



ATLAS Group

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

Connecting on the Road of Life

Fall 2006

The Junction



**Serving,
Connecting,
and Equipping
Communities to
Touch Lives for Christ**

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"To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." ~ Ephesians 4:12-13

A Life Touched in Sioux Falls

A young man phoned ATLAS of Sioux Falls one day asking for help with his financial struggles. It became clear his major setback was making payments on a house he could not afford. Besides his financial trouble, his mother was ill with cancer. He also wished to complete college and get a job in education working with young people.

The client has been coming to sessions each week. He knows God has a plan for his life, but got lost in his pain. Now, God's plan is starting to be revealed. ATLAS worked with the client to find a real estate agent to try sell the house. He also got a job working as a teacher's aide and will be coaching a YMCA basketball team.

Those who are familiar with ATLAS have probably heard stories like this before. Unfortunately, they can be taken for granted. But we must not forget stories like this, stories of lives changed through love are at the heart of ATLAS.

Paul, in his first letter to the Church in Corinth wrote, "Love never fails," and "The greatest of these is love." Paul also wrote to the Colossians "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord continue to live in him..." We are called to put what we have learned into action - to live it. Following Christ is to love; love is a verb. If we are content with keeping our faith to ourselves, without action, we have missed what God yearns for us to experience - the life changing power of love.

Pit Stop

During my latest trips to Minneapolis and Kansas City, I was reflecting on the “good old days” - when I was leading the ATLAS of Sioux Center team and just *thinking* about expansion. That was a very painful and uncertain time. Now, as this pain and uncertainty has re-surfaced, I am reminded of what God taught me then and would like to share it with you.

-*Be Prayerful* (Philippians 4:6-7). God uses difficult times to show us that if we are prayerful and admit our inability to control our own lives, He will guide us. Not only that, He will give us peace on the journey. We need to be reminded that He is in control, and the greatest peace is prayerfully surrendering our will over to Him.

-*Be Diligent* (Proverbs 22:29). Living the Christian life is not easy, and often we find passion is not enough; we need diligence as well. Webster defines diligence as *persevering* and *painstaking*. God reveals to us that if we are to walk the narrow road, part of the journey will be painful and uncertain. Yet we must still press on and do our part for the kingdom. The greatest example of this is obviously Jesus. Jesus’ road lead to the cross, and he knew it. If you need an example of faith through struggles, turn to Gethsemane. In the end, Jesus’ life was love, and he gave that life away. Although this all seems harsh, Paul tells us, “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us (Romans 8:18).”

Living the Christian life is not easy, and often we find passion is not enough...

-*Be Watchful* (Proverbs 3:5-6). I hear people say, “Man, that was lucky!” I’ve come to call it, “Blessed.” You have to be aware of God’s unfolding work. Be on the lookout; he is all over the place!

-*Be Thankful* (Psalm 103:2-5). It can be hard to be thankful; so much of what we have we take for granted. Say please and thank you for all we get in life, and God will work miracles in us and in those around us.

As of late, my family has been very blessed by many of you in our time of need. To all of you who support my family and the ATLAS family, I say, “Thank you.” Thank you for giving of yourself to bless others as Christ did.



With much Love ~ Jerry Kieft

Meet Nathan Stob



Nathan Stob is now the official Director of ATLAS Orange City Area. Nate first heard about ATLAS a number of months ago when we was visiting his in-laws who volunteer as mentors at ATLAS of Sioux Center. Nate, having some background in Christian ministry, was intrigued by ATLAS, and found himself visiting the Orange City office. That day, Jerry happened to also be visiting and explained ATLAS to Nate. Nate flew back to California where he was a fourth grade teacher. He liked teaching but, having a masters in Christian Leadership, was always hoping to do more in the ministry field. Nate eventually heard that ATLAS Orange City Area was looking for a new director, and he applied. This led to an interview this past May and, as it turns out, a new job.

Nate and his family moved from California to Orange City in early July. He's still settling in but is looking forward to making a lot of contacts. "People in Orange City have been very welcoming," says Nate. I guess Orange City can still take pride in its famed Dutch hospitality. Now Nate is "hitting the circuit" as his family looks for a home church.

