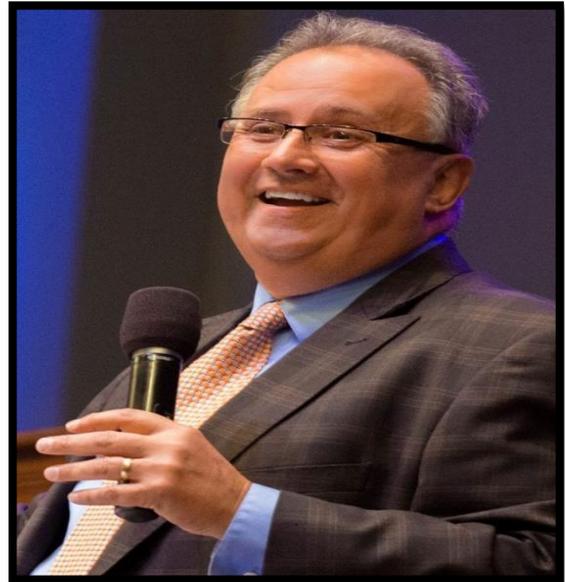




A Word from Our Pastor:

January Christian Greetings in Jesus Name! Wow, we are in a new year, a new season, a new beginning. In 2014 we saw many wonderful things happen at Open Door. It was a year of growth and at the same time was a year that so many suffered great loss in your families. 2014 seemed to be a year where the Lord took back what belonged to Him. What an amazing gift that God allows us to love our friends and family members for a season before calling them home at an appointed time that no one knows but God Himself. **John 12:23-24 (KJV)** ⁽²³⁾ *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.* ⁽²⁴⁾ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*

To each one of us that lost a loved one to death, I believe there is a Divine purpose behind all of the steps in the lives of God's Children. As the above scriptures show us I believe there is a spiritual connection to the loss that so many of you have experienced. The reason I mention this is to prepare our minds to believe we are about to



experience a great harvest of new fruit. God does not bring us to the edge of victory and then shut the door before we can achieve it. Precious saints of the Most High, as our world is getting darker and more wicked and further away from God, I believe that if we will seek Him and continue to share Jesus with those searching for eternal life, the precious seed of our loved ones who have went to be with Jesus will burst into new souls born onto the Kingdom of God.

Vonda and I would like to say thank you to all of you for your faithful attendance and support to Open Door. Thank you for all of the Christmas cards and the gifts. We are so honored to be the pastors of such an amazing group of believers. There is going to be several changes in our leadership team in 2015. Tim & Shawnda Harless have been our

Sunday School Directors for several years. They are sadly stepping down from this position. They have done an amazing job and we thank them for their service. Sister Marguerite Smith has so graciously accepted the responsibility to step into this role. We have lots of confidence in her and we are excited about her bringing her skills to this position. Luke & Carrie Fleshman are also stepping down as our Missions Directors. They did a fantastic job and we thank them for their years of service. Brother Joseph Pauley has accepted the position of Open Door's new Missions Director. He will bring lots of energy and skill to our Missions Efforts around the world. David and Annette McClure have been directing our Hospitality teams in the church for many years. They make sure that we have ushers and greeters at our doors, and everyone is safe. As you know Dave and Annette are also Care Pastors. Due to their many responsibilities as Care Pastors they are also stepping down as Hospitality Directors. Joe and Shelly Woda are stepping up to fulfill their responsibilities as Hospitality directors. Gary & Bonnie Switzer have been our Youth Pastors and done a wonderful job, they also have been appointed as Care Pastors and due to their many new responsibilities have stepped down from being Youth pastors. I am happy to announce that David and Crystal Dean have accepted the role of our new Youth Pastors at Open Door. We welcome them to our leadership team with all the other new leaders with open

arms. Wow! I know lots of changes.....but I'm not finished.

