



# ATLAS Group

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

Connecting on the Road of Life

Feb 2006

## The Junction



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Serving,  
Connect-

and Equip-

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-

### Are We Resting So We Can Risk?

Take a look at the picture below. You can see God's hand molding and shaping the clay - He is the Potter! We are the pot - the clay. Isaiah 64:8, *“Yet, O Lord, you are our Father, we are the clay, you are the potter and we are all the work of your hand.”* We need to be molded and shaped by God in order for us to do what He calls us to. Ephesians 2:10, *“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Did you see that - which He prepared in **advance** - God already has a plan for us. The Message states it pretty bluntly, Romans 9:20a, *“Who in the world do you think you are to second-guess God?”* He knows what

He is doing. We just need to be obedient to His calling for us. You are here “for such a time as this.” When was the last time you sat still and let God mold and shape you?



## Pit Stop - What Leaders Must Do to Build ATLAS

Here is the question I've been asked the most lately: What kind of things must ATLAS leaders learn to do very well to build the ATLAS in their community? It's a question I'm asking myself all the time. I believe the answer to this question lies in the term self-leadership. For me, this means that as a leader, I'm bought into the ATLAS concept and I'm in it for the long haul. We understand that this is about God, His children and seeing His kingdom grow. You as leaders have to take care of yourself and your team. This is the only way to ensure you will sustain the ministry joyfully over a long period of time.

Bill Hybels definition of self-leadership is: "the leaders ability to navigate the highs and lows of ministry. It's the ability to overcome personal discouragement, to maintain sober-mindedness in crisis, to keep ego at bay at all times, and to stay focused on the mission. It's the discipline to always ask: Is my calling sure? Is my vision clear? Is my passion burning?"

It's my prayer for all of us that we can look at these ideas above seriously and that we'd keep the faith and fortitude to pour ourselves into the Bride of Christ. Don't allow yourself to go down because you didn't take the time to regroup, recalibrate, rest, retreat or refresh your soul. Let's learn to cast compelling visions, to build great teams, to put out great service, to raise resources for His kingdom and to do self-leadership that will keep us going so that heaven keeps cheering us on.

May God's hand be on each of you.



In His Grip ~ Jerry Kieft

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## For Next Month

Do you have any great quotes or stories you would like to share with others? Submit them to us so we can share them with our ATLAS Family! ATLAS Group would also like to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries in your office. Inform Justin of any special dates in your office and we will add them to our calendar.

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## ATLAS for Life Moves!!!

As of February 1 ATLAS for Life has a new office location. They have moved to Pipestone, MN. Many people helped in the remodeling of the building. Walls were moved, painting was done and new flooring was installed. Justin even donned his old tool belt and framed in most of the doors! There new address is 510 7th SE, Suite #2, Pipestone, MN 56164 ph: 507-562-5777. Blessings to you in your new office!!



## FranklinCovey

Somewhere along the line you've probably heard of FranklinCovey - The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. It is a course in personal development and Jerry Kieft is now certified to teach the classes. It takes roughly 3 - 8 hours days to complete but can be done in a multitude of ways - 3 consecutive days, 1 day a week for 3 weeks, 1 evening a week for 5-6 weeks - however we can work it out. If any of the Board members, Directors, staff or any others would be interested in being trained or would like more information, please contact the ATLAS Group Office.

## ATLAS of Winnebago

With the 501(c)(3) process nearing completion and an office space being renovated in the basement of the Reformed Church, ATLAS of Winnebago is close to opening their doors. If things continue to fall into place the Winnebago office would begin to see clients coming through their doors as early as April. Pictured is Darrell Dalman, Pastor of Winnebago Reformed Church, who has been instrumental in leading the charge to bring ATLAS to the Winnebago reservation for the last 2 years.



## Mentor Training

ATLAS of Sioux Center will be having a Mentor Training Class on Tuesday, February 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. at their office. If you have some people who need to be trained they would love to have you join them. Please call the Sioux Center office to register - 712-722-4900.



## Quote from Orange City

“I have been so grateful & blessed to have met you guys. You have helped me so very much. I truly have a ‘new life’ this year and I’m so happy. Sober now for 172 days...wow...that’s a miracle in itself. I am getting closer to my family again, have a nice home, good sober friends and a great job. The best news of all is ‘I love my Lord and He loves me.’”

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## ATLAS of Greensboro Opens!

We are happy to announce that ATLAS of Greensboro officially opened their doors on February 1. Their office address is:

112 N Main St  
Greensboro, GA 30642  
Ph: 706-453-7624

Give them a call and welcome them to the team!

