



Heartland

6417 Shelby 150, Bethel, MO 63434 • Phone 660-284-6212
Just off Route E, between Newark & Bethel, Missouri

Update

Many thanks to our neighbors and friends for your prayers and support during this time of transition at Heartland as we have lost our founder and pastor, Charles Sharpe. We look forward to what God will do in the future, and would like to introduce you to some of the people who call Heartland home, and are leading our Community forward.

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

We're Still Here to Serve

“With God's help, we hope to be a service to our surrounding community and all the way to the nations because God has put a love in our hearts to help people.”



One of the many teams leading Heartland is the Executive Council, made up of Laurie Sharpe, Kris Palmer, Chris Powell, Robert Hambelton, and Dave Barton. Together, they prayerfully seek to stay true to the vision God continues to unfold for this ministry.

When Laurie Emerson met Charlie Sharpe, she valued her independent spirit and her highly structured life. Once she and Charlie were married, she realized those two things didn't fit well anymore. Instead of finding comfort in her independence and organization, she began to feel higher and higher levels of anxiety.

Finally, in a search for help and comfort, she turned back to her Catholic roots. Of course, she took the journey secretly, because Charlie wasn't interested in religion at that point in his life. And, as Laurie puts it, Charlie had a strong personality.

The secret caused anxiety, though. So she eventually told Charlie she had returned to church to get her life in order. He explained that what she needed was a personal relationship with Jesus. Even though Charlie wasn't living for God, he told Laurie how to confess to Jesus that she was a sinner in need of Him as Lord.

“I prayed; nothing happened. For about two weeks I tried and nothing happened. I finally told Charlie that prayer didn't work. He informed

me I wasn't desperate enough then. I sure felt desperate. The next morning I tried again explaining to the Lord, ‘Seriously, if I don't have You in my life I'm not going to make it.’ At that moment Jesus made Himself real to me. He delivered me from anxiety and from a selfish kind of independence, although I'm still a work in progress. My life has been totally different since November 25, 1992, when I met Jesus. And it continues to grow each year.”

Part of that growth came through grief when Laurie's beloved husband of more than twenty-five years died in 2017. On top of dealing with her own sense of loss, Laurie also took on the load of becoming owner/president of Ozark National Life Insurance Company, CNS International Ministries, and Sharpe Holdings. She

believes this indicates that God has a sense of humor.

“I began working for Charlie as his secretary in February, 1981. Through his training, I became the office agency manager until we started

Heartland in 1995. Then, I continued to manage numerous areas, applying the training and principles Charlie taught me. Ozark and Heartland are both something we did together. But, today, this is something completely different.”

Laurie doesn't feel that she has any special qualifications for the role she now carries. Although she does believe God called her. That, along with excellent leadership teams in every business and department, has helped her make this transition.

At the heart of everything Laurie oversees is a desire to help people. Heartland Community Church and the various recovery ministries demonstrate that. Laurie hopes people in our surrounding area know we are still here to serve.

“Heartland is made up of a bunch of sinners who have been redeemed. There is nothing special about us other than what God has done within us. We are all a work in progress. With God's help, we hope to be a service to our surrounding community and all the way to the nations because God has put a love in our hearts to help people.”

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... *We're here to serve!*

- 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



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What's New in this Missouri Cornfield?

CHRIS POWELL

Chris Powell was raised in a traditional church in New Zealand. "I knew all the Bible stories," he says. "And I thought, 'That's okay for old women and kids, but I am a teenager now, and the world has a lot of things to go after and try out.'"

He didn't find any lasting purpose or fulfillment in those things, though. One night, when he was about twenty, he came home from the tavern and noticed the stars were especially bright. "I looked up and thought, 'There is someone, something out there. What is the purpose of life? I want to know. All these stars, this earth, life, did not just happen. I want to know who's out there.'"

A co-worker invited Chris to a spirit filled church. It was different than anything he had experienced before. "I was surprised to hear them talking about the same God I had heard about as a child. I knew the stories. But the preacher seemed to really believe himself, and spoke with authority. I ended up at the altar call not really knowing what was going on, but I could see life in the eyes of these people, I wanted what they had."

Someone gave Chris a Bible to take home, and they told him to read the book of John. "I could hardly put it down, the Lord started speaking to me through his word. After a few days I got down on my bedroom floor, sucked carpet, and asked Jesus into my life. I would give Him everything. Best deal I ever made. Plus, I met my wife Andrea in church."

