



## A Word from Our Pastor:

Happy Summer Greetings in Jesus Name!

As I write this letter, I am thinking of everything I am behind on. It seems there is not enough time to get everything done. Today our lives are fast paced and filled with stress. All of our modern technology is suppose to give us extra time to relax and meditate, but I feel something has gone wrong somewhere. Maybe we do have the time but forces in our society have been successful in grabbing our attention and filling our schedules with too many activities.

More than ever we need to pray for our Nation and our World. All of the signs mentioned in the scriptures about of the last days and the coming of the Lord are taking place right before our eyes. Our mission is to touch people with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. We must be diligent and serious about our salvation and our families. I believe God is going to be quick to reveal His power and presence in the lives of those who are seeking after righteousness.

As the summer is coming to a close and everyone returns from vacation and we are able to come together as a complete body our goal is **REVIVAL**. In just a few days we are sending a team to meet in person Pastor Charles Nyakundi in Kenya. Due to unseen events Rev. Michael Maupin had to cancel his participation in this event. Pastor Nathan Rose



has graciously agreed to go with our own Brothers Joey White and Leon Sites. As you know Bro. and Sis. Nathan Rose have stood with us in our support for the Kenya Revival for a long time. It was the Roses' that donated the portable baptistery for Kenya. It is great that he will actually be able to present it to them in person.

We are coming close to our financial goal for this trip. Many of you have already sacrificially given, and I know that God will bless you. We are expecting a mighty move of God there and I am asking that you pray everyday for souls, signs, wonders and angels to surround our team while they are out of the country.

I would like to say thank you to all of the volunteers who donate your time to serve the people of God. To the men and women who come early and prepare food in the kitchen and prepare the dining rooms...**God Bless You!** Jesus told us to feed His sheep, and that's what we are doing together. At Open Door you can get your soul and your body fed.

Bro. Joe Pauley did a great job remodeling the Missions Room. I have said it before, but I believe that our congregation is blessed because we give and serve beyond our four walls. Your giving and support for missions has allowed us to be a part of a **Global Revival of Souls** being born into the **Kingdom of God**.

God is raising up mighty men and women among us to get the job done. We still make the mistake of looking at the outside of an individual and deeming them fit for the job, but **God doesn't call the qualified He qualifies the called**. The fivefold ministry of Apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and pastors is in place. There are those who debate the existence of modern day apostles, the word actually means, "One who is sent out". We have been sending out to India, Thailand, and now Kenya. I believe the Lord is perfecting us, and as we step into the roles that he has for each of us we will begin to witness a greater manifestation of His gifts and supernatural presence in our midst.

It's a new month and we are asking for each of you to sign up for 21 days of prayer and fasting. It is making a difference, the Word of God says that the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous **AVAILETH MUCH!!!!** I also want to invite you to come early on **Sunday Mornings at 9 am for prayer**. There will be signs posted of the location of the prayer room.

As we gather together to worship, let's come with expectancy for God to change every life that comes in contact with His presence in our midst. **We Need You!!!** If you are willing to volunteer there are many places that you can serve, please let us know what your skills are so that we can get you connected in the right place. Vonda and I want to thank you for the privilege of serving you. We love each of you and we are excited about what God has in store for Open Door.

**REMEMBER OUR MISSION!!!**

**LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE, SERVING OTHERS!**

*Pastor Chris Sowards*



LOVING GOD | LOVING PEOPLE | SERVING OTHERS

# The Bread of Life

## Monthly Devotional

### There are No “Big” Prayer Requests

[Jeremiah 32:27 \(NIV\)](#)

***“ I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything to hard for me?”***

Do you categorize your prayers into “manageable” and “big” prayers? Some of us pray serious requests when needed, but often do not seek out “big” prayers. Maybe we think we can only get a few of them with God meaning we don’t want to overload God with too many favors. Perhaps if we keep our prayers “easy” then it is safer.

How silly of us to put human limitations on God. We compare God to a person, when He is incomparable in Power. The God of the Universe made everything we see and everything we can’t, with a Word. God designed and created it all. There are no limitations to His Power. No matter how hopeless the situation seems, God is more than able to step in and do what no human can do.

Do you compare God’s power to your own? Do you worry about bothering him with “big” prayer requests? Why do I accept so many situations and never think about praying for them to change?

When you build your faith on what you can do, then you will only see what you can do. But if your faith is based on what God can do then that is life-changing. You don’t have to pray with a demanding heart, but one with a positive expectation. It’s not your responsibility how God decides to answer. But that shouldn’t keep you from asking.