The Board of Directors include: Mike Daniel, Ronald Champion, Herman Laguins, Thomas Olsen and Jim Meadows.



L-R: Terrance Stembridge, Thomas Olson, Necie Lewis, Jim Meadows, Mike Daniel, and Ronald Champion.  
Not pictured: Herman Laguins

Those staffing the office are:  
Mike Daniel - Director,  
Terrance Stembridge - DSA, and  
Necie Lewis - Office Manager

We are excited at the team that God has put together in Greensboro. May He continue to bless them as they seek to serve their community! We look forward to working together to further God’s Kingdom!

## Keeping Hope Alive

The first year of ATLAS for Life was a wonderful year, rich in many blessings yet tight on financial resources! Most of the time we only had enough funds for each day, the bills were paid on time but the checks for payroll were often delayed. But God in His faithfulness provided for our needs one day at a time, much like He provided just enough manna for the Israelites each day in the wilderness.

Then came the exhilarating month of December, the decision had been made to relocate to Pipestone, it was a couple of days before Christmas, we had less than \$100 in the checking account, had a fuel bill of over \$400 and insurance payments due before the end of the year. A client came in and asked for gas money and I had to give them groceries instead. The day after Christmas another person called who really needed money for rent, and we knew there was nowhere else for him to turn, but we had to tell him we did not have the money. The only hope we could give him was that if God provided any new funds, he would be the first benefactor.

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During the Christmas season our kids were home and late one evening we received a call from a person who wanted to talk to us. With family home and a hectic month behind us it was very hard to make the time for this person... but we did... and ATLAS for Life was blessed beyond measure! This person needed to see us because he wanted to give us a check to be used specifically for ministering to the needs of hurting people!

The next day we had the privilege of calling the person back who needed rent money and telling him we had the money for him! He then reminded us what we had told him "you never know what God will do." Since then we have had many new clients referred to us from Pipestone. Many are being helped from this generous gift and many more have also come from other sources. God can give a little at a time or a lot at a time, whatever HE lays on a persons heart! Another lesson in trusting Him to supply!!!!!! You never know what God will do!

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## ATLAS of Sioux Falls Chili Supper

On Friday, January 20, ATLAS of Sioux Falls hosted a Chili Supper as a way of saying “Thank You” to their financial supporters, mentors, and volunteers. People were free to come and go as their schedules allowed. The evening was a gas!



## Pray Continually

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”* Philippians 4:6

Remember in your prayers:

ATLAS of Winnebago: 501(c)(3) processing, finances

ATLAS of Greensboro: Community awareness and acceptance

ATLAS for Life: Changing location - searching for an Office Manager

ATLAS of Lyon County: For people to seek their services

ATLAS of Sioux Falls: Finances, searching for a location within city limits

ATLAS of Orange City: Searching for a Director and Office Manager

ATLAS Group: Keep the following communities in prayer as they consider bringing ATLAS into their community -

- ~ Delavin, WI;
- ~ Zeeland, MI;
- ~ Grand Island, NE;
- ~ Overland Park, KS;
- ~ Seattle, WA
- ~ Pella, IA



*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

# *Calendar of Events*

## FEBRUARY

- 1 - ATLAS for Life moved to Pipestone
- 1 - ATLAS of Greensboro office opens
- 2 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center  
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 16 - All ATLAS Boards & Directors Meeting
- 23-26 - Men's Cursillo - Inspiration Hills
- 28 - Mentor Training Workshop - Sioux Center



### Birthdays

- 22 - Eric Walhof - Board - Orange City
- 23 - Steve Michael - Director - Lyon County
- 23 - Allan Kramer - Board - Sioux Center & Orange City
- 23 - Mike De Jong - Board - Sioux Falls
- 26 - Gary Malenke - Board - Orange City

## MARCH

- 2- Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center  
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 2-5 - Women's Cursillo - Inspiration Hills
- 17 - Directors Rest Stop

### Birthdays

- 27 - Stell Menning - ATLAS for Life - Mentoring Coordinator
- 29 - Judy De Kam - Prayer Coordinator - Lyon County

## APRIL

- 6- Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center  
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church

### Birthdays

- 6 - Todd Gillman - Board - ATLAS for Life
- 10 - Jeff Poppinga - DSA - Lyon County
- 22 - Dale Den Herder - Board - ATLAS Group
- 27 - Lloyd Bierma - Board - Sioux Center



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~ Ephesians 4:12-13



Jerry Kieft, Lynn Schelling, Justin Vandewater

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