Having been raised on a dairy farm in New Zealand, Chris felt that agriculture was in his genes. "Andrea and I bought a herd of dairy cows when I was 23. We dairy farmed for the next thirteen years and had five kids. But I wasn't satisfied just doing our own thing. I felt there was something different the Lord had for us."

"After a few trips to China, we sold our cows, packed up our five kids, ages two to twelve, and moved to China to teach English and agriculture." After a year in China, some friends told the Powells the Heartland community was starting a dairy farm, and they were looking for help.

"Pastor Charlie and Jon Simmons

called us one night, and we talked for five minutes. Pastor Charlie said, 'Well you don't know me, and I don't know you, what do you think?'

"I replied, 'Let's do it.' That was 1996."

Since then, Chris has worked in every department on the farm side of



ROBERT HAMBELTON

Ten years of drug addiction and brokenness led Robert Hambelton to the Heartland Men's Recovery Program in March of 2009. He came to the program not wanting anything to do with the things of God. However

after a couple months of hearing Pas-

Chris Powell (left) and Robert Hambelton (below) bring years of experience to their positions on Heartland's Executive Council. But more than that, they have a heart to see God glorified in all that we do.



able to work with managers and people who have laid down their lives for the call God has placed on them. It is an honor and privilege to do so."

Robert added that the sale of Heartland Dairy to Milk Source was a good transaction. "They are a solid company with a reputation for community involvement. That's one of the things that was important to us in this process—keeping jobs and revenue coming into the local community. Their new milking parlor is under construction and expected to be running in April."

You may have noticed beef cattle

the Heartland community. The cow dairy, irrigation, bagging compost, crops, the Heartland Creamery, and the goat dairy. "I enjoyed working for a man of vision whose main goal was helping others and winning souls."

Chris hasn't lost his love for missions, either. He has been on several trips and has recently been helping with farming projects in Tanzania. "I like to help others who are not as fortunate as we are, using agriculture as a door into other countries and lives when I can."

Whether he is working on a farm here in Northeast Missouri or clearing fields in Africa, Chris has found that fulfillment he searched for as a young man. "Now, the highlight of every day is being able to encourage people to go after God with all they have. He is worth it."

tor Charlie preach about sin and the salvation message, Robert says, "I realized how messed up I was and how desperately I needed Jesus. At the age of 29, I gave my life to the Lord."

Robert has accepted the role of General Manager of Sharpe Holdings Inc., which can seem like a big job. But Robert is used to hard work. "My Dad had always taught me to work as I was growing up. We would leave the house at daylight and come home at dark. I thought that was a normal thing. As a result of growing up like that on a farm, I have always had a passion for agriculture. It was a complete blessing to be able to come to a recovery program to get help with my life and still be able to work on a farm. Today, as General Manager of Sharpe Holdings Inc., I'm handling way more than just agriculture. Through our various businesses, I'm

instead of dairy cows grazing on our outlots. "Before the dairy," Robert explains, "Charlie had a herd of beef cattle. He always talked about how much he loved the black angus cattle he had, so we purchased 160 head to keep that memory going."

Farming 2017 has been an above average year, with corn yielding 150 bushel per acre on dry land, and over 200 bushel per acre under irrigation. We planted 5200 acres of soybeans this year, and have harvested 1200 acres so far with the average of 58 bushel per acre.

"I would like to invite our neighbors to come see what we are doing here at Heartland. Come eat in the restaurants or look around the farm. Join us for church. We would just like to invite everyone in the area to come visit and be a part of what God is doing here in the middle of a corn field!"

Gathering as God's Family

Pastor Kris Palmer and his wife Martha are excited to be living in the Heartland community and look forward to getting to know people like you so that they and Heartland Community Church can better serve the needs of this area. While Kris spent his growing-up-years living in many different states and attending many different schools, Martha is a local Missouri girl, having grown up near Atlanta, MO, where she attended all twelve years of school.

Both Kris and Martha had the privilege of being raised in homes with parents who loved God, loved serving in their churches, and loved serving their neighbors in small towns and rural communities. This foundation led them to have a great desire to do the same. They have spent much of their married lives actively engaged in rural churches, loving and engaging with people in the small communities surrounding those churches. They look forward to continuing that lifestyle as they work with their Heartland neighbors.

"We've lived at Heartland for the last fifteen years and have seen many changes throughout those years," said Kris. "Rural communities face unique challenges in today's society, but there is hope in Christ for real change. I believe that local churches can be instrumental in bringing about those changes. Rather than shrinking back or ignoring the issues of the day, we desire as a church to press forward and help people find solutions that will affect their everyday lives."

