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Compassionate Care for Today's Youth & Children

## CNS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES, INC.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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# Heartland

CNS International Ministries, Inc.

HEARTBEAT NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4, ISSUE 2 • 2004

## Heartland Christian Academy Class of '04

Parting thoughts from several HCA seniors to Pastor Charlie and Laurie Sharpe.

Thank you for starting Heartland and giving it to God. Because of your vision I was saved from a life of sex, drugs and abuse. Not only you, but also the leaders you have put in my life have helped me be who I am. Above all of that is Jesus who changed my life into what it is.

My childhood was good up until I was the age of ten then my father died and my life began its descent. By the age of eleven I had lost my hope and was so deep in depression that I tried to commit suicide many times. Eventually I dropped out of school, ran away from home and started to sell drugs and was almost a full-blown drunk. On top of all this I had been in trouble with the law many times. Finally I actually had charges pressed against me and I was sent to Heartland where my life was changed forever.

When I was fourteen I never thought I would be graduating from high school or going on any type of missions trip. I just want to thank you for listening to the will of God, because of this my life was changed into a warrior of God. -Antonio

I was born in a small town called Berlin, Ohio. My life was not a party life, but rather a life of being fake. I grew up in the church, but my life was far from godly. I always knew there was something out there, but as usual I looked for it in the wrong places. Then one day my life was going to take a dramatic change. I moved with my family to Missouri. I have been through many trials, but have come out stronger because of it. Then I moved to Heartland and found a man of God who is willing to give all. He has led me by example as well as his words. So I have to thank you, Pastor Charlie. Words cannot tell nor can pictures describe how much you have touched my life. I know that you would simply tell me that it is all because of Jesus and it is. So I thank God first and then thank

a man who hears God's voice and simply obeys. -Jaymes



Pastor Charlie with the HCA graduating class of 2004.

In my past I was flunking out of school and did not care. My parents were upset because I would not listen to what they were saying. Overall, I was in bad condition. About three and a half years ago I came to the boys program here at Heartland and was changed. After giving my life to Christ, everything started to change. Now I have the highest grades I have ever had. My attitude has become much better and I know my parents have noticed the change. -Doug

I was raised in the great state of North Carolina. My father worked with the military and because of it he was never home. We were transferred to Colorado, and my mother and father divorced. Later on I was sent to my aunt and uncle's in Missouri. I received Christ just before leaving Colorado and when we arrived in Missouri I started going to church. After a course of events I backslid and made the choice to move to Heartland, because I knew God had a calling on my life. I rededicated my life the second day here and since then my life has never been the same. -Casey

I have always been able to get what I want, but of course I wanted to do my own thing. By the age of 13 I was doing it all, drugs, alcohol, and the girl thing. All throughout my life I knew I had a higher purpose, but I just wanted to ignore it. At about the age of 16 everything started coming down; things started being revealed in my life and I was

dad. One Friday night my dad and I were going to Heartland to visit my sister. Well, that Friday night I smoked my last cigarette. I decided that night that I was going to stay at Heartland. That Friday before I came to Heartland I checked myself out of school, checked in my books, said good-bye to my friends, and all this without a parent's consent. My parents didn't even know I did this. Here at Heartland I made new friends, and after being here about four weeks I gave my heart to the Lord. I didn't truly start to walk it out for about another year to a year and a half. By the grace of God my father moved to Heartland about nine months after and one Sunday morning he gave his life to the Lord which was amazing to anyone who really knew my dad or his background. This was one of the happiest days of my life. But during this time I knew Pastor Charlie and my mom, who were the only godly influence I have ever had since I was born, were praying for him. This is a little taste of what Pastor Charlie has done for me and my family. -Mike

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## An Active Summer

Congratulations to the 4-H Poultry team who brought home first place for Poultry Quiz Bowl, and second place for eggs in the state competition! Over 80 students participated in the 4-H program this year, with interests ranging from animals and poultry, to sewing, cooking, gardening, and lots more.



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While some summer school classes are taking place, there are also plenty of other activities to keep children in the Heartland Youth Homes busy during summer break. Outings include trips to the Science Center, a theme park, the zoo, Mark Twain Caves and Riverboat, a concert and baseball game, as well as camping, dinners out at the Ozark

Lodge, fishing and swimming. Students will also participate in foundational Bible studies, classes in hospitality, charm and etiquette, and will take part in Exchange City (hands-on learning about managing finances and using checking account).

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The NHBC travel band known as *Eternity* is touring the country this summer with one purpose in mind—to stir the hearts of a whole generation. Some of the young people they meet are destined to be a part of Nations Harvest Bible College, and the band becomes a connecting point for that purpose. For more information about *Eternity*, or to invite the band to visit your church, call 660-284-4800 or visit the web site.



