Overcomers

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New Developments

On August 25, 2021, Chameleon Aconitum left a threatening voicemail for Jake Gustafson. The response to the voicemail led to increased interest in the FCA Overcomers project. Chameleon should probably be thanked for that.

To listen to the voicemail and to read the PDF response and reflections on the project, click on the following link:

Reflections on this Site

OVERCOMERS PART I: LESSONS FROM MY LIFE

01.0) Introduction 02.0) Foreword

03.0) Family Background 03.1) The Fourth Way

04.0) Ray of Sunshine 04.1) Early Ray 04.2) Ray Tracing

05.0) PA Baptists 05.1) Baptist Churches 05.2) Bible Studies

06.0) FCA 06.1) FCA Funding 06.2) Role and Culture of FCA 06.3) Christian Rock 06.4) More FCA Photos

07.0) Chameleon Aconitum

07.1) Early Chameleon

07.2) Chameleon and Me

07.3) Return of the Chameleon

08.0) Abuse in Church Contexts

08.1) John Longaker Case

08.2) Eric Romig Case

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09.0) Neurodiverse isn't Worse

10.0) Unsorted10.1) Just Fun10.2) Camp Reeta

OVERCOMERS PART II: ADVICE TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

- 11) Recognize Manipulators
- 12) SO Relationships
- 13) It's All Right to Speak Up
- 14) Focus on the House Church
- 15) The Role of Faith

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ABOUT THIS SITE

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Contact information, Privacy Notice, document license, etc., are on the Site Notices page.

WHAT IS THIS BOOK?

This is a personal story intended for U.S. readers. Especially current and former church-goers and people in problem relationships.

One context is Fundamentalist ministries. If you're familiar with the Baptist Church or have a position on Maranatha (MBBC), the story will be of interest.

The book also discusses toxic relationships, cases that involve manipulation or abuse.

There are situations that you're not expected to put up with or to take responsibility for. We'll discuss the line between things that can be worked out and situations that you should exit as quickly as possible.

The backstory is about Jake and Ray Gustafson, two brothers who were born and raised in the Fundamentalist world, and the different paths that they took.

Jake Gustafson is a reserved software developer in his 30s. He's committed to the community and faith that have been the cornerstones of his life since childhood.

Ray Gustafson is a charismatic massage artist and drug user in his 40s. He's a former Christian leader who positions himself as an Ex-Christian guru and, at the same time, seems to boast of bedding women who are as young as he's able to get.

The two men are conflicted.

Jake retains his faith, but he's in the process of deciding where the boundaries that define community and faith lie.

Ray has explicitly rejected Christianity, but he seems to waver on this position. He's said to have tried to introduce the Bible to the local drug culture.

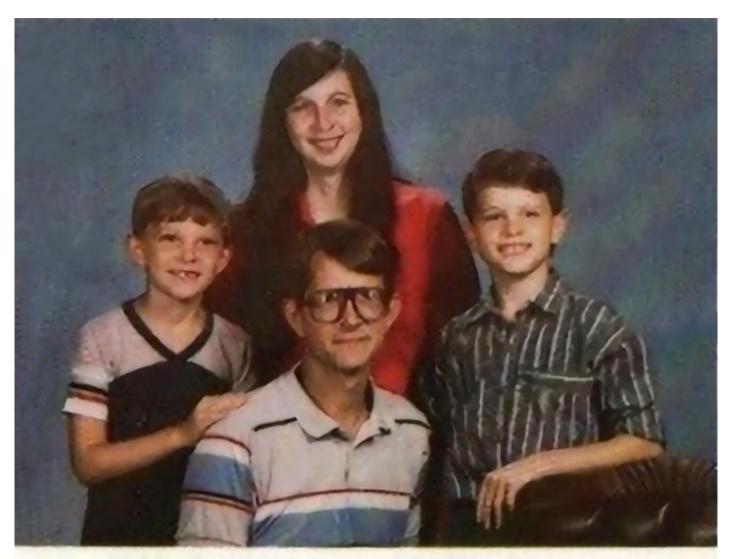
The key figures also include Chameleon, a manipulative and corrosive woman that both men have had as a lover. She doesn't define the story, but she does complicate it.

Chameleon was into BDSM and hard drugs and once did a threesome involving two gay men. "Lol, it's a miracle I didn't get HIV", she says. She asked Jake, on occasion, to watch her kids so that she could engage in prostitution.

Chameleon arguably wasn't the best match for a Fundamentalist man, let alone for two Fundamentalist brothers.

This site will go into signs of relationships that aren't on a rock-solid basis.

This book is Jake's look at his life, Ray's life, and different perspectives on Faith. Ray and others are invited to comment.



John & Marie Gustafson, Jake & Raymond

NOTE ABOUT PHOTOS

In most cases, you can click or tap on a photo on this site to get to a larger and/or zoomable version. On mobile devices, the usual zoom features should then work.

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