Pastor Kris invites everyone to join us for one of our services and meet the people of Heartland Community Church. "You will find everyday people who face struggles just like you, children and babies who make noise during the service, and teenagers who are distracted by the latest technology. But together we are more than we can be alone. And together we find hope in the God who holds all things together. Please consider this a personal invitation to join

with us as we worship God together with the body of Christ at Heartland Community Church."

"Another thing we are very excited about is moving forward with plans for a new church sanctuary. We're still in the planning stages, but hope to break ground in the near future. The church will actually be built onto the east end of Heartland Christian Academy, allowing us to still utilize existing classrooms."

Church services are currently held at the Heartland Christian Academy gymnasium, (located at 101 Nations Boulevard), and we welcome anyone from the surrounding area who would like to join us for:

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



You may also watch Sunday services via livestream online at www.heartland.tv, or by using Facebook Live at facebook.com/HeartlandMissouri. Our weekly show, *Straight from the Heart*, can be viewed at our website, or on these Quincy, IL TV stations:

- WGEM Channel 10.1..... Sunday, 9am
- WTJR Channel 16 Sunday, 11am
- WTJR Channel 16 Thursday, 8pm

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



(Photo inset): Kris and Martha Palmer. (Above): Pastor Kris preaching at Heartland Community Church. Artist renderings (below) of the new church addition.



Freedom from Addiction... Hope for the Future

AUDREY EMERSON

Audrey Emerson and her late husband, John, came to Heartland as pioneers in the early days and helped establish the foundation in both a practical and spiritual sense. Before his passing, John led the crews that built most of the buildings and many of the houses at Heartland.

Audrey also laid a foundation at Heartland, but hers was in worship. She played the piano during church services for many years. Audrey has also poured her heart and time into developing the Women's Recovery Program at Heartland while rearing the couple's two children, David and Danielle.

Audrey has great compassion for the women who come into the recovery center, and she has a strong hope for them, as well.

"I grew up in a Christian home, went to a Christian school and attended church. I knew all about God, but I didn't know Him. I bought into the secular worldview of what constituted success and womanhood as opposed to God's view. The more I sought after the world, the emptier my life became, until alcohol began to consume me and destroyed everything good in my life."

Audrey entered Teen Challenge at the age of thirty-four. She credits that one-year program with helping her learn to do the Word of God as opposed to just intellectually knowing the right answers. "As I began to walk it, God transformed my life."

Even so, helping other woman was not Audrey's plan in life. "When I entered Teen Challenge the last thing I wanted to do was to work with a 'bunch of women.' But, as God poured into me and brought healing and restoration, He also brought the desire to turn and help other women who were hurting and broken."

"I want everyone to know that we don't have to walk in the brokenness of hurt, feeling used and abused, always clutching to find love and ac-

ceptance; 'For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither has he hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard'; 'but God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

ADRIENNE MILLER

Adrienne Miller says she "really" got saved at church, after being in the women's recovery program just under a month. "I don't remember what Pastor Charlie was preaching," she recalled, "but I knew I had to get up to the altar. Going to the altar and praying this time was very different than the times I had done it before. I knew it was real, and I was no longer playing the 'perfect little church girl' game. This time was for keeps.

It was the first time I realized that it took a real, working relationship with

Jesus to have victory over sin. Since then God has graciously delivered me from depression and feelings of worthlessness.

"The Women's Recovery Program was what I needed to get my life back on track. I had done a great job of making my life a huge mess at the ripe age of twenty-one. I was able to come to the program knowing I was a mess, and that I needed help getting my mess straightened up. As I progressed through the program I felt a rekindling of what had been in my heart for years, helping people. I didn't know if it would be working with the youth or working at the women's home, but I was open for whatever God had for me." At that point Adrienne had no idea that working full time in the women's home for an extended number of years was in her future, let alone becoming the director of the program.

Many of us are aware of the desperate need around us, and most of us want to help meet that need. You may be asking yourself, "How do I help my loved one? I don't know anything about addiction."

You can help by placing a phone call to get some general information about one of our recovery programs.



Or you can invite a friend who is struggling in life to come with you to one of our church services. Perhaps it starts with taking someone to dinner

and just being a listening ear. Let us know if we can help; we are here to serve.

JOHN GRAWE

John Grawe had been in the Heartland Men's Recovery Center for three months when he knew it was time to give God complete control of his life. He was thirty-seven years old, working at Cleansing Waters Laundry, and helpless to do anything to change his own life.