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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**NHBC Graduation ..... July 25**

**Heartland Christian Academy classes resume ..... Aug. 2**  
Parents, watch for supply lists for the upcoming school year.

**NHBC Fall Trimester ..... Aug. 9**

### “Straight from the Heart” TELEVISION PROGRAM

**KTVO Channel 3 ..... Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**

**WGEM Channel 10 ..... Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
9:00 p.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.**

## Federal Court Notes Perjury; Rules against Juvenile Offices in Heartland Case

(May 2004) – Finding that the Heartland community has “the right to be free from conspiratorial governmental predators that scheme and act to cause its cessation of operations,” (p. 161), United States District Court Judge E. Richard Webber entered a permanent injunction against juvenile officers in the Second Judicial Circuit. Judge Webber found that the constitutional rights

of Heartland, its staff, students and the students’ parents were violated.

In his 163-page opinion, Judge Webber described the case as one “where some public officials used and abused their public offices to violate the rights of those they were sworn to protect.” (p. 1). He stated that the case “is not only about the mass removal of students from Heartland Christian Academy on October 30, 2001. It is about care and treatment of children at Heartland. It is about fear of some because Heartland exists. It is about courage of many and the perfidious behavior of others, operating under the color of law, to deprive scores of their rights as guaranteed by the Constitution . . .” (p. 3).

In an opinion in which Juvenile Officer Waddle was severely criticized as providing testimony which was “contrived and untruthful,” in petitions to obtain orders to remove

children from Heartland (p. 98), Judge Webber stated that “he must be held accountable for his role in providing misleading, inaccurate and incomplete information upon which those orders were issued.” (p. 103). Judge Webber stated that Waddle’s assigned reasons for the mass removal “are contrived, fabricated, and Mr. Waddle has engaged in inexcusable behavior and given perjured testimony.” (p. 91).

After weeks of testimony, a view of Heartland emerged which sharply contrasted with juvenile officials’ contentions. Judge Webber found, “The kids at Heartland are loved at all costs.” (p. 7). He noted that Heartland “is lawfully entitled to operate, and it has demonstrated, until this time, that it provides safe care for children. The Court concludes that the public has an interest in the continuation of such a program for troubled youth.” (p. 161).

continued... **Heartland Christian Academy Class of '04**

getting in trouble a lot. About 16 days after I turned 18, I was kicked out of my house and I didn’t know what to do. About three days later, the idea was brought to me about coming to Heartland. I was really worried about coming but something was telling me to go; so I went. I got to Heartland and it was hard at first, but the more I started seeing God the easier it got. Ever since I came to Heartland my life has not been the same and I thank God every day for bringing me here, and I look forward to what God is going to do in my life. -David

Can you believe that just four years ago this innocent, kind, loving, young lady stepped into your lives? And now I’m all grown up and ready for... Bible College.

To be on a more serious note, I want to thank you both for all the love and kindness that you have shown me. You both have been and are great examples in my life that will always be a part of my life. I have learned so much from you both and I am so grateful for that. I have been given so much opportunity here that I probably would never have had if I hadn’t come here. I know for a fact that I wouldn’t be graduating if I wouldn’t have come, so I stand as a testimony of God’s grace and power working through my life. Now I just want to help others and show others the same love you both have shown me. -Karen

Prior to coming out here God spoke to me and said “I’m going to put you in a place where they will take care of your schooling. I’m going to put you around young men, men of God that will raise you up to serve My purposes in the earth.” And truly God has done just that. Pastor Charlie, thank you for obeying the voice of God when He spoke to you. Not only did He cause you and your family to prosper, but me and my family as well. Lastly, I just thank God most of all for His faithfulness to me in all that I’ve been through. -Lenny

When I was little my home life was not all that good. I went to go live with my mom and she married a guy who ended up in Leavenworth. He was a biker into drugs and guns, and that was the lifestyle that I lived in. My mom did try to get out of that and did for the most part. She got a job up in the city and was starting to make it where we could live a normal life. She worked from three in the morning to ten at night. One night she just fell asleep at the wheel and ran into the back of a big rig. I had to go live with my dad after that. He would send me to places thinking that they could help me. They could not. After about two years or three our doctor told him about Heartland. So he called up here and got me into the program. I got saved. I have been here all this time, and now I’m about to get out of high school, and trust me, I am happy! -Cody

### FROM THE PASTOR



Charles Sharpe

Many people make the mistake of thinking that I own Heartland. I don’t. God did bless me with the original vision for starting this place.

