

# Monthly Newsletter

September 2014 Edition

## A Word from Our Pastor:

Greetings in Jesus Name! The kids are back in school, and I think everyone should be done traveling, camping and vacationing for awhile. What that means is that all of us can come together and celebrate what the Lord has done in our midst this summer. He has added to the church and we want to welcome with open arms all of our new families and friends that have joined our ranks of believers at The Open Door.

I was so proud and touched by the messages of Bro Caleb Gussler and Brock Burwell at our August Blast Service. We are blessed with such a variety of gifted and anointed speakers who can challenge our faith and encourage each of us to reach for the deeper things of God. We also enjoyed the ministry of Pastor Michael Jadrnicek from Wellston, Ohio at the Master Youth Rally that we hosted, along with Evangelist Michael Maupin and his family, Bishop Ralph Tisdale from Spreading Truth Ministries in Parkersburg and our own Alex Fox who preached an awesome word to us.

We were blessed to attend several of the Care Group meetings last month and enjoyed so much the fellowship and getting acquainted and learning about



one another. If you haven't yet attended a Care Group on Tuesday evenings I encourage you to do so. Check with one or all of our Care Pastors to see what's happening in their group. There will be a picnic organized by our care pastors on Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at Coonskin Park. This will be a great time of fun and fellowship for everyone. Our Care Pastors are Hubert & Becky Fowler, Dave & Annett McClure, Steve & Kim Arden, Gary & Bonnie Switzer, Ted & Susan Sizemore, Andrew & Heather Fowler, and Joey & Crystal White. These seven couples have answered the call of God on their lives to be available to each of you, should you need them. They are available to serve our congregation and will be happy to minister to each of you. Please pray for them as they endeavor to raise their own families and also serve the wonderful body of Christ.

We welcome the ministry of Pastor and Missionary Aslam Malik from Montreal Canada. Bro Malik was a missionary to Pakistan that we supported and due to circumstances was forced to return home to Canada with his family. God has used him to raise up a new church there in Montreal where he is reaching Pakistanis', Hindu's and Muslims right in his own backyard. He is a good friend and we want to be a blessing to him and his family.

We are going to be updating all of our broadcast equipment from Analog to HD digital this month. Bro Rob Sayer and his staff will be making the switch as fast as they can, almost every piece of equipment has to be updated. What this means is we will be broadcasting online and on television with a much better video and audio presentation of Open Door Apostolic. I want to say that I appreciate the ministry of Rob & Kim Sayer so very much. They both work many hours each week seeing that our ministry is available via media 24 hrs. a day. Sis Kim produces every television program that goes on the air. They do need volunteers to help lighten their work. If you would be willing to help be a part of the Media Ministry please let me know so that I can introduce you to the Sayers.

I ask that you continue to participate in the 21 days of prayer and fasting each month, please sign up in the lobby. God has given us a mandate to intercede for others. Remember, **LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE, SERVING OTHERS**

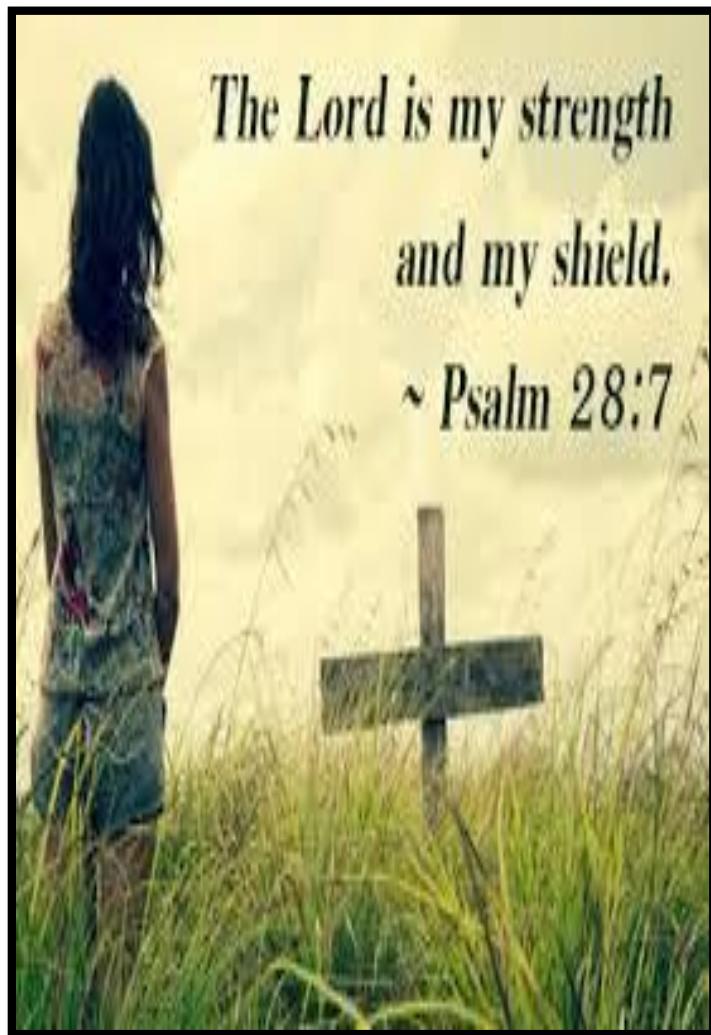
this is our vision and our mission. Will you help us? Please continue to pray for Sis Debbie Sites for a miracle of healing for her body. Sis Nancy Payne needs much prayer for healing. Bro Clifton Sowards needs a miracle of healing. God is a healer; let us not waver in our faith or our commitment to intercede on the behalf of our brothers and sisters.

