



OVERCOMERS OUTREACH CANADA

October 2017 Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

It's a crisp autumn afternoon as I write these words from my home in Surrey in beautiful British Columbia. The leaves have started turning colour, and it looks like fall is here to stay! I'm enjoying my new role at Regent Christian Academy as the full time Bible teacher for the high school students. My wife Liza works in the accounting department in our church, and our kids Caleb, Austin and Hannah are all plugged in and serving at the church as well. We are only missing our daughter Tori who is in university in Brandon, but plans on joining us here on the west coast in January, and our family will be all together again.

What a delight it is for me to be involved in a Christian 12 step recovery ministry like Overcomers Outreach of Canada! I'm so thrilled that we have so many new groups that have just started or are just starting up: In Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and Kenosee Lake in Saskatchewan; in Carmen and Fisher Branch in Manitoba, and soon I will be starting one in Surrey, BC as well – our first group on the west coast!

Here is this month's article from our website. Make sure you check out the first eight steps there as well.

The Twelve Steps – a Spiritual Journey: Step Nine: Making Amends

As someone who has over 25 years experience in pastoral ministry, I can tell you first-hand how important and beneficial a Christian 12 step recovery group like Overcomers Outreach is to a church. Through the groups that we ran at a church that I pastored in Beausejour, Manitoba, I saw people find freedom from drugs, alcohol, pornography and more. But not only that, I have seen people grow deeper in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. And why? Because Overcomers is a program that helps people progress on this spiritual journey we call discipleship.

In our last step, we were to make a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make things right with them. Step #9 now calls us to:

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

Restoration – or making amends – is a deeply spiritual principle that Jesus promoted when He said: *“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”* (Matt. 5:23-24).

Although this is a helpful step in our process towards healing, it is not easy! As Bob and Pauline Bartosch note, *“Saying sorry is difficult enough with people we love; making amends with everyone we have harmed takes courage and God's direction.”* *

...continued on page 2

continued from page 1

It's important to note that some people may not accept your amends. They may choose to refuse to forgive you, but that's their problem, not yours. When you do the right thing, and make amends in a relationship, you have done your part in the process of healing. In Romans 12:18, the Apostle Paul wrote: "If it is possible, *as much as depends on you*, live peaceably with all men." I think this clearly means that there will be some people who we won't be able to live in peace with. However, once you have done your part to reach out and make amends, you will then experience a new freedom from guilt, shame and pain.

Who do you need to make amends with in your life? Do it today!

Ninth Step Prayer: "Heavenly Father, I pray for the right attitude to make my amends, being ever mindful not to harm others in the process. I ask for your guidance in making indirect amends. Most important, I will continue to make amends by staying abstinent, helping others, and growing in spiritual progress." Amen! (*Prayers for the Twelve Steps – A Spiritual Journey*).

*Note: Bob and Pauline Bartosch are the founders of Overcomers Outreach. If you haven't read their book *Overcomers Outreach: A Bridge to Recovery*, I encourage you to get a copy today. These can be ordered through [Overcomers Canada](#) or [Overcomers US](#).

Chris Jordan

President, Overcomers Outreach Canada

TELL US YOUR STORY!

In each of our quarterly newsletters, we want to share with you a testimony of someone whose life has been changed through the ministry of Overcomers Outreach. If you have a story to share, please submit it to us, making sure to let us know what OO group you're involved in, and you might just see your story in an upcoming newsletter! Note: For the sake of anonymity, we will only print your first name and last initial.

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. General operating expenses (telephone, website, office expenses, etc.)
2. Program Consultant's or Executive Coordinator's salary and expenses.
3. 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!

TRUST: OVERCOMERS OUTREACH CANADA CONFERENCE

COME ONE COME ALL:

October 28th: A free training conference for anyone who wants to help people overcome their addictions and compulsive behaviors.

PRAISE THE LORD IN HIM WE CAN HAVE VICTORY!

"The Lord lives! Praise to my rock! May the God of my salvation be exalted! He is the God who pays back those who harm me; he subdues the nations under me and rescues me from my enemies. You hold me safe beyond the reach of my enemies; you save me from violent opponents. For this, O Lord, I will praise you among the nations; I will sing praises to your name. You give great victories to your King; you show unfailing love to your anointed, to David and all his descendants forever." (Psalm 18:46-50)

The successes that God gives us can be a strong encouragement to others; in recovery we are called to share our victories with others. As we do, we will also be carrying the message of His saving power and love to those who are listening. This may be all it takes to give them the courage to go on. They will see and hear of God's transforming power in our lives and begin to hope that God can do the same for them. Because of who God is and what He has done for us, we should always give Him thanks and praise Him for the way He helps us.

And we will hear all about what God has done in the lives of people in Overcomers Outreach through the power of Jesus Christ.

You will hear great worship music.

You will hear great testimonies from three women and three men.

There will be four speakers.

One will speak on trusting God.

One will speak on addictions.

One will speak on how addictions affect families, church, and our communities.

One will speak on Overcoming.

There will be one workshop on sexual addiction and how it affects the family.

There will be one workshop on alcohol and drugs and what it does to the family.

There will be two workshops on how to start a recovery ministry in your church or community.

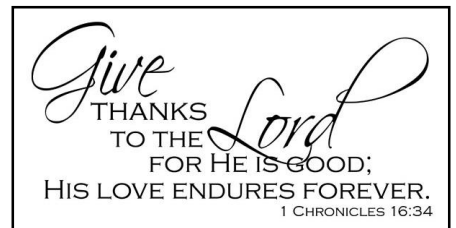
We will provide a great lunch, served by Mark Kleinsasser, owner of Kleins Geothermal and brother of Danny's Whole Hog. Cost \$5.00.

We will take a freewill offering to help cover costs.

People can register at the door, and it is free! See you there.

Ken Sundelin

Addictions Consultant, Overcomers Outreach Canada



TRUST: ANNUAL OVERCOMERS OUTREACH CONFERENCE:

October 28, 2017 from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

At Kilcona Park Alliance Church. 1977 Norris Road in Winnipeg, MB.

A FREE training conference for anyone who wants to help people overcome their addictions and compulsive behaviours.

Includes worship, speakers, breakout sessions, and several testimonies of those who have found freedom in Christ. Everyone is welcome!

WHO'S WHO IN THE ZOO:

Here's a look at the current leadership team of Overcomers Outreach of Canada.

We are here to serve you!

President:

Chris Jordan

Vice-President:

Mark Kleinsasser

Treasurer:

Pete Gerbrand

Secretary / Women's Ministry & Resource Manager:

Joan Griffith-Parker

Men's Ministry:

Willie Froese

Program Consultant:

Ken Sundelin

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To see a price list of our resources, visit "Resources" on our website, or email resources@overcomersoutreach.ca