



**ATLAS** Group

*Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control*

*Connecting on the Road of Life*

*Fall 2005*

# ***The Junction***



**Serving,  
Connect-**

**ing, and Equip-**

**ping**

**Communities to  
Touch Lives for Christ**

## **The Harvest**

*“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” (Matthew 9:35-38)*

Jesus knew that there were many who were ready to believe. Recognizing this He cast a vision for His disciples that still rings true to this day – one of a ripe harvest in desperate need of faithful workers. Then in Galatians Paul exhorts us to *“not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.”* (Galatians 6:9,10)

During this harvest season may we be reminded again of the fields of harassed and helpless people that need to be cared for and loved in the name of Jesus Christ and may we persevere in relationship with them.

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**“In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus .”**  
**-Philippians 1:4-6**

## Pit Stop

*“When you have a great and difficult task, something perhaps almost impossible, if you only work a little at a time, everyday a little! Suddenly the work will finish itself.” – Isak Dinesen*



It's been said that when you want to be successful at something watch those who are doing it well. I believe that's good advice and I believe we have all tried to do this. Yet starting ATLAS was not one of those things anyone else had ever done before. Five years ago I had no one to ask or look at. So, as you can imagine, I relied on prayer heavily. I remember the Lord giving me this verse, Proverbs 6:6-8, *“Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”*

My first thought was, “What! I'm not lazy!” However, I knew there was something I needed to hear. So I took the verse literally. I set out to find some ants. I sat and watched a group of ants create a city for themselves. The reality was many tiny ants had taken one step at a time, one grain of sand at a time and one day at a time.



Suddenly it became clear to me what God was saying in Proverbs. Stay faithful in the little things! Keep at it, one step at a time, one project at a time, one person at a time, one day at a time. To all of you reading this and feeling overwhelmed, remember God has called us to be faithful and He can do more than we can hope or imagine. Our prayers go out to each of you as you stay faithful to His call of creating an ATLAS that is helping the hurting, equipping the saints, and unifying a community.

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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## A Mentoring Moment from Orange City

Ed had been through a divorce, and ever since then he felt a gnawing to reach out and help someone else. After hearing Jerry share about ATLAS at his church, Ed felt compelled by God to become involved. He took a mentor training class and wondered, “Why am I here?”, and “Who will I be paired with?”

When Ed was called to mentor he was a little scared, but he also felt a calm confidence that the Lord had led him to this time and this person.

John had been coming to ATLAS of Orange City on a regular basis to meet with Harlan. John was a severe diabetic and had many other health concerns. He did not drive and rarely went out in public.

When Ed and John met for the first time, Ed confesses he had concerns about John’s health issues. Ed himself has diabetes and seeing John made him secretly wonder what his own future held. Most often Ed and John would go to Taco Johns where John loved to get a large Pepsi with lots of ice which he crunched on while they visited. Other times they went riding to see the new road construction and industrial progress in the area. Ed took John to the Orange City and Alton libraries where he taught him to use the computer and read interesting articles on history – a subject John loved. Ed told John he could call him any time and one day John called Ed to help him with his dialysis. That particular day he was unable to get the help he needed from his caregivers. Ed left feeling honored that John felt comfortable calling him and knew they had a friendship.

**“It’s not about being a mentor,” he says, “it’s about being a friend.”**

As John’s health continued to fail, Ed visited him in the nursing home and then the hospital. On April 8, 2005 John’s life here on earth ended. Upon reflecting on their relationship Ed shared, “We’re really not so different. My concerns are for making a living, John’s were for existing - really the same thing.” Ed feels he has grown from their relationship. “It’s not about being a mentor,” he says, “it’s about being a friend.”

This summer we received a letter and memorial gift from John’s family. His sister writes, “My family and I want to thank you for the time you spent mentoring John. John had some very tough times in his life and it is a blessing to know that he had friends that are strong Christians and willing to reach out and help.”

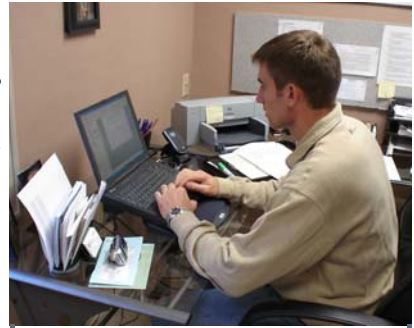
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## Manual Updated

As we move forward and start new ATLAS's we find things that need to be updated and changed. Justin continues to work on updating the ATLAS Manual. He hopes to complete it soon and will be sending those changes to you.

