



ANNUAL REPORT

2025



CHURCH OF THE
OPEN DOOR

dear open door family,

As we look back over this past year, one thing stands out above the rest: **God's continued faithfulness in blessing and sustaining Church of the Open Door.** So much has happened this year! So many changed lives! So much for which to be grateful!

One of the highlights this year was celebrating our 75th Anniversary as a church. It was amazing to look back over those 75 years of God's faithfulness in this church, and we are so grateful for all that He has done and continues to do.

This Annual Report is designed to share with you some of the things that God has done throughout all our campuses and the world in this past year. It is intended to be an encouragement and a challenge. Therefore, our hope as you read these pages is that you will first pause and give thanks for all the wonderful progress and accomplishments that were made. Additionally, our hope is that you will be challenged to continue to pray earnestly for our church as we look ahead to His plans for the upcoming year.

Just know—we are incredibly thankful to all of you who have made this last year possible as you continue to be an "owner" of this church and set an example by faithfully serving, generously giving, and continually praying. We see you leading ministries, sharing your faith, and lending your support in so many other ways.

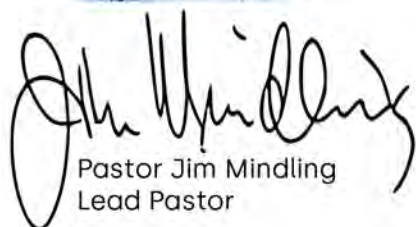
Lastly, please pray, especially for this upcoming year, as we enter a new era with the arrival of a new Lead Pastor at Open Door.

May God continue to show His favor upon our church, and let's await with great anticipation for what lies ahead. Remember 2 Timothy 1:7, **"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."**

Let's live this out as a church in 2025/2026. We love and appreciate every one of you!

Sincerely,




Pastor Jim Mindling
Lead Pastor




Pastor Mark Geissbauer
Executive Pastor

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events

75th Church Anniversary
All Campus Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
Family Summer Bash
Marriage Date Night
Gather 25
Red River Men's & Women's Backpacking Trips
All Women's Worship Night
Global Outreach Conference
Women's Christmas Brunch
10 Year Anniversary of the Vermilion Campus
Hymn Sing
Prayer in the Square
Pigtoberfest
Night to Shine
Sent: Your Next Step in Intentional Evangelism
Off Road Discipleship Retreat
Bethlehem Walk
Adult Christmas Dinner
No Man Walks Alone
Aspire Women's Conference
Volunteer Sunday
Everyman Challenge
Adult Bus Trips & Breakfasts
Night of Worship
40 Days of Prayer & Fasting
...and more!



marriage date night



pigtoberfest

all women's worship



men's red river trip



international soccer & kids camps



family summer bash

2024-2025

YEAR IN



night to shine



night of worship



75th church anniversary



axios pool party



bethlehem walk



the cohort



volunteer breakfast

family ministry

International Soccer & Fun Camps
Big Chill Student Retreat
Faith & Family Night
Family Skate Party
Axios Pool Party

classes

Know Your Beliefs Seminar
The Cohort: Modules 2-4
Mental Health Crisis & De-Escalation
GriefShare in Elyria & Vermilion
Celebrate Recovery
Ambassadors Class
Marriage Builders
MomCo

Review

2024-2025

LOOKING AHEAD



Launch of the
Open Door Counseling
& Community Center



50th Anniversary of
Open Door Christian Schools



More Discipleship Intensive
Groups (DIGs)



Young Adult Ministry launch



Special Needs Ministry
launch at multiple campuses



Church safety improvements

...and the 5th Lead Pastor
in Open Door history!

Mike's Story

I grew up in a family that didn't know Jesus, so when my girlfriend, Tiffani, started going to church again, I wasn't interested. In fact, we were already thinking of splitting up: we both had kids from previous relationships, so the stress of family life and parenting was getting to us, and I was ready to be done.

In the midst of all that tension, Tiffani's mom prayed for our relationship, and something in my heart opened up to the possibility of going to church. I figured it wouldn't hurt to give it a shot.

When I first came to Open Door at the start of 2023, I felt pretty on edge. My only other two church experiences were negative; I found myself waiting for the moment when the pastor said something hateful or the congregation acted strange, but that moment never came. In fact, the sermon series at the time was titled *Discipling the Next Generation*, all about parenting, which was exactly what I needed, so we started to go every Sunday as a family, but I still didn't know Jesus.

