

# Heartland

CNS International Ministries, Inc.

HEARTBEAT NEWSLETTER

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## Abundant Harvest

The Heartland community has been blessed this fall with an abundant harvest. Changed lives are the most important harvest, of course, and those come directly from the seeds of prayer and the watering of the Lord. But the community is also enjoying a harvest of another kind. Corn, potatoes, tomatoes, green beans, cabbage, and melons are being picked daily in the massive garden at Heartland.

The garden crew has put in long hard hours tilling the soil, installing irrigation systems and then planting and tending the crops. Their efforts have produced bountifully. Ears of corn arrive outside the Ladies' Home each day by the tractor load. The ladies shucked and cleaned an average of 1000 ears a day during the peak of the season. Miss Ann and her team at the café then worked hard to freeze and preserve the food for use this winter. The Heartland construction crew built a huge root cellar to help store all the produce. By late August, the team had frozen more than 12,000 bags of corn and canned nearly

3000 jars of other vegetables.

The Great Garden Experiment has been about much more than green vegetables, though. Working in the soil has given many young men an opportunity to learn new skills and gain an appreciation for the principles of sowing and reaping. Working alongside the men of the community, these future leaders have gleaned important lessons in how to live life.

The young women have had a similar experience in the canning department. Snapping beans, shucking corn, and peeling tomatoes may seem like simple tasks. But generations of women will explain that the best conversations among mothers, daughters, and friends often take place during such mundane chores.

When the snow falls this winter, everyone will appreciate the taste of homegrown corn on the table and garden-fresh salsa for their burrito. But even more than that, we will appreciate the time spent together and the lessons learned.



The Ladies' Home processed a lot of corn!



Tying up tomato plants in the field.



Our new underground fruit cellar.



Green beans ready to go into the pressure cooker.



Gallons of fresh corn are cut from the cob.



Young ladies at work canning potatoes.

## FROM THE PASTOR

# A Good Crop



Charles Sharpe

Growing up on a farm in northeast Missouri, I learned quickly that what you sow you reap. If my dad wanted a good crop of corn to fill the crib in the fall, he had

to plant seed corn in the spring. That was such a simple principle, we didn't even bother to think about it.

But I wonder if we think about it in our modern society today. Many of us sow seeds of rebellion toward God and then wonder why we have trouble. Our nation, which was founded on the laws of God, now removes those same laws from the courthouse lawn. What kind of seeds are those? And what will they produce?

The crop is easy to recognize; it grows into Supreme Court rulings that say sin is lawful. As that plant begins to sprout, the institution of marriage begins to wobble. Who knows what will be produced by the time the ear comes to a full head.

Yet, I have a great hope. Jesus told us in the Book of John that unless a seed falls to the ground and dies, it will produce nothing. That is exactly what He did, and the harvest of souls is still producing.

You and I have the great opportunity, my friend, of following His example. If we choose to die to the evil desires of the flesh and yield ourselves to Jesus Christ, our world really can be changed. If we sow seeds of righteousness in our own lives, more righteousness will grow up all around us. I say we fill the barns to overflowing with that kind of a crop! Start planting.

**Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.**

*Galatians 6:7-9*

## HEARTLAND ADULT RECOVERY

# Making a Fresh Start

*John and Adrienne came to Heartland in October of 2002 and each entered the Recovery Program. After one year, they are eager to testify to the miracle-working power of Jesus Christ in their lives and in their marriage. Here is what Adrienne has to say:*

Unfortunately our marriage got off to a very rocky start. Our dating relationship was based on lies: lies I told, lies he told, and lies we told together. We knew how to spin a tail, but the web of the lies soon entangled us. Lies are messy, because you can't remember whom you told what story to.

Our families tried everything possible to keep us from ruining our lives. Even the tough love part. By the time we had been married for five months, we had been kicked out of our apartment for not paying rent, had quit a dozen jobs, and had fallen far behind on bills. We had also learned how to get carried away with writing bad checks on closed accounts. We found it so easy! But we were miserable..

We decided as a last resort to move to a small trailer outside of town. I had hope for a better life. You know, a new place to live, a new job, different surroundings. But it only got worse; your problems don't go away just because you move.

Money became more of an issue. We wanted more and more stuff to try to fill that void where God belongs. Alcohol became a bigger influence. John was drinking more with "friends" and I drank sometimes just to forget how lonely I was. With each passing day we argued more and more.

Our money became scarcer, trying to support our shopping habits, and we began to write more and more checks. In our minds, it wasn't that big of a deal, and anyway, we would never get caught because our address had changed.

We tried to work things out by saying that we would go to church and stay at home more. A couple of times we got into a church

parking lot, but could not humble ourselves to go in. Now both of us realize that church cannot save us, only Jesus can.

Just as our relationship seemed to get a little better, we found out that our checks had been turned in and there were arrest warrants out. It got real scary. Finally John and I decided the best thing to do would be to turn him in and then find money to bail him out.

After John got out of jail, we decided that we would come and check out Heartland. My own thinking that Heartland would solve all of our problems deceived me. I was looking for an instant fix. It has not been. Both John and I know that the only true way to fix our problems is through Jesus Christ. And honestly, I am pleased to say that we are both serving God today. Knowing that God is in the business of restoration is comforting. Our marriage is by no means perfect, but we now have the true Savior as our foundation.

