

Heartland Community Update

MAY
2018

The Heartland Community: CNS International Ministries, Inc. & Sharpe Holdings, Inc.

Friends Near and Far

Planted in the middle of a cornfield, surrounded by farmland and small communities, Heartland could have just become an obscure blip on the map, focused solely on serving the people who live and work here. But God had something different in mind for this group of believers. His design was that this community would form friendships, build relationships, and serve beside people from many regions, states, and countries. And that is what is happening here today.

We have friends in at least 15 different countries who joined us at our latest church Mission Conference. Heartland mission teams travel to many international destinations as well as to a variety of states to encourage and serve people who have become like family to us. We count it a privilege to be a part of what God is doing throughout the earth. And one of the most im-

portant things that we are called to do is to serve the local region where we are planted.

The Heartland Community is located in the



International trip: India.

our missionary friends, this is a place where our local/global call intersects. While we bless our local friends with a valuable shopping experience and some friendly conversation, we are also able to help support our international friends around the globe.

Our Bible College is a place where people young and old are able to study the Word of God, meet new friends, and deepen their own relationship with Jesus. Students attend our college from many different areas of the United States plus several countries. Again, our call to both the nations and our local communities collides as students from Bethel sit in class with students from India or Nigeria. It is a great place to get a taste of the world without leaving your own backyard.

The businesses at Heartland not only provide jobs for the people who make this community their home, but also valuable services needed in a rural community. Restaurants, lodging, a laundromat, auto shop, graphic design, and even custom farming are all open to the public.

We invite you to come for a visit and get to know us better. We are excited to see what unfolds as God continues to enable us to be a blessing to our friends near and far. And we would love to count you among those friends.

How can we help?

Please stop by... Whether it's for church, eating at one of the restaurants, shopping at the Thrift Store, or booking a retreat for your church group.

- Heartland Christian Academy 660-284-6300
- Heartland Christian College 660-284-4800
- Heartland Community Church 660-284-6330
- Heartland Recovery Centers 660-284-6212
- Calvary Medical Center 660-284-4300
- Cleansing Waters Laundry 660-284-4131
- Heartland Auto Repair & Body 660-284-6377
- Heartland Telecommunications 660-284-6152
- Mission House Thrift Store 660-284-6212
- New Creation Country Store 660-284-6347
- Ozark Lodge & Steakhouse 660-284-6333
- Scribbles & Scribes Ink 660-284-6230
- Solid Rock Cafe 660-284-6371



[facebook.com/heartlandmissouri](https://www.facebook.com/heartlandmissouri)

www.Heartland-Ministries.org
www.HeartlandMissouri.com

hub of three Missouri counties, and our great desire is to serve and work in those counties in ways that strengthen our neighbors.

Community members are active in local law enforcement, play on regional softball/baseball teams, serve on a variety of local boards, and welcome people from around the area to our businesses, church services, and events on a regular basis. The best way to be good neighbors is by getting to know each other personally and doing what we can to love and support one another.

Besides regular church services, we have connection points through children's church classes, youth group, and special monthly meetings for men (Sons of Promise) and women (Daughters of Destiny). And, you certainly do not have to live in the Heartland community to be a part of our church.

Other ways we get to meet and serve our neighbors include the Mission House Thrift Store, which is open to the public and provides secondhand merchandise at reasonable prices. Since the proceeds from sales are used to support

We would love to count you among those friends.



HCC students with local friends at Outreach International.

Breaking Ground for New Sanctuary

Heartland Community Church near Bethel, Missouri, held a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, May 6, 2018. Pastor Kris Palmer led the ceremony and was joined on the platform by members of the Heartland Executive Council. Special guests included pastors from area churches, local and state officials, members of the press, representatives from the construction firm, family members, and friends. Heartland Christian Academy headmaster, Shabaka Williams, read a framed proclamation sent from the Missouri Senate, initiated by Senator Brian Munzlinger.

Following music, remarks, and prayer, Laurie Sharpe took her place in a large backhoe provided by Luby Equipment Services, of Quincy, IL and dug the first scoopful of earth for the much-anticipated project. Pastor Kris and Martha Palmer then led the families of the church in turning over scoops of dirt with shovels they had brought from home. The GPS Children's Church provided plastic shovels for all the children.

The building project is being supervised by Brown Church Development of Kearney, NE. They anticipate the building will take more than a year to complete. The new church will feature a sanctuary, offices, prayer rooms, and a large foyer for fellowship. It will be attached to the current Heartland Christian Academy building where children's classes will be held.

