

# ALAN HARRIS MINISTRIES

*So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. - 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

October 2015



## Football and fall are inseparable in the United States!

As we look back over the last six weeks in our ministry, the teamwork of thousands of high school, college, and professional football teams reminds us that we as Christians are part of an important team. Our families, our churches, and our ministries all work together to overcome evil with good (Romans 12). We hope that each of you who read this newsletter realize the potential influence you have as you use the gifts God has graced you with to fulfill your position on His team. Our own ministry depends on your teamwork of prayer and giving to help us move forward in our efforts to follow the game plan God has given us. That game plan is to partner with pastors, missionaries, and other ministry leaders to spread the Gospel and to encourage believers to do the work of the ministry with renewed fervor due to their genuine gratefulness and love for their Savior.

*We are grateful to those who have allowed us to team up with them in the recent weeks since our last newsletter.....*

### **Kennett Square Missionary Baptist Church in Kennett Square, PA**

has invited us to minister in their church on numerous occasions since we met the pastor, Robert Vannoy over 25 years ago. It has been our privilege to partner with Pastor Vannoy through the years to reach out to the lost in his community, as well as to encourage him and his church to work faithfully through the ups and downs of the ministry. We were glad to see how God is blessing them as their team continues to plan new strategies to reach the goals God has given them. ☺

### **Open Door Church in Chambersburg, PA**, teams up with us in a number of ways.

☺ They are a part of Alan Harris Ministries all year long by way of *monthly financial support and prayer*. Alan is a missionary-evangelist who is supported solely by donations, and we are grateful to Open Door Church and others who recognize the need for ongoing income to enable our ministry to continue to function.

☺ Officially named Alan Harris Evangelistic Association (AHEA), Alan Harris Ministries is required to be directed by a Board of at least three advisers. Pastor Mike Sanders serves as one of these *Board Members*. You may remember a picture we printed in a past newsletter of Pastor Mike along with Pastor Ronnie Riggins from New Cumberland, PA, and Pastor Bill Haken from Harrisburg, PA. Pastor Mike, Open Door Church, and the rest of the board and their churches have offered invaluable advice and fellowship for many years.

☺ Pastor Mike and the leadership of Open Door Church recognize that, in the words of Pastor Mike, Alan "is gifted in the ability to adapt to many forums such as conferences, banquets, stewardship themes, youth rallies, etc."

Open Door has a gifted team of leaders in each of these areas, but acknowledging the truth of Ephesians 4:11 and the biblical precedent of the use of the evangelist in the local church, *Mike has invited us to minister* in all of the above mentioned facets.

Most recently, on Sunday, September 13, we had a busy Sunday working in three different areas.

Sunday School: Alan brought a challenging and relevant message to the high school class.

Morning worship: Alan not only took part in the musical worship, but preached a timely message on tithing as part of the church's September stewardship emphasis.

Sunday evening: The faithful and busy group of people that serves in the Open Door choir takes a few weeks off during the summer months. As they gathered to regroup for the fall of 2015 and the coming year, Alan spent a few hours with worship leader Conroy Lewis and the choir. The choir clinic included a time of focus on the role of the singers in leading the church to join in worship and praise. Technical aspects of vocal training were also addressed and music rehearsed in preparation for use in a Sunday service.



Pastor Mike, Loryn, Terri, Conroy



Conroy Lewis, Alan and Choir



Alan with the Open Door Choir

## We enjoy teaming up with churches for special events!

Alan preached and sang as we celebrated with **Baptist Tabernacle in Carlisle, OH** at their annual *Homecoming Sunday*. We appreciate the long relationship we have had with Pastor Mike Gray as we remember being invited to their Homecomings in the early years of Pastor Mike's pastorate in Carlisle. What a joy it has been to see the church grow over the years! On a personal note, they have had a special place in our lives because our three sons regularly attended an impactful youth camp with youth pastor Doug Kraus and the youth group. ☺

**Southside Baptist Church in Dover, Delaware** gave us the privilege of helping them celebrate a recent *church Anniversary*. Pastor Chris Kondracki also invited Alan to preach and sing at the Delaware/Maryland Baptist Bible Fellowship meeting which Southside hosted the same week. Pastor Chris and his wife Traci and Southside have been team members with us for many years as they have allowed us to minister there and also provided us a place to stay -their church mission apartment- while we were involved in other meetings in the area. ☺



Alan preaching for Anniversary Sunday at Southside Baptist Church in Dover, DE.



Attending the Fellowship Meeting was Lois Fitzpatrick, whose husband, the late Rev. Herbert Fitzpatrick was the founding pastor of Calvary Baptist in Connersville, IN.

It is unusual that in such a short amount of time we would minister in three of our *supporting churches*. Along with Open Door Church, we enjoyed *special services* with **First Baptist Church in Winamac, IN** and **Victory Baptist Church in Apopka, FL**. Both of these churches are small churches who, when made aware of the need, stepped up to do what they could to join our team with prayer and regular financial support. They are smaller in number than some churches, but they are a huge blessing to us and are doing a great job in discipling believers and reaching out to others in their communities. Their impact reaches around the world with their faithful giving to missions. We are glad to be a partner with them in their efforts for the kingdom. ☺



*Man was not made to work alone.* This is proven true throughout Scripture. Noah's family helped build the ark. Aaron and Hur stood with Moses as did Joshua. Jesus trained and commissioned twelve disciples (and more). Paul named numerous friends who helped him along the way personally and in ministry. Whether it be a couple, a family, a nation, an army, a dozen men, or a church, God made man to work together, each using his individual gifts and talents to glorify God.

No one knows everything about everything! Those who think they do are full of pride and usually work alone because no one can bear to work with them! Some are indeed skillful in many areas, but those who think they have to do everything by themselves usually end up overworked and stressed, causing everyone around them misery on their journey to burning out. Every successful venture requires a team of more than one to accomplish lasting results.

Each October marks the beginning of a new year in the ministry of missionary/evangelism for Alan Harris Ministries. As we enter year 34, we are realizing with ever greater understanding the importance of a strong team to accomplish the work God has called us to do. While football is on the mind of a nation, with each team striving to win the championship, we thank God for our team of friends and supporters. With your continued help, we will be victorious in our goal of reaching more people with the Gospel and encouraging believers to be passionate about loving and serving God. ☺

**Thank you for reading all the way to the end of this longer-than-usual newsletter!** Perhaps you have been thinking about *joining our support team* in some way. Whether it be through prayer, regular support, a single donation, or any other idea God has given you that might help us as we minister, please contact us at [alanharrisfamily@cs.com](mailto:alanharrisfamily@cs.com). You may also visit [alanharrisministries.org](http://alanharrisministries.org), where you can make a donation or simply leave us a note of encouragement. We also welcome your prayer requests. ☺