### Ask Yourself:

- What prayers have seemed too impossible for you to pray?



# MISSIONS

## KENYA MISSIONS TRIP

Bro. Joey White, Bro. Leon Sites and Pastor Nathan Rose are approximately two weeks away from leaving for the mission trip to Kenya. The men are still in great need of funds for this trip and can't do it without your help. All money donated to the Kenya Missions Trip will go towards their travel, food and bibles. Please contact Pastor Sowards, Joe Pauley, Joey White, Leon Sites or Pastor Nathan Rose to make your donation.

The three men will be meeting Pastor Charles Nyakundi of the Open Door churches in Kenya for the first time. The men will be ministering and preaching in 4 day revival services to people gathering from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The latest update from Pastor Charles Nyakundi is there could be more than 6,000 in attendance for the revival services as word is spreading like wildfire the men from Open Door Church from Charleston, WV are coming.

Please be in constant prayer for these men as they travel outside of the country and into a foreign land filled with terrorism. This trip will undoubtedly affect so many people that I believe we will not even be able to understand the magnitude of what this mission trip to Kenya will mean to Open Door churches in Kenya and Open Door in Charleston, WV.

We thank you in advance for your prayers and financial support for this mission. The men leave in two weeks so get your donations in as soon as possible! God Bless!



# FEED THE SHEEP MENU

## August 2015

| Sunday Morning<br>8:30a.m.-9:30a.m. | Sunday<br>Evening Snack | Wednesday Evening<br>Snack |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Donuts                            | 2 Cheese Quesadilla     | 5 Chicken & Rice           |
| 9 Pancakes                          | 9 Potato Soup           | 12 BBQ                     |
| 16 Eggs & Toast                     | 16 Cheese Fries         | 19 Bologna Salad           |
| 23 Cereal                           | 23 Sandwiches           | 26 Tacos                   |
| 30 Oatmeal                          | 30 Pizza                |                            |
|                                     |                         |                            |
| <b>Snack Captain</b>                | <b>Snack Captain</b>    | <b>Snack Captain</b>       |
| Tabby Smith                         | Man Up Ministry         | Kamsean Hall               |



LOVING GOD | LOVING PEOPLE | SERVING OTHERS



# Media Ministry

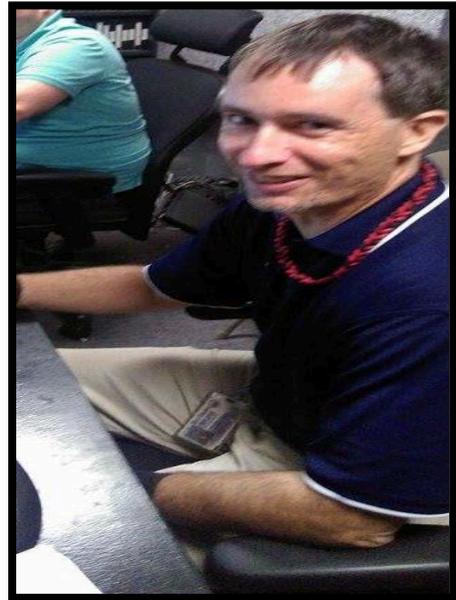
Cameras | Graphics | Sound

The purpose of the Media Ministry here at Open Door is to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our visually-driven, ever-changing world through the use of technology and media. This ministry provides the technical support required for all of our worship services to be viewed on our website.

Open Door Media Ministry needs your help. We all are busy with our day to day lives with work, school, family & friends, therefore, we are in need of volunteers. There are many opportunities for you to serve in Media ministry. Open Door media staff is here to help you learn what you will need to know and have fun in the process!

Do you have a natural gift for electronics, sound or video equipment? Or maybe you just have a strong desire to learn, along with the passion to serve the body of Christ? Maybe you are unsure of your talents and need to start somewhere. Open Door Media ministry is the place to begin!

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you are invited to join us! Contact Media Directors Rob & Kim Sayre for more information about how you can get involved.



Media Director: Rob Sayre



Media Director: Kim Sayre



# Media Ministry

Cameras | Graphics | Sound



**Media Technician: Mike Hardt**



**Churchview Technician: Dorcas Eskew**



**Churchview Technician: Leslie Dean**



**Churchview Technician, Video Camera Operator,  
Photography: Brock Burwell**

**Photography: Whitney Burwell**



# Media Ministry

Cameras | Graphics | Sound

We also have several other volunteers not pictured above due to space including: ChurchView Technician: Glen Payne and Video Camera Operators: Steve Arden, Luke McClure, Joe Woda, Chad Burdette, Steve Lanham, Cliff Arden, Caleb Gussler, Christian Price & Anthony Dean.

