

PO Box 504 @ 710 S. Eucalyptus St. Sebring, FL 33871-0504 863-471-2626 February 2012

# WHY DO WE PERSEVERE IN THIS AGE?

It is a hard, cruel world. The world would laugh <u>true</u> Christianity to scorn and would love to stamp us out if it could. It is harder and harder to practice your faith in a culture that has long left the morals and principles of God. In fact, our culture glorifies sin and scorns righteousness. Wrong is the new right and the deception (the way the wrong is packaged) is so great, that even the elect would be deceived if it were possible! But we are all called to persevere <u>despite all odds.</u>

Our example of perseverance in a wicked culture is Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 says, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Jesus saw all of us being saved as

great joy worthy of his death. Looking persecution and death in the face, Jesus said, "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as you will?" and he persevered in the will of the Father.

Likewise, we see <u>eternal life with Him</u> as our great joy and reward and we endure lest we be wearied and faint in our minds. Sometimes, it seems hopeless. Sometimes we are confused. Sometimes people lie to us. Sometimes people we trust use us. Sometimes we are just plain tired of fighting the world, our flesh and the devil.

But don't give up! Don't quit. Tie your rope to the doorpost of heaven and don't let go. Mark 13:13 says "And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved! For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." "But blessed is the man that endures temptation, even tempted by false easy doctrine; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised to them that love him."James 1:12. Behold, we count them happy which endure. James 5:11



# WALL ART



We are enjoying the 'wall art' so graciously handmade and given

to us by the Highlands Quilters Guild. Priscilla Height came over with all her tools and a helper and she hanged the quilt up for us herself. What a great addition to our room . The expressions of love that continue to come to us from the community are overwhelming. The Schroeders are supplying us with eggs. We have help with our bugs in the garden, mulch for the bare spots and clothes continue to come in. We have turned a large room upstairs at the main office into a closet so the girls will now be able to choose clothing in a orderly fashion.

We are glad to report that we are making progress in our relationship with law enforcement. We have worked out a program with the probation office that will greatly facilitate our taking women on probation. It will no longer require a trip to their office every week or month. We will be trusted with complete supervision and we will make timely reports to them. This will help the ladies totally unplug from old people, places, and things.

We will be having to invest in some work on our van being used for the Women's Home. Although it has many miles on it, it is so very useful as our 'truck' as well as passenger vehicle. Amen.

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### Testimony of a Student "What I have learned"

What I have learned from this class is that I must look at myself before I act. The reason people become fast to anger and lack of obedience to self and others is the case of a dysfunctional life. Many people live a dysfunctional lifestyle. It is the way they were brought up. The way to separate myself and others from that lifestyle is to detach; get far away as possible.

What I have learned the most from this class, is that I need to set a goal in my life. Without a goal in life there is lack of mental stability. Setting a goal sets your mind straight, to not wonder off on what is not important in life, like drugs, and other unhealthy lifestyles.

I would like to thank Mrs. Sala for this program. I have learned so much and mentally grown from this class. T.R., 18 yr. old

#### **Testimony of a Student "Overcomers"**

I joined Overcomers so that when I go home I will have extra tools to help me become the man God truly wants me to be. I have been an alcoholic all my life and a recreational drug user. In 2001 I gave my life to the Lord and was drug free for 2 1/2 years. By not letting the godly men at my church hold me accountable and by no allowing them to mentor me, I fell back into the old way of life and soon started hanging out with the old friends and doing all the old junk again. Throughout this time in prison I have come to Know God for who is really is. He alone has been my strength and my constant companion. Through all that has happened in the last 7 years God has been faithful to me, even with the passing of my 24 yr old son, God has remained faithful and even given me peace, strength and joy. My greatest desire is to have an intimate love relationship with our heavenly Father, seeking Him daily and serving Him always. R.S.

#### John and Eileen

I have all my life known and have been known by God but I want to tell you John & Eileen that when I received the card you sent and personalized letter that I broke out in tears like rivers and could feel the Spirit tug me greatly and let me know you are teaching truth and Sincerely care and are reaching out from your hearts! I got right on this study and absolutely love how through it is and how it teaches.

NOTF!

Dear Sala...Ever since my recent incarceration my eyes have been opened wider than ever. It's been real hard to understand why these things happen to me, but in my heart I know why. Eventually all my past sins do catch up with me, and paying for them dearly I am. Doing time is nothing. But watching my wife and two boys suffer physically, mentally and emotionally and financially really hurts me deep down inside. But I'm powerless over everything now and all I can do is give it all to God. Let His will be done. So here I sit everyday praying that God will end all these hardships for me and my family. I've been an addict for a very long time. I'll have sobriety and then I relapse. It's been real hard for me fighting this disease but I'm digging down real deep this time and asking God to strengthen me in every way. Edwin.



Dear Partners,

We have begun the New Year with so much expectation. Our Volunteer Staff is on the job and covering for us at the School of the Bible as we formulate the program and schedule at Grace Place. We can't say enough "Thank yous" to them for their continued service and love for us. We have long decided that the works of Grace Place should be <u>ser-</u> <u>vice orientated.</u> With that in mind, we would like to serve you, our Partners and Volunteers!

If you have a cleaning project or other home project that we can help you with like cleaning, painting, pool work or yard work, please call Eileen at 863-658-2580 and talk to her so we can see if it would be appropriate for us. We would be glad to serve you at no

charge to you. Serving you is the best way to learn the lessons in giving that God planned for us.

This month we will be completing our 6 month course at Avon Park Prison. John, Charles Coriell, Phil Esposito and myself will be graduating over 60 men from both our classes the first week in February. They have been a very responsive group of young men and we believe for changed lives, changes that will last. I will start a new class hosted by the First Presbyterian Church at 319 Poinsettia. The classes will be on Tuesdays this session.

Thank all of you for your generosity! We have met our New Year needs and feel so encouraged. As we see the fruit from our garden, we continue to pray for fruitfulness in the Ministry of Little Lambs and Grace Place.

John and Eileen

## SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2012

February 7.....Graduation Avon Park Prison Overcomers & Marriage, Family Parenting Class February 7.....Anger Management/Boundaries 6:45 pm First Presbyterian Church February 14....Anger Management February 21 & 28 Anger Management 3rd Thursday..Sexual Integrity for Men @ Little Lambs Anger Management Boundaries Parenting 10 Classes to begin on February 7, 2012 Every TUESDAY @ 6:45 PM First Presbyterian Church 319 Poinsettia Ave