

PRAYER REQUEST

Name: _____

Address: _____

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“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.
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Open Door

Partner

“Victory through Christ”

January 2023

WISHING YOU A
Blessed New Year
2023

⁶ Praise be to the Lord,
for he has heard my cry for mercy.
⁷ The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him,
and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 28 : 6 - 7

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David's Desk



Happy New Year! I pray you were able to spend some wonderful time with family and friends over the holidays. Now we look to the new year, 2023. At Open Door, we have 5 principles that we teach the men that come here for

a new direction in life. It all starts with a born-again relationship with Jesus Christ through repentance. After salvation, we are ready to start a spiritual quest of faith, hope and love in our lives and the lives of others that God places along the way.

I believe our 5 principles can help you as it does the men at ODM. Here they are:

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

Over the next four months, I want to share a little about each one.

Live by the Scriptures. 1 Timothy says that *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”* [NLT]

We must believe that all scripture is inspired by God. The inherency of scriptures is crucial to the Christian faith. We must believe Genesis 1:1, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* We must believe John 1:1, *“In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* [NLT]

Paul tells us in God's inspired Word that we must pay careful attention to how we walk out our spiritual quest of faith. If the world was wicked 2000 years ago, how much more is it wicked today. We need God's Word to guide each step we take each day. *“Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk...”* [CEV]

I pray that you will set a time that you can spend with God and His Word each morning so you will be better prepared on your spiritual quest.

God's blessings on you and your family this year!
Pastor David Chestnutt - ODM Executive Director

Surrendered



My name is Greg Hankel and I grew up in Vancouver, Washington. It is a town about 15 miles north of Portland, Oregon. My parents did not really drink, worked hard and most Sundays, we were in our family's Lutheran Church. I listened in Sunday school as a kid and found the Bible interesting. I never understood what a personal relationship with Jesus could be like.

In my teenage years, I always felt I didn't fit in. I played sports, was friends with lots of kids, but I always felt out of place. I took my first drink around 14 and as I got older, I realized drugs and alcohol made me more confident. I could finally talk to people and fit in with other kids that did the same things. Luckily, I did, barely, graduate High School and knew I was going nowhere.

I joined the Army and decided to get away from my home town and build something for myself. The discipline of the Army was good for me. My drinking was acceptable and excelled. After three years, I reenlisted and volunteered for the Special Forces course. At 22, I graduated and earned my Green Beret. I remember being so proud and my dad proud of me. I “showed” all those people back home that said I would never amount to anything. I also found out that pride was arrogance and wouldn't last. I continued to drink, party, and do what I wanted. I still felt that something was

missing. I knew my lifestyle wasn't moral but I was so far in I didn't seem to care.

In 2006, I found myself in Iraq as part of a sniper detachment. Our operational pace was fast, sometimes two missions a night. One night, I found myself under fire in a situation that I was sure I wouldn't survive. During the chaos that night, I said the “Lord's Prayer” because it was the only one I knew. The next day, after getting through the night without a scratch, I mentioned to another guy in the unit how lucky I felt. His response gave me chills, “That wasn't luck Greg. The hand of God protected you. He wants you for something else.” I went to the chaplain, had a long talk, said the sinner's prayer, and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. However, being saved was just the beginning. Since that day, I would study my bible, do well for a while, fall back into temptations, start drinking again, and become depressed; at times suicidal.

While in Iraq in 2010, I fell off a roof during a mission. I injured my back and was introduced to opiate pain pills. Over the next years, I became so dependent on them that I got in trouble and the Army sent me to a “secular” rehab. While at the rehab, they treated me for PTSD and chemical dependency. After rehab, I relapsed, went AWOL, and overdosed with the intention of taking my life. I was arrested instead. The Army kept me in jail for 74 days and that saved my life. I learned to read the Bible every day and reacquainted myself with God. I also promised myself I'd never get arrested again. Unfortunately, I was lying to myself.

Over the next ten years, I married a Godly woman, raised kids, and attended Church. I even taught a Bible study in my home. I surrendered everything to God accept the drinking. I would get sober and go back to drinking whenever the pain got too much or the nightmares would intensify.

In 2021 my dad died of Covid and a few months later, I was arrested again for DWI. Over the next year, I asked God to place me in a situation to help me overcome this addiction that always returned and would crush me all over. I started making progress.

Through that last DWI, I ended up at Open Door. It is exactly where God wanted me, surrounded by the people I needed to be around. I never liked the word “surrender”, but today I have victory in my complete surrender. Not half-way, not 90%, but all of it; 100%, mind, heart and soul for God's Will. My mind, here, sharpens on that every day. I can't wait to continue living for Him in all I do. Today I stand on Psalm 51:12-

13; “Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you.”



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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, Wal-Mart 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!