



OVERCOMERS OUTREACH CANADA

December | 2019 Newsletter

President's Message

Many of our Overcomers groups may focus their respective groups to follow the 12 steps in accordance with the months of the year. As such the 12th step would occur in December and signify the culmination of the year. Many of our education systems follow a similar 12 step/year journey where "Graduation" occurs in/after the 12th year. What happens after "graduation" in our twelve-step journey? Do we go on to "higher education", or mature in our spiritual growth? Do we start the journey from step one again in the new year? For many of us, maintaining victory over our addictions means that we must pick up our cross daily as expressed in the Bible.

"Then he (Jesus) said to the crowd, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.'" (New Living Version, Luke 9:23)

To return to the first of the twelve steps (or any step for that matter, based upon your need for an infusion from Jesus, our Higher Power) is not failing but a step forward, if we do not fall back into our own sin. In this way our spiritual journey is not linear. We must remain vigilant and be willing to continue to work the steps if we are to maintain a positive direction despite struggles we encounter on the way.

There is a song called Chain Breaker by Zach Williams. I believe this part of the song reflects very well how Jesus can help us in our own 12 Step journeys:

"If you've got pain, He's a pain taker

If you feel lost, He's a way maker

If you need freedom or saving, He's a prison-shaking Saviour

If you got chains, He's a chain breaker"

As this is December, I would like to include a brief note relating to Step 12: **Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**

As this step's wording is taken directly from Alcoholics Anonymous please substitute your own presenting addiction/compulsion. When we move forward to help those encountering difficulties, we must try to focus on the person not the sin. Said another way, as fellow sinners we should be gracious enough to see the person first, as Jesus' example shows. Jesus actively seeks us out before we are set free from our sin. Being set free is an ongoing work by the Holy Spirit in us. In order to help others, we must let Jesus continue to do His work in us so that we can plug in to His power.

President's Message continued

"Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (Romans 12:2)

"The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it." (Proverbs 10:22)

I pray that God will Bless you in 2020 and make you rich in spirit through the power of His love.

Phil Van Bergen

President, Overcomers Outreach of Canada

Brian Spence Jr Testimony

I come to you today to bring you hope to come out of addictions. I didn't start doing any kind of drugs until I was 18. When I hit 18, I started to rebel. First I started smoking cigarettes then one of my friends introduced me to weed. I played hockey all my life and when I hit Jr. B's that's when I started drinking every weekend. Then my some of my friends introduced me to cocaine – that's when I was only drinking on the weekend. Then it progressed to doing cocaine without drinking on the weekdays and then it became an everyday thing. I thought I could control my cocaine use but it started to control me. I had to have it, I would sell my clothes, my tools. I would sell anything I had to get my fix. I even stole from the people I loved the most.

After a while, I didn't care if anyone knew I was on drugs – I started using everywhere. No one trusted me because they knew I was on drugs; they wouldn't let me borrow any money. If I told them a sob story of why I needed to borrow money, they wouldn't believe me because I told so many lies and hurt so many people.

On June 21, 2018, I was on a 3 day binge, drinking and doing cocaine. I didn't sleep and had done so much cocaine - I can't remember how much but I think it was 3 or 4 eight balls. I was peeking through my window looking outside, thinking someone was coming for me. Then we went for some more cocaine. When I got back and did more cocaine, I was running through bushes, thinking something was chasing me. I was running through the bush but I didn't see there was a ditch with a tree laying over a hole about 4 feet deep. There was a branch sticking up on the tree and I landed on it on my chest but it didn't puncture anything. After I came out of the bush, I found out there wasn't anyone chasing me. We went for a ride trying to get some more cocaine; when we got more, I thought someone was trying to shoot me. I was running around the town site with no shirt, scratched from my head to my toes. Someone phoned my dad and he came and got me. When I was in the truck I still thought someone was trying to kill me. I phoned my father-in-law to come up to my parents' house to pray for me. He said "No, you come down here." I was too afraid to go down there, then I asked him again if he would come pray for me at my parents'. He said "No, come down here and we will deal with this once and for all." So I said "Ok I come down there."

As my dad was driving me, I asked God to help me please or just kill me now. I was so sick of doing drugs and hurting people that I loved and who loved me. When we got to my father-in-law's house, I saw my children playing outside. They saw me all scratched up and asked me what happened. I didn't know what to say, I just gave them a hug and told them I loved them and I started to cry. My father-in-law said he was waiting for some prayer warriors. I went into the garage and talked to my mother-in-law, telling her I didn't want to be like this anymore and I cried out to her. Then the prayer warriors came in and started to pray for me. I just started to cry out to God, lifting my hands, asking for forgiveness. Something started to boil inside my stomach and I threw up some blood and heard this demon coming out of me, mocking the prayer warriors' words. Then they used the name Jesus and the demon left me. I was so beaten up I couldn't get up off the floor; they had to help me up and I heard them say "I think we still have to pray for him." So they prayed for me again. Again my stomach started to boil and I threw up white stuff and this demon started to hiss at them as they were praying for me. Then they used the name of Jesus on it and it left me. Again I was so beaten up, I couldn't help myself up to my chair. Someone touched me and said "We still have to pray for him." They started to pray for me again and my stomach started to boil again. I started to throw up clear stuff and this demon knocked me down on my knees and started to scream horribly loud and made me roll around in my puke. Once again they used the name of Jesus on it and the demon left me.