Open Door Media Ministry has been going strong since 1998 with Media Directors Bro. Rob & Sis. Kim Sayre and Sis. Dorcas Eskew being involved since the beginning. Sis. Dorcas has seen many volunteers over the years and her desire is to see more young people be involved becoming a churchview technician or video camera operator.

Bro. Rob's desire is to train more media technicians to assist him in the Media Room. Currently it is himself and media technician Mike Hardt running the Media Room for each worship service. If you would like to volunteer please contact Media Directors Rob & Kim Sayre or Pastor Sowards.

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## YOUTH GAME NIGHT

**@ Open Door  
Friday July 31st  
7pm**

**Please bring \$5 for pizza, snacks, and drinks!**

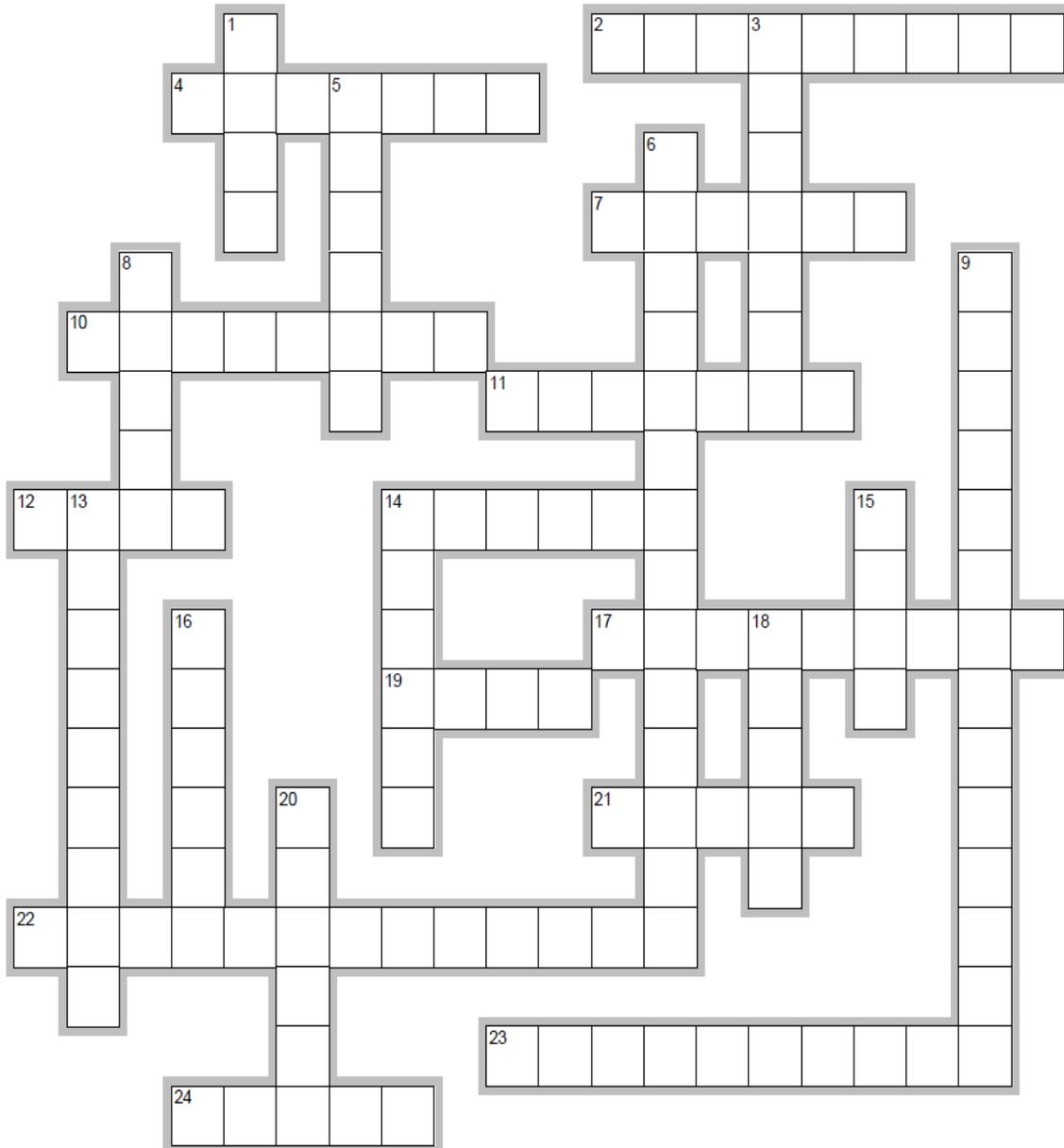
For information please contact Whitney Burwell at 304.881.1105

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# BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



How many people from the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John do you know?



