

OVERCOMERS OUTREACH CANADA INC.

DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Addiction: Sin...? Sickness...? Both...?

As I write my last article as President of Overcomers Outreach Canada, I reflect that in my nearly seven years as President, I have encountered many opinions and many manifestations of addiction.

When it comes to opinions, I hear and read strong declarations that addiction is caused: 1) solely by sin and therefore the addiction can be eradicated by an unwavering faith; and 2) solely by illness and that healing takes place by finding your own “power within”.

The 12-Steps are based on Holy Scripture. Scripture does address both sin and sickness. 1 John 1:9 says *“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”* James 5:16 says *“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”*

MY STORY: I was addicted to pornography for 4½ decades. My addiction was caused solely by my own self-centred sin. Of course, the sin of others was involved, but I take sole responsibility. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour at age 39, but my addiction did not evaporate! For sure, I now was forgiven by God (1 John 1:9), but I was still trapped in my own self-induced sickness.

At age 59, I walked into my first Overcomers Outreach meeting, and began to heal. As I write this, I am remembering that today is the 8th anniversary of the day I first confessed my sins to others so that healing could begin (James 5:16). Healing has not been quick or easy. However, after 46 years of marriage, I am now starting to understand what God intended for sex between a husband and wife. (Hint: it bears absolutely no resemblance to pornography!)

From my experience with many people who are dealing with many different addictions, I can confidently conclude that addiction is a result of a combination of sin and sickness.

Healing comes through Jesus Christ!

Continuing in HIS service,

Chris B

President

Overcomers Outreach Canada Inc.



The Call For A Miracle

One day some of the Jewish leaders, including some Pharisees, came to Jesus asking Him to show them a miracle. Matthew 12:38 (TLB)

Many Christians are always looking for some kind of miracle from Jesus: the miracle of physical healing, or deliverance from some form of addiction or other sin, and of course, the miracle of a loved one giving their life to Jesus. We should be asking Jesus to perform all these miracles. They are a very important part of our faith, since we believe in an all-powerful healing God, a God Who can set the captive free, and the God of salvation.

On October 29th, we saw and heard this at our annual Overcomers Conference in Winnipeg, MB. There we heard a variety of testimonies, as people shared their stories of how God, in Jesus Christ, had set them free from just about every kind of addiction and compulsion you could think of.

You might ask why I am sharing this. It is because I think that we all, as God's children, need to be more willing to share our testimonies, telling the world about all the great things Jesus has done for us and how Jesus indeed does answer our prayers. If we don't, how can the world around us ever know about the great Saviour and Lord we believe in. I think it is so sad that in many Christians' lives, Jesus, and what He has done for them, is just about the best kept secret ever.

So I challenge all of us, that as this year draws to a close and we go into the new year, to be willing to share the great things Jesus is doing for us. You see, I don't really know why the Jewish leaders asked Jesus to show them a miracle, but I do know the world needs to hear from us, that we believe in a God who does miracles. Amen.

Ken S
Addictions Consultant
Overcomers Outreach

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

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!

Testimony By Marvin

Marvin is unable read or write. Therefore, at the time of the original publishing of this article in the November 2010 newsletter, his testimony was typed as he shared it with Ken S of Overcomers Outreach. This 2016 publishing has been edited.

My name is Marvin. My memories are that of a rough childhood. At school I was a slow learner, was frequently picked on by other kids, and only achieved a grade 6 education. At home, my dad would beat us up, often using a thrashing belt. I still have heavy scars on my body to this day. My dad, who was an alcoholic, later died of alcohol poisoning. My aunts and uncles also drank heavily.

I got married later on in life, and we were married for 25 years when my wife got cancer and died on November 26, 2004. That same year, both my sister and sister-in-law were murdered and my brother died of a heart attack on May 8. Also that year, I lost a job that I had worked at for 25 years, and my boss died of cancer on December 12.

Another tragedy in my life was the time my neighbor shot himself right through the heart, in his own garage, and I had to identify the body.

I was a very angry person. After my wife passed away I sold my house. I had no house so I lived at the Super 8 and then in a small trailer until I found a house to rent. I drank, and I drank heavily. I drank because I couldn't handle the pain and covered it all with the booze. I tried to kill the pain with the booze and it got me in more trouble, frequently with the law. I spent 32 days in the Remand Centre in Winnipeg and another 42 days in the Headingley jail. When you are locked up for 74 days you have nothing else to do but think; all rights are taken away from you.

When I was released they asked me, "would you stop drinking Marvin?" I said, "yes". They asked me, "would you go to AA" and I said, "yes". I started attending Overcomers Outreach meetings twice a week, both in Beausejour and in Selkirk. I attended church regularly and later joined the Beausejour Community Church. I have not had a drink since June 26, 2008.

I was a very angry man but God helped me to deal with my anger, as I went to anger management classes and saw therapists in Winnipeg. Now, today I don't have that deep anger. Because of my anger, I used to swear a lot. I don't swear as much as I used to and others have also noticed this change in me.

Marvin always felt that, because of his lack of education, he could not share what the Lord has done for him. This way, through the newsletter, others can hear his story and see how the Lord has changed his life. He is very grateful to Overcomers Outreach for their care and help. When asked by Ken S how important it is to Marvin to go to church, Marvin replied, "it is number one on my list, and also to attend two meetings a week". Marvin says, "if I ever stop coming to the meetings and church I will go back to the bottle and I don't want to do that".

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testimony continued from page 3

Ken: What words of encouragement do you have for us?

Marvin: I encourage people to have a solid Christian background, have solid Christian people around you ... and go to church and the meetings. Church and Overcomers Outreach friends; these people will be behind me if I don't drink. If I ever went back to the bottle and my old drinking buddies, they wouldn't give me 5 minutes to help me, as my friends here have.

Ken: Is there any other thing you would like to add to this testimony?

Marvin: Come to the meetings, you don't know who is going to walk through that door and you don't know if that person would be helped by being there for them.

Ken: Is it worth it to turn your life to the Lord?

Marvin: Yes, sure, it is definitely worth it to turn your life to the Lord Jesus.

Ken: This is all to the glory of our Lord.

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

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Marvin is currently living in a care home in Selkirk and attends the Cross Roads Church. He is now able to attend only one weekly OO meeting but has been free from his alcohol addiction for over 8 years. His favourite line is: "If anyone puts a drink in front of me, I turn it upside down." Praise God!

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**We pray that you would
experience the good tidings
of great joy during this
Christmas season, and that
you would have a blessed
New Year.**

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