

Territorial Calendar

February

7—F&S Meeting, Springfield, MO (10:00 am)
 13, 14—District 3 Rally, St. Peters, Sikeston, MO

March

7—District 2 Rally, Olathe, KS
 13—District 4 Rally, Birch Tree, MO
 28—District 1 Rally, Wichita, KS

April

17-19—Heartland Ladies Retreat, Settle Inn, Branson, MO
 21-24—LDI, Cleveland, TN
 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

24-27—Children's Ministry Institute, Ridgecrest, NC
 25-27—Pastor's Retreat, Branson, MO

Overcoming Apathy

Holy Spirit shared with us during a Friday night prayer meeting that the spirit of apathy was working: "Oh, I tell you, a spirit of apathy seeks to overtake your people and it seeks to work, it seeks to work by withholding my Word, because my Word gives hope and my Word gives direction—in my Word is life. But I say, I rebuke the enemy for your sake and for the sake of my people!"

How encouraging it is to know that we are not alone, but that Holy Spirit is battling *with us and for us*.

Apathy means an absence or suppression of passion, emotion, or excitement; a lack of interest in or concern for things that others find moving or exciting. Friday night was not the first time Holy Spirit focused our attention on this particular battle, nor do I believe it will be the last. It was evident in the early church with Ephesus' loss of their first love (Revelation 2:4); and is seen as a characteristic of the last days: "And because iniquity abounds, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12). Thus, this distinct enemy will continue to try and suppress our passion for

God even more as we see the day of His return approaching.

One aspect in winning this battle is found in the word *entropy*. Entropy means an inevitable and steady deterioration of a system or society. John Ortberg writes that entropy is the great



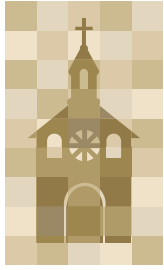
enemy of the human spirit: "If you have ever bought a new car and driven it off the lot, you've witnessed entropy. You lose several thousand dollars as soon as it goes off the lot, because things have a way of deteriorating on their own. If you've ever seen a group of kids on summer vacation, you've noticed that by late August, when they're sitting around somebody's house and one of them says, "What do you want to do?" everybody else says, "I don't know; what do you want to do?" That's entropy. Everything when left on its own—when not given attention and energy—has a tendency to deteriorate. That's the way it works in human life. When you become apathetic or complacent or settle for the path of least resistance in some area of life, entropy sets in and dreams die and hopes fade. Then a terrible thing happens: you learn you can live with mediocrity. It's not a great life, but you can tolerate it."

God has called us to an abundant and fruitful life, but it is one that must be cultivated and cared for—it will simply not take care of itself. Take time and see where mediocrity has been allowed in your life, and then, make a renewed determination to win this particular skirmish.



The Darrell Derryberry family thanks you for all the love, prayers, and consideration shared following the loss of their son, Tim.

Contributions are still being accepted to the Tim Derryberry Memorial Fund. Please send you gift to Security Bank of The Ozarks, P.O. Box 305, Winona, Missouri 65588. Thank you for your consideration—JP



Heartland Church News

Mt. View, MO—A review of 2008—As the year began, our attendance was a steady and strong 15. As our pastor, Rex Dow, believed God and continued to encourage and preach vision, we all began to catch that vision and with faith began to move forward to embrace all that God had for us as individuals and as a local church body.

In February, we hosted our first revival with Dion and Stacey Prewett.

Many souls were not only touched during the revival but many were saved, healed and delivered. Early in the year we began to have a community-wide Youth Night, inviting area churches and their youth to join us for an evening of fellowship and worship. We also had the opportunity to be a part of WAASUP (**W**inona and **A**rea **S**tudents **U**nited in **P**raise). This was another awesome outreach for youth of the Heartland Territory. With excitement and vision building our church began "Game Night." This outreach quickly went from one night a month to two, and sometimes 3. Several have been saved during these 'game nights' and many now not only attend our church on a regular basis, but have become members. Who knew God would use this simple event as a catalyst for evangelism and growth in our church? In May, Bro. Rex asked the church to consider helping students in our school district. Our goal at first was to try and help 25 students by supplying them with a backpack and some school supplies, but then the congregation grabbed the vision and asked "why not 500?!". Before we knew it, the vision spread from our congregation to our community and area churches, and to friends and family all over the US and the "First Annual Back to School Celebration" was underway. Throughout the months of May, June and July the church was busy praying, planning, and preparing for the celebration. After all was said and done, God had provided over \$ 7,800.00 in finances needed for the purchase of the supplies AND the donations of products and services needed for the event. Our vision to help 500 students was nothing, when God supplied more than enough and 780 students were blessed instead!! A concert followed that evening with RESCUE 121 where over 200 people attended, two received salvation, three rededicated themselves, and one young man received the call to ministry. In September we participated in the Mountain View Annual "Pioneer Days." Our youth decorated and presented a float for the parade, and our church built an out-house for one of the contests. In October, the youth hosted a Lock-In at the MV-Youth Center, several ladies attended the Fredericktown COGOP Ladies Day, with our Men's Ministry functioning and our Women's Ministry forming. Five more were baptized in water and nine joined the church! With the continued growth some of our outreach events have been moved to the community youth center facilities located next to us. Now plans are being made on how to add-on or remodel our current facilities. The church gave their pastor and family a surprise appreciation dinner, presented them with a beautiful picture and card and a gift certificate for a weekend vacation to Branson for the entire family. The Men's Ministry has also been busy the past month or so. They have cut over 14 rank of wood and delivered to those in need. Bro. Rex calls it "Fun-raising"! In December, the walls in the back came down, and new walls put in place, enlarging our current classrooms considerably. Everyone is excited about the additional room our youth and children's ministries will now have. The next phase will be to add-on to the existing building, followed by another phase, which will be to build a new building and turn the existing building into youth & children's ministry. Our Christmas program was great with 102 in attendance, and the church presented each child/teen under the age of 18 with a gift, adult visitors with a gift certificate to Godfather's Pizza, and several drawings for some Wal-Mart gift cards. We are overwhelmed at all God has done in 2008, and we are looking expectantly forward to 2009—What a Mighty God We Serve!! May God abundantly bless you all! Church Reporter

December Average Attendance*

Hope Thru Grace, KC, MO	69
Winona, MO	69
Mt. View, MO	68
Fredericktown, MO	63
Birch Tree, MO	56
Springfield, MO <i>(Wednesday night)</i>	56
Centerpoint, MO	34
Liberal, MO	31
Poplar Bluff, MO	27
West Plains, MO	25
Van Buren, MO	25
Delta, MO	23
Houses Creek, MO	22
California, MO	21
Eminence, MO	20
Columbus, KS	18
Emporia, KS	17
Haddam, KS	12
Joplin, MO	10

**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 in the future.—JP