

## *Open Hearts Open Hands Brochure*

There is an old children's song, "God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me." So simple, so true! The Lord has truly blessed us!

As I look around I see the thumbprint of the goodness of God on our church. Our small group ministry, launched in September, is thriving – we need more facilitators! The once small scout troop is now over fifty and our Alcoholic Anonymous group is bursting at the seams. Both are opening doors of opportunity to the community. The Stephen Ministers, commissioned in September, are fully engaged and providing one to one care for the wounded. The Edge provides a worship service created specifically for youth and young adults. Our Walk Thru the Old Testament had over 100 participants and our Fall Festival brought 50+ children and families together for food, fun and games. The Bazaar raised \$4,000 for mission work; we sent 61 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes to children in other countries, spent hundreds of dollars on Medical Benevolence Foundation Alternative Gifts and provided funds, food and hygiene products for the Helping Hands Cooperative.

That's an exciting list isn't it? It means we are making progress in fulfilling our vision statement of a people 'with a heart for God, a vision for the world and a place for you.' However there are still more people that need to be reached for Christ which means there is more work to do – more doors to be opened.

Doors are places of transition. We move through them to the outside or into another room to greet new people, we close them for quiet or to exclude. In the Bible, the doorway is often associated with entering areas of great spiritual significance. In John 10:9, Jesus refers to himself as 'the door.' In the well ordered Hebrew home, doors were to bear words testifying to God's truth and love [Deut. 6:9]. In 1 Corinthians 16:9, the Apostle Paul speaks about 'a wide open door for effective work.'

And so it is with our Open Hearts Open Doors campaign. This is first and foremost a journey of spiritual significance. During this month, each of us needs to make 'our heart, Christ's home.' We are asking God to open our hearts to see the doors of opportunity that He has placed before us; to improve the connection between our faith and our lifestyles so we can be better stewards of the resources He has given us.

I am excited about the doors which will be opened as we open our hearts to God. As we share a common faith, vision and purpose, God will use us in a powerful way and our life together will be attractive and contagious to others. However, building that kind of community demands a commitment of sacrifice by everyone! Your investment in the Open Hearts Open Doors campaign will impact thousands of people in the future. We have the opportunity to do something exceptional for our church and our Lord. Don't miss the chance to give substantially to a work that will echo in eternity. Open your heart to God so He can open doors of opportunity for the gospel in our community.

Joyfully,

Will Dietrich