

Flowers That Never Fade

Give a gift that lasts for eternity

Open Door Ministry, Amridge University, PO Box 240240, Montgomery, AL 36124-0240

Tax-Deductible Contribution:

Here is my/our gift of \$ _____ to help preach the Gospel to the lost of this world. These funds will help to evangelize the nations, conduct medical missions, provide benevolence to the poor in the Philippines and Guyana, educate Gospel preachers to evangelize the Philippines, and be missionaries to China.

Memorial/Honor Gift

In Memory/Honor of: _____
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Honorariums & Memorials

In Memory of Vernon Newbill By Camilla Newbill

In Memory of Rex Turner By Demar, Dixie and John Elam

In Memory of Vernon Newbill by Demar, Dixie & John Elam

Please make check payable to Amridge University and mail to address above.

IMPORTANT: Mark the lower left corner of check: Demar Elam/Missions. This will assure the funds are placed in the special mission account set up for this work.

Amridge University
 Open Door Newsletter
 PO Box 240240
 Montgomery, AL 36124-0240

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Philippines & Beyond

“to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s sphere of accomplishments” II Cor. 10:16

2017 A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE—LET’S RISE UP AND CONQUER! LET’S PRAY AND WORK AND MAKE 2017 THE GREATEST SUCCESSFUL YEAR TO DATE!

Let us pray: Dear God please bless our efforts in this New Year and may all we do bring honor and glory to your Awesome and Holy name! As we launch out into 2017 let us begin by praying and asking God to bless our efforts. Let each Christian, eldership and congregation involved in this great work express gratitude to the Majestic God we serve for the multitude of blessings He has already bestowed and request His blessings throughout 2017. As we set sail into uncharted opportunities and obstacles we will face in 2017 we need to realize that God is in control and He is our strength and shield. The Psalmist said: “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psa. 27:1

Let us go forth in all our efforts this year realizing that without God we are nothing. Let us depend upon God to be our light, salvation and the strength of our lives. Let us not be afraid of anyone or anything because God, (the great “I A M”) is our God and we need not fear. We can achieve the seemingly impossible if we put our full faith in God and depend on Him to lead us in our efforts throughout 2017. Let EXCITEMENT AND TRUST in God guide our steps throughout this year of promise and challenge. Let’s be strong, brave and courageous throughout 2017!

The Lord Willing, China in 2017!

Now is the time for us to launch out and send some of ACU’s graduates into China for additional education as we make preparation to take the Gospel into China. This is such an exciting time in our work. The Lord willing, we will be sending Kevin Kim Collado, his wife Medeline and Warvin Timan to China this year. They will be going to learn the Mandarin language and some of the cultural norms of the Chinese culture. They will stay in China for two years. Kevin and Warvin will return to teach the Mandarin language at ACU. They will prepare future preachers and missionaries for service in China for many years to come, Lord willing.



Left to Right: Medeline and Kevin Kim Collado, Warvin Timan and Junas Sagurit

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OPEN DOOR MINISTRY WEBSITE • Please visit our website: <http://www.theopendoorministry.com>

“...See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it...” Rev. 3:8

Our Fellow Helpers This is a combined list of contributors to Open Door Ministry last month.

Adairsville Church of Christ, Adairsville, GA
 Austinville Church of Christ, Decatur, AL
 Barnesville Church of Christ, Barnesville, GA
 Bethel Church of Christ, Athens, AL
 Cedar Grove Church of Christ, Andalusia, AL
 Central Church of Christ, Dalton, GA
 Central Church of Christ, Saraland, AL
 College Ave. Church of Christ, Enterprise, AL
 Dasher Church of Christ, Dasher, GA
 Decatur Hwy. Church of Christ, Gardendale, AL
 Elba Church of Christ, Elba, AL
 Elkmont Church of Christ, Elkmont, AL
 Fair Haven Church of Christ, Moulton, AL
 Florence Blvd. Church of Christ, Florence, AL

Foley Church of Christ, Foley, AL
 Forest Park Church of Christ, Forest Park, GA
 Grant Church of Christ, Grant, AL
 Gurley Church of Christ, Gurley, AL
 Kannapolis Church of Christ, Kannapolis NC
 Liberty Church of Christ, Elba, AL
 Madison Church of Christ, Madison, AL
 Midway Church of Christ, Jasper, AL
 Moultrie Church of Christ, Moultrie, GA
 Nashville Rd. Church of Christ, Gallatin, TN
 Neely’s Bend Church of Christ, Madison, TN
 North Church St church of Christ, Thomaston, GA
 North River Church of Christ, Parrish, FL
 Panama St Church of Christ, Montgomery, AL

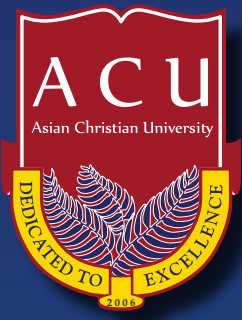
Prattville, Church of Christ, Prattville, AL
 Resaca church of Christ, Resaca, GA
 Salem Church of Christ, Honoraville, AL
 Seven Oaks Church of Christ, Mayfield, KY
 Sharpesville Church of Christ, Sharpesville, TN
 Sylvester Church of Christ, Sylvester, GA
 Tallassee Church of Christ, Tallassee, AL
 Union Church of Christ, Somerville, AL
 University Church of Christ, Mobile, AL
 West Hobbs St. Church of Christ, Athens, AL
 Westside Church of Christ, Griffin, GA
 West Valley Church of Christ, Goodyear, AZ
 Willow Ave. Church of Christ, Cookeville, TN

