

Territorial Calendar

December

6—District 4 pastor meeting, Birch Tree, MO

January 2009

10—District 1 pastor meeting, Columbus, KS

16-17—District 1 Youth Quake, Winona, MO

28-31—Seminary Intensive, Olathe, KS

February

7—F&S Meeting, Springfield, MO

District Rallies (TBA)

March

District Rallies (TBA)

April

17-19—Heartland Ladies Retreat, Settle Inn, Branson, MO

24-26—Heartland Men's Retreat, Wilderness Retreat Center, Lawson, MO

May

28-31—Seminary Intensive, Olathe, KS

June

15-19—Youth Camps West

28-July 5—Youth Camps East

August

7-9—Heartland Territorial Convention, Oasis Inn and Convention Center, Springfield, MO

September

25-27—Pastor's Retreat, Branson, MO

The King and His Kingdom

The State of Future of the Church, Overseer's Address, part 2.

Having a spiritual environment to work in is not the only prerequisite to spiritual liberty in our churches and the resulting expansion of God's kingdom. There must be a unity of application between the pastor and congregation—each must apply themselves to be all they can be in Christ Jesus. When that happens, when both the pastor and the congregation strive to allow the Spirit to truly work in their lives, to grow in the Lord, the King and His kingdom will manifest. There will be unity within the Heartland churches, even with our diverse biblical understandings rooted in years of teaching. And there will be a unity with other Bible-believing churches throughout our communities.

Just as there are churches exhibiting such unity and spiritual services prevail, there are others whose pastors want more but the congregation doesn't; and maybe there are those whose congregations want more and the pastor doesn't. And (God forbid) maybe there are even those where neither the congregation nor pastor wants anything more of the kingdom; rather, all everyone desires is a platform in order to be heard. But the King deserves better!

We can *make* God and the church whatever we want, or we can submit to His kingship and His Kingdom and allow the church to be what He wants it to be. The

problem is when we try to make it through our own power the Lord becomes absent. The crowds found that out in Jesus' day concerning His kingship: "When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone" (John 6:15). The religionists learned it as well concerning the church: "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of

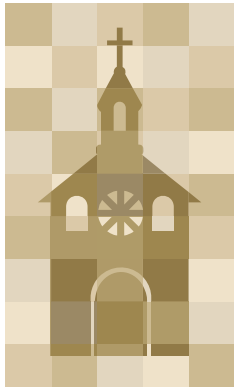
thieves" (Matthew 21:13).

In these last days churches throughout the land are at a crossroad: do we readily submit to what the Spirit is doing or do we continue with our personal agenda? A common place to where the Spirit is right now, as

well as a prerequisite for the spiritual environment I have been speaking of, is prayer. Churches must be places of prayer. Anything less and it can become a den of thieves—a place where the Spirit of God has been stolen away. Additionally, His Kingship must be submitted to and not made: to make Him King puts the clay ahead of the Potter and the body above the Head. His kingdom is not of this world and to try and make Him King through the worldly ways of personal benefit, recognition and gain will only result in His departure. We must embrace the sovereignty of His Kingship and kingdom in order to fulfill His call in our lives and His call in our churches.



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Heartland Church News

Delta, MO—God still shows mercy! I met a man by the name of Jerry right after I came to Delta, whose wife attends our church. Jerry was raised in the Delta church but had fallen into a deep sinful life. He had been sick for eighteen years and was losing life by the day. I talked to him about the Lord on many of my visits and he kept saying he just was not ready. He had something's he wanted to do and knew if he became a Christian he wouldn't feel right to do it. However on Sunday, October 26 he gave his life to the Lord and was gloriously born again! The following Thursday Jerry entered the hospital and the next day went to be with the Lord. God is still faithful and His grace still extends to the uttermost!

Pastor Boyd

October Average Attendance*

Birch Tree, MO	72
Hope Thru Grace, KC, MO	71
Fredericktown, MO	64
Wichita, KS	58
Springfield, MO <i>(Wednesday night)</i>	45
Centerpoint, MO	36
Poplar Bluff, MO	26
Eminence, MO	24
Houses Creek, MO	24
Van Buren, MO	23
Delta, MO	23
Emporia, KS	20
Columbus, KS	18

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To embrace the King and His kingdom can only be done in the Spirit, because our God is Spirit! Thus it stands to reason that the biggest obstacle to this embracing is also spirit—the spirit of religion which was personified in Jesus' day by the Pharisees. As the Lord stated then, while He expounded on the fundamentals of His kingdom through the Sermon on the Mount, so is it today: "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20).

While the Pharisaical attributes are too numerous to mention in detail here, please remember these two particular qualities of the spirit of religion we battle today: stagnation and externalism.

The third and final section will appear next month.



Christopher Columbus and Christmas

Columbus christened the first island he landed on "San Salvador," meaning "Holy Saviour," and kneeling, prayed: "O Lord, Almighty and everlasting God, by Thy holy Word Thou hast created the heaven, and the earth, and the sea; blessed and glorified be Thy Name, and praised be Thy Majesty, which hath deigned to use us, Thy humble servants, that Thy holy Name may be proclaimed in this second part of the earth."

On every island that they stopped, Columbus had his men erect a large wooden cross as a token of Jesus Christ our Lord, and in honor of the Christian faith. According to Columbus personal log, his purpose in seeking "undiscovered worlds" was to: "... bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the heathens."

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 1492, the *Santa Maria* ran aground and had to be abandoned. Columbus left 40 men



on the Island of Haiti, in a settlement he named "La Navidad," meaning "The Nativity." He promised to return the next year.

**If your church had an average attendance more than 10 last month and is not listed it is for one of the following reasons:*

1. *No monthly report from the pastor;*
2. *Report received, but average not listed.*

I look forward to having a more complete listing of our attendance next month.—JP

*Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year!*

From our family to yours