"I was saved March 12, 2009, in a Power Barn service at the Center," John says. "I don't remember the topic of the message, but I knew it was time."

John does remember the men who helped him in the following days and years as he learned to walk closer to God. "I have had wonderful men in my life, since being here, to serve alongside and under."

One of those men was a missionary from India named Joseph. During Joseph's stay at Heartland, he also worked at Cleansing Waters,

and he spoke to John about reading and learning the Bible. Joseph came all the way from India to the Missouri cornfields to give John the first scripture passage that really became his own. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Something else that came from John's time at Cleansing Waters was meeting his future wife. John married the former Heather Florea Clary a few years later, and the whole community celebrated with them. John and Heather are a wonderful picture of the restoration and blessing God loves to provide for His people.

Today, John serves as the Director of the same program that helped him find his way to Jesus. "I am a product of this program myself. I've been where a lot of these men are. While I never dreamed of serving in this po-

Director John Grawe outside the Heartland Men's Center near LaBelle, Missouri. The facility includes a dormitory, full kitchen and laundry, gymnasium (basketball, volleyball, full weight set-up), chapel, and prayer room. Assistant Director Tom Dombrowski (inset) also speaks regularly at Heartland Community Church. He knows firsthand what it means to be set free from the past, and encourages others to get to know Jesus personally.



...we don't have to walk in the brokenness of hurt, feeling used and abused, always clutching to find love and acceptance...



"Porch talks" with Adrienne (left) and Audrey are just one of the ways women are being discipled at the Women's Home in Heartland. In addition, a second home houses women and their children as they learn to live life together once again.

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, combined with the disciplines of hard work and a focus on Jesus Christ. The primary criteria for participating in the program is a willingness and desire to change. Call 660-213-4553.

hlandrecovery.org

Training Children and Youth

HCA

SHABAKA WILLIAMS

"At the age of eighteen, I should have died from a drug overdose," testifies Shabaka Williams, "but God is a God of second chances. Due to the prayers of my grandmother and a faithful Sunday school teacher, God revealed Himself to me. I asked the Lord to forgive me of my sins and prayed for deliverance from my drug addiction. The Lord immediately set me free from my addiction and transformed my life in an instant."

Shabaka grew up in Chicago and had been raised in church where his mother and grandmother sowed God's word into his heart at an early age. However, as a teenager he rebelled and fell into drug usage and other excesses. "The truth is that I was hurting and near the point of giving up on life by the time God intervened. There were several Christian men and women along the way who prayed for me or spoke truth into my life. A few school teachers, my barber, and my grandmother in particular."

After being saved and delivered from drugs, the Lord opened a door of opportunity for him to attend college at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO, on a scholarship for full tuition. "Moving to Kirksville from Chicago was certainly a culture shock, but God was preparing to connect me with lifelong friends and purpose. Within a year or two, I became a part of a local Bible college in Kirksville, which was eventually the means by which I moved to Heartland. Later, I graduated from that same Bible college and went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in education."

Since his high school years, he had felt the call to be a teacher—but it was only after he was saved that Shabaka surrendered to that call and pledged his life to the Lord in service to others. "I did not imagine or even aspire to be the leader of a school. To-



day, I serve as the principal at Heartland Christian Academy, a private school connected to the local church at Heartland. The school serves approximately 140 children daily. I am blessed to lead a staff of approximately 50 men and women who are devoted to seeing wholesome growth in our students.

"I feel as if my entire life was redeemed to glorify God in service to others. I experienced abuse, suffered many hurts, and was plagued by fear as a child and young person; my school age years were not pleasant ones, in fact at one point I even dropped out of high school; additionally, the abuse of drugs ravaged my body and mind. However, Jesus has caused me to know healing in multiple areas of my life and restored the faculties of mind. His grace has now given me a voice to share the truth and joy of such great salvation with many teachers and students!"

"Please join us in praying for students and young people across America. Whether they are in home school or attend a public or private institution does not matter. American young people in every setting need to know the heart that God the Father has for them. It is not His will for any to perish or experience destruction in life.



Shabaka and his wife Nitasha are also on the leadership team for Heartland Community Church, and are living life training up their lively sons and daughters.



David and Elizabeth with their own rambunctious bunch of boys.

Pray for peace and safety in schools across the land—and that competent, wholesome instruction and truth will be poured into the hearts and minds of the next generation."

GPS KIDS

DAVID & ELIZABETH SHARPE

Our editors recently spoke with David and Elizabeth Sharpe (pictured below with their family) about their life-long interest in working with children and about the different paths that brought them to the middle of these cornfields.