M/M Bob Bain
 Ms. Rejetta Q. Balentine
 M/M David Bath
 Mrs. Patricia Beasley
 Ms. Thelma Blue
 Ms. Anne Brown
 M/M Lamar Burkhalter
 M/M Stan Coppage
 M/M Norman Crafton
 M/M Demar Elam, Sr.
 Mr. Ronald Givens

M/M Johnny Graves
 M/M Jeff Hannah
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 Miss Kaylee Helton
 M/M Charles Hendrickson
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 Ms. Teddy Mears

M/M Gary Moore
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 Master Chapel Parr
 Miss Rylie Parr
 Ms. Satrina Plyler
 M/M Calvin Reneau
 Mr. Rex Roberts
 Mrs. Jean Scott
 M/M Wayne Shew
 Mr. Bill Smith

Ms. Roberta Sweetland
 M/M Bill Thomas
 Mrs. Ethelene Tucker
 M/M Ronnie Tucker
 M/M Danny Vines
 M/M Gerald Watson
 M/M Dick Weber
 Miss Karen Williams
 M/M Wan Yates



Asian Christian University

25 YEARS OF THE LORD'S WORK IN RUSSIA

By Marlon Rutherford

This past June marked the 25th year of involvement in the work of the Lord in the former Soviet Union. In the spring of 1991 the Midway Church of Christ Elders in Trinity, Alabama made the decision to send three men through the door that God had opened. In June of that year Mike Nix, Harold Pirtle, and Marlon Rutherford from Midway congregation along with Demar Elam of Athens, Alabama traveled together to Moscow, Russia. We departed Moscow and went separate directions to preach the Gospel. Mike and Harold took a 30 hour train ride due south from Moscow to Odessa, Ukraine. Demar and Marlon took a 28 hour train ride due North to Syktyvkar, Russia.

Since this initial trip many others have made trips all over the former Soviet Union; as far north to Vorkuta, Russia where weather reaches below minus 60 degrees. (as one Russian brother said this place is the "uttermost part" that Luke was talking about in Acts 1:8) as far east as the Sakhalin Island, Russia; to Magadan, Russia which is in the northeast and even to the war torn cities of the Donetsk Region of Ukraine: Gorlovka, Yenakiyevo, Makeevka establishing the Lord's Church.

This past October, the Syktyvkar Church of Christ celebrated 25 years in existence as the Lord's Church. The first worship on October 20, 1991 was in the Syktyvkar State University room 406 where 70 attended. There were seven American brethren who were in attendance at the first worship service: Demar Elam (Athens, Alabama) Marlon Rutherford (Town Creek, AL) Joe Williams and Ken Miller (Northport, AL) Roger Thomas and the late Greer Cagle (Trinity, AL) and the late Harold Rutherford (Town Creek).

After the worship, this past October (with about 150 present) there was a great fellowship with many sharing stories from the beginning of the congregation. There were some simple gifts given such as aprons for the women, a toaster for the fellowship room, and probably the most touching was a large bag full of cabbage from the Mezhador congregation. Yes, "cheerful giver" 2 Corinthians 9:7 was seen on this great day.

Yes there have many obstacles in the way such as the government passing laws which prohibited public evangelism, laws against any congregation that was not registered with the government for 15 years could not own or rent facilities to worship, several brethren have been denied visas. Even, now there is propaganda on TV against any religious group that has ties to America will be destroyed.

However, the Lord's Church is still pressing forward with great faith in Jesus Christ. Yes, as Paul records in Acts 14:27 "...all that God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith..." The door remains open that God opened and may we encourage those who can still go to do so and those who have been to return as Paul said to Barnabas in Acts 15:36 "...let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they do..."

In the words of one of our Russian brothers "Thank you for not giving up on Russia"



Mission Team in June 1991



Tatyana, Arkady (new convert) and Marlon



Worship service on October 21, 1991



Young Christian Men at Syktyvkar



Worship service 25 years later on October 23, 2016



Christ's Happy Childhaven

HOLIDAY PARTY AND GIFTS FOR THE LITTLE ONES AT CHRIST'S HAPPY CHILDHAVEN

Thanks to those who gave funds for the orphans at CHC so they could have a grand Christmas. They were given a Christmas party and received gifts provided by generous and caring American Christians who gave financially so these wonderful children could enjoy the season. I know God is pleased with His children who give sacrificially to provide proper care for homeless children.



Elementary School Christmas Party



Kids enjoy Christmas Party with Sister Michele



Kids show their Christmas gifts



Junas with all the children and the house parents.



Girls are pleased with the clothes they received for Christmas

FINAL REPORT ON TYPHOON HAIMA RELIEF

God bless each person, eldership and congregation that contributed to the needs of those suffering from the destructive forces of typhoon Haima, a category 5 storm. Junas reports that the Christians who received assistance are extremely grateful. May God bless all who opened their hearts and shared their material blessings with those who suffered great loss! I love all of the wonderful supporters of the work being done in the Philippines. I know God will bless each of you for your liberality.