

Open Door News

AUGUST 2012

2630 Kanawha Blvd. E.
Charleston, WV 25311
(304) 346-9175

Service Times:
Sunday 10am & 6pm
Wednesday 7:30 pm

Ladies Prayer:
Thursdays @ 8 am

Letter from the Pastor

Kingdom Greetings!

Beloved saints of the most high, I greet you in the lovely name of Jesus. The church has definitely come through the storm and the storm couldn't stop it. It is August already and it's amazing how fast we are on the downhill side of another year. As I write this letter my heart is still filled with joy from being a part of the picking up the mantle service. I believe with all of my heart that God poured out fresh anointing and spiritual gifts in that service. I anticipate many testimonies of greater ministry from many people.

A very special thank you to Bro. & Sis. Pence and their team for serving us breakfast throughout July, Bro. Nick & Shawna Huffman who served us after church on Sunday Nights with their team, and Sis. Jenniefer Green and all of the Arden family that served us on Wednesdays. To all of you who donated food and plates and bowls and cups, and you that came and sat with us and fellowshiped with your brothers and sisters, thank you! We expect to continue in fellowship and breaking of bread throughout August as well; I ask each of you to be a part of this effort with us.

We will be in Revival on Wednesday, August 8th, and Sunday, August 12th, with Bro. & Sis. Michael Maupin from Pocahontas Arkansas. On Friday the 10th there will be FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE at the church. This will be a night engineered for our youth to sing and show their talents to one another; there will be surprise guests as well. On Saturday the 11th at 6pm we will have our second annual soft-ball game at Capital High Field. Come out for some sporting competition and hot dogs and fellowship.

On Wednesday, August the 15th, our dear friend Dr. CP Thomas from India will be preaching for us and sharing the amazing testimonies of the great Revival in North India. I believe that his daughter Margret will be here with us as well, so do everything that you can to make them feel welcome.

On Saturday evening, August 25th, there will be a benefit Gospel sing at the church to bless Bro. & Sis. Zack Lightner. This is Brother Josh and Sis Dewey's mom and dad. The funds raised in this sing will be donated to Bro. & Sis. Lightner to help them with their medical expenses.

On Wednesday, August 29th, missionaries Oscar and Erin Rodrigues from Portugal will be with us. We want to be a blessing to this young couple. I met them at the men's conference at Bro. Tom Suey's church in February. As you can see, August is going to be a month full of activities and special guests. Sis. Vonda and I love you very much. We thank you for your faithfulness and your dedication to the house of God. May August at Open Door Apostolic be filled with increase and favor.

- Pastor Chris Sowards

The Heartbeat of God



During July we are blessed to have missionaries Bro. and Sis. Simmons from Thailand. God is using them mightily in this area. During their service with us on July 18th, God moved in a mighty manner.

We are so thrilled to report that in the past three months we have taken on three new PIM's

for Global Missions with UPCI. Thank you, new partners with missionaries. God will richly bless you. We are looking forward to our next missionary service. Reaching people for God, wherever it is, is the heartbeat of God.

God bless you,

Bro. and Sis. Keefer, Global Missions Directors

The Bridge Builder

A poem submitted by Sis. Barbara Sowards

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim—
That sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when he reached the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength in building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build you the bridge at eventide?"

The builder lifted his gray head.
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for *him*."

- WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE

The Man I Could Have Been

Written by Bro. Dan Keenan

Time is such a unique and valuable thing. We roll through our daily lives like we have unlimited time living for the day and taking little thought for tomorrow. But reality says that time is a most valuable thing.

The dictionary defines "time" as; *"the continuing sequence of events occurring in irreversible succession from the past through the present to the future."*

Time is such a valuable thing. It is more important than the house you live in, the car you drive, or the money in your bank account. While these things are variables, time marches on. Time is not on the market. You cannot buy or sell it, you cannot borrow it, nor can you speed it up or slow it down. Time is in the hands of God alone. Time is "no respecter of persons."

Mae West said; "You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." That statement is more true than she realized. Hebrews 9:27 says; "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Life is a dressing room for eternity. Between our birth and our death is the "time" God gives us to prepare for eternity. Spend it wisely because when it is gone it is gone.

Within each of us, God has placed incredible potential. We are all created uniquely with different gifts, talents, and abilities. In addition to these, God will give anointing that will unleash even greater potential. God has a plan of extraordinary greatness. It is sad that so few Christians never really pursue the level of achievement that God has designed for them. We grow tired of the pursuit and find a comfortable place along the way to stop and live in mediocrity. We can get by in such if we choose, but why settle for that place when we can reach so much higher if we would press on. When our children are in school, we push them to pursue high achievement in academics. Some have athletic or artistic gifting and we push them to pursue realization of their potential. Somewhere along the line many of us decided to settle for where we are rather than the place God intended us to be. It is as though we start out climbing the mountain with zeal, reaching for the summit, but life causes us to grow weary of the journey. It is a sad thing when we abandon this pursuit and resolve to live in the field of mediocrity. But all too often we do.

I want to share with you a story I read recently;

There was a man who was a high school music teacher who was sitting in a room late one evening. He was reading a book, doing some research work, when all of a sudden a bright, angelic-looking being walked into that room. The man was shocked and horrified. This bright angelic being walked over to the piano in the corner of the room, sat down, and began to play incredibly beautiful music.

The teacher was so shaken up that he didn't know what to do. Finally he began to ask questions; "Who are you?" "What is this?" "What is your name?" His visitor did not re-

spond but continued to play the beautiful music.