On Their Love for Kids...

Elizabeth: Growing up I have always loved working with children. I felt like it was a gift that God had given me. One year my dad took a trip to Malaysia and was able to work in some of the orphanages. He brought home pictures and a video of his trip, and I fell in love. I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to move to Malaysia and run my own orphanage.

David: I've always loved kids, too. I grew up with lots of sisters and come from a family of seven siblings so that probably had something to do with it. I was an unusual boy who really enjoyed babysitting and spending time with kids. As I grew older however, I became interested in other things so I never really invested any time or education into that area.

On Their Journey to Faith...

Elizabeth: I asked Jesus to come and live in my heart when I was six years old at Vacation Bible School.

As I grew older I began to really understand the importance of having my own personal relationship with Jesus Christ and I rededicated my life to Him when I was thirteen. As I grew in my relationship with Jesus I realized that I had made Him the Savior of my soul, but I was not allowing Him to completely be the Lord of my life, to really be in control. I got baptized at age 22 to symbolize I was going to allow Him to be in control of my life.

David: I was raised in Phoenix, Arizona until I was eighteen years old, and I made a series of choices that ended up getting me kicked out of my house.

At the offer of my Grandpa, I moved to Missouri in November of 2003 and became part of the Heartland Youth Program. I continued with school at Heartland Christian Academy (HCA) as a senior and joined in with all the activities and sports. One Saturday night in February, one of the group leaders asked me if I wanted to go to prayer with him. I had already been very emotional before going. When we arrived, I quickly went to the front of the church and knelt at the altar. I asked for forgiveness and decided that I wanted a relationship with Christ for the rest of my life.

On Their Work with Children Today...

Elizabeth: My childhood dream has never left. Today, I manage the HCA Samuel Center here at Heartland, caring for children from ages six weeks to four years. God did give me the desire of my heart, just not how I had expected it.

David: In 2013, I felt the calling and burden to do more with our children here at Heartland, specifi-

cally the younger ages, prior to middle and high school. After many conversations and prayer, we decided to start GPS Kids (Growing Physically and Spiritually, taken from Luke 2:52). This is a part of our church dedicated toward children, ages infant through fifth grade. Since then my wife and I have happily served and led a great team of volunteers and a large group of growing and flourishing children.

Elizabeth: Another dream I had was to lead worship. It has been a great blessing to get to do that at GPS Kids. The kids have a blast worshipping and dancing which God has also given me the privilege of helping lead. I am just amazed by God.

David: I attended Heartland Christian College before we were married. I received a great education there in biblical studies. Once we started GPS Kids, I invested in more study, reading, and learning so we could provide the best program possible.

On GPS Kids...

GPS Kids is for our kids at Heartland and for kids from other communities, too. We provide an environment that is safe, fun, loving, and very active. Each month is dedicated to a theme and life application that is designed for their age and time of



As a new stage and theme greet GPS Kids each month (above). David and his crew always dress the part—whether it's superheroes, athletes, spies, or construction workers—to make learning fun. One of the new Samuel Center rooms (left) designed by Liz and her team includes an indoor tree house and climbing wall. The Center does double-duty during the weekend for church classrooms.



life. We invite kids ages 0 through fifth grade to join any Sunday morn-

ing. They will find an environment made specifically for them.

ID318 YOUTH GROUP

JOSH SMITH



Wednesday nights you'll find Josh hanging out with his group of youth guys—snacks and sodas, and lots of conversations about life.

Josh Smith's parents divorced when he was very young, but he enjoyed great relationships with people who helped him during those years. "Growing up, I had lots of people in my life who coached me, and were there for me, but my granddad was instrumental in teaching me about Jesus. He wasn't a preacher, but he was known for bringing donuts and coffee to church, making time for a conversation, and volunteering his time at the local food bank. He'd show up at my house to bring me along to help hand out groceries. Going on food deliveries with him taught me the importance of serving. No one was above or below being shown the love of Jesus."

Today, Josh works in the IT department at Heartland. They service pretty much anything with a button, but mostly they work on computers, cell phones, printers, and network equipment. "I handle all our cell phone maintenance and general customer support. I've been doing this job for just over 11 years. Technology can be troublesome. Responding with patience and thinking through problems is essential to my daily job. I still carry the lessons I learned from my granddad as I serve my community in a practical way."