Leading up to Easter, we attended the Passover Experience, which was a traditional seder meal that laid out the gospel, and then I participated in the Good Friday service where I physically nailed my written-out sins onto the cross. But all these things didn't come together until Easter Sunday, when I had an epiphany regarding what I had been hearing over the weekend. **My eyes finally opened to the truth: I was broken, but God loved me too much to let me stay that way. He wanted to heal my brokenness and make me more like Him.** When I woke up the next morning, the world was brighter, and a weight was off my shoulders.

I finally had hope.

The week after Easter, Open Door started an Alpha class—a discussion-based exploration of the basics of Christian belief—and I was a brand-new Christian hungry to learn about this faith I knew very little about. My table leader, Andrew Holland, kept bringing up Discipleship Intensive Groups (DIGs), so after Alpha, I dove into the deep end and joined one.



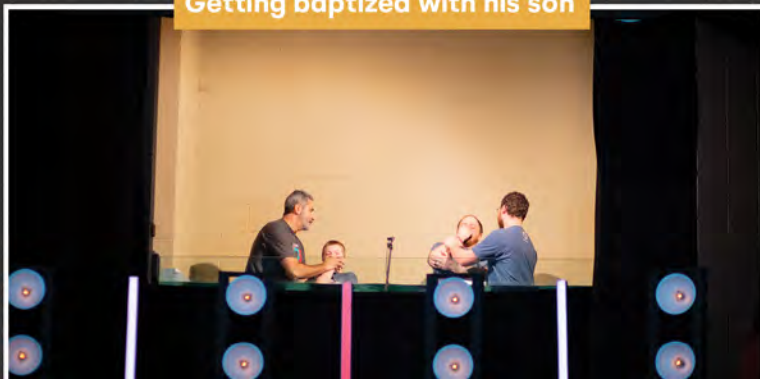
Mike's first DIG

For nearly two years, we met as a small group of guys just about every week and went through the *Discipleship Essentials* book, which breaks down the way that we see Jesus doing discipleship in the Gospels. This consistent step of accountability and studying the Bible alongside other men helped me to grow like crazy. I kept taking steps in my discipleship journey by joining the Everyman Challenge, serving at church, and leading my own DIG. After all, we're called to be disciples who make disciples who make disciples!

Over the last two years, our lives have completely changed. Tiffani and I got married and had a baby together, my son and I got baptized, and we're in a LifeGroup that bears each other's burdens. Our family is following Jesus together.

Being a Christian doesn't make life easy, but it offers us a hope that we just didn't have before. I want my life to be about discipling the next generation of Christians—and I've realized that isn't limited to kids. I was born again at the age of 30. Another person might be born again at the age of 80. **It doesn't matter when it happens; what matters is that we start fresh and then grow to become more like Christ.**