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Church services are held at 101 Nations Blvd., and we welcome anyone from the surrounding area who would like to join us for:

Sunday School.....9am
 Children's Church9-11:30am
 Sunday Worship 10am, 6pm
 Wednesday Youth Group 6:45pm
 Wednesday Worship..... 7pm

You may also watch services via livestream online at www.hland.tv, or by using Facebook Live.

To contact us, write to: 6417 Shelby 150, Suite A, Bethel, MO 63434, or phone 660-284-6330.



Above: CNSIMI President Laurie Sharpe digs a "Charlie-sized scoop" to break ground. Left: Pastor Kris & Martha Palmer lead the church with the first shovel-full (also pictured lower left with Mr. & Mrs. Dan Williams, project director for Brown Construction). Below: It was fun to watch families bring their shovels to "dig in" together.

The GPS Kids crew provided shovels for the children of the church, and invited them to participate in the groundbreaking. "Back in 1995 this community and church began as Charles Sharpe shared the vision and purpose that God had called him to. One of the main visions for this church (community) was in the raising, educating, and discipling of children. Charlie stated then, "We believe that something must be done to preserve the greatest natural resource that we have in this country, our children!" Today we continue with that same vision and determination. To bring our children alongside us as we raise them in the purpose that God has for them. To disciple them and send them out to the world as men and women who walk in the ways of the Lord."



Celebrate Our Ever-Faithful God

During our annual Missions Conference at Heartland Community Church, we heard from one of the India leaders, Michael Jha. Among his many endeavors, Michael leads an outreach that helps rescue women from human trafficking.

The church provides a home for the women and helps them learn a trade by teaching them to sew. They use old-fashioned treadle sewing machines for this endeavor, and Michael was praying for God to provide a few electric machines.

That need hit home for us here at Heartland. Everything we do is designed to give people a fresh start in life. So, our leaders asked the church for an offering to help buy three electric sewing machines. To our great joy, we raised enough money to buy three times that many, and help Michael realize his dream of starting a sewing factory to provide jobs for even more women. The offering was a testimony to our ever-faithful God, who has blessed us and brought each of us out of our own place of darkness.

About the same time, Head of School Shabaka Williams announced the results of a secret project at Heartland Christian Academy. During last year's conference, one of our missionary friends brought the plight of the Burmese people to our attention, saying, "We want to introduce you to another country the heart of God beats for." Standing in the back of the room and listening to the presentation, Shabaka remembers being overwhelmed with compassion for this Asian people. "I remember asking them at the end of the presentation, 'What can we do?' They encouraged us to pray, and bring awareness about it. So, this past year HCA hung a large banner in the hallway so the students and teachers would remember to pray for the persecuted Burmese Christians. The students began to pray, asking God to bring salvation, and make right what is wrong."

What none of us outside the school knew, was that they were also taking up a secret offering of change all year long. At the end of our missions conference, HCA presented \$1152 to friends who serve among the Burmese people. Once again, it was an amazing privilege to spend a few days with all our international friends. The faithfulness of God was on display in every conversation, over every meal, and during every worship service. We may not realize how our lives here in rural northeast Missouri can make a difference. But as our friends from Thailand reminded us, "Much of the things that have been going on in Asia are the result of people praying for us. You have been faithful to do that... thank you for your prayers. They have been real, and they have been producing many things inside Burma." God has been faithful to us; may we be faithful to Him as well.



Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.



Pictured - (Far Left): Just a few of the faces we enjoyed connecting with again this year during our annual Missions Conference— friends from across the country and around the world. (Left): Breakout sessions featured classes on topics such as parenting, marriage, finances, and Bible study. At HCA Missions Day, students go room to room hearing about other cultures and sampling food from the nations represented. (Below): Michael Jha congratulates a graduate of the sewing school in Kolkata during our recent missions trip there. This is one of the ladies who will benefit from the special offering raised during the missions conference.



Dr. Wendell Nickerson – Calvary Medical Center

At Calvary Medical, We are Here to Serve

Two important things happened when the future Dr. Wendell Nickerson was eight years old. He walked the sawdust aisle of a Methodist tent revival and gave his life to Jesus. Then, he read a series of books called The Sugar Creek Gang. Years later, he came across the books again and found the passage where the young hero says he wants to grow up to become a Christian doctor. Evidently, those books planted a seed.