Josh also has the privilege of working with the youth ministry in Heartland. "Our fifth to twelfth grade youth group is called ID318. Our name comes from 2 Corinthians 3:18, which talks about finding our identity through Jesus Christ. We meet weekly on Wednesday nights, with the last week of the month off. I work with our sixth through eighth graders, and I love their energy and enthusiasm. I enjoy working with youth, especially the kids who, like I did, have grown up in the church. Just attending a church service doesn't make you a Christian, it's your decision to follow His leading. Learning to find your own personal identity in Jesus is a vital part of being a Christian. For me, that lesson came from watching my granddad serve his community.

"Whether you've grown up in church, or you attended your first service this week, God loves you and wants to show you how good He is. There is a joy that only comes by serving others, and knowing that God is in charge. I invite you to come join one of our services. Whether you watch us online, or visit in person, I hope that God touches your heart and you begin to see how amazing it is to find your identity in Jesus."

Heartland Missions & Heartland Christian College

Locally or Abroad, Our Heart is to Serve

Dave Barton was a junior in college and twenty years old when he bowed his knees to Jesus Christ. "I was a student at the time at Northeast Missouri State (now Truman), and though I had grown up in church, I didn't want anything to do

with God."

Dave's main goal was to do well in school so he could land a big job, be successful, and make money. One evening while he was studying in his dorm room, God graciously changed his course. "I heard a man on televi-

sion preach the gospel, and though I had heard it a thousand times, this time it was different. It was that night over thirty-seven years ago that the Lord made Himself and my need of Him very real. The Lord saved me and for many years now He has be-

native land to serve God and be a blessing in their region.

"I have heard it said before that God has a sense of humor, and I believe this to be so true when it comes to my being Mission Director. I have been such a homebody in my life (I love home and my own bed!) that those who know me best have been very surprised at what God has allowed and graced me to do these last several years."

Heartland mission teams have traveled to places like Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Moldova, India, the Philippines, Egypt, Israel, Thailand, Tanzania, and the reservations in South Dakota. When we go, we are not just going on a trip, but are going to serve along-side the many awesome friends and family which God has joined us to through the years.

Locally, our College students learn about Servanthood as they volunteer in their local communities by doing acts of service.

Dave also serves on the Executive Team here at Heartland to help guide our church and community forward in this season of change. "I serve alongside some very dedicated men and women of God. We for so many years had the great experience of having the most loving pastor in Pastor Charlie. For me, personally, he was not just a pastor but also a spiritual father and friend. He is greatly missed. However, we are so grateful that God is the Builder of His Church, and it is not just built by a man. God has blessed us with a new pastor and a wonderful team of young men and women to lead this church. We, as a church family, look so forward to the days ahead and what the Lord has for this region. We want to serve you and be a blessing for we know that we are called to not only reach out to the world with the love of Jesus Christ, but we are also called to reach out to our neighbor. If we can do anything to serve and be of help to you, please let us know."

For more information or to enroll at Heartland Christian College, phone 660-284-4800 or visit www.heartlandcollege.edu. HCC is an accredited 2-year Bible college, offering an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies. Our desire is to see people grow in their faith and prepare for life.



Dave was on hand to dedicate the gift of a water well for a village in the Bengali region of India.



Out of a desire to bless others, Heartland's Mission House Thrift Store opened its doors in July of 2010. Proceeds go directly toward the Church's missions department efforts. Donations are welcome during business hours. The store offers:

- Clothing and shoes
- Household items such as dishes, mugs, small appliances
- Household furniture and decor
- Jewelry
- Books and games
- Baby, toddler, and children's items
- Handbags and luggage



VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.hlandmissions.org

OPEN THURS. 10-6, FRI. 10-4, SAT. 10-2 • PHONE 660-284-4175
LOCATED AT: 6417 SHELBY 150, BETHEL MO 63434

come, as the old hymn says, 'sweeter and sweeter as the days go by.' Not every circumstance in my life has been sweet, but the Lord sure has."

Dave considers himself blessed with a beautiful family that includes thirteen grandchildren, plus several who have already made heaven their home. "Though I may wear a few hats at Heartland, my favorite role is being Pa Pa!" he smiles.

"I believe that I have the best job anyone could ever have. The Lord and the leadership at Heartland have entrusted me to serve as a Dean in Heartland Christian College and to be the Missions Director for Heartland Community Church. This combination has worked well as we have endeavored to be a blessing around the world, especially through the bringing of international students onto our campus. We do this to serve and be of help to our friends in a variety of nations. Our goal is to receive these wonderful students, disciple and train them further in their calling, and then send them back to their