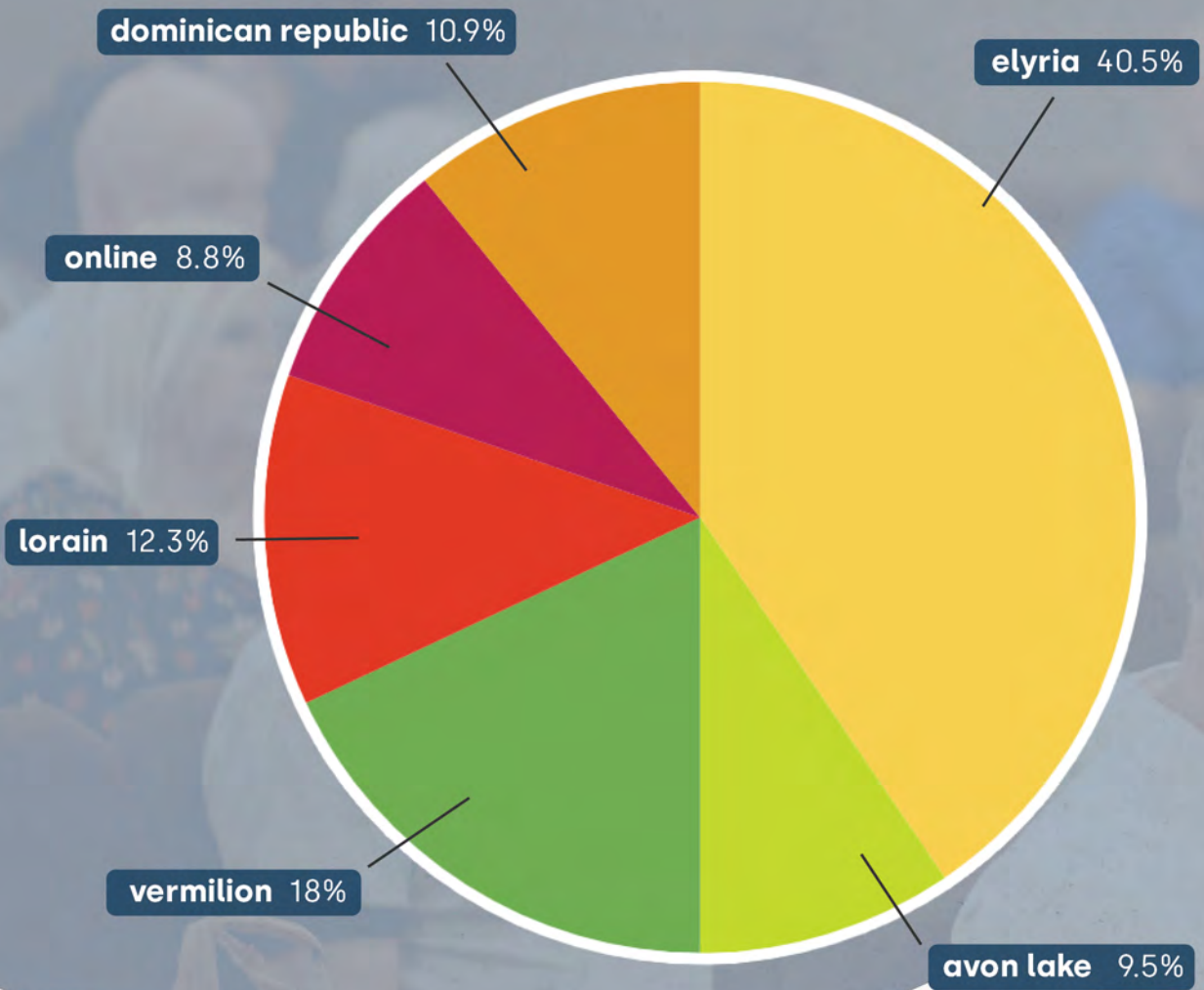
Getting baptized with his son



attendance

average weekly attendance

1,279



BREAKDOWN

kids & students	19.9%
male	46.8%
female	53.2%
new guests	1,283
total number of members	369

did you know?

102 **new** middle & high school students joined us this year!

1 out of 3 kids returns within two months after their first visit.



SPECIAL SERVICES

Christmas Eve	1,565
Easter	1,553

GLORIA'S STORY

If I'm being honest, back in 2023, my life sucked. I hated my toxic work environment, I was stressed all the time, and I was feeling bitter about how my life had gone up to this point. After a tough childhood, my adulthood had continued to be haunted by my past, and while I was doing my best to provide for my son, we were really just getting by. In the mornings, I'd wake up angry, and in the evenings, I'd go to bed angry.

That summer, we went to a community barbecue, and a guy named Shamar invited us to Church of the Open Door. I decided to attend here and there over the next few months. Mind you, I had gone to church a few times when I was younger, but I had found it boring and had counted down the minutes until I could leave. Still, with life sucking so much, I thought a bit of God couldn't hurt.

Little did I know that God doesn't just do "a bit." He comes in and changes everything.

That December, my mom got diagnosed with lung cancer after being a lifelong smoker, which was really hard. After that, I started going to church every Wednesday night. When my work schedule changed, I started to show up on Sundays, too.

Gradually, with every Bible-based sermon, God was working on my heart. See, I had been smoking weed every day and drinking with my friends and listening to bad music, but he started removing my desires for those things and replaced it with a hunger for Him. I even quit smoking cold-turkey in May of 2024 because I didn't want to wind up like my mom in 20 years. God gave me the strength to do that.

I experienced so much loss during that season. My mom passed away in November, and my best friend passed a few months later. But God still showed up in the midst of that loneliness and provided for me in so many ways.

I could tell countless stories: He gave me the opportunity to visit my mom in West Virginia before her health turned sour; He provided a car when mine started having issues; He enabled me to switch to a healthier job so that I could have a Sabbath; He helped my son get into Open Door Christian Schools so that he could get a Christian education; and, when I didn't think I'd have enough money to go on the missions trip to the Dominican Republic, he provided every last cent in the span of a single evening.

All the while, I was taking more and more steps of surrender. I started to serve as a greeter on Sundays and as a leader in Student Ministry, and I joined a LifeGroup and began to read God's Word daily. Prayer has played a huge role in all of this, too, to the point where I've set aside my own "War Room" where I can do battle on my knees while I commune with God and pray for others.

