



ATLAS Group

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control



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

Contents

- *Are You Refueling?*
- *Pit Stop*
- *Justin in Sioux Falls*
- *Upcoming Conference*
- *Sherry's Story -
Greensboro, GA*
- *ATLAS Orange City Area
Relocates*
- *Mentor Training in Pipestone*
- *Birthing ATLAS
at City on a Hill*
- *Calendar of Events*
- *Prayer Updates*

"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

Connecting on the Road of Life

Nov 2006

The Junction

Are You Refueling?

"Great Christian leaders manage their energy to lead for the long haul." Jack L. Groppe.

There are not many dull days at an ATLAS office. There are clients coming in the doors, the phone is ringing, emails to reply to, meetings to attend. Not to mention "uniting the community". That's a busy day! And all day long you've been giving and giving of yourself. When are you going to find time to refuel? You know - Rest before you Risk! I'm not talking about plopping down on the couch when you get home and flipping through the 100+ channels on TV. I'm talking about refueling - putting something back into yourself. There are four ways of refueling - Physical (exercising), Mental (learning), Emotional (family/friend time) or Spiritual. Whatever it is it needs to be a priority in your life - especially when your in the "people" business.

If your like most of us we put it off. But can we really serve and love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength (Mark 12:30) if you haven't refueled? Does your car keep going and going and going without stopping and filling it up with gas? No! And neither will you! Eventually you will run out of gas!

Jesus went off many times by himself. Why? Because He was in the people business too! He knew that He needed to spend time alone with God if He was going to continue helping people. And so do you! Don't feel guilty about taking time for yourself. You will be a better person because of it!

Pit Stop

Greetings from ATLAS Group!

I want to encourage all of you who are reading The Junction today. As followers of Jesus Christ we are all called to some level of leadership. God is always looking for people to step up for His kingdom. And I'm sure you are one of them. You have tremendous capabilities and potential; all you need to do is fully develop them. Developing is about allowing God to change you. The process can be painful, but there will be benefits from it. As you allow God to shape and develop you, remember you are investing in the future. You can fulfill the plan God has for you, but you must be determined to be nothing less than what He has planned for you. The key to becoming who God needs you to be is to keep on keeping on.

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God delights in using common people to accomplish uncommon things. Joyce Meyer said, "Common people with uncommon goals who make an uncommon commitment can help an uncommon number of people who can also lead other common people to do uncommon things."

That's ATLAS!! We need the Church, the Body, to do this. God needs you to give of yourself to this. So develop your potential to the full. Allow God to have you, to shape and mold you, so you can help lead others in developing their potential!

God bless each of you.

In His Grip,
Jerry Kieft



What's Going On at Your ATLAS?

If you have any great quotes or stories that you would like to share with our ATLAS Family, let us know and we'll try to get 'em in our next newsletter. Everyone loves to hear what's been happening in other offices!

A Word from Justin in Sioux Falls

On September 25 I started in a new role as Director of the ATLAS ministry in Sioux Falls, SD. I have been working with new ATLAS start-ups for the last couple of years and am very excited about the opportunity to serve ATLAS in this new capacity. The current network of Christians and service organizations we partner with is growing, and I am very thankful for the work Ron De Wit has done to get ATLAS to this point. There is tremendous faith and optimism throughout the board and staff that this ministry will continue to provide spirited, Christ-like, prayer-driven support to hurting individuals, and become a pillar of hope, encouragement, love and unity in Sioux Falls. My sincere thanks to all of you who provided for me and my family while I worked with ATLAS Group; thanks to Jerry, Lynn and the ATLAS Group board for allowing me the opportunity to grow and work out a few kinks during my time with you. We serve a very good and faithful God!!



I'll leave you with a quote I have been chewing on recently, "There is a connection between heaven and earth and making this connection makes everything meaningful, even death. Missing this connection makes everything meaningless, even life."

Upcoming Conference

Rich Miller, president of Freedom in Christ Ministries will present "A Taste of Freedom", a training on how to use the *Steps to Freedom in Christ* ministry tool. It will be held on Friday November 17th at the ATLAS of Sioux Center office from 8:30am to 5:30pm. Cost is \$50 per person and includes training material and lunch. This training is for those mature believers (pastors, counselors, laity) who have a heart to lead others to deal with their personal and spiritual conflicts.

Please contact Barb at ATLAS of Sioux Center by Nov. 10 to register or if you have any questions.
atlas@mtcnet.net or 712-722-4900



Sherry's Story

Sherry was a seventeen year old high school senior when she entered our office in Greensboro, GA at the suggestion of her employer. Sherry gazed at the floor and spoke so softly that she could barely be heard. She appeared sad and discouraged. Sherry had been sexually active since age fifteen and had been living wherever she could find a spot. She was planning to move to the Atlanta area with her boyfriend.

Yesterday I saw Sherry during one of her regular stops by our office. Sherry now has a beautiful smile and looks directly into your eyes and speaks with confidence. Sherry had a job over the summer and plans to go to college this fall. Her focus is to become educated and trained to work with other youth. She has a joy she wants to share.

