



# Open Door News

JULY 2012

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

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

**Ladies Prayer:**  
Thursday 8 am

## Letter from the Pastor

Kingdom Greetings!

Hello everybody, I hope that as you are reading this letter that you are having a great summer. As so many make plans to travel with friends and family on various vacations and holidays, the crowds at church seem to be every changing throughout the summer. If you are able to get away for a few days enjoy yourselves as you are able to see this great nation from different perspectives.

I would just like to say a public thank you to Bro. Dan Keenan who has been helping us so graciously operate the flow of our services; we are blessed to have this wonderful couple serving with us at this time. As I write this letter Bro. Keenan's father, Rev. Robert Keenan, is recovering from major lung surgery and he needs our prayers.

We also want to pray for the speedy recovery of our own Minister of Music, James Carter. He also is recovering from a serious surgery on his foot.

We are happy that Bro. Mark Fox is recovering and doing well after triple bypass heart surgery; please keep him in your thought and prayers.

Some things to remember, on Wednesday July 18<sup>th</sup> Missionary Ed Simmons from Thailand will be in service with us hosted by our Foreign Missions Director James Keefer. Also on Friday July 20<sup>th</sup> the Blast dept. will be taking a charter bus to the Creation Museum in Cincinnati. For information and availability for seating please check with Sister Bonnie Switzer.

There will be a back to school REVIVAL August 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> with Bro. & Sis. Maupin from Arkansas. We love them and they will be a tremendous blessing to all of our church family.

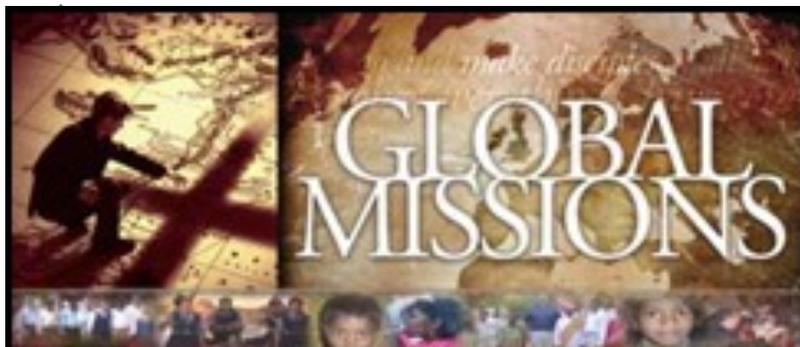
To all of you who faithfully support the efforts of Open Door Apostolic to reach our world, Thank You! No church can be any stronger than the individuals that make up its members. Because of you, we are literally reaching around the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I will be starting a series on the Fruit of the Spirit this month that I believe will help all of us as we begin to intensify our efforts to serve God's people and FEED HIS SHEEP.

As you are aware, we will be to serving meals at every service beginning in July. Our plan is to serve breakfast on Sunday Mornings and something after our Sunday and Wednesday Services. I feel like the Lord instructed us to do this, and so I ask that you serve or be served. We will need your participation and help as we start this. The Lord spoke to me and said that if we will do this, something AMAZING will happen. Will you help us? If we will work together God will honor His word.

from Sis. Vonda and our family, we love and appreciate you very much,

Pastor

# The Heartbeat of God



We were mightily blessed to have Bro. & Sis Gordon, missionaries to Malawi, with us in service on June 8th. Bro. Gordon did a fantastic job preaching the word of God. You, the church body, gave a generous offering to

this deserving couple. This will help them to get on their journey to the land where God has called them. During this powerful service one young lady received the Holy Ghost. Thank you Open Door Church for having a heart for Global Missions.

The Global Missions service for July will be held on the 18th. Since the first Wednesday of July is a national holiday (July 4th) we felt that the 18th would be a good time to have our Missions service. On July 18<sup>th</sup> Bro. & Sis. Simmons, missionaries to Thailand, will be in service with us. **DO NOT MISS THIS EXPLOSIVE SERVICE!** We all will be blessed by the ministry of Bro. & Sis Simmons. God has a divine plan for the service on July 18th.

Plan now to be part of God's PLAN. May the blessings of God be upon each and every one of you, the Open Door Church family.

The Heartbeat of God is Global Missions.

God Bless,

Bro. & Sis. Keefer

# Declaring our Independence

*Written by Bro. Dan Keenan*

Two hundred thirty six years ago, fifty six determined men signed the document known as "The Declaration of Independence." These men demonstrated incredible bravery and dedication. These great men stood together making the statement that they would no longer be subjugated by any and that they would submit only to the rule of the Almighty.

Many of these were Godly men. Several were noted for their tremendous dedication to God. Some were known for their strong prayer life. They knew the road would be long and treacherous but they were no longer willing to suffer under the heavy hand of their oppressors. They were declaring their independence from those who had ruled them but at the same time they were declaring their dependence on the God in whom they trusted. They knew the cost of their pursuit of liberty would be great. But they stood on the fact that their cause was just and that God would be with them.

Imagine for a moment how they must have felt as they stood together that day. It was a day filled with mixed emotions. As they declared their independence they fully understood there would be a price to be paid for it. They believed in the cause thus were willing to pay that price, and what a price they paid. Five of them were captured and tortured by the British before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned to the ground. Two lost their sons in the war. One had two sons captured. Nine fought and died from wounds suffered. A great many of them were very wealthy but invested everything in the effort and died in poverty. Francis Lewis had his house and all his property utterly destroyed and his wife was imprisoned by the British and she died in just a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. His properties were all laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Others suffered a similar fate.

