



"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.

- Jesus (John 16: 33)

As I write this, spring has officially begun and 4-5" of snow still covers the ground. Yet, as you can see from the picture above, a lone crocus is ready to bloom. In spite of the challenging conditions, life moves forward!

And so it is with Resurrection Life! We experience many pains and sorrows but we keep our eyes focused on Jesus, the One who has overcome the world. He is our strength and guidance through the murky waters that surround us so often.

These are challenging times for sure. Yet, let us draw together as people of hope to encourage those around us that there is an Overcomer who holds out a hand of love and support to all who will take it. And, sometimes, Jesus uses *your* hand to do just that for someone who needs lifting up.

Blessings!

Scott ♥

(Psalm 73: 23)

KEEPING YOU INFORMED:

- **SOUP SUPPER!** Friday, April 19, 6 pm, at John & Diane Grefer's house (35641 S. Charles Rd, D.I. John 513-379-9962; Diane 513-850-8712). Bring a friend and a soup to share!
- **EASTER (March 31)!** Sign up for a lily in memory of a loved one (\$10 donation) in the foyer or by email or phone.
 - **EASTER BREAKFAST @ 9:30** (helpers @ 8 am). Everyone welcome! (FYI: No potluck after service on April 7)
 - **EASTER WORSHIP @ 10:30**, in the company of friends!
- ♥ Handmade placemats are 2 for \$5, supporting the Romanian mission trip!
- Also, various handmade items crafted by at-risk women of Nepal. You can find them on the display table in the foyer (proceeds go to support Higher Ground outreach)
- Kudos to John Orr and helpers for the improvements being made in the basement.



We continue to reach out to those needing assistance for food or utilities. We work with Michelle Wallace and the Food Bank (ph. (312) 285-4505).

Anyone interested in going to **Romania** in October this year should **let me know by April** so we can get tickets. The price has gone down and we need to get them purchased before they increase. I am still doing the can drive. Drop off points: Northwood Restaurant, Lighthouse Church or Chuck's. Thank you for your donations for the project - Shirley Hollister 517-425-2836 or ahappyheart46@yahoo.com

Our 2024 **1st Quarter Missions Focus** supports **Healing Art Medical Missions** to Haiti and **Higher Ground** mission to at-risk women in Nepal. Check 'em out!! Collection will be Sundays, **Mar. 31 and Apr. 7.**



But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. Romans 8:37

I recently read a quote on the internet that I found interesting: "What you can become

depends on what you can overcome." When I think about being an overcomer, I imagine myself jumping up and down at the finish line of a big race, cheering in victory.

No one wants to live a defeated life. We all want to be overcomers. However, we often miss the biggest obstacle to living the life we want. It's not other people; it's not difficult circumstances, and it's not the devil, even though all three can be a part of our story. The biggest obstacle is us. It's our own hearts.

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (NIV) Your heart determines the course of life. Whoa. I guess that means I can throw out placing all the responsibility for everything that happens to me on God, the devil, or difficult people. I have a responsibility to steward my heart, to guard my heart, to take my heart to the Lord and to receive His truth into my heart.

(OVER)



The heart is central to how our lives unfold because it's the center of who we are. While it would be wrong to say that we can control *everything* that happens in our lives, it's also true, according to [Proverbs 4:23](#) that what happens inside us, happens outside us. The heart determines the course of our lives.

I can't think of anywhere that the power of the heart to direct our lives is more clearly seen than in relationships. For example, when a marriage is headed toward dissolution, hearts are no longer filled with the godliness of tenderness, mercy, and grace. Instead, they are filled with contempt, blame, hatred, and pride—and unless we guard and guide our hearts, relational disaster will ensue.

Additionally, if we do not guard our hearts from ungodly influences and emotions, our senses will follow the heart's lead because the heart is like a commander. Once the heart is hardened, the senses follow suit. If the heart is soft, the senses will be open, pliable, and receptive to God's will and ways. But if the heart is hard, the senses will be hard also, making it impossible to discern truth, and in the case of relationships, make it difficult—if not impossible—to live in harmony with others.

In [Hebrews 3:13](#) God says that where hardness of heart is, deception is always present. Smoke goes with fire, calories go with cheesecake, and lies go with hardness of heart. Sometimes we harden our hearts as a means of self-protection, sometimes because of pride, rebellion, fear, or anger. But whatever the reason, wherever hardness of heart is, there's always deception.

So, if we want to be overcomers, not just in our relationships, but in all areas of life, we must guard our hearts. It determines the course of our lives. "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne" ([Rev. 3:21](#)).

Prayer

Lord, I know I can be easily deceived by emotions, intentions, and desires that are not of you. Make me wise, Lord, and help me guard my heart. I know I have a responsibility in this. It's not all up to you. Help me submit to your ways, Amen

(From: <https://www.wisdomhunters.com/living-as-an-overcomer/>)

April Birthdays

27 Mark Larson
30 Cindy Wenger

(If we don't have your birthday or anniversary, let us know!)

Pearls Of Wisdom "Who I Am In Christ"

*I am a partaker of His Divine Nature.
See: 2 Peter 1:4*

- Ruth Wise

**ARTICLES FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER ARE
DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY TUESDAY,
APRIL 23rd (Email, if possible.)**



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