I've realized that things happen for a reason, and in the moment, you don't understand God's purpose and plan—but then, when it's behind you, you see His hands all over it. If you had told me a few years ago where I'd be today, I wouldn't have believed you. Though I went through what I went through, I wouldn't change my life for nothing. Things happen for a reason. We might not understand it at that time, and maybe we'll never understand, but God uses all of it. **All of the suffering, He can redeem.**

DR team with Gloria & her son



CHRIS'S STORY

When our Avon Lake Campus Pastor, Charlie Miller, mentioned that he felt it was time for me to get connected with the Everyman Challenge, my first reaction was not exactly one of great enthusiasm. The Everyman Challenge, as Charlie explained, is a discipleship ministry designed to help men grow in their faith and integrity and be challenged spiritually alongside a brotherhood of other men. It's a group meant to hold you accountable and encourage you. Still, my initial thought was something like, *Oh, great! Another program that stirs you for a moment but then fades away once the emotion passes.*

Being retired, I also felt a different kind of resistance—more along the lines of, *Can't you just let me grow old gracefully?* But somehow, I felt the Lord tugging at me, and so, somewhat reluctantly, I agreed to participate. Looking back now, I am so glad I did. The experience was far more rewarding than I ever imagined, not simply because of how it made me feel, but because of what I witnessed God doing among a group of ordinary men. The Everyman Challenge allowed me to see firsthand how God is awakening in men a deep desire to be faithful servant leaders: men who lead

by example, by openness, and by vulnerability. Each week, as stories and testimonies were shared, I could see how the Lord was shaping lives, calling us to greater faithfulness and courage. **It was a reminder that God doesn't wait for the perfect person to accomplish His purposes. He uses imperfect, everyday people, just as He did with the original twelve disciples.**

And did I mention it was actually fun? There was plenty of laughter, brotherhood, and even some good-natured teasing, but underneath it all was a real sense of purpose and spiritual growth.

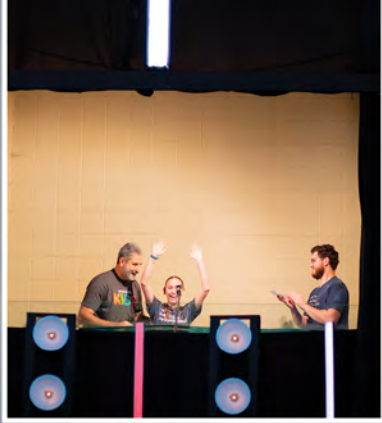
Another meaningful opportunity to serve came when Charlie asked if I would consider co-leading a four-week class with him on how to have *good-faith conversations* with people who might be skeptical of Christianity. The course was grounded in basic Christian apologetics and designed to help believers engage others with both truth and grace. Charlie knew my interest in apologetics and thoughtful dialogue, so he invited me to help develop and teach the sessions.

I appreciated the opportunity to be able to use the gifts that God has given me for the Kingdom, but while I was excited, I won't pretend I wasn't nervous. I brought that fear and trembling before the Lord. I trusted Him, and in the end, the class went so well that we're planning to do it again in the future.

I am deeply grateful for these opportunities and for how God continues to shape me even in this season of life. Being part of Open Door's Avon Lake Campus has been an incredible blessing. Week after week, I get to witness faith lived out authentically by humble men and women who serve the Lord wholeheartedly. **It is both inspiring and humbling to be part of a community where God is clearly at work.**



An Everyman Challenge gathering



49 made a decision to follow Jesus*

85 got baptized*

**both more than doubled from last year, praise God!*



discipleship

66% in a Group

58% volunteering

661 volunteers serving across **171** ministry roles

108 volunteer leaders

67% giving

338 attended a class

25 attended the **Cohort*** weekly
**church-based seminary course*

41 private prayers during online service



monthly app users	424
new app downloads	823
average monthly website sessions	4,994
social media—net new followers	397
social media—monthly average content interactions	1,589*
<i>*increased from 986</i>	

engagement

defined as doing at least 2/3 of the following: giving, serving, being in a group

staff & board 95%
member 86%
attendee 52%

new guest re-engagement 24%

percentage of people who take a next step within 6 months of their first visit

next step survey results

1. Relates with Other-Centered Love
2. Heart of Worship
3. Connected to God through the Word and Prayer
4. Spirit-Led Servant
5. Trustworthy Steward of God's Resources
6. Intentional Evangelism



FINANCIAL

FISCAL YEAR RECAP



budgeted	\$2,622,439
actual giving	\$2,476,622
expenses under budget	\$135,153
amount over budget	\$10,664

weekly average giving

\$47,627
62.5% online

scan to give!



did you know?

