

## INSPIRATION FROM SOUTH AFRICA

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**Editor's note:** I heard this in Cleveland and was both moved and inspired. Michael was kind enough to allow me to share it as a final message from Together 2000.

This poem was penned at a difficult time during our transition from apartheid to democracy. Staff morale was low, resources were few, and staff turnover was high. Staff were really questioning the value of their input in the lives of abused children.

### **I've Overcome**

You give me hope when I get weary  
you bring joy when the day is dreary  
You say let's press on  
even when the day's work is supposed to be done  
Thank you for bringing laughter  
to a child who has known only tears  
proof that you have dealt with my worst fears  
And today after the great farewell  
you will stay with many sad stories to tell  
Even as you weep as you sweep the floors  
we know it's all done in the game of opening doors  
While others doze and nod  
know that we are near to the heart of God  
One day God will say "well done"  
And a child will exclaim "I've overcome."