Years before that, He gave me the idea to start an insurance business. He has guided that company, and worked miracle after miracle to make things happen there. Now, forty years later, Ozark National Life Insurance continues to provide great benefits for many people. And the success of the company did make it possible to start Heartland, a refuge for the lost and the hurting.

But I don’t own Heartland. If you want to meet the owner, you will have to go over to the Dairy and meet the guys who milk cows all day long. Or drive up to the school and see the teachers who serve day in and day out with our children. You might need to stop at the laundry and talk to the boys who are learning a trade. Or order a burger at the café and visit with the ladies who make coffee at 6:00am every day. Spend an hour in one of our group homes and visit with parents who are raising healthy kids—by the dozen. Or walk through the garden and talk to the folks planting acres of potatoes and canning enough green beans to see everyone through the winter. Drive down Mercy Street or Nations Boulevard and talk to the children who are shooting baskets, riding bikes, or jumping on somebody’s trampoline.

If you want to meet the person who owns Heartland, just look for anyone who is living here and giving their life to help others. This vision is too big to be owned by one man alone. It is the vision of an entire community, and we all own our piece of it.

## HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SENIOR MISSIONS TRIP

The HCA senior class celebrated the end of the school year by taking a trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, shortly before graduation. The team was led by David Moss, HCA principal, and Tom Hutchens, HCA teacher and leader of the church Missions Department. Here are some reflections on the trip from various seniors:

The trip was more than a mission trip to Mexico, but also a mission trip to my heart.



Making new friends.



A children’s outreach at El Faro - “The Lighthouse.”



Sorting clothing to give away.



Installing windows in the new church building.

My faith in God was increased. God met me many times in Oaxaca through times of worship, prayer, and outreach. -Antonio

Oaxaca was a life changing experience. God is real and no one can convince me otherwise. He is real in me, in my friends, and in this earth. Oaxaca showed us how much God’s love can move and cover the hurts of life. -Jaymes

This trip really opened my eyes to the way I treat the blessings that I have and others do not have. The children down there are so bright, but without Christ they will not have a future. -Doug

What touched my heart and shook me was the desperation of the people as they searched for God. -Casey

We saw things that we have never seen before; like people laying in the street who were either dead or dying, a man sitting on the sidewalk with leprosy, or even a blind woman begging for money just to live. These people on the streets dying do not have families, just themselves. God really showed me



The team, along with our friends from New Heart Ministries in Oaxaca.

how blessed we are in America; how much we really take for granted. -Mike

Most people did not have much, just enough to survive or make it, but they had such joy in their hearts; you could feel their joy just by being in the same room. -David

When I read in the Bible to go into all the earth I did not think of Oaxaca, Mexico. There we served and grew in the Lord. We got a first-hand look into what life is like in other countries. God moved through us to help us strengthen the church down there and in return be strengthened by them. Our group will be forever changed. -Cody

## HEARTLAND ADULT RECOVERY

### Finding My Way

I grew up in a small suburb of Kansas City, the youngest of eight children. I can remember going to Sunday school around the age of six and seven, but then we stopped. I did not grow up to fear the Lord, which was the beginning of my defeated life. My father was an alcoholic and worked long hours to provide for the family. It was difficult for my mother to take care of eight children, so I can look back and see how easy it was for me to slip through the cracks.

I smoked pot for five years before my parents ever noticed. I was arrested the first time at age twenty-three for possession, but didn’t learn my lesson. I continued the same lifestyle for many years and really didn’t have any Christian friends. I was going through life with no purpose but to have fun by drinking, drugging, and working jobs that were not really career oriented. I began selling drugs to pay for my habit and that idea landed me in prison for three and a half years.

That was definitely the eye opener I needed. When I was in the county jail waiting to go to prison, I kept getting visits from different ministers talking to me about God.

I gave my life to the Lord in December of 1993 in jail. During that time in prison I had plenty of time to study God’s word. After getting out I continued to serve the Lord and minister the gospel. Then I stopped reading and praying very much and started to

slip back into some old habits. I lost the peace that God had given me and I was letting the devil take away the joy that God had given me also. I knew that God was calling me to Heartland. Since coming here God has put His peace back in my life and has given me the ability to give back and help others.

The Bible says in Proverbs 14:12 “Before every man there lies a wide and pleasant road that seems right but ends in death.” (Living Bible) Jesus has shown me that He is the only way. I am really blessed to be at Heartland.

Today Tom McKown works on the Heartland Construction crew and is a vital part of Heartland Academy Community Church. His life is a testimony to others in the Men’s Recovery Center that God truly enables us to live a victorious life when we put our hope in Him.