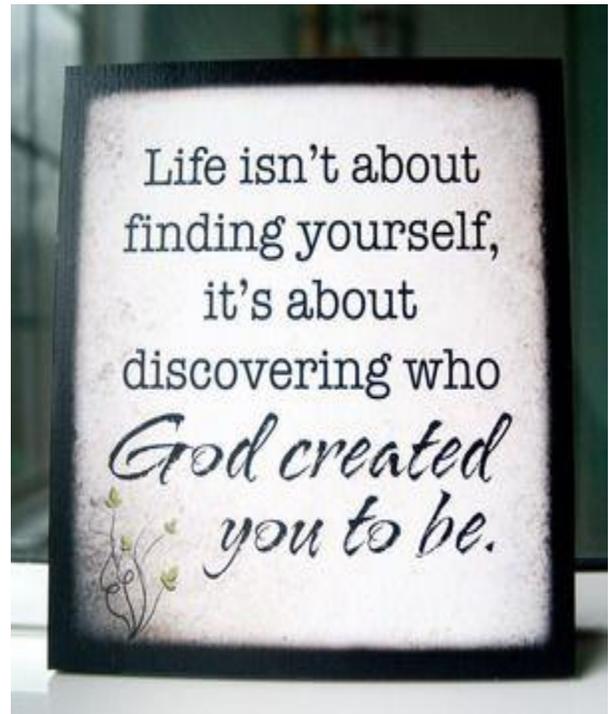
As most of you know we established our Care Pastors and the Care Group fellowship meetings last year. All that participated in these had a great time of making new friends and getting better acquainted with old ones. A new change to the Tuesday Care Group meetings is this year we are going to have all of the Care Teams meet at the church on Tuesday Evenings at 7pm. Folks will meet at 7:00 to 7:30 for a light snack and then have their topic discussion from 7:30 to 8:30pm. We will be announcing the discussion topic at church on Wednesday and Sunday during service for the following Tuesday Care Group meeting. If you are interested in getting acquainted with new folks and making new friends this gathering is for you. It will be very relaxed and informal and the format will be open discussion about the topic announced.

TO ALL CHOIR MEMBERS AND THOSE THAT WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF THE CHOIR!!! On the first and third Tuesday of each month there will be choir practice at the church. Rehearsal will begin after the snack that starts at 7pm and ends at 7:30 pm. This will allow families who have some in the choir and others that are not to all participate on our Tuesday Evening Care Group Meetings. As last year the first Wednesday of each month will be our Missions Service. The last Wednesday of the month will be our Blast Service, where our young people

are featured, and the extra offering is received by the children for our television ministry. There are other changes that we will inform you about very soon as well.

2015 is going to be a year of revival and growth. I was so happy on the last service of 2014 we baptized a new precious soul in Jesus Name for the remission of her sins. In this New Year get involved in some way. Together we can be a part of the greatest harvest in the history of Open Door. From our family to yours once again thanks for making Open Door a place where everyone is welcome.

Pastor Chris Sowards



You have
two hands.
*One to help yourself,
the second
to help others.*

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The Bread of life

Monthly Devotional

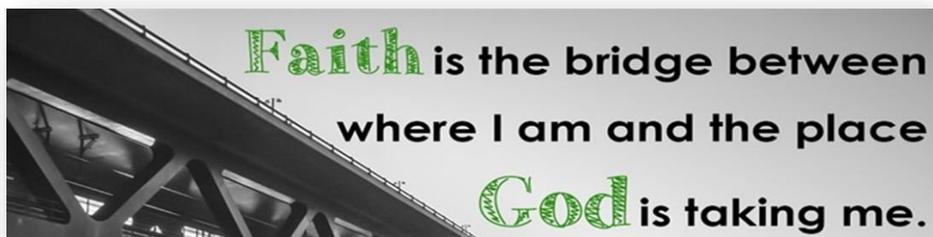
How to Experience Christ's Peace

[John 14:27-31](#)

"My peace I give to you" (John 14:27). Jesus spoke these amazing words just hours before His crucifixion. His peace isn't dependent upon external circumstances, but rather, it transcends them. Although He gives His peace to every believer as a gift, our experience of it is related to our [faith](#) in the following truths:

- God is in control of everything. Without this assurance, the world is a scary place.
- He loves me and will see me through every circumstance, no matter how difficult or painful it may be.
- To have Christ's peace, I must surrender my life to Him. When I hold onto my ways and plans, I'll experience turmoil.
- I have a limited perspective and understanding of my circumstances and God's purposes for allowing them. His goals for me are greater than my immediate comfort.
- The Lord promises to work all things out for my good. He is continually working to transform my character into Christ's image.
- I must live in sync with God, walking in the Spirit and promptly confessing and repenting of sin.
- Scripture is the foundation for peace. It increases my trust in the Lord's goodness, assures me that He keeps His promises, and reminds me of His sovereignty over every situation.

Sadly, many Christians live their whole lives without consistently experiencing this incomprehensible peace. Perhaps faith and submission are the most challenging issues. But only as we surrender control of our lives to Christ.



