

A Word from our Pastor...

Happy New Year Greetings!

As I write this letter, it is about an hour away from being 2014. A lot can happen in a year. A nation can rise and fall, we can achieve goals and we can miss them. Families can grow closer or move further apart. Joy can be found in the birth of a baby and sorrow can find its way to our hearts through the loss of a loved one. As I reflect upon the year 2013, it honestly seems like a blur. Great friends have left us to pursue changes in their lives and many wonderful new friends have joined us at Open Door to help us lift up Jesus together.

I want to honor my precious mother and father who both poured themselves into us for so long. Their lives were spent serving the people of God. It is very hard to say what I want to say about the loss of my mother; I will say a lot more later this year. I would like to say thank you to all of you who expressed your love to our family the past couple of weeks. Your love and kindness is so special. Every card, hug, call and prayer means so much.

In 2013, we were blessed with many wonderful and anointed guest ministries that graced our pulpit. As I have said many times before, my life has been so enriched by the mighty men and women of God that poured into my life. We were blessed this year with the ministry of Prophet RL Mitchell, Prophet Morton Bustard, Prophet Chris Leach, Evangelist Michael Maupin, Bishop CP Thomas, Bishop Tom Suey, Pastor Bill Huddleston, Rev. Johnny James, Pastor James Perry, Pastor Ron Miller, Pastor Keith

Roberts, Rev. Dan Keenan who worked with us a couple of months, and Evangelist Terry Null who has battled so much sickness in his life, but God is raising him up and he should be with us soon to share his testimony.

We are so blessed at Open Door with a wonderful group of men and women who are able to bless each of us when they bring forth a word from the sacred desk. We will see in 2014 our own ministers be endowed with greater gifts and anointing of ministry.

2013 saw us begin to serve each other in a greater capacity through Feed My Sheep. In the days ahead, it is my goal to lead all of us in a greater servant hood. Jesus said He did not come to be ministered to, but to minister. He came to SERVE!!!

Beginning Tuesday, January 7th at 7 pm, I will be starting a training class for everyone who has a desire to be involved in the Kingdom of God in a greater capacity. To each minister, teacher, doorkeeper, singer, musician, to everyone who already serves the church in some way, I am asking for each of you to meet me on Tuesday evenings. To everyone else who has a desire and is willing to step up and get more involved in the work of God, I ask that you join us on Tuesday evenings. The fields are white and ready to harvest but the laborers are few. WE NEED YOU!!!! The past few months the Lord has given me a clear vision for the church in 2014. We are doing some things very well at Open Door, however, God has highlighted some things to me that we need to im-

JANUARY 2014

Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday starting January 7 at 7 pm
Training class with Pastor Sowards

More events TBA

Service Times:

Sunday 10am & 6pm
Wednesday 7:30 pm

Contact Us:

2630 Kanawha Blvd. E.
Charleston, WV 25311

(304) 346-9175

opendoorapostolic.org

Continued on page 2

prove. I will be sharing this vision on Tuesday evenings beginning in January. We will be training each of you in what the purpose and the mission of the church is, and the role each of us can fulfill in reaching our community. My plan is to give is to give each of you the tools to become a mighty soul winner for Jesus Christ.

To each staff member, thank you for your service. To everyone who is faithful in your giving and prayer and attendance to our worship services, we ask that God richly bless each of you. 2014 will be a year of change and increase. The Lord asked, "Who will go? Whom shall I send?" And Isaiah said, "Here am I, send me." Are you willing to volunteer? Are you willing to spend? Are you willing to be spent?

Colossians 4:5-6 (KJV)

[5] Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. [6] Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Saints, I love you and thank God for you, let us redeem the time and work together to reap the harvest.

Pastor Sowards

Feed His Sheep January Menu

Serve or be served

SUNDAY MORNING 8:30 – 9:30 AM	SUNDAY NIGHT AFTER SERVICE	WEDNESDAY NIGHT AFTER SERVICE
		1
		No Service
5	5	8
Oatmeal	Chili Cheese Nachos	Sandwiches
12	12	15
Pancakes & Sausage	Salad	Chicken-n-Rice
19	19	22
Continental Breakfast	Soup	Taco Salad
26	26	29
Biscuits & Gravy	Sandwiches	Chili
BREAKFAST SNACK CAPTAIN	SUNDAY NIGHT SNACK CAPTAIN	WEDNESDAY NIGHT SNACK CAPTAIN
Shelly and Joe Woda	Dave and Annett McClure	Sis. Hall

S.W.A.T. Youth Group

Spiritual Warfare Assault Team

Greetings from the SWAT youth department,

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) (2 Corinthians 10:3, 4 KJV).