Changes include:

- Hiring information and packet
- 501(c)3 information and forms
- Samples of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- Mentor Training information and Workshop handouts
- Budget information and sample



Justin updates the manual

## Building Bridges

For quite some time Betty has been a mentor to Lisa. They have shared their lives and hearts. They have studied God's Word and prayed. Betty's husband, Glen, has in this past year become a mentor to Mike, Lisa's husband.



Last year Glen came up with the idea of building a bridge over the small waterway that runs through their backyard. Mike became enthused about the project and generated a drawing of the proposed bridge on his computer. Since then the two men, together with family members, have taken on the challenge of connecting one bank of the stream to the other. Mike says, "It's not finished yet, but we'll get it done." Glen says that his mentoree is more excited than he is about the bridge.

I say that building a bridge is a wonderful analogy of mentoring. The goal is connecting two lives and hearts. The process is sometimes long and takes persistence, but the results are rewarding.

~ Carol Kramer  
Mentoring Coordinator  
ATLAS of Sioux Center

## Point of Interest: Steve Michael

Steve Michael has recently been hired as the Director of ATLAS of Lyon County! Steve and his wife Joni, live in Larchwood. They have 4 children - Ethan, Scott, Morgan & Kendra. Steve & Joni own a variety of local businesses under Michael Enterprises. Steve is also a featured speaker for business conferences and some youth events.



Steve Michael  
Director of Lyon County

Steve is passionate about adding value to people's lives. This is the main goal in their businesses. Steve loves the ATLAS model because it allows him more opportunity to show others the value of Christ in their lives.

Steve loves the foundation that ATLAS provides - the fact that it is Christ-centered. It gives us the opportunity to help those in need.

## Lyon County

As of the first of November Lyon County will be operating out of their new facility in Rock Rapids, IA. The office is located on main street in an old bank building (naturally)! They are in the process of updating the building and hope to be up and running soon!



New Office



Lyon County Staff  
L to R - Front row: Judy De Kam, Barb Patton, Melody Dengler, Cindy Witt  
Back row: Jeff Poppinga, Steve Michael

Pastor Jeff Poppinga from the Faith Baptist Church in Rock Rapids will be helping out as an Interim Direct Services Advocate until the work load gets too heavy or until someone else is hired. Melody Dengler and Barb Patton are the Direct Services Providers for women, Judy De Kam is their Mentoring Coordinator and Cindy Witt is the Office Manager. They also have two new board members - Brian Anderson from George and Bob Hage from Inwood.

## ATLAS Group Has a New Home

As of the first of October ATLAS Group has moved into their own office - actually the office that ATLAS started in. Our offices are now on Hwy 75 - across the street from Ver Hoef Chevy and American State Bank, in the same building as Kroese & Kroese CPA's.

Here are a few pictures:



An outside look at the new office



Jerry and his wife Linda setting up the new office

## Sioux Center Harp and Bowl

Since October 2, 2003 the staff at ATLAS of Sioux Center has been practicing a day of prayer and fasting on the first Thursday of each month. At the end of the day, each month, we have held a prayer meeting in the basement of the Sioux Center building. God has richly blessed our staff and others who have participated. Exactly two years later, on October 6, 2005 we held our first "Harp and Bowl" prayer meeting. It was patterned after the prayer meeting at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City that has been going on 24/7 for six years. We had 4 musicians, 8 singers and multiple prayer-warriors and 80-85 people attended. God has been faithful to place this vision on the hearts of His people and carry it through. Please continue to pray that God would be faithful to each community and the visions He places on each heart as we seek His will.



# Calendar of Events

## November

- 1 - Lyon County moves into their first office!
- 3 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center  
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 5 - Vendor Open House - ATLAS of Orange City - 9am to 1 pm  
(percentage of proceeds to go to ATLAS of Orange City)
- 24 - Thanksgiving Day



## Birthdays -

- 24 - Barb Dykshorn - Administrative Assistant - Sioux Center
- 28 - Amy Keahi - Director of Sioux Center

## December

- 1 - Harp & Bowl Service - Sioux Center  
7-9 p.m. Christ Community Church
- 16 - Directors/DSA's Gathering
- 25 - Christmas



## Birthdays -

- 26 - JoEllen Kauk - Mentoring Coordinator - Orange City



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Philippians 1:4-6



Jerry Kieft, Lynn Schelling, Justin Vandewater

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**ATLAS of Greensboro, GA**  
Coming Soon!  
**ATLAS of Winnebago, NE**  
Coming Soon!