

PRAYER REQUEST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*“Cast all your cares upon Him; for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)*

As we pray together in faith, much will be accomplished. Open Door Ministries of Sampson, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, gifts to which are deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes.

Open Door Ministries of Sampson, Inc.  
199 E. Magnolia-Lisbon Rd.  
Magnolia, NC 28453

# Open Door Partner

*“Victory through Christ”*

*February 2023*

*“Love is patient and kind;  
love does not envy  
or boast; it is not arrogant  
or rude.”*

**1 COR. 13:4-7**

*Love bears all things,  
believes all things,  
hopes all things,  
endures all things.”*

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## David's Desk



Thank you so much for your prayers for the men and staff of Open Door Ministries. God Bless you for your continued support of our efforts. I hope to continue explaining the five principles that we teach the men at Open Door, which I believe will bless you as well. Here they are:

- Live by the Scriptures
- Praise God Always
- Protect Your Thoughts
- Cultivate the Right Relationships
- Submit to Authority

I will pick up where we left of last month with, "Praise God Always." "Praise" comes from a Latin word meaning "value" or "price." Thus, to praise God is to proclaim His merit or worth. Many terms are used to express this in the Bible, including "glory," "blessing," "thanksgiving," and "Hallelujah." The Hebrew title of the book of Psalm is "Praises."

Psalm 34:1-4 says, ***"I will praise the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."***

David was a man who praised the Lord at all times; he said his praise to God would always be on his lips. David is saying if you are not feeling it, if you are affected, then let us praise God together and rejoice. David said that he sought the Lord, and the Lord answered him, and not only did He answer him, He delivered him from all his fears.

What a mighty God we serve! So praise God continually. I pray that praise will always be in your heart. May God bless you and your family!

**Pastor David Chestnutt - ODM Executive Director**

## Surrendered



My name is Jay McRedmond and I would like to tell you little about myself; how a relationship with Jesus Christ changed my life. I was born in Grand Rapids, MI, but have been in NC since 1987. My family moved to Greensboro when I was 10 years old. The South was a huge culture shock to me. Growing up I was involved in church and didn't know the first thing about God or how important a relationship with Him was like. It wasn't until my teens that I was introduced to the church. By then, I was already making a lot of poor choices. I had been influenced by the things of the world. I started using tobacco at 12, marijuana at 13, and by the age of 14 the substances of cocaine and alcohol, ultimately led to a life of bondage. In high school I was a good student and athlete, but my prideful desire to keep an image of popularity among the crowd that was promoting this lifestyle kept me from applying myself and living up to my potential. Unfortunately, I had no encouragement or accountability from Godly relationship found in Church or a Christian home. After graduating high school in 1995, with a 2.6 GPA and a lack of ambition and resources, I tried to juggle college, a full-time job in hospitality and a "fleshy" lifestyle. Several years of long hours and late nights led me to a life filled with exhaustion, frustration, and a multitude of sinful behaviors. I was starting to experience

consequences in my personal life and knew that I was forming dependencies on drugs and alcohol as they were taking precedence over everything else in my life.

In 2002, I started forming a serious relationship with a girl; who would later become my wife. We were living together and shared the same desire for a lifestyle filled with drugs, alcohol, and sin. Eventually, she became pregnant and I chose to marry her because it was "the right thing to do", not because we had an amazing connection built on a solid foundation and principles. Actually, everything I knew had been built on sand. I thought that being a husband and father would calm me down. I found that it just added to my "to do list". It didn't replace my desires. I continued to live a Godless life and was a slave to what "the world" taught me, which was more...more...more. I had a six figure income, a house, a wife, three children, material possessions, friends; but also a mountain of bills, debt, stress, anxiety and a growing addiction.

In 2015, my world changed drastically. My house that was built on sand couldn't withstand anymore calamity. The storms and collapsed with a mighty crash. (**Matthew 7:26-28**) Over the next two years depression and anxiety took me to a place that I had never experienced before. It was a place of sadness, darkness and recklessness which led to brokenness. By the end of 2017, I lost everything and everyone in my life. Shame and anger consumed me. I was in and out of recovery and detox facilities trying to "clean-up", but it wasn't working. I was captive to a viscous cycle and needed to do something. At the advice of an addiction counselor, I decided to go to a faith-based program. I remember him saying, "You'll get a whole lot of Jesus time", sarcastically...so I went! It was there that I was introduced to God and the truths of the Gospel. It wasn't long before I took the leap of faith and accepted Jesus as Savior. I'd like to say that I was transformed over night, but the truth is I continued to struggle for the next several months. Anxiety, depression, loss, and alcohol still had grip on me.

In 2019, I had lost all hope and decided that I would "throw in the towel". But, God so rich in mercy, had a different plan. He threw the towel back at me and told me to wipe my face; that we were just getting started. On May 10, 2019, I returned to the treatment facility and this time I humbled myself before the Lord and truly surrendered to His will. For the next year, I devoted myself to the Word, prayer, and service. I witnessed a transformation in my life and truly felt the power for the first time.

On May 10, 2020, I returned home, "A new creation", and was living for God and submitting to His will for my life. In March of last year, two months shy of being three years sober, my faith tested and I experienced a series of storms in my life that caused me to stumble, once again. The last nine months has been a daily struggle filled with many physical and emotional challenges. So, on New Year's Day, I told myself that I would start this year off on the right foot. So, I decided to come to Open Door Ministries to reset my thoughts and refocus on God. It has been an amazing experience and I am so grateful for the staff and the Chestnutt family for providing a refuge to rekindle my relationship with Jesus and see how He will use me for the Kingdom. (**Jeremiah 29:11**). For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you plans to give you a hope and a future.

## Daily Needs List

Bleach, Dish Detergent, Laundry Detergent (preferably pods), Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Hand Sanitizer, Spray Disinfectant, CLR Cleaner, Furniture Polish, Murphy's Oil Soap, Latex Gloves, Ink Pens, Loose-Leaf Notebook Paper, Standard & Legal Copy Paper, 1" 3-Hole Hard Back Binders, Stamps, Envelopes, AA & AAA Batteries, Bibles (preferably NLT), Compact Disc Recordable (CD-R), Area Rugs, Yard Rakes, Wheel Barrel, Work Gloves, 39 and 13 Gallon Trash Bags, Milk, Sugar, Salad Dressings, Mayo, Mustard/Ketchup, Salt/Pepper, Washable Cups, Aluminum Foil, Zip-Lock Storage Bags (Quart and Gallon), Coffee, Walmart Gift Cards, and/or Food Lion Gift Cards

And As Always, Open Door Needs Your Donations To Pay For Monthly Operating Costs. May God Bless You!