



Open Door News

SEPTEMBER 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

Greetings in Jesus Name!

As I write, summer has come and is on its way out. Every one's vacations are about over. You have traveled north south, east and west. What a great country we live in where we can cross borders without interrogation or penalty.

We have had a blessed month of August with many different ministries at our pulpit. Bro. Joseph Pauley, Bro. Steven, James Keefer, Dan Keenan, Evangelist Michael Maupin and family from Arkansas, Rev. CP Thomas from India, Pastor James Perry from Columbus and Missionary to Portugal Oscar Rodriguez. Wow! I think I preached a time or two in there somewhere myself. We are so blessed at Open Door with the ministry of so many capable men and women who are gifted to be able to share the Gospel from the sacred desk.

We are entering the month of September, and with summer almost behind us I am pleased to inform you that God has added to us throughout the summer. Our mission and vision is to touch lives in the natural and also in the spiritual. You have been amazing in your willingness to be served and to serve God's people.

As we have heard and obeyed God's mandate to FEED HIS SHEEP, it would not be possible were it not for the wonderful teams of volunteers who shop and come early and prepare and cook so that we can break bread together and fellowship at the table with our church brothers and sisters.

We need you! If you want to serve in some capacity, please volunteer. Our host and hostess and usher staff could use you, our media department which includes video, internet, and sound could be the place for you. We have made a change in our music staff, Bro. James Carter, due to his health and the requirements in his position at the Charleston Job Corps, has decided to step down as minister of music at this time. Bro. Carter has been an amazing help to us for the past three years; he is without question a very gifted singer, musician and teacher of music. We are praying for his continued health and strength. He is doing better and continuing to gain his strength back, praise God! Bro. Carter continues to be a faithful member of Open Door Apostolic. A special thanks to Bro. Jeremy Lee who has stepped in as our new minister of music. We are indeed blessed with some amazing young men and women in our music department.

Pay attention to the pre-service announcements and the in-service announcements that tell of all the upcoming events. There are many exciting things scheduled for September. Just one quick look at the calendar: Rev. Johnny James will be us with the last weekend of the month in both services on September 30th. He is an amazing preacher; he is known throughout the world as the walking Bible.....

Thank you, everyone, for your faithfulness and your prayers for Sis. Vonda and I. We love each of you very much. If we can serve you in a greater way, it is our desire to do so. Great churches have great members, and we have the greatest! From our household to yours, we pray God's richest blessings upon you and your family.

Pastor Sowards

First Lady's September Challenge

I challenge Open Door to read your Bible more or at least as much as you Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram, watch TV, or talk on the phone for the month of September.

The Broken Doll

submitted by Sis. Barbara Sowards

Here's a story a friend of mine once told me, in her own words:

One day my young daughter was late coming home from school. I was both annoyed and worried. When she came through the door, I demanded in my upset tone that she explain why she was late.

She said, "Mommy, I was talking home with Julie, and halfway home, Julie dropped her doll and it broke into lots of little pieces."

"Oh, honey," I replied, "you were late because you helped Julie pick up the pieces of her doll to put them back together."

In her young and innocent voice, my daughter said, "No, Mommy. I didn't know how to fix the doll. I just stayed to help Julie cry."

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

Written by Bro. Dan Keenan

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and grief's to bear,
What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer.
Oh what peace we often forfeit, Oh what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry, Everything to God in prayer.*

What marvelous words that inspire faith and hope in a God who knows our grief and understands our pain. He is so much more than a savior. He is a friend. But to limit the relationship he so desires by the simple word "friend" is a grave injustice. He is the ultimate friend. A friend who truly feels the weight of our burdens, knows our sorrows, identifies with our confusions, understands our grief, and is patient with our failures. He is the one who is always right by our side ready to rush to our aid, lifting us up from whatever calamity we find ourselves in.

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus know s our every weakness, Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Trials, temptations, and troubles; does that sound like anyone's life? These are "discouragements" and our lives are full of them. These are some of the bad things that happen to good people. So long as we walk in this life we will be plagued by discouragements. The songwriter declared that these trials and temptations should never drag us down to the point of discouragement. Discouragement is very detrimental to any Christian. When we walk with God and learn to stand on His promises we realize just how much our God cares for us. Given the relationship we have with our faithful friend, all these discouragements should never get us down. But they do! When they do, the remedy is to take our feelings of discouragement and despair to the Lord in prayer... FIRST! Our trouble often starts when we are faced with trials and temptations. Instead of immediately realizing the seriousness of the situation; we just try to handle these attacks on our own. The sooner we learn to run right to Jesus with these discouragements the sooner we will learn to walk in victory!

*Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.*

Too many Christians try to walk in victory but at the same time are weak and heavy laden. A big problem in the "Christian World" today is that there are too many Christians walking around that are so burdened down with the "cares of this life" that they can no longer rejoice. Pride hinders many from asking for help when they need it. It is so foolish to do so, but even as great as I "think" I am, I often find myself carrying a much heavier load than I

was designed to carry. Life is difficult. Situations arise every day that continue to just pile more of a load upon us. One day we find our selves in church and everyone else is praising God and rejoicing and we are sitting there so miserable that we can hardly muster a praise. The next thing we do is begin to question the joy that everybody else has. This is when we must run to our Savior seeking His help in bearing the load of cares we have taken up. Friends may despise you or forsake you, others may turn their back on you and leave you holding your bag of misery but Jesus Christ will never turn you away. He will take you in his arms and shield you from all that is against you. He will comfort you and lift the load you are carrying. He is closer than you could ever imagine. If you will but call on His Name today, He will help you.

Joseph Scriven, who wrote the words to this marvelous song, was a man born in Ireland in 1819 and attended Trinity College where he met his bride-to-be. She was said to be a woman of exceptional beauty. They were so much in love and had such high hopes but the very night before their wedding, his lovely bride accidentally drowned. Understandably, this was terribly devastating to Joseph. In his grief he soon decided to leave Ireland and move to Canada. He took the position of a teacher in Ontario and shortly thereafter hired on as a tutor for the Pengally family. Soon he fell in love with a lady of this family named Eliza Roche. Not long thereafter they announced their plans to be married. Only a very few days before their wedding Eliza took ill and died suddenly. Fate had somehow dealt this God fearing man another blow that just about broke his heart. To occupy his mind he set out to do a great work to help the poor, the elderly, and the downtrodden by caring for them in whatever way he could. Joseph threw himself into his work in helping the needy to mask the horrible state of depression and despair he had fallen further into. It was during the time of his darkest despair, in 1885, that he wrote the words to this song "*What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear...*" These words were born out of an amazing understanding of a real relationship with a God who loves us. He wrote them as a poem to comfort his mother who was very ill back in Ireland.

There is an unfortunate side to this story. The man that God had anointed to write those inspiring words had a struggle going on inside that was consuming him. On the outside he looked like a man who had such a great understanding of the Grace of God. On the inside there was a fierce battle raging. You see, Joseph never allowed his friend, Jesus, to help him bear his grief. Instead he put on a front that declared, "Everything is just fine!" He lived this lie for many years all the while masking the pain and suffering he had been carrying. He had written of a friend, Jesus Christ, who would always be there to shield and to comfort you. It was a sad day in 1886 when Joseph Scriven took his own life. His friends said that he was so overcome with grief that they were afraid to leave him alone because of how he had been talking of how he could just not go on living with such grief and discouragement. What a sad end to the life of a man who wrote such amazing words.

There is an important but simple lesson to learn from this story. When your load gets heavy, when troubles begin to overcome you, when discouragements come your way remember that you have a friend who is waiting to help you. Jesus Christ is that friend and He loves you unconditionally. There is no shame in seeking Him for help. He understands everything you are going through and is waiting for you to seek Him.

Upcoming Events

Open Door Game Night!

September 7th will be game night at the Open Door! Along with many great board games, there will be an X-Box tournament! Its sure to be an awesome time of fun and fellowship, not to mention there will be pizza! People of all ages are welcome to come! The games will begin at **7 pm!** Please see the Wodas or Brock Burwell if you have any questions.



Fall Sunday Fun-Days!

Fall Sunday Fun-Days start the first Sunday in September, September 2nd. Don't forget to dress up, students and Sunday School teachers!

1. Career Day
2. PJ Day
3. Formal Day
4. Mismatch Day
5. Hillbilly Day
6. Crazy Hat Day
7. Team Spirit Day
8. 80's Day
9. Super Hero Day
10. Mask Day

Feed His Sheep

September Menu

“Serve or be Served”

SUNDAY MORNING 8:30 – 9:30 AM	SUNDAY NIGHT AFTER SERVICE	WEDNESDAY NIGHT AFTER SERVICE
2	2	5
Cereal	Chili	Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches Chips, Fruit
9	9	12
Pastries, Muffins, or Coffee Cake	Burritos	Corn Dogs Chips
16	16	19
Biscuits & Gravy	Chicken Salad Sandwiches	Grilled Cheese Chips
23	23	26
Waffles	Salad	Chili
30	30	
Cereal	Corn Dogs	



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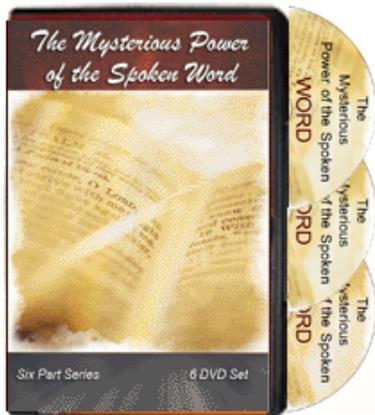
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