After the demons left me, I felt life coming back inside of me again and felt so pure, healthy. Love, peace and joy come back to me. I knew that I had to confess everything to my wife, how I hurt her. I asked for forgiveness. The Lord Jesus Christ delivered me from drugs and alcohol that day, yet I was under the influence of it when He delivered me. To this day I never went through withdrawals and it does not cross my mind to do any drugs or drink. The Lord showed me what came out of me to help others who are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

There is a way out and His name is the Lord Jesus Christ. He died on the cross for you and I, so we don't have to live in sin. The Lord is restoring my life with my wife and children. I have 4 children and a beautiful wife, we have a brand new house. The Lord gave me a full time job with benefits. And now my wife is going to be a Licensed Practical Nurse – she graduates May 2020.

God is so wonderful all the time. If you surrender with all your heart and cry out to Him with a pure heart He will answer your prayer and set you free. It is the relationship He wants to have with you and He will never force Himself on you. It's up to you to open your heart to Him. He's knocking, will you let Him in?

I hope my testimony helps you – whatever you are going through, there is an answer and His name is Jesus.

God Bless you all.

Brian





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please go to "News"
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To see a price list of our
resources, visit
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Great Gifts

Here it is already December the twelfth month of the year. The month when a lot of people think about the birth of God's Son Jesus Christ. As I look into our Freed Book, which is our main guide book in the Overcomers Outreach ministry, it lists all the scriptures that talk about each step, and the many topics we study in our meetings. I came to step 12 and took a new approach to our recovery ministry. Steps 1-3 are the steps that lead people to a personal relationship with Jesus.

THE Greatest Gift Of All

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (The Living Bible, John 3:16) Now that's what I call the greatest gift ever that anyone could get. But for the addicted one there is another great gift.

The Gift Of Sobriety

We in Overcomers Outreach believe that this gift comes from our Higher power, Jesus Christ.

"I have told you all this so that you will have peace of mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up for I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) So we know no matter what our addiction or negative compulsive disorder is, in Jesus Christ we can overcome, and have sobriety and peace of mind.

Now let's look at the 12th step.

Having had a spiritual awakening as the results of these steps, we tried to carry this message to all addictive and compulsive people and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

"Instead you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it." (New Living Translation, 1 Peter 3:15)

So now that we have found a way out of our struggles in life and have had a spiritual wakening by the power of Jesus Christ, we are told we must share this great experience which we have gone through, with others who are still lost and suffering. And there are many ways we can do this.

- Give your testimony
- Show how you live your life
- Support people in the ministry of Overcomers Outreach
- Pray for the ministry and for all who still struggle
- Start a group in your home church
- Volunteer to help others

I would like to take a moment to thank our Board members, our many volunteers across our country and for all who support the ministry. Without your financial support, we could not continue to be an effective help for those who are being held captive by their addictions and compulsive disorders. Thank you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ken Sundelin

Addictions Consultant, Overcomers Outreach Canada.



Supporting Overcomers Outreach Canada Financially

As a faith-based organization we partner with supporters who understand the practical need to assist those who have been affected by addictions or compulsions. We would like to thank you who have been faithful in providing funds to continue to undertake the work that God has collectively entrusted to us. One specific area we have continued to see doors open to help those in recovery is in our First Nations communities.

"For God shows no partiality [no arbitrary favoritism; with Him one person is not more important than another]." (Amplified Bible, Romans 2:11)

From a practical standpoint this means that when God provides a way to help the lost, Overcomers Outreach endeavors to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and His healing power to those hurting no matter what their race, background, or addiction.

Please prayerfully consider if you could make a year end donation to ensure we can continue tangibly reaching those looking to break the cycle of addiction in the New Year.

God Bless you in 2020.

Phil Van Bergen

Donations may be made by cheque or online through Paypal. Just click on our Donate link on our Website. Please advise us of your mailing address; a receipt will be sent out early in the new year for donations made in this year.

Financial support can be designated to a specific ministry area:

- Program Consultant's salary and expenses (Ken S.)
- General operating expenses (telephone, website, office expenses)
- Or simply designated as "Wherever needed"

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

I/We would be pleased to be a part of the Overcomers Outreach team through prayer
and with the following Financial Support:

A one time gift of \$ _____ or Regular monthly support of \$ _____

Please use my/our gift for _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ City _____ Prov. _____

Postal Code _____