December is a critical month for us! Would you consider a **special year-end gift** to help us close our current deficit and enable us to impact more lives for Jesus?



Q1 2025/2026

budgeted	\$610,037
actual giving	\$550,475
expenses under budget	\$43,969
amount over budget	\$15,593

total number of givers
759

new givers
147



tippers 70.3%

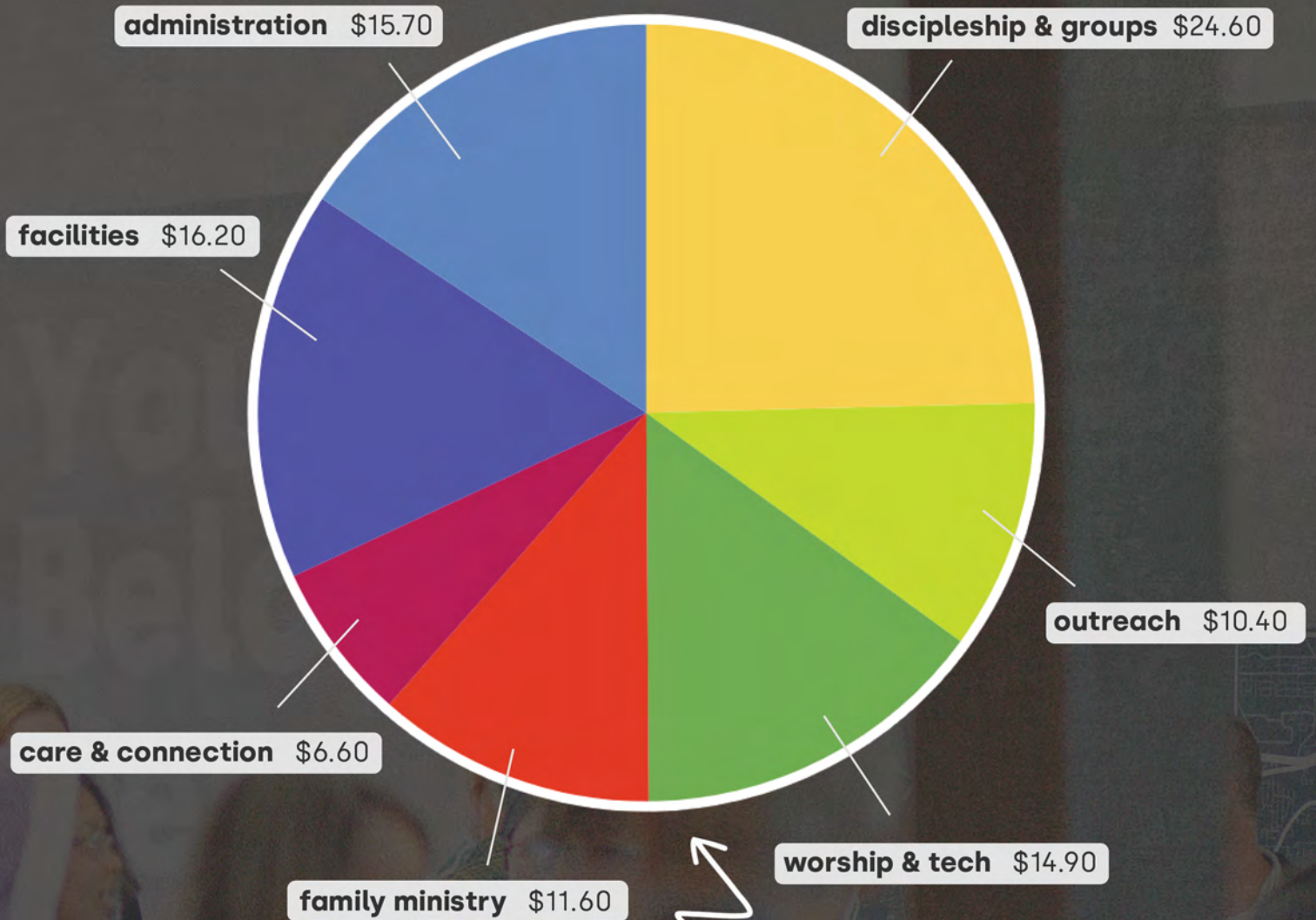


givers 16.9%



tithers 12.8%

nces



Where does
\$100 Go?