First Lady Vonda Sowards will be travelling with a team and Sister Hall to Thailand in October to preach a ladies conference. We want to send them with the resources to be a tremendous blessing to the churches there. Sister Hall will stay longer and work among her people to encourage and assist them in raising up the churches to minister to the needs of the people of Thailand. Please pray for their safety and that the Power of God will change every life that the team comes in contact with.

Thank you for your financial support of missions around the world. Bro & Sis Fleshman sent another 100 Bibles to Kenya. I have received a baptistery donated by Pastor Nathan Rose in California for Pastor Nyakundi, we must find a way to get it into their hands so that they can put it to use. We are seeking God to allow a team to go and minister in Kenya next spring, please help us pray that God will open the right doors for this Crusade to happen. Bro CP Thomas greets you and thanks you for your prayers and support. He and his team are still having a mighty move of God in North India.

We have so much to be thankful for, and so much to pray about. Sis Sowards and I love you very much and thank you for the opportunity of serving you as pastor. If you haven't heard Shelly and Joe are having a baby girl. We are very proud of our children and their families and want each of you to know that we are all very grateful to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

*Pastor Chris Sowards*



*The Lord is my strength  
and my shield.*

*~ Psalm 28:7*

When God Pushes You  
To The Edge Of  
Difficulty  
Trust Him Fully  
Because Two Things  
Can Happen  
Either He'll Catch  
You When You Fall,  
Or  
He Will Teach You  
How To Fly

# FEED THE SHEEP MENU

<b>Sunday Morning Snack</b>	<b>Sunday Evening Snack</b>	<b>Wednesday Evening Snack</b>
		<b>3 Grilled Cheese &amp; Soup</b>
<b>7 Bacon &amp; Waffles</b>	<b>7 Salad</b>	<b>10 Veggie Plate</b>
<b>14 Eggs &amp; Toast</b>	<b>14 White Chicken Chili Soup</b>	<b>17 Salad</b>
<b>21 Biscuits &amp; Gravy</b>	<b>21 Potato Soup</b>	<b>24 PB &amp; J Sandwich</b>
<b>28 Cereal</b>	<b>28 Taco Soup</b>	
<b>Snack Captain</b>	<b>Snack Captain</b>	<b>Snack Captain</b>
<b>Susan Sizemore</b>	<b>Crystal Dean</b>	<b>Vonda Sowards</b>



### ***Greetings from the SWAT Youth Department:***

The month of August has been a good month for the youth department at Open Door. There has been many new people come thru the doors of our church and if you look closely God has been doing great things with our youth. Lives are being changed and we can see new dedications being made to The Lord.

A huge thank you to Dave and Annett McClure for hosting an outdoor movie night on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Sis Annett makes a mean deep fried oreo and campfire popcorn.

The West Virginia Back to School Rally was held at the Open Door on August 22<sup>nd</sup> with youth from various parts of the state attending. We are so thankful for the youth that attended and for Bro. Jadrnicek for bringing a very timely Word from the Lord. Psalm 133.1 says Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is very good to watch the youth come and worship together with other churches.

We wrapped up the month with the youth Blast service. All of our youth are amazing and do an awesome job in these services. It is good to know they are watching and learning even in the way they worship. Watching the young ones as they get out of their seats, come to the front during praise and worship is an amazing thing.

They all need to know that it is always okay to be demonstrative in praise and worship. Caleb Gussler and Brock Burwell did an awesome job speaking to the congregation for this service. At the end of the service, we had a wonderful surprise, Sarah Mitchell was baptized in Jesus Name! We love you Sarah! Our prayer is God continues to bless and use our youth.

The apostle Paul wrote in the book of Philippians 4:8, Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. Our investment of the youth in this church will shape them for the rest of their lives. Let us all live our lives so that the generations to come can live in peace and enjoy the blessings of God.

Love and prayers,

Youth Pastor G and Sis. Bonnie Switzer



## SWAT SPOT



**Name:** Alex Neal

**Age/Birth:** 14-February-25

**School:** Hurricane High School

**Favorite Subject:** Gym

**Hobbies:** Wrestling, Sport Stuff

**Favorite Food:** Chinese

**Desired Occupation:** Coal miner

**Favorite People:** Chuck Norris

# MISSIONS

# **Open Door Thailand Mission Project:**

Join The Open Door Mission Project-Thailand by participating in our Chick-fil-A Spirit Day! Come and eat at the Chick-fil-A at Southridge Center in Charleston on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 5pm-8pm and The Open Door Missions Project-Thailand will receive 15% of the sales. Sis. Kamsean Hall will be there with a booth.

