ATLAS Group
Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

The Junction

Connecting on the Road of Life

March 2008

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

"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

ATLAS Group
810 3rd Ave NE
Sioux Center, IA 51250

Local phone: 712 722-0049
Toll free: 1-877-722-4911

Email: atlasgroupltd@mtcnet.net

www.atlasgroupltd.org

Thanks to everyone who supports this ministry through their financial gifts and prayers so we can continue to "Touch lives for Christ."

Our Road Map

by Jerry Kieft

Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
II Timothy 2:15, Colossians 3:16

As of late I've been traveling thousands of miles, criss-crossing the nation by airplane and automobile to start up and to pray over the cities that are looking at doing ATLAS. Scores of times what has helped me to get to the right place at the right time is a good road map or my new Christmas gift that I was given by may family - a GPS for my vehicle. Also, as some of you may know, I use my cell phone and have checked in with the right person (Lynn) at the last minute to save my neck more than once to get to the destination that I need to be at the right time. I tend to naturally be one who gets lost rather easily. Those who know me well can call me directionally challenged. And I need all the help I can get when it comes to getting to a destination.

God has not left us on our own, mapless or helpless, to try to figure out how to get to His destinations. He has given us our personal tutor, the Holy Spirit, to guide us into all truth, He has also given us His road map of life, the Word of God. This manual spells out in plain print much of our most desperately needed directions. But as with any road map, it won't do us much good if we keep it stuffed away in our glove box or on a shelf collecting dust. We have to take it out and use it. This is what we at ATLAS call our atlas, our Spiritual guide - the Bible. We believe that many walk through our doors because they have turned off the path of their atlas or have not learned how to read their atlas, their Spiritual map in life. So without reading it, many take a wrong turn on the road and double the length of time it takes to get to their destination. And we want to help them learn how to read the Word and how to understand their Spiritual Father. So we help them take out their map and study it so they can get to know the territory that they are entering. We need to review the road map many times in order to end up at the right place without running out of gas or even running off the road. To complete their journey with the Lord, they must read and study and meditate on the written Word of God. And as they read it and chew on it, His Word will begin to dwell richly in their hearts and minds and they will reach the destination He has planned for their lives.

This is the basis of ATLAS - Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control, that we get from the Word of God. It's your road map for the journey of life and the one who wrote it, the Holy Spirit, is your personal tutor, waiting to speak a word into your ear -

"This is the way, walk in it."
~ Isaiah 30:21

National Director's Meeting

The time is quickly approaching. At the end of March ATLAS Director's throughout the country will travel to Greensboro, Georgia for our National Director's Meeting.

We are excited to have two speakers join us for our meeting. Shelley Appel, Director of New Focus out of Allendale, Michigan and Bob Lupton with FCS Ministries out of Atlanta, Georgia.

Shelley will be speaking on how we can "help people out of poverty through financial skill training and a wholistic, biblically-based approach to life change."

Bob will be sharing about his book *Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life - Rethinking Ministry to the Poor.*

We have added a few new people since our last Director's meeting and are excited to gather everyone together.

Please pray for everyone's health and safety as they travel and for their families back at home.

Community Award

Every year the City of Sioux Center recognizes individuals, businesses and organization for their work within the community. ATLAS of Sioux Center was recently awarded for their work in "offering broad-based support and aid."

Congratulations to the staff of ATLAS of Sioux Center for all of their hard work!

Taking the Time to Help Someone

About 3½ years ago a young man came into the ATLAS of Sioux Center office after being on the negative side of a drug raid. Jake knew he needed to do something different to get out of the rut he was in. With some help from ATLAS he found Jesus again, and through the years of prison life he made a 180° turn in his life. After getting out of prison, serving 3 years of a 25 year sentence, he continued his relationship with ATLAS and his new life with Christ as his leader and example.

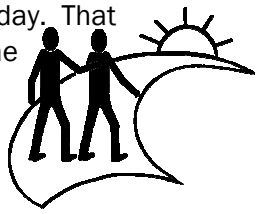
Recently another young man came into the ATLAS of Sioux Center office asking for help and even asking for assistance to get into drug and alcohol treatment. The treatment facility said they wouldn't have room until Monday. This being Thursday, and Pete not having a home, money or family to turn to, where was he going to go until Monday? After contemplating Pete's situation, Harlan, DSA at the ATLAS of Sioux Center Office, called Jake and asked if Pete, a total stranger, could stay with him through the weekend. Jake said his weekend was filled and he really didn't have the time. But after about 10 minutes Jake called back and said he was very selfish and since God gave him a new life why couldn't he do something to help this guy out.

Jake said Pete would need to take work clothes, good clothes, a sleeping bag and a pillow along and he could stay with him for the weekend. Pete didn't know it at the time, but Jake was planning to have him walk with him all day and all night.

> ...and since God gave him a new life why couldn't he do something to help this guy out.

After God convinced him to say YES instead of NO, he came to Harlan for his 2:00 appointment, picked up Pete and went from there. During the ride home Jake talked to Pete about drugs and alcohol and the damage they do to a person, and about the life he was living right now, and Pete said he wanted a life like that.

Before they left for work in the morning Jake had his devotion time, and part of that time was spent in personal prayer for Pete. Jake took him along to work and they worked side by side all day. That evening Jake took him along to the Bible study he attends. The next night they went to a Christian young adult gathering, and on Sunday they went to church.



When Harlan talked to Pete on Monday, he implied that he had gotten a visual image in Jake of what could be and he really liked what he saw.

Today Pete is off to treatment, but with a different attitude than he had last week. God used Jake to be an example of what a Christ-filled life looks like and now Pete wants to be like that. We will see where the month of treatment takes him.

As you can easily tell, ATLAS isn't just a ministry in Sioux Center and area communities, but is actually a way of life, and that way of life was caught and shared by people who needed to see and feel and touch Jesus Christ. This is not an example of what ATLAS did through God, but what God can do thru people who have been helped along the way of life by ATLAS.