By the time Wendell graduated from high school in LaPlata, Missouri, he had made up his mind to become a family doctor. "I wanted to take care everyone in the family, from Grandpa down to the youngest baby. I wanted to help a kid when he fell out of a tree and broke his arm. Then I wanted to care for him as he grew up and got married and eventually brought his babies to see me."

That is exactly what has happened. A second and third generation of patients is now visiting Dr. Nickerson at Calvary Medical Center in the Heartland Community. Dr. Nickerson and his staff operate under a mission statement that says, "We Are Here to Serve". They keep focused on that goal by always looking back to the example of Jesus. He was often moved to compassion when He saw people who were sick and hurting. The back of the appointment cards at Calvary Medical Center quote a reference to one of those moments, "and all who touched him were healed," Matthew 14:36.

Dr. Nickerson leads a group of six nurses and office staff with the help of his wife, Kathy, who serves as the office manager. "I told her about my dream of being a country doctor on our first date forty-five years ago," he says. "She signed on right there." The Nickersons are the parents of four children and



currently have fourteen grandchildren. They also had the joy of participating in the life of Wendell's nephew, Jared, who became like a son to them. They now have the joy of sharing life at Heartland with Jared and his wonderful family.

In addition to their work in the clinic, both Dr. Nickerson and Kathy are active in Heartland Community Church. Kathy writes books in her spare time, and Dr. Nickerson is a reserve deputy for Shelby County.

A second and third generation of patients is now visiting Dr. Nickerson at Calvary Medical Center in the Heartland Community.

Nickerson is a reserve deputy for Shelby County.

This sweet little girl was recently the fourth generation of his family to see "Doc" in the office.

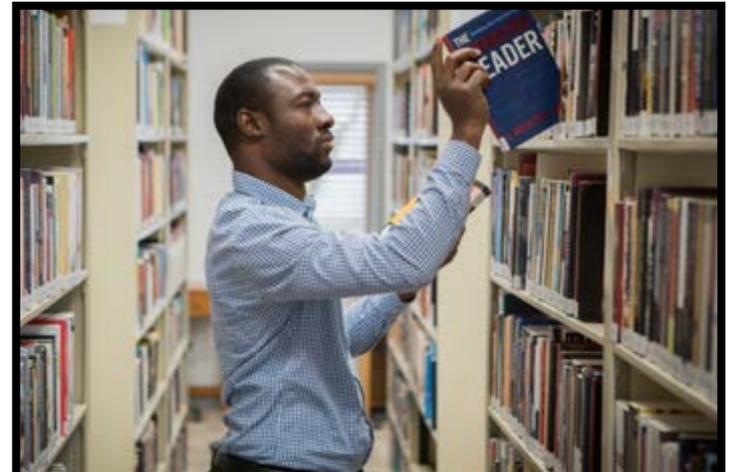


The staff of Calvary Medical (left to right): Erika Armstrong, RN; Anna Nelson, RN; Lenna Bowen, LPN; Wendell Nickerson, DO; Kathy Nickerson, Office Manager; Aimee DeClue, RN; Heather Toro and Leslie Shier, Reception.

To contact the clinic, call 660-284-4300. Calvary Medical Center is located at 450 New Creation Road, Newark, MO 63458 — on the north side of the Heartland lake. You'll find us online at www.calvarymed.com.

With x-ray and lab services available on-site, as well as LabO-

ne Collection site service, Calvary Medical Center brings the convenience of quality health care to rural communities in the Knox, Lewis, and Shelby County areas. We accept Blue Cross / Blue Shield, Missouri Medicaid, Medicare, and other health insurance plans.



HEARTLAND CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Accredited, Affordable Higher Education

Heartland Christian College (HCC) is located within the Heartland community, but the mission of this college is to serve much more than just the few students who graduate from the high school at Heartland each year. We want to be a place for people from all around the local area as well as internationally to take a step into higher education and discover that God has a plan for each life.

HCC understands that people face many conflicting views in the world today—in college classrooms, through varieties of media, or at their workplace. We believe that it is important to become grounded in the Word of God so that we know how to answer those conflicting views through the lens of the Bible—a biblical worldview. By taking time to really learn what we believe and why we believe it, we can then take our next step in life better prepared to stand firm.

HCC is an accredited two-year Bible college offering a 64-hour Associate Degree in Biblical Studies, a 30-hour Certificate in Biblical Studies, and independent courses for personal growth. Along with daily morning classes, Monday evening classes allow working adults to join us. Our student body is made up of a variety of ages (young adults through grandparents), as well as a very diverse cultural group. You may find yourself sitting beside someone from Nigeria, India, or Colombia. We are excited to see this mix of ages and cultures come together to learn more about God's plan and to grow together as His disciples!