Thanks to their sacrifice and the cause they initiated we can now live in this wonderful land of the free and the home of the brave. We owe them a debt we can never pay, for it was their sacrifice that purchased this independence that we enjoy today. It is this "Spirit of Independence" that we now celebrate but it was never intended to exclude God.

We are a nation built on Godly values and trust in the Almighty. For example, at the first Constitutional Convention, the delegates were frustrated due to the burdens of the hour. They were burdened by this tremendous crisis. They were so divided that they were just about to throw out the whole concept of a constitution completely. Just then an old white-haired man by the name of Benjamin Franklin rose to his feet and said:

*"Gentlemen, if it is true that not one single petal from any flower falls to the ground without escaping God's attention, will the*

*distress of this nation go unheeded? Let us therefore determine to seek His face."*

They promptly got down on their knees and when they arose from prayer, the slogan, "e pluribus unum", meaning "One out of Many," was born. They arose with a new vision and vigor that carried them through the difficult times. Can you imagine what would happen today if all of Congress would get down on its knees and seek God for direction? REVIVAL would surely come to these shores!

Our nation is steadily moving away from the Lord as is evidenced in recent years. Practically every branch of society is slipping farther from Godliness. The farther we slip away from our roots, the farther away from God we will find ourselves. Seemingly men and women of today have declared their independence from God. We are flirting with the greatest disaster we have ever dreamed about. Something has got to be done. We must awake to the realization of where we are and where we are headed. As the world is making their Declaration for Independence, I am calling for a Declaration of DEPENDENCE... dependence on God!

*Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..* Greece built a civilization on culture and it failed. Rome built its civilization on military power and it crumbled. Our forefathers founded our nation on Godly principles and America will live on strong but only so long as the Lord remains her God. America is a nation in distress. As ungodliness sweeps ever swiftly across our great nation, somebody needs to stand up and make this declaration along with me. We must rid ourselves of this "Independent Spirit" and declare our Dependence on God. We need an old fashioned revival of Godliness. It must start somewhere. Our nation was built on a foundation of Godliness but society is slipping farther from it day by day. We cannot continue to stand as we move farther away from God.

As we stand together as a nation and celebrate the sacrifice of our forefathers, that wrought the independence we so enjoy, let us stand together declaring our dependence on the Almighty God. It will take a grass roots effort to bring this about. There are three things we can do as individual Christians to bring America back to our roots in Godliness. The best thing you and I can do for America is to give her an example of a good Christian life. Be light of Godliness to this world. Bloom where God has planted you. God will see your life and will use it to bless others and it will spread to our nation. Secondly you can pray for a national revival and encourage others to seek God likewise. Thirdly, you can declare your dependence on God by your example and make it known through your testimony that you depend on God as your true source of liberty, strength, and spiritual power.

We, as Christians, are thankful for our Independence but we acknowledge that the source of our Independence is our Dependence on God. We are nothing in and of ourselves. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. The more we acknowledge this the more God will bless us. Allow God to use you to spread the light of this glorious Gospel to this dark and wicked world.

Dan Keenan

# The Price of Liberty

*Written by Sis. Barbara Sowards*

*Dedicated to the memories of those who have paid the great price for our freedom*

On July 4, 1776, fifty six men met in the city of Philadelphia to sign the historic document that we know as the Declaration of Independence. The closing words of this document solemnly declare:

*"With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."*

Of the 56, few were long to survive. Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes sacked, booted, occupied by the enemy, or burned. Two lost their sons in the army. One had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 died in the war from its hardships or from its bullets.

These were prosperous and respectable men, wealthy landowners; but, they considered liberty much more important than the security they enjoyed. They fulfilled their pledge. They paid the price and freedom was won.

# Feed His Sheep

*Serve or be Served*

## July Menu

<b>Sunday Mornings</b> (8:30am-9:30am)	<b>Sunday Evenings</b> (9pm-10pm)	<b>Wednesday Evenings</b> (9pm-10pm)
July 1st	July 1st	July 4th
Biscuits & Gravy	Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup	Hot Dogs Watermellon
July 8th	July 8th	July 11th
Cereal with Milk	Salads	Sandwiches
July 15th	July 15th	July 18th
Danishes	Frito Pie	Taco Salad
July 22nd	July 22nd	July 25th
Oatmeal & Toast	Bologna Sandwich & Chips	Pizza
July 29th	July 29th	
Biscuits & Gravy	Potato Soup Crackers	



# Media Department



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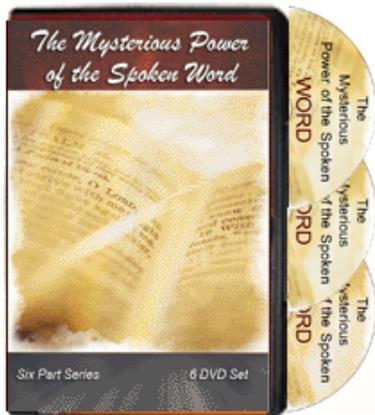
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by  
Bro. Chris Sowards

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## Birthdays

Ben Chaffin—2  
Kim Arden—3  
Stephen Lanham—5  
Zach Carte—6  
Jim Keefer—9  
James Carter—10  
Yvonne Anderson—12  
Ethan Huffman—14  
Jonah Gilbert—16  
Ben Arden—21  
Jordon Sayre—24  
Joe White—29

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