



**ATLAS** Group

*Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control*

*Connecting on the Road of Life February 2007*

# ***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*

## **Don't Lose Your Fire**

I love to surround myself with people who can stir up the fire in me. Some people in the Body of Christ know just what to say to ignite the very fire in you. However, no one can ignite in you what you do not possess! If the cold winds of winter have dimmed the flame of your dream, I challenge you to rekindle your desire to achieve whatever God has called you to do. Don't let the fire go out. You need that continued spark for excellence to overcome all the blight of being out on the limb.

Fire manifests itself in two ways - it gives light and it gives heat. Also remember that fire needs fuel. Feed the fire. Feed it with words of people who motivate you. Feed it with vision and purpose that comes from reading God's Word. When trying times come, fan the flame! Go get wood or pour some gas on it, but don't let it go out.

Living for Jesus is not an easy task. To die to self, put others first, help the needy, give to the poor - this is all contrary to the "it's all about me" society we live in. God has put a "Holy Discontent" in you. The passion to live for Him and not this world. To keep this going and growing we need like minded people around us. We need the body of believers to help us. May we be that to each other.

*~ Jerry Kieft*

## Zeeland Update

ATLAS of City on A Hill Ministries, Zeeland is a step closer to becoming a reality. We identified space in the lobby area which will be converted into two offices. ATLAS will be the "front desk" to City on A Hill Ministries, meaning that anyone who enters the building will be greeted by ATLAS personnel. It will be an excellent way to identify individuals who have needs.

City on A Hill Ministries is located in the former Zeeland Hospital and has been in existence for a little over a year. There are currently 16 ministries located in the building – including a health clinic, café, food pantry, counseling, special needs ministries and a prayer center.

At this time, ATLAS of City on A Hill Ministries has a steering committee and a prayer team. It is our goal to identify leaders in the community who will join the ATLAS team. Next month we hope to host a luncheon for area pastors and share the vision of ATLAS with the area churches.

Starting this ministry has brought me to my knees on so many occasions.



L to R: Gary Ellens, Carole Ornee,  
Pam Van Eck

Literally! I am weak and powerless without God's help. He has shown me over and over again that this is His ministry and He has called me to it. I am humbled and am in awe of His plan and provision. I am also grateful for the wonderful people He has surrounded us with: Gary Ellens, Director of City on a Hill and Pam Van Eck, a sister in Christ. Also, Pam's mother, Jenny Forner, who is a founder of many para-church organizations, has agreed to coach and pray with us. I am also grateful to my ATLAS partners and to Jerry Kieft who have encouraged me every step of the way.

Carole Ornee, Director,  
ATLAS of City on A Hill Ministries

## ATLAS Offers Help

When she first came to ATLAS, one of our contacts wanted a hand-out and would not stay in the office long enough to discover the need to change her life. Our community knew her as one of many who flew through every revolving door requesting quick fixes to maintain her sorry life. She is middle-aged, hundreds of miles from her estranged family of origin, and carries the scars from 30 years of marital abuse. Enduring serious health and emotional issues, unable to find a job, receiving no income, this divorced woman was living in a mobile home partly destroyed when it was moved and by a subsequent fire. She was able to burn wood for heat but had no plumbing and no electricity. With her children grown, she was also ineligible for any local social services.

Each time ATLAS offered to help her change her life, she said no one would help her. Yet she came to the office almost every day allowing us to pray though she insisted she could not. Finally she admitted she needed counseling. That opened the door for ATLAS to connect her with an agency in a nearby town that not only offers mental health counseling but also resources to start a new life.

**...no one  
would  
help her.**

She has now moved into a transitional living apartment while she works through their program and has a part-time job. This precious lady is now enjoying a restored relationship with God as a result of His provision and intervention in her life and declares, "Prayer works!" She also had reconciled with her mother. One of the counseling agency's providers said, "ATLAS (of Winnebago) literally saved her life."

**"ATLAS  
literally  
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life."**

Submitted by ATLAS of Winnebago

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## What's Going On at Your ATLAS?

Are you having a Mentor Training? A fund-raiser? Any other events? Let us know! We'd love to write an article about it and share it with our ATLAS Family in our next newsletter!

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## What is God Calling You to Do?

I have always loved the stories of Moses. Being placed in a basket and found by Pharaoh's daughter, then brought back to his real mother to raise him, the burning bush, the ten plagues, crossing the Red Sea, getting the ten commandments and then smashing them in disgust: what a passionate man!

These are some great stories, but my favorite Moses story is found at the end of Deuteronomy. Israel has wandered around in the desert for forty years and is now finally ready to enter the Promise Land. Moses is giving the Lord's final instructions and lays out for them that God desires to bless them if they obey or curse them if they disobey. Moses says, "Oh, that you would choose life, that you and your descendants might live! Choose to love the LORD your God and to obey him and commit yourself to him, for he is your life" (Deut. 30:19b-20).

Christians, by definition choose to trust and obey God. I pray that this year we search for what God is calling us to, individually and as an ATLAS staff. Maybe He is calling us to a closer relationship with Him, or calling us away from meaninglessness to lives that would count and be significant.

Many Christians talk about getting to heaven, but Jesus tells us to bring heaven down to earth, "Thy kingdom come... on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). Maybe this coming year we are supposed to live differently, bring heaven down to earth, give everything of ourselves, or live like we really are citizens of a different kingdom.

