



# 'More than Conqueror' focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERCOMERS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INT'L JUN 2016 – VOLUME 8 ISSUE 5

## Pastor's Desk

### *GOD OF OPEN DOORS...cont'd*

The Bible teaches in many places that we should pray, not just for our own needs, but for one another which is known as "intercessory prayer". Apostle Paul assured his friends that he was praying for them, and asked them in return to be praying for him ( 2 Corin.13:7; Ephes. 1:16 and Romans 15:30). Intercessory prayer is part of the fellowship of believers in the great spiritual body of the Church.

May it be spiritually revealed to you that intercessory prayer is the invisible hinge on which the golden gate of total deliverance from captivity of Satan swung open, in Jesus name. If we spent more time in intercession we should discover that our prayers for others will be opening the gates of freedom from many bondages in our own lives. Amazingly, it was when Job prayed for his unbending condemner friends that the Lord turned his captivity and rewarded him with double material wealth and domestic happiness than ever before (Job 42:10).

Are you under captivity of Satan, the evil accuser been permitted to test you with

resultant captivity to adversity, bereavement; or terrible sickness? Are you in captivity to mental suffering, doubt, loneliness, fears, depression or despair.? The Overcoming power in intercessory prayer awaits you if you can sincerely pray aggressive heavenly- bound prayer for someone today! As you are entering into the last month in the first half of this year let your intercessory prayer altar be ignited so that your destiny could be liberated from whatever form of captivity is oppressing your life.

Matchless and irrevocable testimonies that give birth to other testimonies shall overflow your life in this month and beyond in Jesus name. This is your month of all – round Divine favour after the order of both Joseph and Esther, in Jesus name.

JESUS IS LORD.  
PASTOR MIKE ILELADEWA

### *WEEKLY ACTIVITIES*

Sunday Service: 10:30am—1pm;  
Monday Bible Study: 7pm - 9pm  
Tuesday Prayer Warrior : 11pm— 2am;

## Monthly Activities

### Vigil Prayer Meeting

2nd Friday of Every month:11pm-2am

*[Next meeting: 10th Jun, 2016]*

### General Evangelism:

Third Saturday of Every Month, 3pm-4pm

*[Next meeting: 18th Jun, 2016]*

### Women's Fellowship Meeting:

Third Sunday of Every month, 1pm-3pm

*[Next meeting: 19th Jun, 2016]*

### Men's Fellowship Meeting:

Third Sunday of Every month, 1pm-3pm

*[Next meeting: 19th Jun, 2016]*

### Breakthrough Prayer Meeting:

Last Friday of Every Month: 7pm-9pm

*[Next meeting: 24th Jun, 2016]*

*"I am an Overcomer because Jesus Christ who lives in me is greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)"*

## JOY CHANGES EVERYTHING

By Donald Macleod

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It's often important to assure despondent Christians that Jesus himself sometimes plumbed the emotional depths. But it's equally important to guard against the opposite extreme, as if joy were a luxury we could well do without. Being a man of sorrows was only one side of Jesus's life. The Spirit dwelt in him without limit (John 3:34), and wherever the Spirit is there is joy (Galatians 5:22). Clearly, too, he found joy in his special relationship with his Father, in whose will he took delight (Psalm 40:8; Hebrews 10:7); and as he approached the end of his ministry, it was the prospect of the joy set before him that strengthened him to endure the cross (Hebrews 12:2). This was not merely the anticipation of joy; it was the joy of anticipation — and it was a key element in the psychology of his obedience.

**The Heart of Joy:** Peter speaks of a similar joy when he describes believers as “greatly rejoicing” in anticipation of their final salvation (1 Peter 1:6). Indeed, joy is part of the spiritual profile of every Christian. It has little to do, however, either with our natural temperament or with our personal circumstances. It is the fruit of the Spirit, and it is worth noting that when Paul uses that phrase, he speaks not of “fruits” in the plural, but of “fruit” in the singular. The fruit is one indivisible organic whole, which means that whenever the Spirit comes to live in a human soul the result is love *and* joy *and* peace, and all the other graces which the apostle mentions in Galatians 5:22–23. It is one fruit, with many segments. There cannot, therefore, *not* be joy in a Christian heart. Even its temporary absence is a symptom of some underlying spiritual malady. On the other hand, the fruit is not produced mechanically, but grows up like the seed which germinated while the farmer slept (Mark 4:27). It is the result of a living relationship with the Holy Spirit. We bear it only if we keep in step with him. When we grieve the Spirit, our own joy withers.

**The Focus of Joy:** But not only is the Spirit the one who personally produces this fruit in believers. He produces it by focusing our minds on *spiritual* things: those very things which the natural man cannot receive (1 Corinthians 2:14). Specifically, he fills our hearts with joy by focusing our minds, not on joy itself, but on the majesty of God, the beauty of Christ, and the unsearchable riches which are ours in him. Two or three examples must suffice.

First, the case of the Philippian jailer. Having received the gospel, he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God (Acts 16:34). It's not clear how narrowly we should take this (presumably in his previous life he had been an idolater, not an atheist), but whatever else is implied in the

faith, it certainly meant that God had suddenly become utterly real to him — and commonplace though it is, there is no greater joy than the assurance that God is and is for you. To those who have come out of the dark night of atheism, this is the greatest truth of all. “It is a great thing to believe in God,” said the seventeenth-century Scottish theologian Robert Bruce. It makes the whole universe glow.

Secondly, there is the point which Peter makes in 1 Peter 1:8. He himself had had the privilege of seeing Christ; his readers, however, had not, yet they believed in him and they loved him, and the result was that they rejoiced with an inexpressible and glorious joy (1 Peter 1:8). The same is still true, surely, of believers today. The sheer beauty of his immaculate humanity and majestic deity captivates our hearts, and we draw our very identity from the fact that we are loved by God's own Son.

Thirdly, we rejoice when we think of the future. Christ will return, and when he returns we will receive in full the inheritance already prepared for us in heaven. This is not something to be pushed to the margins of our Christian lives. It has to be absolutely central, as it was in the life of Christ, who in his closing hours focused his mind on the glory which would follow the completion of his work (John 17:1–5). Indeed, it is so central that when Peter urges us to be ready to witness to Christ at every opportunity, he describes this witness as a defence, not of our faith, but of our hope (1 Peter 3:15). If we bear in mind the close connection between hope and joy, what Peter is really saying is, “Be sure you are always ready to speak up whenever non-Christians ask you to explain the joy that so clearly fills your lives.”

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The Overcomers Christian Fellowship Int'l, Plymouth

## Upcoming Events

ALPHA COURSE & BAPTISMAL LESSONS TO COMMENCE VERY SOON—Contact the Church Desk for more information...

## Testimonies

*Sis T.:* I appreciate God for improved result this semester, I have witnessed significant improvement academically and I attribute it to divine favour from God.

*Sis G.:* I want to thank God for his divine visitation during the Vigil Prayer meeting even though, I almost didn't want to attend. I bless the Lord for His mercies and visitation.

*Bro J.:* Thanking God for adding another year to my Dad's life and for also protecting my Dad from evil visitation.