gifts -- so that this vital ministry can move forward! Thanks so much.

**Carry the message-go to them-
Matthew 28:19 & 20**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

CONNECT THE DOTS/BRIDGE THE GROUPS

2007 is CA to VA by late August and September. October is on up to New Hampshire through December. Then 2008 will be as God wills. Hope to see you. What can I do for you from OO as I visit your group!!???

We need your help with:

**A new Copy machine, 1 new PC,
funds for new literature development, staff and volunteers.**

CARRY THE MESSAGE=

C-Continue A Responsible Recovery, You

Tell His Excellence!!

Meet Every Soul Saying A Genuine Encouragement.

Greetings Overcomers !! 'Carry the message' has been the recent theme. You may have decided I carried it for too long in my presentation if you were at the conference. (Sorry!! But thanks for listening!!! I have still more to share!!) 'Carry the message' of OO continued from the conference to the Overcomers booth at the Freedom Festival concert. Carrying the message continues as we share this newsletter with our groups and in our meetings. 'Carry the message' continues as we humble ourselves before God and continue in HIM!!!

Carry the message--

I have loved the opportunity to Chair in the OO Board. I am a member of OO and love the whole program!! Others will have a blessed experience as rotation of leadership occurs- with the Board leaders, in our groups, and as the group networking develops and more leaders step up!! It is necessary for our responsible recovery!!

God is so good and He is exalted in many stories of OO members being drawn toward Him, humbling the heart and serving as recovery fills their lives.

Continue to share what He is doing in your life and give Him the glory. The tools of recovery-steps, sponsorship, service - are all useful. But without our Lord and His truth we are lost. We have overcome with Christ-as He has overcome the world. Meet every soul saying a genuine encouragement - He is our way, truth and life-recovery is in Him! Carry the message!!

Willingness is key. We can pray and pray-sometimes we even pray for God to do for us, what He has already done or He has already provided. Are we ready to receive? Are we willing? Am I willing to respond for what He has prepared?

As a believer coming into recovery from alcoholism-the experts showed me how to not drink. Participating in Overcomers has provided maintenance for long term sobriety.

Carry the message. Through God's Word I have continued recovery in learning how to live. OO has provided the continued fellowship, accountability and opportunity to sort through Truth for living.

Step 12 "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs." Simply replace the word 'alcoholic' with 'others'-any others that are sharing the recovery journey. In Overcomers we share with all types of recovery experts and get to see with their insight inspiring us. We can 'let' /allow learning from them, as God works in their life, 'inspires' us. 'Learning instructs' us and we get new 'empowerment' /new willingness, and as we respond --serenity comes. Carry the message.

WILLINGNESS

Willingness-am I ready to respond to God's will in my life? With new empowerment from what I learn of myself -I must have action! As I respond - serenity fills me. It is simple. But not always easy.

My response is often with the action of service. Selflessness encouraged-because who can be of service effectively if you are full of self? Well-actually any one of us. I know that I am selfish-even as I know it is my greatest problem. Knowing is one thing -responding is another. So in responding, in spite of my self, I am into action and showing a value of others before myself.....

Service -selflessness encouraged -responsible value in caring extended.

Let's keep on. Carry the message.

It is a joy to work with others that are like-minded in these values. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I look forward to knowing you more and knowing more of you as we continue in Christ centered recovery in Overcomers Outreach.

Bette July 2007

WILLINGNESS=With Insight, Let Learning Instruct-Now Getting New Empowerment, Submitting Serenity.

International Reports

Canada

Diversity of ministries is an apt description of what's happening in Overcomers Outreach groups in Canada.

An active prison ministry is effective in at least three communities. While this is unique in that it involves one-on-one encounters teaching the 12 steps, the approach is bringing inmates to Jesus Christ. Another method is an Overcomers mission outreach to the forgotten, those encumbered by poverty, depression, and other ills of society. This program attracts those in need of physical assistance. And the word of God and the leaders' love, draw them into the spiritual realm. Then, there's the traditional chapters held in homes and churches, and a 12-step OO program for addicts, who live in housing complexes.

Also, the Canadian organization senses God's presence in a mighty way as the Lord raises up new leaders. In the last couple of months half-a-dozen new groups have launched in the provinces of British Columbia (far West region), Manitoba (central Canada), and Ontario (East region.) God is pouring out His blessings, as more people express an interest in joining the Overcomers Outreach family in Canada.

Since French is one of two major languages in this country - English the other - there is a void in Quebec. Overcomers meetings have dried up in that province - the chief reason is the FREED book is not printed in French. So to fix that oversight, efforts are under way to have the manual translated into French, hopefully by this summer.

Bev Tyrrell, Overcomers Outreach Canada coordinator.

U.K.

Hope you are well. God has been moving powerfully in the lives of recovering people here in Bournemouth. Many more people are attending O.O. meetings and coming to know the Lord. We are just about to start our third meeting weekly in March on a Wednesday evening. So this will mean we'll have hear in Bournemouth & Poole 4 meetings a week Monday Night, Tuesday Night, Wednesday night, & Thursday Night. Praise the Lord. We now have major Drugs Agencies referring people to O.O. We have local treatment centers and local government initiatives referring to our meetings here in Bournemouth/Poole its amazing. We've had many inquiries and other meetings possibly starting in other parts of the country soon i.e. 2 meetings in Eastbourne, another in London, one in Scotland and maybe one in Ireland, plus many many inquiries from Poland to Spain and all over the UK. Since our O.O. UK website went live it has had over 1000 hits its truly amazing!!!!!!