The music teacher realized that this was the most beautiful music he had ever heard. In a way, it seemed to be a somewhat familiar melody, but he couldn't quite recognize it. He continued to ask the questions; "Who are you?" "What is this?" "What is your name?" But the angelic musician just continued to play.

Finally, the teacher asked another question; "That music you're playing...what is it? I've got to know... what is it? It's the most beautiful music I have ever heard!"

The angelic-looking musician looked up at him and said, "All right, I'll tell you what song this is all about. This is the song that you could have composed. And I am the man you could have been!"

In a split second there began to race through the man's mind thoughts about his past. He thought of his dreams for being a composer. He remembered the melodies that played on in his head for years and ideas for masterpieces he hoped to someday compose. Now he was hearing them developed and played with such splendor he had only dreamed of.

Now he sat there plagued by the realization of what could have been! But now his hands were wrinkled, his joints stiff, and his mind not as sharp as it once was.

He went home and told his wife sadly; "I am not the man I could have been... Oh to have the chance to go back and do it over again... but it's too late, I am who I am. My time is spent... and I did not spend it well!"

We all start out with dreams and aspirations but life gets in the way, our adversary places obstacles in our path, and we stumble in our pursuit. If we would be honest today many of us would have to admit that somewhere along the way we settled for what we are rather than what we could be.

So this brings us to the question; "How can I make up for the years I wasted in the field of mediocrity?" First of all I say stop wasting your time where you are and resolve to get back in the pursuit of your fullest potential. Secondly do not allow your adversary to condemn you over those goals you did not achieve. God did not give you gifts, talents, and anointing with a time limit. He does not want to see you squander all He has given you.

What do we do to redeem all those wasted months or years? While it is true that we can't go back and re-do our past, we can make up for some of it. You may have wasted the past several years living in mediocrity but you cannot dwell on that. There is still a great many years to pursue your potential. If we will resolve to make the very best of our future, our future can far exceed our past. Awaken those gifts, talents, and anointing God has placed within you. Live for Christ. Seek God for direction then follow it.

Determine in your heart that you are going to make the change. Start now. Do not wait another day. Procrastination is one of life's greatest pitfalls. Stop allowing things to hinder you from your pursuit of greatness. God has a bright future for you if you will pursue it.

I do not want to meet "the man I could have been." I want to be that man! Don't give in to the temptations of taking the easy path. It is well worth the effort to pursue all that God has designed for you.

Upcoming Events

Friday Night Live!

August 10th, starting at **9 pm**, will be a night of full of *LIVE* entertainment at the church! Surprise guests and our own talented members will be performing! There will also be a youth talent show! Everyone is welcome to participate and/or come out to enjoy an evening to remember! Please see Kelly Sowards if you have any questions or wish to participate in the talent show.

2nd Annual Softball Game

Saturday, **August 11th**, is our 2nd Annual Softball Game at the Capital High field! Even if you don't plan on participating, you can still show your support by cheering on the players! The game will begin at **6 pm**! With competition, fellowship, and hotdogs, there is something everyone can enjoy!

Back-to-School Service

Sunday, **August 12th** will be a special Back-to-School service with Bro. Michael Maupin. It will be a great opportunity to ready our souls for the upcoming school year.

Benefit Gospel Sing

Saturday, **August 25th**, the church is holding a Benefit Gospel Sing at **6 pm**. The funds you donate for this event will bless Josh and Dewey's mom and dad, Bro. and Sis. Zach Lightner. All the donations will go toward covering their medical expenses.

Youth Bon Fire

The youth will gather at the Woda house on **August 31st** at **8pm**. There's no better way to spend an evening!

Don't Forget:

- Revival with Bro. and Sis. Michael Maupin—Wednesday, **August 8th** and Sunday, **August 12th**
- Dr. CP Thomas preaching—**August 15th**
- Missionaries Oscar and Erin Rodrigues of Portugal will be with us—**August 29th**

Feed His Sheep

“Serve or be Served”

August Menu

Sunday Mornings	Sunday Evenings	Wednesday Evenings
(8:30am-9:30am)	(9pm-10pm)	(9pm-10pm)
		August 1st
		Chicken & Rice
August 5th	August 5th	August 8th
Breakfast Burritos	Sloppy Joes	Nachos
August 12th	August 12th	August 15th
Cereal	Baked Spaghetti	Turkey Sandwiches
August 19th	August 19th	August 22nd
Pancakes & Bacon	Pinto Beans & Cornbread	Taco Salad
August 26th	August 26th	August 28th
Biscuits & Gravy	Chicken & Noodles	Bologna Sandwiches



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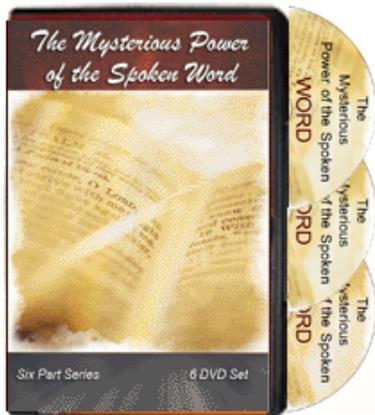
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Birthdays

1—Cecil Davis
2—Angie Frame
7—Rebecca Hale
10—Will Carte
10—Jacob Gilbert
10—John Harrah
12—Sharon Martin
12—Rocky Hager
14—Raiden Mikah Corns
18—Kristin Carte
19—Micah Skiles
20—Shena Payne
28—Chris Sowards
29—Harley Coutz
31—Roger Pence

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