So come and show your support by eating a chicken sandwich at Chick-fil-A on September 16<sup>th</sup> or if you can't make it and would like to make an offering towards the Thailand project or Missions in general please see Sis. Kamsean Hall or Bro. Luke Fleshman.

Our monthly Missions offering is used to help all the missionaries we support around the world to provide food, shelter, etc. Please remember no matter how big or small God will multiply it for his good.





### My Personal Testimony:

As a child I didn't have parents who grew up in church. My mother doesn't believe in God because her theory is if you can't see it then it isn't real. My father was skeptical of God when I was a child but he didn't feel it would hurt me to go to church.

One Saturday morning when I was in the third grade I was in my front yard playing with the neighbor kids and a man came around to ask if we wanted to go church. Of course, we all said yes but he said he would need to ask our parents first. The man, named Brother Brian went to each house and all the other parents said yes except mine. My mother said she would think about it.

The next day I heard the church bus coming down the street and I remember peeking out the window and seeing all of the other neighborhood kids getting on the church bus. I remember being sad and thinking this is another thing I can't do. As a child my father was never home as he worked to provide for my mother, myself and my three

siblings. My mother ruled with an iron fist to put it lightly and it was the type of household the less you were seen or heard the better off you would be physically, mentally and emotionally.

Each Saturday for a month Brother Brian came to my house and talked to my mom about God and to ask if I could go to church. He eventually wore my mom down and I was able to get on the church bus.

God bringing Brother Brian to my house with the church bus saved my life. It was that same year as a third grader an anonymous church member paid my way to go to church camp and I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior.

I stayed in church for the remainder of elementary school and continued until I reached the tenth grade in high school. At the age of 16 I got a part-time job so I could afford to buy a car and slowly I pulled away from church. It was more important to me to make money and to be able to leave home on my own at the age of 18 than God or church.

I never forgot about God during my high school years and in my 20's but I always put him last.

Approximately 7 years ago I moved to Virginia Beach, VA to start a new beginning. I started feeling God tug on my heart the need to be back in church but all my co-workers and friends I had made didn't go to church. I was too scared to go on my own. But I did go to church a few times while living in Virginia but I never found a church home.

I came back to West Virginia for a visit approximately 3 years ago and reconnected with my college sweetheart, Vern. Each time I came to West Virginia to visit I came with Vern to Open Door. I wasn't too sure about Open Door at first. It was like no other church I had attended. The only church I was familiar with was conservative Baptist.

Vern and I continued our long distance relationship while I lived in Virginia. In February 2012, God made the way for me to move back to West Virginia permanently. I attended Open Door each Sunday with Vern but I still wasn't too sure. It seemed like God was there at every service but it was strange because everyone prayed out loud, shouts of Amen's and Hallelujah's were heard, hands were raised, people knelt at the alter and tears were streaming

down grown man's faces which I had never seen before.

I prayed asking God if this is the place he wanted me to be and if not for him to lead me in the right direction. I continued to attend Open Door and God has shown me this is the place for me.

In the past 2 years God has continued to change my life. I became engaged and married my college sweetheart, Vern Jackson. I reconnected with my family and I found a church family at Open Door. God has blessed me and opened so many doors that I never imagined were possible.

It has been a tremendous blessing to me to see and hear people praising, worshiping, singing, dancing, and praying to God at Open Door.

I say to Open Door continue to praise and worship God like never before so someone like me who didn't know much about God and wasn't raised in church can see and feel the amazing effects of God.

*God Bless!*

*Sis. Cassandra Jackson*



*A virtuous woman is worth far more than the treasures of this earth!*

The Women of Worth are having a Ladies Spa October 11, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the Open Door Apostolic Church. The proceeds will go towards the mission's trip to Thailand. You will enjoy a facial, pedicure, and manicure for only \$30. If you get the full package, you will receive a 15% off gift certificate for 31 Gifts, and also a 15% off gift certificate for Pink Papaya. But wait, there's more! If you get the full package, you will also be entered in a drawing to win a free gift from 31, and also a free gift from Pink Papaya (wow that's amazing!!).

But wait! For only \$5 more, that's right, \$5 you can buy 5 raffle tickets so you can have a better chance of winning! Unbelievable!

Although I love your children like they are my own, no children will be allowed at this event. This will be a ladies day, a calm and relaxing time for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time 304-421-1328.

*Thank you and God Bless!*

*Sis. Ronda Y. Savilla*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS for September 2014**

**Tuesdays @ 7pm** - Each Tuesday, Care Pastors will be hosting focused prayer at the church.

**September 16, 2014 @ 5pm-8pm**-Chick-Fil-A Spirit Day Thailand Missions Project

**September 27, 2014 @ 2pm**- Church picnic at Coonskin Park

### **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 am

Sunday Evening Worship @ 6 pm

Mid-Week Wednesday Worship @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday Prayer @ 7 pm



*If you have any suggestions or would like to add your own testimony of what God has done for you please email Sis Cassandra at [cassandramclain33@gmail.com](mailto:cassandramclain33@gmail.com).*