FEED THE SHEEP MENU

January 2015

Sunday Morning Snack	Sunday Evening Snack	Wednesday Evening Snack
4 Eggs & Toast	4 Pinto Beans & Cornbread	7 Taco Salad
11 Pancakes	11 PB Sandwiches	14 Tacos
18 Muffins	18 Nachos	21 Chicken & Rice
25 Cereal	25 Soup	28 Chili
Snack Captain	Snack Captain	Snack Captain
Tabby Smith	L' Louise Fox	Sis. Hall



Greetings in Jesus Name:

This year has been a great year and God has done a good work in many lives. We are excited for the new year and all the things God has in store for his people.

As I traveled in the month of December I was able to spend time with my parents in Illinois and was reminded of the scripture **"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-3 KJV)** The word ensample in this form means a figure formed by a blow or impression. I can say my parents were an ensample for me.

My parents are firm and solid. When they know a way is right they cannot be moved. Their yes was a Yes and their no was a No. This was a value they instilled in their children and to

argue was not an option but it was a value that was respected. After speaking to other people we went to church with and other family members it was an impression that was made on me and others in a positive way. Countless others such as teachers, youth leaders, pastors, and friends have helped in shaping me as a person.

There were others I attended church with that made an impression in a not so positive way. People who wanted things their way, for their own gain. So many things that will be forever in my mind. Roman 8:28 says, **"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."** I am thankful for all those who have had a part in my life either in a positive or negative way.

Bonnie and I have been youth leaders at the Open Door for the past two years and have enjoyed pouring into them as much as we could. After much prayer we made the decision to resign and allow God to use us in other capacities.

We do love and appreciate all of the youth at the Open Door and will continue to support them and their new leaders in every way possible. We believe God has a plan for each one of them and our prayers will continually be with them. We pray that our lives have left an imprint in a positive way.

Love and prayers,
Bro. G and Sis. Bonnie Switzer

SWAT SPOT



Name: Anthony Keith Dean

Age/Birth: 16/May 11

School: George Washington

Favorite Subject: Math

Hobbies: Basketball, Video Games

Favorite Food: Pepperoni Rolls

Desired Occupation: Psychologist

Favorite Person: Rachel Chapman

NEW YOUTH PASTORS



Happy New Year everyone! As we begin this new year, we are reminded to look forward. Much like the apostle Paul in Philippians 3:12-14, we are called to move forward in our walk with God. We want to strive to know God more and to share Him with others.

Thank you brother and sister Switzer for the amazing job you have done with the youth. We are honored to pick up where they left off. We ask that you pray for the youth group and for prosperity in their ministry as we move forward in 2015.

Love,
Bro. Dave and Sis. Crystal Dean

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2015 & 2016

Care Pastor January & February Schedules

Jan. 6th- Ted & Susan Sizemore
Jan. 13th- Joey & Crystal White
Jan. 20th- Gary & Bonnie Switzer
Jan. 27th- Steven & Kim Arden

Feb. 3rd Dave & Annette McClure
Feb. 10th- Andrew & Heather Fowler
Feb. 17th- Hubert & Becky Fowler
Feb. 24th- Ted & Susan Sizemore

Choir Schedule

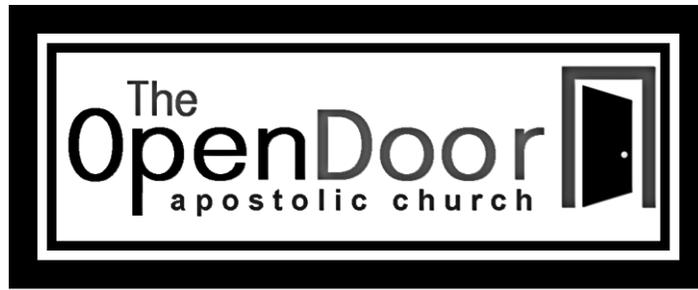
Jan. 6th & Jan. 20th- 1st & 3rd Tuesday

Swat Events

Jan. 11th- Kick-off Meeting after Sunday morning service
Jan. 16th- SWAT Game night 6 p.m. @ Open Door
Jan. 29th- Peanut butter heart fundraiser 4 p.m. @ Open Door
Feb. 7th- Peanut butter heart fundraiser 9 a.m. @ Open Door

Keynote Speakers

Jan. 14th- Steve Arden, Sr.
Jan. 28th- Blast Service- Alex Fox



Service Times:

Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church @ 10 am

Sunday Evening Worship @ 6pm

Mid-Week Wednesday Worship @ 7:30 pm

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www.opendoorapostolic.org**

Please email Sis. Cassandra Jackson @ cassandramclain33@gmail.com if you would like to add any content and/or suggestions to newsletter. Also, if you would like to receive a newsletter by email please forward me your email address.