When Bonnie and I took on the huge responsibility of leading the Open Door youth department, we took on a position that was much larger than we thought. It became a job where the responsibilities were large but the dividends are much greater. We have watched the youth become more united and their love for God has grown in a great way. In 2013 we put our focus largely upon becoming a unified youth group which is vital when going out to war. As you can see in Leviticus 26:8-9, unity can completely change an outcome.

And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you. (Leviticus 26:8, 9 KJV).

This year we have raised our sights and goals to not only be in unity but to focus our efforts in winning souls to the kingdom of God. We ask that all of Open Door bind your efforts with us and offer encouragement to every young person as we endeavor to work in God's kingdom.

Love and Prayer,

Bro. G and Sis. Bonnie

S.W.A.T Spot



Gary and Bonnie Switzer

Birthday: G- 12/17, B-11/08

Place of Birth: G- Paris, Illinois, B-Charleston, WV

Favorite Subject in School: G-Agriculture, B-Shop

Hobbies: G-playing guitar, wood working, travel B-cooking, travel

Favorite food: G- T-bone steak, B-Salmon or Crystal Deans lemon cupcakes

Place I would like to visit: G- Hawaii B-Alaska

Desired/Current occupation: G-Retired/Field Appraiser for Putnam County Appraisers Office B-Surgeon/Lead Analyst at Blue Cross-Blue Shied

Goal- We desire to be used by God in our youth ministry like never before, pouring into teen lives and helping to develop a closer and more personal walk with God.



In loving memory of Sis. Barbara J. Sowards

On Friday, December 13, 2013, Sis. Barbara Sowards went home to be with the Lord. Although Heaven has gained a precious soul, Elder Sis. Sowards will be greatly missed. More than a wonderful saint, she was an example to us all. Through her godliness and desire to follow Christ, she has touched each and every person she has known.

Though many of us feel a great void, we can sustain the legacy of Elder Sis. Sowards by following her example of faithfulness to the kingdom. After knowing her my whole life, I will greatly miss her sweet spirit. The epitome of godliness, she has always been a great example to me. She always asked me, "How's Jessie?" As many have already noted, she has left a legacy—one that I want to build every aspect of my life upon.

Evidence of her great legacy continues to be exemplified by family and friends as they honor the magnificent life of Sis. Barbara Sowards. During a special Wednesday night service, several saints testified of her influence and impact and Pastor Sowards invited the church to submit their thoughts on this great lady. The following page includes a word from Sis. Debbie Sites and Sis. Margie Hale.

To all my brothers and sisters at the Open Door:

Please accept my deepest appreciation for all that you did for our family in the loss of our mother. To each person that prepared delicious food, parked cars, cleaned bathrooms, prepared the sanctuary, walked guests to and from their cars with umbrellas, worked the parking lot, held doors, to Sis. Jenniefer's team who worked in the kitchen serving us and our guests and most of all....for all of all of you whose prayers sustained us....I say "thank you". Mom loved you as the "Church" without waiver. I want to share this with you...Joey had went to her apartment to look for something for us the night she passed...he found her Bible beside her favorite chair and inside it was a lesson she was working on....a lesson that she would probably have never been asked to teach, but at the age of 80 years she still found the need to "study" to show herself approved. After all the years she never grew tired of God's Word but still found it holds wonderful things that He reveals to those who seek His face. May that be her "Last Lesson" to all of us...Never quit seeking the will of God daily....for God has a plan for all of us. Finally, I am only saddened by the fact that she did not hear all of the lovely things that you said about her on Wednesday night....may we learn to pay forward to those few elder saints remaining how much they are worth to all of us. With love, I wish you a blessed New Year.

Thanks so much,
Debbie Sites

I have known Sis. Barbara Sowards for most of my life. She was my example of a Christian, lady, mother and friend. I first met her when I was only 12 years old. She and Bro. B.J. Sowards became my friends. They treated me so kindly and I miss them. Sis. Barbara Sowards was an amazing teacher. I can still recall her lesson I learned at the UPC church camp. She taught about Job. The title was "Gold tried in the fire." "Trials and testing will come to us all," she taught. A gold nugget has to be conformed and fire is part of the process. Like gold, we are all being conformed into the likeness of Christ if we will allow. Gold is valuable and precious like us. Gold is soft when heated, making it useful to fashion into other beautiful things. A nugget is on the ground and very undesirable to the eye until the intense process of refining with fire. As God is the refiner, he knows when the gold is purified. This refining is the only way for gold to shine and reflect His image in us. Job 23:10 (NIV) "*But He knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.*" She truly was gold—a shining treasure to all who was blessed enough to know her.

Margie Hale

Get Connected.



Follow us.

@TheOpen_Door



Watch us.

ODACWorship/DP/Choir/How



Like us.

Open Door Apostolic Church

www.opendoorapostolic.org

If you have something you'd like to share in the Open Door Newsletter, please see Sis. Jessie or email jhale2@wvstateu.edu.