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Heartland Christian College, we would love to show you around and talk with you about our programs. Or if you are just curious and would like to see what is going on, feel free to visit. We have a great library that's open to the public and full of excellent materials. Call 660-284-4800 or just stop by. We look forward to seeing you soon! *Find us online at www.heartlandcollege.edu.*

Adopted into the Family

Nathan Mayes came to Heartland at the age of fourteen as a very troubled teen. "At that point in my life, not much was going right," he recalls, "but several months later, in April, I encountered someone who would change the entire course of my life. I encountered my wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!"

"Since that moment, God and the Heartland family He has blessed me with have been so very good to me. He has healed so many places in my heart and has provided me with a purpose. That purpose included being a husband to a wonderful beauty named Jennie, and a father to three awesome children—Ari, Wesley, and Eden. (Hopefully we will add number four to our family someday soon, as we are in the middle of an adoption process.)"

Included in God's purpose for Nathan is what he calls a privilege—working with young people, some whose lives are much like Nathan's when he first came to Heartland.

"In many of the youth I encounter, the lack of identity is very evident. Some of them, it's been due to tragic circumstances in life, others are walking through trying periods with their families, and some of them are just trying to figure out life. It seems like many young people are searching for someone to guide them to the answers.

"Having walked through my own adoption and currently being in the process of adopting a child, I understand the gravity of helping people find out who they are. The most important piece to this is helping them understand who they are in God. What changed this lost young teenager can truly change the lives of anyone searching for those answers."

Nathan currently serves as a youth leader, and teaches courses locally at Heartland Chris-

tian College. "I get to spend every day giving back to young people just as others have given to me," he says. "It's a great honor to serve in these areas with my wife and family. Ev-

to grow in your relationship with God. Maybe you need a place to build relationships with others who are heading in the same direction. "Whatever the case is, please come

visit us, and let us introduce you to the One who not only changed my life, but the lives of so many others. We look forward to meeting you!"



Above: Discipling young people in ID318 Youth Group. Below: The Mayes family.

everything we do, we tend to do as one family, and I love every minute of it. From the youth nights at our house to inviting a group of college students over for dinner, or having friends over for a game of cards and fellowship. We love being family and increasing our family."

If you are searching for a church family to call your own, we would welcome the chance to be that family. Maybe you're a person needing a place



jessnellephotography

As We Worship, He Blesses Us Too

Darin Rihaneck was only four years old when he heard a television preacher talking about salvation. He felt the Spirit drawing him and asked his mom what it all meant. She prayed with him right there and started him on a life-long journey with Jesus.

Darin comes from a strong faith background on both sides of his family. His parents were leaders in their home church in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Darin took part from an early age. Yet, he didn't set out to become a worship pastor in a local church. "I have loved worship and music since I was five or six," he says. "I have a musical ability, and I earned a Master's Degree in Religion Worship Studies. But,

growing up, I did jobs much different than this one."

One of his jobs at Heartland is to lead the worship department. "That includes the singers and musicians of the church spending our lives serving God and the church in giving Him worship."

You will usually find Darin playing his bass guitar on the worship team. Unless he is behind the scenes working with sound or engineering.

"My wife Christie is part of the worship department, too," he says. "She is a worship leader and piano player, plus does the administration, scheduling, and detail work. So, worship is pretty much our life."

Christie was also raised in a

Christian home. "I have believed in God my whole life. But there was a time when I was going into college and I decided, *I believe in God, I just don't want to serve Him right now.* Unfortunately, that decision took me far away from God. I ended up with shame, depression, and many wounds in my heart. I ran away from my Friend, my Comforter, my Shelter, and my Lord. In God's mercy, He spoke to my heart. He reminded me that He was the only answer, that He was the only thing that could save me and fill the hole in my heart. Through a process of getting to know Him again, He healed me from fear and hurt. He was never ashamed of me.

"I have the privilege now of leading worship in our local church. God deserves our worship. He is God! He is so much bigger and greater than we can even imagine. And yet, as we worship Him, He always seems to reach back and bless us in return. The reason I love worship is because I want to give glory to the only person that deserves it, Jesus. And I want everyone to experience the freedom of proclaiming that He is Lord, and the undeserved reward of Him reaching back."

The Rihanecks have five daughters who spend lots of time hanging out at church during worship team rehearsals and special events. The older girls have picked up the baton for the next generation and have started helping with worship in school chapels, occasionally.