What Moses is pleading with Israel to do is change their priorities and choose God in everyday decisions. What a radical thing to live our life for God and not for man; to worry more about our contribution to our community rather than our comfort. I pray that this coming year ATLAS may help people realize that they are more than they ever thought, that they are new creations in Christ, sons of God, beloved ones, saints. I pray that we also realize that our life and decisions do matter to God and I pray that we spend this year as a journey toward heaven.

Moses equates obeying and loving God with life and pleads with the people to go after life. Oh, that we would choose life this coming year!

Nathan Stob, Director, ATLAS of Orange City Area

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# Board Brainstorming Session

*On Tuesday, January 9, ATLAS of Sioux Center's board held a brainstorming session. We asked Amy Keahi, Director to share her perspective on the evening:*

We began the evening by talking about what we have learned in Sioux Center over the last seven years. We came up with 20 things that God has taught us, including the fact that there is a great need and there are great resources in Sioux Center. Some of the big surprises we discussed were the unexpected by-product of lives of mentors being changed and churches being transformed.

One of the things that we have done in Sioux Center is stayed away from “selling” ATLAS to the community. In the beginning, Jerry and the board intentionally decided that they would go out and help people and let those actions speak for ATLAS. We reflected on the need to do that in Sioux Center because there were no proven ATLAS programs anywhere. We can see how that has paid off because of the way the community has increasingly embraced ATLAS of Sioux Center.

We then discussed what we have not accomplished and came up with eight things. This became a platform to talk about what we want to focus on in 2007.

We brainstormed on a number of other things: some of the danger signs that we should work hard to avoid at ATLAS, what the message of ATLAS really is, what makes us unique, what we want our relationship with the church bodies in Sioux Center to be, what opportunities we have before us, and how we are helping the hurting, equipping the saints and uniting the community.

In the end, we decided to focus on these three things in 2007:

- ~ What is our relationship with the local churches? (What are we asking of them and what can we do to help them and build them up.)
- ~ How do we help hurting people who speak Spanish in Sioux Center?
- ~ Can we “equip the saints” better by partnering with local businesses to help teach business leadership in the workplace?

I have learned that when you clearly understand where you've been, you get clues about what God is up to in the present and the future. This time to reflect and brainstorm gave me some clues about God's fingerprint on ATLAS of Sioux Center in 2007. I would encourage each ATLAS to take the time to reflect on the past and pray and talk about the future!

Serving Him Together, Amy Keahi

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People are like stained-glass windows.  
They sparkle and shine when the sun is out,  
but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is  
revealed only if there is a light from within.

~ Elizabeth Kubler Ross

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## Pipestone and Sioux Falls Host Banquet

When someone offers to pay for renting a country club what else would you do - have a Banquet! The night was set - November 13! We decided to make it an evening of thanksgiving and to praise God for what He's been doing through ATLAS in Sioux Falls and Pipestone. We also wanted to bless those who have been a part of our ministries.



People who had an interest in each ATLAS were asked if they would sponsor a table. In that sponsorship came the privilege of inviting seven other people to join them for supper.

Excitement filled the air. The country club was elegantly decorated in beautiful fall colors and the food was wonderful. A praise band from New Life Celebration Church of Beaver Creek lead us in praise and worship after the evening meal. A few people were asked to give testimony as to how God has changed their lives through the help of ATLAS and Jerry Kieft spoke and inspired us to continue helping the hurting.

What a wonderful evening! Through out it all God was glorified by the evidence of changed lives!

The Country Club was packed! More than we ever thought or could hope to imagine! Praise to God, "Great is the Lord and greatly to be Praised!"

Stella Menning, Co-Director, ATLAS for LIFE

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# *Calendar of Events*

## FEBRUARY

- 1 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center  
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 16-18 - YA-TEC at First Ref. Church - Sioux Center
- 19 - Mentor Training - Orange City - 6:00-9:00pm call to pre-register
- 20 - Mentor Training - Sioux Falls - 6:30-8:30pm call to pre-register
- 26 - Mentor Appreciation Dinner - Orange City



### Birthdays

- 8 - Barb Patton - DSP - Lyon County
- 22 - Eric Walhof - Board - Orange City
- 23 - Allan Kramer - Board - Sioux Center & Orange City  
Steve Michael - Director - Lyon County
- 26 - Gary Malenke - Board - Orange City



## MARCH

- 1- Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center  
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 15 - Point of Entry Event (Initial Awareness Opportunity) - Greensboro
- 20 - Mentor Training - Sioux Center - 6:00-9:00pm call to pre-register

### Birthdays

- 24 - Sue Wathen - Board - ATLAS for Life
- 27 - Stell Menning - Co-Director/DSP - ATLAS for Life
- 28 - Linda Mouw - Prayer Coordinator - ATLAS for Life
- 29 - Judy De Kam - Prayer Coordinator - Lyon County

## APRIL

- 3-4 - Orange City Expo - Orange City
- 5- Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center  
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 18 - Church Staff Appreciation Lunch - Sioux Center
- 21 - Garage Sale - Orange City

### Birthdays

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



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~ Ephesians 4:12-13



Jerry Kieft & Lynn Schelling

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