

## PARTNER LETTER JULY 2008

Dear Partner

### **DO YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT OF AN OVERCOMER!**

Revelation 21:7 NIV He *who overcomes will inherit all...* "

I read about Dave Longaberger who graduated from high school at the age of 20. He repeated 1st grade and "three-peated" 5th grade.

He reads at 8th grade level, stutters, and has epilepsy.

But Dave possesses the overcoming spirit. As a child he worked so many jobs, his family called him "*the twenty-five-cent millionaire.*"

As a 7-year-old in a grocery store he learned that the way to please his boss was to figure out what the boss wanted, and get it done. Then he began to study people; and learned from them. He discovered that work could be fun, and that he did a better job when he enjoyed it. The more the people he dealt with liked him, the more likely they were to continue doing business with him.

He also learned how to become a risk-taker. For example, he started a tiny restaurant on a shoestring. On the opening day he had \$135 that he used to buy the first day's breakfast ingredients. After breakfast, he'd enough money to buy supplies for lunch. Then he used the money he made from lunch to buy dinner preparations. That's really starting a business on a shoestring!

Later he bought a grocery store and ran it very successfully. All the time he was preparing himself for bigger and better things.

Last year his company, The Longaberger Company, sold over \$600 million worth of home décor items, through 36,000 independent sales consultants nationwide. What's his secret?

These four scriptural qualities:

[1] Faith

[2] Patience

[3] Hard work

[4] An overcoming spirit!

So don't look back just look forward! Your future has more exciting things in front of you than behind.

Luke 17:32 "*remember Lot's wife.*"

The Sunday school teacher told her class, "*Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.*"

Little Johnny responded, "*That's nothing; my Mum was driving home yesterday, and she looked back and turned into a telegraph pole!*"

Lot's wife only appears briefly in one scripture, so why did Jesus tell us to remember her?

Two reasons:

**1. She invested her life in something that had no future.**

1 Jn 2:17 Living Bible "*This world is fading away, along with everything it craves. But if you do the will of God, you will live forever.*"

God tried to get Lot's wife out of Sodom, but he couldn't get Sodom out of her. When she thought of what she was leaving, she looked back and turned into a cold, unresponsive monument.

When God says it's time to move, don't hesitate! Don't become like those who once walked with Him, witnessed on the job, were shining lights in their communities, but now are cold and unresponsive.

## 2. Your decisions always have consequences.

If only she'd kept moving forward so that when her daughters got to the cave, she'd have been there to protect them. Instead, they became victims of abuse and incest.

*"Remember Lot's wife."* Before you lose your children, destroy a relationship and tear up your life by refusing to break with your past.

She didn't make it to safety, but she did make it into Scripture long enough to warn us about three things:

1. Complacency.
2. Involvement with the wrong things.
3. A divided heart or being double minded.

To win in this life you need the Spirit of an overcomer, just like David Longaberger. If he could do it with his shortcomings so you can; so don't look back look up and press on forward to victory and be that overcomer in Christ!

In His Righteousness and love

**Norman & Elizabeth**

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