



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

**Service Times:**

Sunday 10am & 6pm  
Wednesday 7:30 pm



# Open Door News

DECEMBER 2011

## Letter from the Pastor

Thanksgiving greetings!

To the precious saints of God at Open Door Apostolic, thanksgiving greetings from Sis. Vonda and myself. The days have gotten shorter and it seems the clock has gotten faster as well. We are all very busy people, and we all struggle with enough hours in the day to accomplish the things we need to get done.

God has been very good to us this year. He has added new families to Open Door family, and we are thankful. Many have been baptized in Jesus Name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Most of you have given sacrificially to the cause of missions this year. We were number one in giving to foreign missions in our state for the UPCI. God allowed us to be in India again earlier this year with Bro James Keefer our own Missions Director. The Lord absolutely confirmed His preached Word with signs and wonders. The India Crusade was a wonderful harvest of new converts with over 4000 people filled with the Holy Ghost. In the past 12 months Bro. CP Thomas has baptized over 3000 people in Jesus Mighty Name! The house project for the 50 women who were released from captivity is nearing completion. You gave over \$8000 toward this project. There is also a new church building in Karachi Pakistan that you contributed \$3000 toward. There are many other projects around the world that you have been a part of as well.

We, along with Bro. Dave & Sis. Annette McClure, were able to be in Liverpool, England and preach the District Conference with Bro & Sis Hemus. We were blessed by their ministry with us just a few

weeks ago, as they are in the USA deputizing for their missionary budget. As always your giving amazed me, as God moved on you to support them in their efforts in Liverpool.

We are extremely blessed to have Bro. James Carter with us. His talents have helped to uncover hidden musical gifts in many of our young people. Our singers and musicians are some of the best in Pentecost. In June we were able to take a team from our music department to Grand Cayman to preach a crusade for Bro. Dan and Sis. Barbara Keenan. Our team was used in a mighty way to minister to that congregation. Bro. Carter has taken teams to various churches this year to minister and they have been a blessing everywhere that they have been called upon to serve.

We are blessed with a great ministry team; we have three distinguished elders in the church, Bro. Hubert Fowler, Bro. James Keefer, and Bro. Leon Sites. These men and their wives are available to you to help you in any way that they can. There are many other wonderful ministers in the church who are more than willing to assist you if they are called upon.

I thank God for my lovely wife and family. I thank God for our staff and ministry teams. I thank God for each and every member of the church family and the friends of the church, who support our efforts to evangelize our world with the Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most of all I thank the Lord for His rich mercy in my life, for His grace, and that He washed me and filled me with His Holy Spirit. My prayer is that God would bless each of you and keep you from all harm and evil.

Pastor Sowards

# Upcoming Events

## *Christmas Shoppe*

Throughout the month of December, there will be a Christmas store open in the coffee shop before and after Sunday services. Proceeds benefit the community project in Liverpool. Donations of Christmas decorations are appreciated.

## *Blast Christmas Activity*

Parents and children are invited to join the Blast Department as they visit Heartland of Charleston Nursing Home on Friday, December 9th at 7 pm. Please join us as we hand out small Christmas gifts to the residents and sing Christmas carols. We also appreciate any donations for the gifts to be purchased.

Location:  
3819 Chesterfield Ave.  
Charleston, WV 25304

Questions? Contact:  
Shelly Woda, Blast Director  
Phone: (304) 951-3588  
Email: ShellyWoda@gmail.com



## *Blast Christmas Program*

*"A Charlie Brown Christmas"*

December 18, Blast Sunday School will be performing "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

## *Ladies Christmas Tea*

On December 17 at 3:00 pm, a Ladies Tea will be held at Open Door. A sign up sheet will be located in the foyer. Tickets are \$10.00. Please see Sis. Annett McClure to purchase your ticket and reserve your seat. Look forward to a wonderful opportunity for great fellowship and fun!

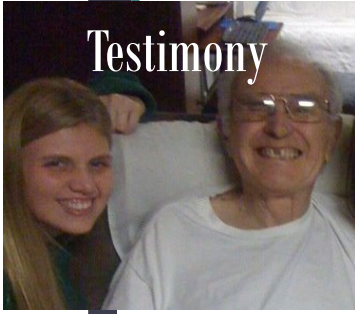


## *Christmas Eve Service*

At 11:00 pm, a Christmas Eve service will be held at Open Door. There will be no church held on Christmas Sunday.



## Testimony



About a month ago, my paw-paw, Bill Hale, suffered from two heart attacks. It happened while he was at his camp in Pocahontas County. After the heart attack, he was flown from the tiny hospital in Marlinton to Roanoke, Virginia where he was then sent home.

Everyone thanked God for protecting him and keeping him safe and then something terrible happened. After being home for only fifteen minutes, the ambulance arrived to take him back to the hospital. He had just had another heart attack. While in the emergency room, his mitral valve erupted. The doubtful doctors told us to be prepared for the worst; the surgery was very tedious and risky. Our family waited for approximately eight hours in

suspense as desperate prayers filled the room.

As I worried, I was reminded of God's faithfulness. I understood that our prayers had to be answered because of God's amazing mercy. When the surgeon returned, the tone in his voice was far from consoling, but paw-paw had survived the surgery. The next 48 hours were critical. Prayers were being sent up from every direction and God certainly answered.

After two heart attacks, a quadruple bypass, and a replaced mitral valve, my paw-paw is miraculously doing fine. We were told by the nurses that it was an absolute miracle that he survived and it certainly was. God is amazing and words cannot express how truly grateful I am.

Jessica Hale

### Birthdays

- 4 - Bobbie Joe Harless
- 5 - Michael Chaffin
- 8 - Glenva D. Hartwell
- 12 - Leslie Dean
- 13 - Janice Johnson
- 13 - Chasity Huffman
- 19 - Kim Sayre
- 21 - Mike Hardt
- 22 - Lincoln Cooper Smith
- 22 - Peyton Pauley
- 22 - Loquita Cornett
- 27 - Crystal White
- 31 - Anna Young

### Reminders

- Ladies Prayer every Thursday at 8:00 am
- Rev. Chris Leach - December 11; 10 am & 6pm
- Blast Coin Offering - December 28

## Get Connected.

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



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