OUTREACH

BURUNDI UPDATE

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we were able to provide a new home for **everyone** in our village (Mbasi) in Burundi, Africa!



A NEW PARTNERSHIP

This year, Open Door began a partnership with Love Inc, an organization that connects local churches with local needs. To learn more, visit loveinc.org



93
las brisas
sponsors



512
operation christmas
child boxes



21
people on
missions trips

2026 MISSION TRIPS

Dominican Republic Winter Sponsor Trip
Dominican Republic Summer Family Trip
Burundi, Africa Trip*

January 21-26
June 9-16
July 31-August 10

*visit our adopted village in Mbasi and see the houses we built!

Generation House lovingly helps women and children who are facing homelessness and other challenges. We give them a place to call home, food to eat, and multiple support services. Meeting their immediate needs allows residents to recover, reframe, and regroup as they, with our Christ-centered assistance and training, develop stable and secure ways to live in the future.



Looking for more information? Visit generationhouse.org for more details and to support this ministry of Church of the Open Door.

the need

- In 2024, **11,759** people experienced homelessness across Ohio, a **3% increase** from 2023.
- Since January 2020, homelessness among Ohio children and families has surged **by over 10%**.
- Families without the stability of a home are locked in perpetual survival mode, making it nearly impossible to recover. **Generation House meets people in that gap and helps them back on their feet.**

70 people safely housed since 2018

- 44% kids
- 3 Veterans
- 3 Refugees
- 35% African American / 51% Caucasian / 4% Latino / 10% Mixed

**13,000+ sheltered nights
5,000+ meals served**



PAT'S STORY

Eight years ago, Pat fell into attending **Celebrate Recovery** by what felt like an accident—but really, God knew it was exactly what he needed.

"My granddaughters go to Open Door Christian Schools. I was there for a Christmas Concert when I happened to see a pamphlet about Celebrate Recovery in the lobby," he said. "I had just come out of a year's worth of counseling for a serious pornography addiction that had almost ruined my marriage of 38 years. I thought, you know what? I'm gonna give this a try."

Sharing with others how God had changed the direction of his heart and his life was profoundly healing and encouraging for Pat. Over the course of a year, he completed the 12-Step Program, which is like holding up a Biblical mirror to your life to work through hurts, habits, and hangups while in the context of a loving community. As soon as he was done, he turned around to start helping others go through the program as a group leader.

"I've come to Celebrate Recovery nearly every Thursday evening for the past eight years, and I see myself doing this for the rest of my life, as far as I'm concerned," Pat said. "We're all broken. **If Jesus can do what He did for me, He can do it for others.** And see, we're not there to fix each other—we're there to hold space for the work God is doing and provide support in these vulnerable situations."

Celebrate Recovery is a ministry designed for any person that needs to find freedom from an issue controlling their lives, be it addiction, insecurity, trauma, or mental health struggles. At every meeting, there is a time of worship, a lesson or an inspiring testimony, and a break into groups for a more intimate setting that facilitates trust and nurtures encouragement.

"If you're feeling intimidated, know that Celebrate Recovery is not some formal and scary thing," Pat said. "**Just bring yourself and see what God will do.** It's tender, not judgmental, and it helps to put your guard down and trust the Lord. Even if you think you're 'fixed,' you'll find that there's so much more God has in store for you."



For more information about
Celebrate Recovery, visit
opendoor.tv/cr

well done, good & faithful servant

In 2003, Pastor Jim accepted the call to become Church of the Open Door's fourth Lead Pastor. **He clarified our vision, emphasizing the importance of becoming a Christlike church** by Loving God, Loving People, and Living Surrendered. While teaching, he emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit and discipleship in the life of the believer, and he loves to bring it all back to Jesus and the Kingdom of God. We are so thankful for Pastor Jim's wisdom, humility, and compassion. He has clearly walked by the Spirit, and by God's grace, there is so much fruit in his legacy. He has had a profound impact on all the people in his path. **We love you, Pastor Jim!**

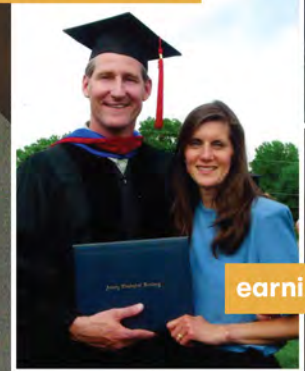
the Mindlings



transfer of leadership from Dr. Walls



earning his PhD



THANK YOU,
PASTOR JIM!