**CLUES ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE CONTINUED



### Across:

2. Mother of John the Baptist
4. Man whom Jesus raised from the dead
7. The earthly father of Jesus
10. Short tax collector
11. Tax collector who wrote became a disciple
12. Temple prophetess
14. He found no guilt in Jesus, yet sentenced him to death
17. Father of John the Baptist
19. Doctor and New Testament writer
21. The disciple who was also called Peter
22. Betrayer of Jesus (2 wds)
23. Blind beggar healed by Jesus
24. The Way, the Truth, and the Life

### Down:

1. The mother of Jesus
3. Father of disciples James and John
5. Peter's brother
6. The forerunner of Jesus (3 wds)
8. The tempter
9. Man who issued decree for census (2 wds)
13. He asked, "How can a man be born again?"
14. The disciple who called Nathanael to follow Jesus
15. Writer of the second gospel
16. Mary's very busy sister
18. He had John the Baptist beheaded
20. Official whose daughter was healed by Jesus

**Special thank you to Sis. Kim Arden for the idea of a crossword puzzle in the newsletter.**

## Relationship Is Key

Praise the Lord everyone! Jesus Christ is doing marvelous things in our services, so much so that the atmosphere is changing from the mundane and ritualistic to an atmosphere of expectation of the miraculous. We are being blessed with wisdom, not of man but of God and His Word, with what to do when we come together. As we know, the strength we feel from one another when we are gathered together and praising God can often feel far away when sluggish Monday morning rolls around and we step back into our weekly routines. It is important to keep our relationships with one another strong so that we can bare one another's burdens and be a source of encouragement. There is one greater source of encouragement other than our brothers and sisters in the church, and that is through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

In Luke Chapter 15, Jesus is teaching the publicans, sinners, and all of those in the vicinity about the importance placed on one sinner that repents. He used parables of a man losing 1 sheep out of a 100, and the great rejoicing that takes place when that sheep is found and returned to the flock. The celebration wasn't just at the home of the man, but the man also calls together his friends and neighbors to rejoice. Jesus then uses a similar parable of a woman that loses 1 piece of silver of the 10 that she has, and how she will diligently seek after that one piece until she finds it, and she also will rejoice and call on her friends to share her good news. The parable I would like to focus on for this article though is that parable of the prodigal son that Jesus teaches.

Jesus speaks a parable about a man that has two sons, both of which have an inheritance that will be passed down from their father. The younger son goes to his

father, and requests that his inheritance be given to him so that he can do with it as he pleases, and his father divides his portion and gives it to him. Not many days after his father has given his son his inheritance, he loses it all in a country far away from his home, wasting it all in an undisciplined lifestyle. The land he was living in then experienced a great famine, and the Bible says that he began to be in want. The son then began to work for a man in that far off land, and fed his pigs, and he thought about eating the food that the pigs were eating and would have done so willingly. It then dawned on him that his father's servants were more well off than he currently was, and that he would go home and apologize for sinning against his father, and ask to be a servant since he no longer felt that he deserved to be his father's son.

Upon returning home, his father saw him coming, and rushed to meet him where he was. He only got out part of what he wanted to say to his father, before his father had his servants clothe him and kill a calf in celebration of his return home. The oldest son, the son that was faithful to his father and never left his father's side, heard music and dancing, and asked a servant what was occurring at home. The servant told the oldest son and it angered him, so he confronted his father. He told his father that he has served him faithfully for years, but you've never given me such an opportunity to celebrate with my friends, but when my brother returns after living a sinful lifestyle you throw a celebration for him. It was then that the father told his son that he has always been with him, and all that he owns belongs to him. He explained to him that his brother was lost but now found, and therefore it is appropriate that we celebrate.

Within the context of the parable I would like to focus on the similarities and differences between the choices of the younger and older siblings. The older

sibling was faithful to his father, and never left his side. He worked for years and years, and did so without great reward and celebration of his deeds, but was loyal to his father and though he knew that one day he would have an inheritance. He didn't think about it or desire it, because he had a relationship with his father that meant more than the acquisition of his inheritance. The younger sibling on the other hand desired his inheritance, and his focus was not on the relationship with his father but with the acquisition of wealth that awaited him. It can be implied that the father did something to obtain enough wealth to bestow upon his children at some point in his children's lives. Having forced his father's hand, and focusing only on the acquisition of wealth he felt entitled to, he severed the relationship with his father, and left to a faraway land to pursue desires of his flesh for a season which led to his downfall.

