



Open Church Ministries NewsPage

2015 New Year Edition

JIM RUTZ On December 10th Jim entered his eternal Home. We honor his memory and pay tribute to a generous man, brilliant thinker, and lover of Christ and His church.
1938 – 2014 Read Jim’s obituary at: www.cappadonafh.com.

A Brief Historical Overview of Open Church Ministries (OCM)

- We (Lynn & Linda) met Jim in Atlanta in 1992 during his book tour of *The Open Church* and later led an open church session during the 1997 OCM National Conference in Atlanta.
- In 1998, Dean Cozzens helped us lead OCM one-day church planting seminars throughout the USA and into Canada. OCM was a *for-profit* company owned by Jim during this time.
- Two unproductive meetings in January and February 1999 were held in Colorado Springs to explore the future direction of Jim’s OCM organization. We did not attend these meetings.
- August 4-6, 1999, we did meet with Jim to discuss forming a *nonprofit* organization called Network of Open Church Ministries to replace his *for-profit* OCM organization. He asked that I (Lynn) be President. His attorney in Colorado did the incorporation and our CPA firm in Georgia did the 501(c)(3) tax-exempt work. The Open Church office was moved from Colorado Springs to Portal, Georgia.
- Jim seeded money for the new Network of Open Church Ministries, aka Open Church Ministries until 2007. His support combined with gifts from across the USA and Canada helped plant open churches on five continents and train some 40,000 people in our seminars since 1999. For example, on our last trip to New Zealand, 51 couples committed to start house churches at the end of the OCM training sessions.

The Future Path

2014 was the most productive year for Open Church Ministries since 2010, with training events in Denmark and several cities in the USA. 2015 promises even greater opportunities as we continue expanding Jim’s legacy and Christ’s commission of opening the church up to *everyone* through seminars and planting open churches worldwide. During the past 16 years we have taught and demonstrated how speaking blessings are key ingredients in opening meetings up—large or small—for greater participation. We call these seminars, *Power of Blessing*. For example, Sam in Minneapolis said, “I would have come 2,000 miles to hear this. There are millions who need this teaching.” Many of you have the vision of opening the church up so people can share what they brought to the meeting (I Cor. 14:26). This is the mandate we invite you to share with us as the Holy Spirit provides opportunities and finances through like-minded people. If you’d like to have a Power of Blessing seminar in your area, let us know.

To Jim Rutz—a uniquely gifted man and out-of-the-box thinker, “Thank you, dear Friend.”

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