In addition to his role with the worship department, Darin also serves as the Assistant Dean of Students and as a faculty member at Heartland Christian College. He and Christie are both graduates of the College and now serve as mentors. They enjoy welcoming College students into their home, whether that's a game night, worship around the firepit, or Darin's famous chocolate quesadillas.

"If you don't have a home

church in this area, come worship with us," invites Darin, "and be sure to introduce yourself."

Something else the Rihanecks are working on is music for Heartland's annual Salute to Freedom. This year's event takes place on July 1st, as we invite you to join us in celebrating our nation's Independence Day, and our freedom in Christ. Mark your calendars and come out for the fun! See details below.

Heartland Salute TO FREEDOM

SUNDAY July 1st 2018

Starting at 5:00pm
Sit back and enjoy music from local bands before and after dinner.

FREE Dinner Served 6-6:30pm
Be our guest—pulled pork and BBQ sandwiches, sides, beverage.

8:00pm Music by The Homestead Pickers
Always great entertainment by this group of musicians, comedians, and storytellers from Branson's Silver Dollar City.

FIREWORKS at Dusk

To be held outdoors at Heartland Christian Academy, 101 Nations Blvd., Bethel, MO.

Easy access for wheelchairs.

heartlandmissouri.com



Pictured: The Rihaneck family.

Every Person has a Purpose

I came to know Jesus Christ in a jail cell. My life was a mess, I was running from my past, strung out on drugs and had broken every relationship that had meant anything to me. It was there in my ugly, alone, mess, that God wanted me. He came and met me late one night and changed my life forever. Not only that, but God didn't just leave me in my mess. He purchased my shame and circumstances with the life of Jesus and pulled me out of where I was. He placed my feet on a solid rock. God used His ministry in Heartland to create in me a solid base to grow on and learn from.

After going through the Heartland Men's Recovery Center and graduating Heartland Christian College, God directed my steps back to the Men's Recovery Center as a staff member. From there, I was able to grab hold of guys just like me, sometimes from the same background I came from. God saved me from my mess, so that He could use me to help save others from theirs.

Addiction is a messy thing. In 2016 alone, 64,000 people lost the fight with some form of drug addiction. We can help! God is in the business of taking the people the world has given up on, the ones in need of hope, in need of love, in need of God. Every person has a purpose.

At Heartland, we have dedicated our lives to building a wall of living stones that have one purpose, building God's Kingdom through

a church, a school, recovery programs, a bible college and international ministry partners.

seen by the testimonies given here today and I'm willing to give Mr. Dombrowski a chance." The judge



Tom and Jenny Dombrowski with their two boys.

If you are struggling with addiction, there is hope for a different kind of life. God worked such a miracle in me that even the prosecutor at my court hearing told the judge, "Call it a heart change, call it a spiritual awakening, but something is different about this young man. It is

agreed and released me that same day.

My life could have been simply another statistic, but God had other plans. In that plan, God blessed me with the most amazing woman I've ever met. Two years into our marriage, we found out we wouldn't be able to have children in a natural way. This was an opportunity for God to show us that He does His best work supernaturally. God gave us two beautiful little boys to call our own and raise knowing and loving Him.

God is still in the business of changing lives, and we are simply a partner in that plan. We invite you to partner with us in whatever way you feel God leading you. We gather together three times a week for church. For those who live outside a reasonable travel distance, we livestream our services through the internet. We'd love to hear from you and know how we might be able to help.

If you know of someone caught up in a cycle of addiction or abuse, seek help today.

Heartland is a haven of spiritual healing, a place that provides an environment to find God and His plan and purpose for life.

People lacking the fear of God find their life in a cycle of serving selfish desires, making wrong choices, and not having peace of mind and heart. Heartland Recovery Programs seek to introduce the concepts of Christian living and personal responsibility, helping men and women who are bound with life-controlling addictions, attitudes, and behavior.

Heartland Women's Recovery Program – Ladies live in a home-like environment while focusing completely on their relationship with Jesus Christ. At the same time, they are trained in areas such as vocation, work ethic, child-rearing, and financial stewardship. Call 660-284-6360.

Heartland Men's Recovery Program – Men who enroll in the 18-month program find themselves in an environment far removed from the temptations of the world, allowing them to focus on Jesus Christ and the freedom He can bring in their lives. The primary criteria for participating in the program is a willingness and desire to change. Call 660-213-4553.

hlandrecovery.org

We're located just off Rt. E between Newark and Bethel, MO.