After 22 years of faithful service, Pastor Jim will be stepping down as Lead Pastor of Church of the Open Door, but he will continue doing ministry and making disciples for the rest of his life.

baby dedications



teaching in Israel



some of his favorite parts of ministry

2,519

messages
preached at
Open Door

8

trips led to Israel
(Way of Jesus)

4

trips led to Greece
(Footsteps of Paul)

0

cups of coffee

preaching



serving the community



75TH ANNIVERSARY celebration

remembering where it all began

No one could have ever expected or imagined what God would do when a few people first met in a home to study God's Word and then became an official church in 1950. This year, we had the opportunity to gather together and celebrate 75 years of Church of the Open Door—and, more importantly, to worship and praise God for how He has moved in this body of believers!



Visit our 75th Anniversary page to relive the evening and watch testimonies and stories from over the years!





**our church
over the years**

lead pastor search

As we enter a significant season in the life of our church, we are both grateful and expectant. With deep appreciation for the faithful leadership of our current pastor, Jim, we now look ahead to what God has next for our congregation. The baton is being passed, and we have formed a pastoral search committee, prayerfully seeking the shepherd God is preparing for us.

We are also committed to providing transparency and frequent updates to our church family throughout the search process.



Check this webpage for continued updates regarding the search as well as a Lead Pastor Profile and an FAQ!

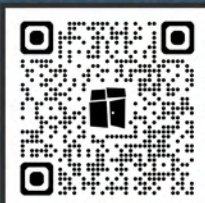
open door counseling & community center

At Open Door, we've been looking for ways we can make a tangible difference in people's lives. We've been praying about it, seeking the Lord's guidance, and listening to leaders in Lorain County to identify the most pressing needs. **The concern that kept coming up over and over again was that we have a**

mental health crisis in Lorain County. In response, and with the support of our boards and the input of local and industry experts, we plan to address this need by launching a new ministry in Downtown Elyria: *Open Door Counseling & Community Center*. Our members approved a property purchase! **We are eager to participate in God's work in Lorain County, and we ask that you continue to pray for the Lord's guidance in the process.**



visit us!



The Center will provide a space for licensed counseling and life-skill classes (such as personal budgeting, health & wellness, and entrepreneurship). **Our mission will be to offer hope and healing to the Lorain County community by providing Christ-centered counseling and services rooted in biblical principles and clinical expertise.**

Zak's Story

Ten years ago, I was the Student Ministry Director at the newly opened Vermilion Campus. I loved the church, but we were struggling financially. Our newborn son was extremely sick: he was having seizures, spent much of his first year in the hospital, and had to see four different specialists. The medical bills piled up until they weren't going to collections anymore. We were getting sued.

—L. He announced and proclaimed it

I needed to provide for my family, and ministry just didn't pay enough. The church kept me on staff as long as possible to help us through the transition, but I found a job as a corrections officer since working for the government would give us better medical insurance. **But transitioning from ministry to a prison was intense in ways I wasn't prepared for.**

I'd struggled with depression since high school. Doctors told me I had a chemical imbalance. Working in the prison made things worse. I wasn't the same man anymore. I turned to alcohol to deal with the stress and bitterness, which put a strain on my marriage.

Then, within just a few weeks, I was assaulted in the prison, my grandfather passed away, and I was assaulted again. The government put me on leave for six months, but it was unpaid, and we were at risk of losing the house. I worked odd jobs just to survive. Everything was falling apart—my job, my marriage, my family, my faith.

My wife kept taking the kids to church every Sunday, but I had stopped going. I was praying, but I felt like God wasn't listening. Why keep showing up when I felt abandoned by Him?

One Sunday in December 2019, my wife asked, yet again, "Are you going to church?" As always, I said no. **But something about that day was different.** God grabbed me by the shoulders and punched me in the mouth. I felt compelled to go. So, begrudgingly, I did. I came late and snuck into the back of the service. My wife didn't even know I was there.

