

Territorial Calendar

January 2009

10—District 1 pastor meeting, Columbus, KS

16-17—Youth Quake, Winona, MO

28-31—Seminary Intensive, Olathe, KS

February

7—F&S Meeting, Springfield, MO

7, 14—District 3 Rally, TBA

March

7—District 2 Rally, Olathe, KS

14—District 4 Rally, Birch Tree, MO

28—District 1 Rally, Wichita, KS

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 and Future of the Church, Overseer's Address, final section.

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 subtlety of this spirit will make once, on-fire believers into overbearing individuals intolerant of the weaknesses or failures of others. They end up glorying more in what God has done in the past than what He is doing in the present; in fact, that spirit will try and cast doubt so the person becomes very suspicious of any new moves of the Spirit. Any spiritual maturity is misguided into believing they "have arrived" and thus, program, practice, and structure replaces faith, inspiration, and function. Once fervent and passionate intercessions evaporate to mechanical and unconscious prayers.

To battle this spirit we must always welcome ever-increasing trials of our faith. And if we haven't had a battle lately or think we have matured past them beware! Faith is how we enter the kingdom of God and faith is how we function in it. Look at the lives of Abraham, David, and the Apostle Paul. Each of them were continually tested throughout their lifetimes and by those tests were changed from glory to glory.

God's kingdom is growing through constant change: "Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it" (Luke 13:18-19). Let your faith grow with the kingdom!

Besides stagnation, the spirit of religion constantly desires to prevent change by using religious devices; that is, it works to preserve the status quo through adhering to external-

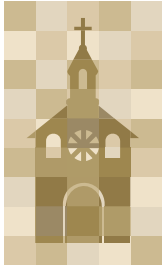
ism, or what the Bible calls "the tradition of elders." Pharisaical questions like in Matthew 15:2, "Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread" reveal the nature of externalists. This spirit likes to live in a vacuum, a box where everything is neat, orderly, confined, and controlled. The kingdom of God is anything but that. "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21).

"It [the kingdom of God] is not something that can be pointed at or visited and studied and taken back to be replicated. Workshops will not be able to mow it down with bullet points, and training manuals will not be able to ensure success in your area....Why, because it is within you" penned author

Kester Brewin in *Signs of Emergence*. He continues, "It must be conceived, nurtured, birthed, and given space to evolve from within." And it can be "messy:" its citizens can heal on the Sabbath; cast out devils with the finger of God; be accused of being a friend of sinners and charged with new wine drunkenness. "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power" (1 Corinthians 4:20); "...is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).

Listen again to the Words of the Spirit uttered just a few weeks ago and became the direction for this convention: "Hear my voice, know my voice, do not be deceived, you know me, you know who I am, you know my Spirit. Walk in my Spirit: Walk in my Spirit and you will find life. You will find life.... You will find life and you will be able to offer what I have given you so freely to others. I say, go forth in the power and the anointing and the authority of my Spirit and do not fear, for I am bringing in a harvest. It is me, it is my work, it is my doing—it is my kingdom, and I am King!"





Heartland Church News

Centerpoint, MO—Effective January 1, 2009 Brother Kenny King will be the new pastor for Centerpoint. Brother King's wife, Irene, worked this past year in the East's Junior High Camp. They come to Missouri from Tennessee.

Poplar Bluff, MO—Brother Melvin Rector will serve as the new pastor in Poplar Bluff effective January 1, 2009. Brother Rector has ministered in Missouri previously and we welcome him and Sister Rector "home."

Delta, MO—We are praising God for a "successful" December. Henry Ford once said success is a matter of adjusting one's efforts to overcome obstacles, and adjusting one's abilities to give the service needed by others. Our ladies group did just this during the month of December – they scouted out the community and looked for needs they could fill.

In addition to holding weekly services at our local nursing center, they began the month with a challenge to decorate an entire wing at the center for Christmas. Based on the theme "Candy Cane Lane," they began the task by collecting supplies and crafting homemade decorations. With supplies in hand, they drafted several of our young people during a Saturday morning to help decorate. You could literally see the excitement of the residents as candy canes and garland lined the hallway.



With excitement building, more of our ladies got involved and packaged "Goody Boxes" with homemade cookies, candies, and lotions (donated by a local Avon rep) for every resident at the center. Not wanting to leave the employees out in the cold, they even prepared trays for the employees of each shift.

With the help of our local school system, our ladies were able to find and adopt a family that needed some help this Christmas. We collected not only all the food & trimmings for a complete Christmas dinner, but enough to fully stock their pantry for several weeks to come. Members also volunteered to purchase gifts for each member of the family, as well as several gift cards. Mother's eyes were quite teary eyed as we filled the entire back seat and rear end of her old rusty jeep. We later learned the family's budget was so tight they had been heating entirely with wood and cooking outside in a barrel with a grate over it. With tears flowing, Mom kept repeating that she just couldn't believe somebody cared about her family. Several of our members were quite teary eyed as well!



We'd like to issue a challenge to all our territorial churches to look for needs that YOU can fill in your community! Mr. Ford sums it up well, "Most people think of it in terms of getting; success, however, begins in terms of giving." Delta wishes you a blessed and "successful" New Year!

We would like to thank everyone in the Territory for your generosity this holiday season. Your thoughtfulness, consideration, and kind expressions were appreciated so very much.

John, Diane, Evin, Shauna and Nick, Hannah, Molli, Sofie, Jes, Lily

November Average Attendance*

Olathe, KS	110
Olathe Spanish, KS (Sunday Morning)	90
Way of Life, KC, KS	80
Winona, MO	72
Birch Tree, MO	69
Hope Thru Grace, KC, MO	65
Fredericktown, MO	64
Mt. View, MO	63
Springfield, MO (Wednesday night)	53
Centerpoint, MO	32
Liberal, MO	26
Delta, MO	24
Eminence, MO	24
Houston, MO	24
West Plains, MO	24
Houses Creek, MO	22
Poplar Bluff, MO	21
Columbus, KS	19
Emporia, KS	19
Flatwoods, MO	18
Haddam, KS	10
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 next month.—JP