What really happened to Sherry? Why have the gifts God put within her begun to blossom? The answer is simple, really. Sherry connected at the soul level with someone who really loves and cares for her. She connected to someone who mentored her. Necie, who is our Office Manager and much more, has walked closely with Sherry and has introduced her to the gospel message and to the principals God provides for life. Sherry now realizes her body belongs to God and she proudly practices abstinence. Terrance, our Direct Service Advocate, helped Sherry apply for college and find financial assistance. Our team has arranged for a wonderful mentor to meet her when she arrives to begin her college experience.

What will God do with Sherry's life? How will He use her to impact others? We don't really know but we believe He is already molding her for His purposes.



ATLAS Orange City Area Relocates

ATLAS Orange City Area has many exciting things happening. They have had many new people coming in and have been blessed to be able to be instruments of God and help them through their struggles.

They recently moved into a new building. Someone from the community saw what ATLAS has been doing in the area and saw that with the addition of staff they needed a new and bigger facility. So they purchased a building (formerly the Northwest Surgical Center) and are allowing ATLAS Orange City Area to use it.



The staff was blessed to have a group of Unity Christian Schools students come on a Service Day and paint, strip wallpaper, wash windows, trim bushes & mow the lawn to help get the new facility ready. They were a huge help and very willing workers! Thanks Unity!

Many of the local businesses donate material to repair, paint and decorate the new office. What a blessing! The staff is very excited to have the extra room to grow and develop as an organization.

They will host an Open House on Thursday, November 16 from 11 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Come on over and see the new office!



Mentor Training in Pipestone

October 12 was a busy day for the ATLAS for Life staff. That was the day that they held their first mentor training in their new office with all their own staff! The last mentor training was when they were in their Edgerton location and Carol from the ATLAS of Sioux Center office came and did the training for them.

They had a full house and several people have already been paired up! Praise God! It was such a huge success that they are looking at the need to do another training in January!

Birthing ATLAS at City on a Hill

By: Carole Ornee

As unlikely as it would be for me to birth another child at my age, it is that unlikely that I would be involved in birthing a new ministry. As an OB nurse and mother of six, I tend to think in these terms.



About a year ago God planted the seeds of interest in my heart when I visited ATLAS of Sioux Center with my husband John. Although I did not realize it at the time, looking back, God was speaking to me during that visit. I specifically remember entering the Prayer Corner. I was overwhelmed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, and for the remainder of the visit, I felt like I was on the verge of tears. I learned how God has used ATLAS to reach so many hurting people, and every day I meet hurting people that I seem powerless to help.

In the months that followed, ATLAS came up in my prayer life constantly. God had allowed this ministry to grip my heart. I began to ask Him what I should do about it. Not long after, I heard that the former hospital building had been sold, and that plans were underway for it to become a ministry mall called City On A Hill Ministries (COAHM). I contacted Steve Dykstra, president of COAHM, and briefly described ATLAS to him. His interest was piqued. Within a week he had invited me to become a member of the board.

In October, after months of presentations, discussions and much prayer, the board approved ATLAS as a new ministry at COAHM! We will join several other non-profit ministries that already exist in a facility of over 60,000 square feet of usable space.

At this time I would say that we are “expecting” ATLAS to become a reality. There is no “due” date, but God willing some time in early 2007 it will be birthed at COAHM. We are not sure what it will be called. It may be named something other than ATLAS as it will most likely become a “front desk” ministry. We will however use the ATLAS model and materials.

As we become parents for the first time we have much to learn. And as we begin this brand new ministry, we are thankful for the support of ATLAS Group and look forward to our visit with Jerry Kieft and the ATLAS staff in mid November, to learn all we can to get off to a healthy start.

Calendar of Events

November

- 2 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 9 - Point of Entry Event - ATLAS of Greensboro
One hour event to introduce ATLAS to invitees.
- 11 - Vendor Fair 9-1:00 - ATLAS Orange City Area
- 13 - Thanksgiving Celebration Fundraiser - ATLAS of Sioux Falls
- 16 - Open House 11-7 - ATLAS Orange City Area



Birthdays

- 24 - Barb Dykshorn - ATLAS of Sioux Center
- 26 - Amy Keahi - ATLAS of Sioux Center

December

- 7 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 15 - ATLAS Directors Meeting

Birthdays

- 6 - Kelly Hulstein - ATLAS of Sioux Center
- 12 - Barb Patton - ATLAS of Lyon County
- 26 - JoEllen Kauk - ATLAS Orange City Area



January

- 4 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 11 - Point of Entry Event - ATLAS of Greensboro

Birthdays

- 6 - Doug Boone - ATLAS of Sioux Center
- 6 - Beth Zomermaand - ATLAS Orange City Area
- 20 - Wayne Schut - ATLAS of Sioux Center
- 26 - Shon Van Hulzen - ATLAS of Sioux Falls
- 27 - Deb Spronk - ATLAS for Life
- 29 - Don Ten Napel - ATLAS of Sioux Center





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ATLAS Prayer Updates

Please remember each of our offices in your prayers as they seek God's will in their community:

Zeeland, Michigan: God's leading

ATLAS of Winnebago: Finances, staff

ATLAS of Greensboro: Community awareness and acceptance

ATLAS for Life: Praise God for a successful mentor pairings

ATLAS of Lyon County: For people to seek their services

ATLAS of Sioux Falls: Focus on the major things, continued financial momentum, moving into city limits

ATLAS of Orange City: Moving and finances

ATLAS of Sioux Center: Wisdom in working with and reaching out to the Hispanic community



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