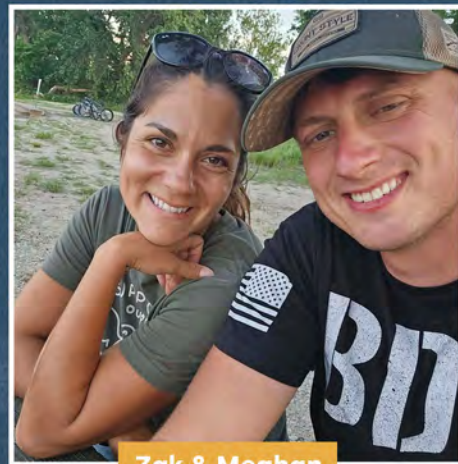
Toward the end of the sermon, Pastor Jim said something I'll never forget: **"Everything you pray for that God gives you, and doesn't give you, is a test of your faith."**

At that moment, I realized I'd been asking God to take my problems away, but I had never truly given them to Him. **So right there, I surrendered everything. I told Him, no matter how hard I work or how hard I try, I can't do this on my own.**

And you know what? Everything changed.

Right after that service, a buddy called needing help with some paid work, and then the very next day, the state called to say they were back-paying me for all the time I'd been off. That was just the beginning of how God provided.

Now, six years later, my life has completely flipped. God freed me from depression and opened up so many opportunities. I left the prison and now work for the Elyria Police Department and



Zak & Meghan

the Army. Because of those transitions, I've been able to help lead the Safety Team at Open Door, teach safety seminars with the county EMA, and train church staff, schools, and businesses on de-escalation in potentially dangerous situations.

I had felt imprisoned in my own brokenness, but God used all of it to break me down to the point where I'd finally trust Him. **He had been working the entire time; I just couldn't see it.**



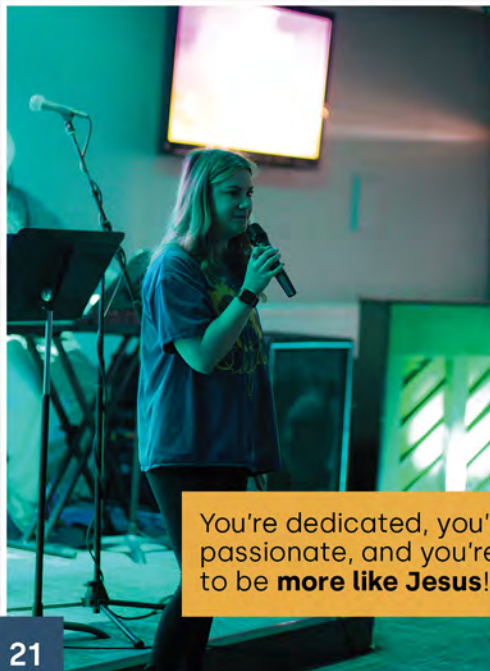
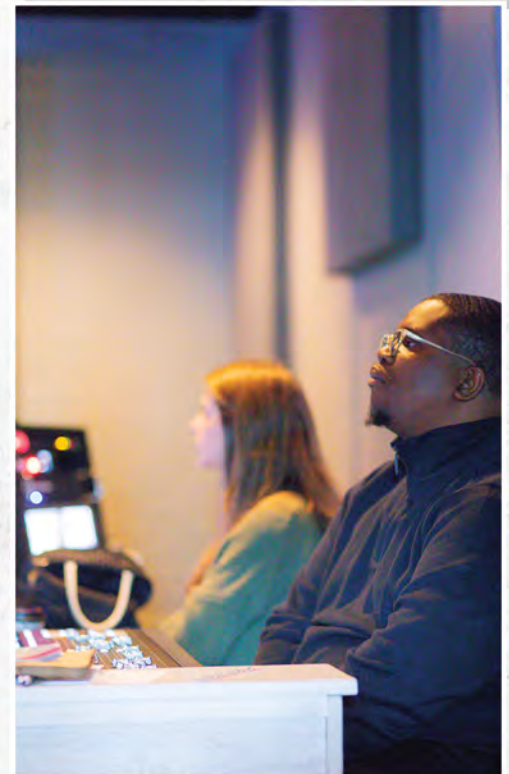
661 volunteers over 171 ministry roles



108 volunteer leaders



thank you,
volunteers!



You're dedicated, you're
passionate, and you're growing
to be **more like Jesus!**



YEAR-END GIVING PROJECT

Every year, we love to do a **Year-End Giving Project**, which allows us express generosity and share the love of Christ with others. Coming together as a church family to support a community in need has become a cherished tradition. When we give, we're participating in God's work and opening a door to provide hope and light for the people that need it most.



Scan the QR code to get more information about the Year-End Giving Project for 2025 as well as details on how to give. We are so excited for this season of joy-filled generosity!

5 WAYS TO GIVE

TO CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR



opendoor.tv/give



"GIVE" to
440.323.4644

All donations are tax-deductible.

