

OVERCOMERS OUTREACH CANADA INC.

MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER



ENCOURAGEMENT

As I write this, I have just returned from staffing the Overcomers' booth at a conference in another city.

During this conference, a man came up to me and said, "I have been dry in AA for four months." I gave him a high-five and my congratulations! He went on, "You probably don't remember me, but we talked when you were here last year, and I signed the sheet to get emails from you. Thank you for those emails. I know that I never responded, but let me say that those emails seemed to arrive just at the right time to encourage me!"

The first thing this exchange reminded me is that, even though our mission at Overcomers is to plant recovery groups within churches, our ministry is to help those suffering from addictions and compulsions. God helps us to fulfil his ministry in ways that we never can imagine.

The next thing I realized was how encouraged I was to learn that I had been an encouragement to someone else.

So, I encourage you to encourage those who have been an encouragement to you: your group leaders; your sponsor; your accountability partner; your pastor.

Our preamble in the FREED Book talks about "fellowship in recovery". Encouragement should be a large part of that fellowship.

Chris B.
President
Overcomers Outreach Canada Inc.

Christ died for our sins, ... he was buried, and ...
three days afterwards he arose from the grave...
I Corinthians 15:3,4



DECISIONS

At some point in life, we have made decisions based on our own self-will, and they have put us in a position that resulted in all kinds of inner pain. This can lead to a relapse, followed by shame, fear and guilt and resulting in frustration. We must, in all humility, come to the realization and acceptance of the fact that we are playing a large part in why our lives are turning out to have so many struggles and why we seem to be in a fight that we cannot win. Once we realize this, then we can start to work the recovery program under the guidance of our higher power, Jesus.

Perhaps many of us blame God, or other people, for our circumstances, and feel that we have no say in how our lives turn out. But then many of our decisions are made while under the strong emotions of fear, resentment, pride or ego and that can lead us down the path to a life of self-destruction.

Today, we must let God be our guide to a path of sobriety, always remembering that we are responsible for our actions in whatever we are facing in life. There is a great promise in God's Word that I believe can be a real comfort to us all. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says: *"But remember this – the wrong desires that come into your life aren't anything new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you. And no temptation is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it, for he has promised this and will do what he says. He will show you how to escape temptation's power so you can bear up patiently against it."*

Our actions must include: spending time in God's Word, praying, always going to meetings, having a good mentor, being involved in a Christ-centered church, and removing as many temptations as possible from our lives.



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Testimony By Jesse

On March 29, 2016, it will be three years that I have been clean from gambling. I never thought that I would be counting the days that I haven't placed a bet but here I am, blessed that my higher power has delivered me, one day at a time, through one of the darkest times of my life.

I was living on my own and grew up without a father figure, so I missed out on a very important aspect of my childhood. Consequently I developed some very bad habits, including my gambling addiction. It started off as a simple weekend making a few extra bucks, but once I made that first bet, I had pretty much sealed my fate. One weekend turned into every weekend, betting more and more every time. One day I decided that I simply wasn't taking enough so I decided to take my entire paycheque, which was six hundred dollars, and by the time I left the casino, I had only ninety dollars remaining.

Two days later my rent was due and I had no idea how I was going to come up with the money. I couldn't ask my parents because I didn't think they loved me and I didn't think my siblings cared enough to help. In an act of desperation I robbed a store, and only a few hours later the police showed up at my door. I lied for as long as I could, but then I finally realized that I had told my last lie and I confessed. It's been three years since that day and I am so blessed that my higher power led the police to my door because it is the best thing that has ever happened to me.

I had finally hit rock bottom and because of it I was entirely ready to have God remove my defects of character and lead me down a better path – one of following Him. He has showed me that all of those people, who I once thought hated me, turned out to be my most valuable asset. Life may seem like it's not working out as you thought it would, but the most important thing that I would say to anyone struggling with these same problems is that, when you think you don't have anyone in your corner, you're wrong. There is always someone in your life who loves you and is more than willing to help, as long as you make the decision to stretch out your hand and ask for help.

Sincerely, Jesse

To see a price list of the Overcomers Outreach resources, please go to "Resources" on our Canadian website or email resources@overcomersoutreach.ca

To read this newsletter online, go to "News" on our website

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Supporting Overcomers Outreach Canada Financially

Overcomers Outreach is a faith ministry – we depend on the Lord and His people for the ongoing financial support needed to operate and expand this ministry.

Financial support can be designated to a specific ministry area:

- 1) Program Consultant's salary and expenses (Ken S)
- 2) Travel and Conference expense
- 3) General operating expenses (telephone, website, office expenses, etc.)
- 4) Or simply designated as "wherever needed".



Donations may be made by cheque or online through [Paypal](#) - just click on the Donate link on our website. Please add a note to designate the area of ministry you wish to support, and provide us with your mailing address; a receipt will then be sent out early in the new year for donations made in this year.

Thank you for your support of this unique and important ministry!



I/we would be pleased to be a part of the Overcomers Outreach support team through prayer and with the following financial support:

A one-time gift of \$ _____ or regular monthly support of \$ _____

Please use my/our gifts for _____

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