

Let's live
like this!

Building a bridge

Juan Pablo, Argentina

My dad left home a few years ago. My mother and my sister wanted nothing more to do with him.

This situation was very painful for me and my only support was the love of my friends in the "Teens for Unity." As time went on, I gradually got the idea of going to see my dad. Talking it over with the other teens, I found the strength, and also the means, to do it.

I didn't know how he would react – nor how I would react! I hadn't seen him in six years and in all that time he never contacted us to tell us anything about himself.

I traveled 550 miles to where he was living. When I finally saw him, I didn't know what to say. I wasn't angry, I just wanted to love him.

Now a bridge has been built between the two of us, and I feel a new freedom in my heart!



I COMMIT
MYSELF TO:

OVERCOMING

EVERY KIND OF

TRIAL

WORD OF LIFE | 07

**"Take courage; I have
conquered the world!"**

(Jn 16:33)

This is what Jesus told his disciples, during the Last Supper, on the night before he would be handed over to those who put him to death. He would be betrayed, rejected, reduced to nothing. You would think that instead of conquering the world, he was being utterly defeated!

What is his victory? Without a doubt, it came with the resurrection. But even before that, **he was victorious because of his great love that made him give up his life for us.**

That's why Jesus tells us not to be afraid of anything: "Take courage, I have conquered the world!"

No matter what sufferings we have, or what difficult situations we face, we can be sure that Jesus has already taken our pain on himself and has overcome it.

When we feel overwhelmed by suffering, trials or temptations, we can tell him, **"If you conquered the world, you can certainly conquer this painful moment I am going through!"**

Jesus was victorious precisely at the time when he endured suffering, injustice, abandonment and death. His victory is that of someone who faces suffering out of love, of someone who believes in life after death.

"I'll stop a moment and think about what difficult moments I have to face."

Every time we experience any kind of suffering, whether it is our own, or of the people around us, or of those we hear about in different parts of the world, **let's renew our trust in Jesus, present in us and among us. He is the one who has overcome the world, who makes us share in his victory, who opens up Paradise where he has gone to prepare a place for us.**

In this way we will find the courage to face every trial and tribulation.

We can overcome everything in him who gives us strength.

"I'll tell my group how I tried to overcome difficulties."