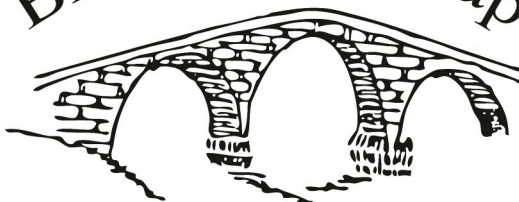


“And you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.”
(John 8:32).

“I have told you these things, so
that in me you may have peace.
In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have overcome
the world.” (John 16:33).

Overcomers Outreach
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Bridging the Gap



BETWEEN
12-STEP RECOVERY GROUPS
AND CHURCHES
OF ALL DENOMINATIONS

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**ADDICTED
CHRISTIAN:
GET LOOSE!**



A Christ-Centered 12-Step
Recovery Group addressing
addictions
and those affected by them

“I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?” (Jeremiah 32:27).

Somehow, because we are Christians, we think we should be permanently immune to such a “thorn in the flesh” as addiction to drugs, alcohol, prescription pills or compulsions. Many times God provides a total and instant healing from these afflictions, but more often than not, it is one frantic struggle for those involved. When the problem “rears its ugly head”, Christians work harder than most people to cover up the situation so that their pastor and church friends won’t find out; thus, they end up trying to carry the load alone. Jesus said, *“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”* (James 5:16). The good news is that we no longer have to wage the battle by ourselves – there is plenty of help available if we are open to receive it!

Overcomers Outreach Canada seeks to address these increasing problems of addiction and compulsion in the churches by offering powerful tools to combat the fear, guilt, anger, loneliness, confusion and frustration, which invariably accompany these problems, and their total effect upon every family member involved.

Overcomers Outreach 12-Step support groups are the direct result of the desperate desire of some Christians who needed to deal with the problem

of alcoholism and drug addiction in the family. They discovered valuable tools to cope with, and to have victory over, these diseases through the traditional 12-Step programs of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon. Though these programs of recovery are regarded as “spiritual”, the missing ingredient for Christians is the name of our ‘higher power’ – **Jesus Christ!** Since many of us seek to glorify Him in **all things**, a supplemental program such as Overcomers Outreach is valuable, where Christians may freely speak of our Lord and Saviour.

The Overcomers Outreach Christian support groups meet to study God’s Word as it relates directly to the 12 Steps of AA, to study relevant subjects in the light of the Scriptures, to share with one another in strictest confidence, and to pray specifically one for another. The results are truly astonishing!

In OO groups, God’s family members become vulnerable and take the risk of sharing their hearts, thus opening doors of help. Therefore, many hurting individuals and family members are discovering total acceptance and unconditional love. This network of people join together and, by the power of God’s Holy Spirit, discover that it truly is possible to experience great victory, no matter the circumstances! Our Lord provides peace and power against the enemy through this special fellowship, and the study of His Word. Mutual openness seems to provide a channel through which His love can flow and healing can begin.

FREEDOM IN CHRIST!

YES, it is indeed possible to be freed from addiction to alcohol, drugs or pills. It is also possible for family members to be freed from their obsession with their loved one’s dilemma. It all seems to start with “letting go and letting God”. Though we have talked about this in our churches many times, problems of addiction and compulsion have been covered up because we have been too ashamed to discuss them, or to trust Him to handle our situation. Yet, He is the only One who can effectively handle it!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

If you have been concerned about these problems in your church, or know of others who might be interested in starting a Christian support group for people struggling with addictions or compulsions, we have developed a simple guidebook called FREED, which will pave the way for anyone who wishes to begin such a ministry. We suggest that the group leader be involved in a traditional 12-Step group in the community and have been in recovery for at least one year.

The FREED booklet contains step-by-step instructions on how to start a group, the 12 Steps of AA with corresponding Scriptures, and the Overcomers Outreach Meeting Format. This booklet is designed to provide the easiest possible method to get a group started in your church and fully equips you with all needed materials for the content of each meeting. If the outline is followed as suggested, anyone who has this burden for Christians, who are suffering from addictions or compulsions, CAN HELP! You will soon discover that you will become “addicted to miracles!”