*John adds these thoughts:*

As a husband, I have had to lay down my selfish ambitions and learn to love my wife like Jesus has loved the church. It is so amazing how Jesus has affected my life. No more fighting in the family. I can be trusted, and I don't get angry anymore. I really enjoy my job and working with good friends. I want to stay at Heartland with my wife, be a part of the church, and raise a family here. This verse is something that I thrive on:

*But now, O Israel, the Lord who created you says: "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown!*

*When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" Isaiah 43:1-3.*



## HEARTLAND YOUTH RECOVERY

# A Mother's Prayers

Many of the students who live in the dormitories at Heartland are confident that their lives and destinies have been protected through the prayers of a parent or grandparent. Jorge is certain of that fact in his own life:

I was born and raised in Fresno, California in a Christian home, but also in a bad city. Like a child in any normal Christian family, I was brought up in the church and taught to be a man of God and to follow my calling. My mother was a youth pastor at our local Hispanic church. My dad stopped serving God when I was only three years old. He picked up a bad-drinking habit like he used to have before he decided to serve God, and he started giving me sips of his beer when I was only four. My mom was never around when this happened. By the age of nine I knew what the purpose of my life was and why God created me, but I didn't go after it. I also started drinking at nine. Not heavily but just a few beers to give me a buzz. Of course, I got the beer from my dad.

By the age of 10, I was stealing from my mom and started smoking pot and hanging with the wrong crowd. School wasn't a big problem until there were problems at home. My dad started to just slip away from home. He and my mom were always arguing over little things and got a divorce before my 11th birthday. I did a lot of soul searching for peace. I didn't know what to do so I got in real deep with alcohol. At 12, I quit caring about school and life and just became an alcoholic. Getting what you wanted wasn't very hard in California, so I always had alcohol or pot. By 14, my life was slowly going down the drain. I started running away from home and selling pot just to get money. I always had a place to stay because of the people that I was with. I also started to get in trouble with the law because of car hopping and shoplifting.

When I would come home after a few days of living on the streets, I would walk in my house and hear crying from my mother's bedroom. My sisters told me that my mom



*During a local outreach, Jorge and fellow students have the opportunity to share their faith and what God is doing in the lives of people at Heartland.*

prayed for protection over me and that I would come back. I recall many times that I should have been dead because of the people I was with but God spared me.

When I turned 15, I dropped out of school and became a full time drug dealer. That was when my mom started looking for a program to keep me safe. Three months before I came to Heartland my mom decided to give me another chance. So she moved my two sisters and me away with her to Ottumwa, Iowa. In only two months, I was already in trouble with the law for drug dealing at school. I ended up in court and the judge said I had to go to a rehab center for one year to get everything straight. So my mom sent me to Heartland.

I have been at Heartland for one and half years. So far they have been the toughest days of my life. For about a year, I tried to reject God and my calling. I was not obeying my authority and started messing up with girls. On January 13, 2003, I truly gave my heart to God. Since then I have had a few slip-ups. Even though some of them last a while, I know my calling to serve God, so I just get back up and press on. I know what God has set me apart for and where I'm supposed to be with Him. I think God every-day because if it hadn't been for a mother who loved me, and a place like Heartland, I would be dead.

God has done awesome things and I want to serve Him for that. I want to follow Christ and be more like Him. I am going to follow my calling.



JESUS IS THE ANSWER  
**Heartland**  
 CNS International Ministries, Inc.

## 2003/2004 HEARTLAND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

September 8 ..... Pastors' Prayer  
 October 24-25 ..... Marriage Retreat  
 November 3 ..... Pastors' Prayer  
 November 14 ..... Heartland Open House  
 December 1 ..... Pastors' Prayer

*Dates subject to change at God's leading.  
 Watch our website for details and/or changes, or  
 contact the conference desk for more information.*

[www.heartland-ministries.org](http://www.heartland-ministries.org)

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday .....	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Morning Service
	6pm	Evening Service
Tuesday .....	7pm	RevGen Meeting
Wednesday .....	7pm	Mid-Week Service
Friday .....	7pm	Women's Bible Study
Saturday .....	7pm	Intercessory Prayer

## "Straight from the Heart" TELEVISION PROGRAM

**KTVO Channel 3** ..... Sunday, 8:00 a.m.  
**WGEM Channel 10** ..... Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
**WTJR Channel 16** ..... Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.  
 Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

## RADIO PROGRAM

**WTAD 930 AM** ..... Sunday, 7:30 a.m.  
**WGEM 105.9 FM** ..... Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

# HEARTLAND OPEN HOUSE

## November 14, 2003

**Come enjoy a free dinner  
 and tour of the facilities.**

**For details or group  
 arrangements, contact  
 the Outreach office at  
 660-284-6361.**



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*Compassionate Care for Today's Youth & Children*

## **CNS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES, INC.**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.heartland-ministries.org](http://www.heartland-ministries.org)

*Save America's Youth Save America's Youth Save America's Youth Save America's Youth Save America's Youth Save America's Youth Save America's Youth Save America's Youth*

# *Have a* **S.A.Y.**

Every day, in America, we read stories of teenagers being arrested or murdered because of violent rage, illegal drugs, alcohol abuse... and the list goes on. These are more than fleeting news reports; they are desper-



ate family secrets made public, proof that a generation is being destroyed.

We receive calls on a daily basis from desperate parents whose children are struggling, failing or simply headed down the wrong path. Some of these parents are unable to pay the costs for any kind of recovery program. Although we do not receive any government funding, we never refuse to try and help a troubled teenager. The need is so great that we cannot build homes and schools fast enough to keep up with the demand.

We are deeply blessed that many people have stepped up to help with these costs through a program called **Save America's Youth**. Through monthly contributions or one-time gifts, these people are helping us provide balanced meals, education, housing, and spiritual training to many young people.



**If you would like to play a part in this program or if you would simply like more information, please contact us at the following address.**

**Attn: Save America's Youth  
CNS International Ministries  
P.O. Box 20  
Newark, MO 63458**