

Jon's testimony

My name is Jon T and I'm a servant of Jesus in Bournemouth England. I've been called to serve people in recovery seeking Jesus through the power of holy spirit & O.O.

About 4 years ago I was heavily involved with 12 step fellowships and had come to know Jesus in a powerful way. I spent a week in 24/7 prayer room where God challenged me on the whole recovery set up here in Bournemouth.

We have the second largest recovering community of people in country (England) bar London. More nightclubs and drinking premises than in the west end of London, and a drug market of £82,000,000.00 per year. There are 160,000 inhabitants in Bournemouth which 4000 are registered methadone users, and 1 in every 150 people living in Bournemouth have been in a Rehabilitation Centre for one addiction or another.

I could clearly see that there was some great support and recovery stuff going on here but lots of people with long lengths of clean time had no peace in there life and were still really struggling with themselves and life. My heart cried out for these people and I found myself going from meeting to meeting just praying for people in my head. I could see many spiritual strongholds in there life, and could see that with Jesus these life long struggles could be broken, however without them knowing Jesus personally and the power in calling on his name to break through this spiritual baggage, they inevitably continued to face the same old struggles.

Many, I may add, have ended up using again because the pain becomes unbearable and the enemy convinces them the only way to relieve there pain is to use/drink or they just stay in a kind of long term depression where life's just sad. And I suppose last but not least God showed me a massive majority of people within the fellowships were working and claiming benefits, still committing robberies, selling stolen goods, sleeping with prostitutes, selling drugs, running pornography establishments, brothels, and abusing the women within the fellowships (what I mean by that is praying on the vulnerable new women). But above all this sin if they went to meetings and shared about their actions as long as they didn't use because of them this behavior was excepted (with people justifying there actions by saying I'm not perfect). And because they have been honest about there actions, even though lots of them continued in there sin without change, it seemed ok and people would not challenge them for fear of being judgmental.

The bottom line is that all this sin still kept people sick and stuck in bondage. The other big thing for me was that if someone ever mentioned Jesus in the meetings there was up roar and people were closed off and ridiculed.

I suppose my biggest fear back then was telling people in the anonymous fellowships about Jesus for fear of persecution and being bullied. And also through talking to many addicts/alcoholics I found they had a great fear about stepping into a church building



(for feeling like they didn't fit in and that they couldn't relate to the people or what was going on in there).

This whole revelation led me to prayer, and through this God promised to provide a bridge to bring the gospel in a non intrusive way to these people I cared so much about. The next day a friend of mine handed me an O.O. newsletter and said God had told him it was for me. This led me to a meeting miles away in the middle of the countryside where I received the promise of an Overcomers Outreach meeting PRAISE GOD.

From that moment I was so excited but petrified how can I start this in my town. Again through prayer God said to me start the O.O. meeting and I'll bring the people, and within 3 weeks of opening the meeting with no publicity there were over 20 people coming (and I think the biggest meeting was 26 people) God then started to fill out quite a few people, and we were left with a core group, and God revealed to us to sustain a scripture 12 step recovery group we needed people that had worked the 12 steps from scripture. So we stopped the O.O. meeting, and 4 women and 5 guys in 2 separate groups worked the steps from The Twelve Steps a Spiritual Journey over 16 weeks. Half way through working through the steps a woman phoned me from Poole a town about 7 miles from my area and told me how God had spoken to her about the fellowships and almost word for word told me the same vision God had given me the year before in the 24/7 prayer room. I now however could share about how Overcomers Outreach was working powerfully in changing people in recovery, by the way of a meeting which addicts/alcoholics felt comfortable to come to and meet with the living God. She was blown away and was so excited about starting a meeting at her church. As they have a congregation of about 60 who are all in recovery. I went to their church in February as they asked me to come and share my testimony and tell them about my experience of Overcomers Outreach.

They are just about to start a Steps group of 7 women, and start an Overcomers Outreach meeting themselves. There are also 2 other meetings being discussed to hopefully be open soon.

I have bought the website www.overcomersoutreach.org.uk please have a look but it is only very basic at the moment. And within the next few months I'm looking to launch Overcomers Outreach to the whole country in a new and exciting vision to meet people in recovery where their at (meetings), and bring Jesus in a way they can understand.