Welcome aboard Nate! We're excited to see what God has in store for you and Orange City as you begin your new position!

ATLAS of Winnebago Opens Its Doors!

On June 4th, ATLAS of Winnebago opened it's doors to the public. The opening was celebrated with prayer and sharing of the Word. Justin spoke from 2 Corinthians 5 about being ministers of reconciliation. Right now the office is staffed by two Direct Service Providers, Elaine Juhl and Mary Beth Short Bull. Pastor Darrell Dalmond volunteers his time as Director. As of late July, they have had nineteen clients. They have also been aggressively proactive seeking their community's resources and sharing their services with other organizations. They will also host a community prayer meeting the last Wednesday of each month.



"Its been a learning experience; that's for sure," says Mary Beth. "But so far so good." The community has readily welcomed ATLAS and are seeking their services. In the future, they hope to find more prayer warriors and a financial counselor. Keep up the great work!

ATLAS Group Makes Appearance at SonShine

On July 14, ATLAS Group again went on the road, destination: Willmar, Minnesota for the annual Christian music festival, SonShine. We decided to get ourselves a booth to present the idea of ATLAS to potentially interested communities. We came prepared with a display board, table, dozens of business cards and brochures, folders, television screens, and tootsie rolls.

The crowd was perhaps a bit young for people interested in starting an ATLAS, but our presence was fruitful. Overall, we gathered the names of 25 potential contacts. Even if they weren't interested in ATLAS, the free tootsie rolls were still a big hit.

Besides presenting ATLAS, we were also busy listening to great music. Chris Tomlin, Audio Adrenaline, Reliant K, Thousand Foot Krutch, Jeremy Camp, Stryper, Toby Mack, and others were all present. Amy Keahi, Director of ATLAS of Sioux Center, and her husband Tony readily professed themselves as huge Chris Tomlin fans. "Oh, the worship stuff they do... instead of a concert, it was just a great big worship service." says Amy.



The Newsboys were also scheduled, but a freak thunderstorm Thursday night cancelled their appearance. This storm not only cancelled events, but also blew over dozens of tents and soaked countless campers. Never-the-less, we were truly blessed by our experience at SonShine, and hopefully, we connected with someone in search of a ministry.

Using the New Website

The new website has been completed! ATLAS Group took on Brady Fopma from Dordt College in Sioux Center. The site contains information on what ATLAS actually does, how to establish a new ATLAS, introductions to the existing ATLAS offices, basic contact information and online donations.

The website also serves as a connecting point for the ATLAS community. "ATLAS Talk" is a message board where new thoughts and resources can be shared by staff & board members. If you have not yet registered for this service, do so ASAP. If you don't know how, contact Justin, and he'll get you connected. Events, prayer requests, and praises can also be posted on your office page. Again, for help, contact Justin. The address for the site is www.atlasgroup ltd.org.

ATLAS for Life Takes on New Staff



Diane Miller

ATLAS for Life has recently doubled the size of their staff with the addition of an Office Manager, Mentor Coordinator, and Prayer Coordinator. Diane Miller has recently moved from Wausa, Nebraska to take up the office manager position. Diane has three grown children, two daughters and a son, who still live in Nebraska. She started work on July 10 and has been doing a wonderful job.

Deb Spronk has accepted the position of Mentor Coordinator. Deb is married to Dr. Gordon Spronk, a veterinarian in Pipestone. Deb not only brings another heart of service to the team, but a strong decorative flair. Her first line of business was helping ATLAS for Life settle into its Pipestone office with some great decorating.



Deb Spronk



Linda Mouw

Linda Mouw has answered the call for Prayer Coordinator. Linda is the wife of Brad Mouw who helps with the family business, Mouw Feed and Grain. Together they have three children.

Exciting things are happening! We are excited to see what God has in store for Pipestone!

Greensboro Comes to Iowa for Training

On June 6th, ATLAS of Greensboro, Georgia, found themselves in northwest Iowa for their staff training. The training lasted for two days and consisted of group discussions, one on one talks with staff counterparts, and office tours. Lynn and Justin led the training. Lynn, who has been with ATLAS since the beginning was able to speak from ATLAS' history, and Justin, who came aboard nearly two years ago, was able to speak from a point of experience regarding start-ups.