While the parable spoken by Jesus to those that had gathered is one of rejoicing for a sinner that repents, it also highlights the need for a relationship with the father and for us today more specifically our father Jesus Christ. We see that the bond with the father and his oldest son in the parable is strong, and that his oldest son had faithfully served him and it strengthened the relationship with his father. He did not desire to take up his inheritance and go about on his own way like his younger brother did, but he understood the need for a relationship with his father. The younger brother though took a risk with his very life, and chose to leave his father because he no longer saw the need for a relationship with his father. The value that his older brother had found in the relationship with his father meant nothing to him. This led to a path where he found himself desiring the food of swine in an unfamiliar land.

Today, if we are not careful, we can forget the value of a relationship with our father Jesus Christ, and attempt to journey through life with our own inherited abilities, and forget the strength and security that comes from the relationship with God our father. For Christians it can also be tempting to ride on the coattails of those that have come before us, and claim the victories and glories of those that have taught us, and claim the relationships that they have with God as our own, and forget the need to have a relationship with the Jesus for each of us individually. The mantle that is passed is not done so easily, but with sacrifice and determination. There is great power in fasting, reading the word of God, and prayer, and all three draw us closer to him and strengthen the bond between father and child.

A similar relationship between the oldest son and his father can be found in the Old Testament. Elisha never left the side of Elijah until he witnessed Elijah being swept into heaven. They both were led by the Lord, and walked in paths of righteousness, and Elisha understood that if he was diligent and sought after the things of God he would be rewarded. When Elijah asked what he could do for Elisha before he left, Elisha wisely asked for a double portion of the spirit of Elijah. If Elisha did not realize the necessity of a relationship with Elijah, he would have missed out on his double portion! An inheritance mentality will crush dreams and weaken our resolve. We must have a relationship with Jesus Christ in these last days. We must pursue the things of God with all that we have to give. We must be like the older brother and value our relationship with our father. He wants nothing more than to have a relationship with us. He wants to hear our voice, teach us, restore us, bring peace, and guide our paths, and we will only be able to obtain the relationship he wants with us if we pursue

after him. If the younger brother would have understood the need for a relationship with his father, he would have never found himself hungry in a faraway land desiring the food of pigs. If we understand the value of a relationship with Jesus Christ, He will walk with us and guide us, and when it is time on Earth we will be anointed with a

powerful portion of God's spirit, and will ultimately reap our eternal reward with our brothers and sisters in heaven. Amen.

*Bro. Anthony Arthur*

Thank you Bro. Anthony for this wonderful message!

## **OPEN DOOR COFFEE SHOP AND BOOKNOOK**

### **COME IN FOR A CUP OF COFFEE AND A GOOD BOOK FOR A GREAT PRICE**

#### **REFRESHMENTS**

**COFFEE  
COFFEE SPECIALTY DRINKS  
BOTTLED WATER  
HOT CHOCOLATE**

#### **SNACKS**

**GUM  
CANDY BARS  
COOKIES  
CRACKERS**

#### **Open Hours before Worship Services:**

**Sunday Morning 9 a.m.-10 a.m.**

**Sunday Evening: 5 p.m.-6 p.m.**

**Wednesday Evening 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**



**All You Need is a Little Bit  
of Coffee & A Whole  
Of Jesus**



## Calendar of Events

### August

#### Choir Rehearsal

August 4th & August 18th- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

#### BLAST Service

August 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.

(Monthly celebration service led by the children)

#### YOUTH GAME Night

July 31<sup>st</sup> @ 7 p.m. @ Open Door

#### GLOBAL MISSIONS Service

August 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.

(Highlight mission fields Open Door supports around the world)

#### **OPEN DOOR APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

2630 Kanawha Blvd. East

Charleston, WV 25311

(304) 346-9175

[www.opendoorapostolic.org](http://www.opendoorapostolic.org)

#### Service Times:

Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church @ 10 a.m.

**(Sunday Morning Prayer 9 a.m.)**

Sunday Evening Worship @ 6 p.m.

Mid-Week Wednesday Worship @ 7:30 p.m.

## **You can follow, watch or like us!**



A Word from the Editor:

If you would like to add any content to the newsletter or make any suggestions please email me at [opendoorapostolicchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:opendoorapostolicchurch@yahoo.com). All input is welcome and greatly appreciated. Sis. Cassandra Jackson.