God Bless Jon

Germany

God is mightily moving in and through us and we are here really in need of your prayers too!

Most of our friends are loners coming from the Southern Germany, Austria or Swiss regions but not - as we expected - from a Catholic background! We as the co-founders are the only from the northern part of Germany. Main problem for us is still that friends and members of other 12 step groups are not coming in.

We experienced a kind of "competition thinking" likewise in between churches and denominations too. Mundane self support groups are very intensive here in Germany - and apt to suspicion towards us... but on the other side the interests in our Internet homepage is increasing indeed. PTL!

We are performing our 2nd "12 Step by Internet" seminar and try to promote God's program to friends living some hundreds km away forward to Vienna and Switzerland.

This year we hope that one or more groups will be breaking through all kind of resistances getting the courage, faith and hope be growing up in Jesus Name and Purpose...one day at a time...

We are facing maybe an English speaking group and plead for special prayers and maybe support.

Here with us we are in the process of stepping out from a home group to a hospital meeting... the first Christian Recovery group there and we trust in God to help us going and moving.

Only by God's Grace - Only for His Glory!

The other news are all exiting and honestly to say frightening to us...so please pray without ceasing!!!

We have launched our first mutual German/English forum for newcomers in 12 step work and we are in need of some friends who would like to support our network by sharing their experiences, strength, hope, love and faith with us by Internet. If friends might add some experiences with us we would be blessed indeed.

God bless and keep you!

In God's Love and Friendship

Rolf D Paschen

C12undC12, Deutschsprachige Gruppen

www.C12undC12.net e-mail response for Internet support: english@c12undc12.net

CHECK out the website---- www.overcomersoutreach.org

Australia

Hi, my name is Penny. I invited Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior around 2000. As I grew in Christ and in relationships with Christians I found they didn't drink like me. I loved drinking. I had been a daily drinker for 20 plus years. At the beginning of 2001 I survived an abstinence period of 40 days under the guise of lent. I then tried to control my drink the rest of the year and by the beginning of 2002, I came to realize I was failing miserably. I went back to the idea of an abstinence period and to my horror discovered I could no longer stop drinking by my own will. By the Grace of God I entered AA January 2003. My sobriety date is the 18 March 2003. I found recovery particularly isolating as I tried to wrestle with the scriptures and the 12 steps in those first few years.

My husband and I traveled to the AA convention in Toronto in 2005 and on the way, we called into an Overcomers Outreach meeting in Barking in the UK. A long story how we got to that meeting - needless to say it was God's plan. My husband and I were overjoyed with what we saw that night. It was exactly the model I had been seeking and to see it in practice brought the picture in my mind, to reality.

We returned to Sydney in July 2005. Our previous minister had moved to the Anglican Cathedral in the CBD. He was particularly excited about the idea of Overcomers Outreach and immediately offered a room and all the facilities and support I'd need to get the meeting going free of charge. However there was still just me - one voice. I set up a prayer team on the internet and for six months we prayed for God to bring workers forward for this harvest.

At first it was drips and drops. Many of whom who's pride would not allow them to go to AA and get help to get sober. We started OO in Sydney in Feb 2006. We limped along through most of 2006. God showed his awesome character all the way and it was a real learning year. We developed a brochure and I spoke at various opportunities.

I got to attend the ISAAC conference in Egypt. Bill D brought it to my attention. We went on a wing and prayer with pretty low expectations and were so encouraged by the dedication and humility of this small group to bring the good news of Christ to all in recovery. I came back to Sydney with more resolve to continue on, although our OO meeting only ever had one or two genuine recovery seekers in it.

In 2007 we moved the meeting to the first Wednesday each month. To my delight this has allowed a number of older sober Christian members I've met in AA to support the meeting. God has been wonderfully gracious in bringing forward a number of newcomers who are also strong in Christ. Each month I'm delighted to see OO at work bringing AA members to Christ and Christians across the bridge into recovery from a cunning baffling powerful disease. It is still very early days for us and our meeting is still a work in progress but I hope to report further good news in the years ahead. All praise to God and his mighty power at work in our lives.

Penny W

Uganda

This is our report as far as the Christian Recovery Group is concerned in Uganda, as well as Africa at large. We started after Art Karrer shared this program with us when he visited our Country in August 2006. We started with my wife praying for this program to be established in our nation. As I talk now we are ten in the group and we believe to have more people in the near future. And our seriousness started in February 2007. Many people appreciated this program when I started sharing with them. They discovered that many alcoholics and drug dependents have been left out of the churches and have been not recognized in the society.

In our meetings we discovered that some of them during their time of alcoholism and drug dependence lost many things. Some of them lost marriages, sold their properties, and others lost their jobs.

And most of my people in the group are now living in poverty and in a measurable life.

Also, through testimonies, some have said there is a great change in their lives since they gave their life to Jesus Christ.

And other thing I would like to know--do you have churches as Over Comers Outreach? The reason is the group is expected to multiply. Because whenever we meet, we share the Word of God, Testimonies, and we have started doing evangelism as the group and also praying for the alcoholic people to get saved.

Send my greetings to the family and to the Executive Members of the Overcomers Outreach. God bless you.

Pastor Ssali Stephen.

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Semi-Frequent Newsletter
Summer 2007



Please make copies
of this for your
groups.

“Don’t be anxious about anything, but in prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6-7