Mike Daniel, the Director of ATLAS of Greensboro, says, "It was a great success... and gave us a chance to process together and reflect back on what we did "okay" and what we needed to improve." Mike explained they were in the typical place for any start-up, and the timing for the training was really perfect. "We had some experiences and came hungry... It was basically sharpening what we already had and raising the bar". Well, we had a blast Greensboro and look forward to the chance of being with you again!

A Word about Mentoring from Carol

“Do you have enough Mentors?” is a question often asked of me as Mentoring Coordinator for ATLAS of Sioux Center. The answer I often give is “Yes, just enough.” As God gave daily manna to the Israelites in the Old Testament, so He gives us what we need for the day as we care for His children.

“Where do you find mentors?” is another commonly asked question, and a good one. The answer is that God supplies them through a variety of means. Sometimes we learn of potential mentors as we talk with pastors; sometimes we hear of new mentors from current ATLAS mentors who recommend other caring Christians. Often, people themselves call our office and ask for information about our mentoring program. We then follow up with these contacts.

Recently, a couple came to visit and asked about becoming ATLAS mentors. They had been in a Bible study with some folks who were serving as ATLAS mentors and wanted to get involved too. One of the best ways to find a mentor is by asking the prospective mentoree. One young man gave me the names of two men who had already been an encouragement in his life.

Four years ago when I took on the position of mentor coordinator, I thought I could do it on my own with a little help from God. Today, as I scan our list of over sixty mentors, I know it is God who has trained by experience and recruited through His spirit each and every mentor on this list. And it is God who has guided me, along with the rest of our staff, as we pair mentor to mentoree.

ATLAS Prayer Updates

ATLAS of Winnebago: Sensitivity to the movement of the Holy Spirit through their startup, finding prayer warriors and a financial counselor

ATLAS of Greensboro: Continued growth and community acceptance

ATLAS for Life: Guidance as they explore their new team dynamic

ATLAS of Lyon County: For people to seek their services

ATLAS of Sioux Falls: Finances, searching for a location within city limits, help finding an office manager

ATLAS Orange City Area: New Director settling in

ATLAS of Sioux Center: Continued direction is reaching out to the Latino community and praise for great volunteers and financial support

ATLAS Group: Discernment as we guide communities looking for ATLAS

Calendar of Events

AUGUST

- 3 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center
7-9 pm Central Ref Church
- 8 - ATLAS Orange City Area Picnic
- 30 - Community Prayer Meeting - Winnebago



Birthdays

- 26 - Diane Miller - Office Manager - ATLAS for Life
- 28 - Ron Krosschell - Board - ATLAS for Life
- 30 - Greg Alderman - Board - ATLAS Group

SEPTEMBER

- 7 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center
7-9pm Christ Community Church
- 20 - Fundraiser for ATLAS for Life at the
Edgerton Pizza Ranch - 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- 27 - Community Prayer Meeting - Winnebago

Birthdays

- 1 - Travis Vander Stouwe - Board - ATLAS of Sioux Falls
- 15 - Ivan Vogel - Board - ATLAS for Life
- 22 - Paul Cunningham - Board - ATLAS for Life
- 24 - Matt Hulstein - Summer Intern - ATLAS Group
- 26 - Scott Mulder - Board - ATLAS Orange City Area
- 28 - Lynn Schelling - Developer - ATLAS Group
- 30 - Jan Schuiteman - Board - ATLAS Group & ATLAS of Sioux Center



OCTOBER

- ATLAS: Orange City Area moves to new building
- 5 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center
7-9 pm Christ Community Church
- 29 - Community Prayer Meeting - Winnebago

Birthdays

- 18 - Joann Holtrop - DSP - ATLAS of Sioux Falls
- 18 - Jerry Kieft - Director - ATLAS Group
- 23 - Mel Pottebaum - DSP - ATLAS of Sioux Center
- 28 - Justin Vandewater - Developer - ATLAS Group
- 30 - Mike Daniel - Director - ATLAS of Greensboro & Board - ATLAS Group





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~ Ephesians 4:12-13



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