

Territorial Calendar

November

8—District 3 pastor meeting, Fredericktown, MO

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 1.

Reflecting over my eight years here I recalled that an initial focus was to continue building unity between both Kansas and Missouri begun under Bishop Winchester's administration. I remember having East and West conventions one Assembly year early in my tenure and how the Lord ministered mightily, yet in very different and obvious ways, even with a common theme—A Harvest of One—for each convention. However, it is noteworthy that this year was the first time I was able to share the same message in every district rally! Even with our vast theological and cultural differences, through our love for the Lord and mutual respect of one another we have a Territorial unity that brings glory to God.

Additionally, in reviewing a *Heartland Messenger* from five years ago we had one church averaging over 100 on Sunday morning with the next highest attendance at 60. However today we have five to seven churches averaging over 60 with a couple pushing near 100. To God be the glory!

In my letter to Bishop Clements, dated March 15, 2008 regarding my personal future and the work in the Heartland I wrote: "In trying to be as objective as possible, I do feel we have made progress in some very important areas for Kansas and Missouri, especially in overall spirituality. God's grace has allowed us to have a spiritual environment conducive for personal growth should folks apply themselves. Our corporate meetings reflect a

genuine worship and obedience to Spirit-led spontaneity that truly reflects our Pentecostal heritage and belief. A most glaring deficiency is lack of ministry in the African American communities of Kansas City and St. Louis, and any larger city presence west of Wichita."

While I understand what our book—the Assembly Minutes—rehearses as my job description as an overseer, I still maintain that many of those definitions need to be updated to today's church and practice. I still believe the *number one* requirement

for this function is to labor with the Lord in creating, maintaining and/or enhancing a spiritual environment for spiritual growth among our people. It is not to simply be a promoter, broker, politician, or administrator; rather, it's function should reflect that of the

early apostles in prayer and ministry of the Word (cf. Acts 6). It is to be a function not based on positional power but spiritual authority. By maintaining a spiritual emphasis and environment there is a liberty that allows His gifts to operate in each of us and will result in an individual joy to the expansion of His kingdom, all for His glory. There must be an affirmative answer to any Christian's question, "Is this church a place that will help me be all I can be in Jesus?"

I was embarrassed this year in our General Assembly when the General Overseer asked all those who planted a church this past year to stand and then he included the overseeing bishops as well, since we had a part in it's establishment. And while I know what Bishop Howard had in mind and respect it, I quickly sat

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Heartland Statistical Report

(June 1, 2007—May 31, 2008)

Experiences*

Saved	158 (175)
Sanctified	58 (30)
Baptized in Holy Ghost	22 (28)
Baptized in water	55 (46)
Sermons preached	2622 (2644)
New members added to the Church	102 (45)
Net increase in membership	53 (64)
Total current membership	1319 (1266)
Number of new churches organized	1 (0)
Number of Missions operating	2 (3)
Current number of churches in the region:	43 (44)

Heartland Ministry (87 total)

Bishops	20
Male ministers	44
Female ministers	23
Ministers licensed	2
Lay ministers	3

September Average Attendance

Olathe, KS Spanish (Sunday night)	170
Olathe, KS English	110
Life Church, Potosi, MO	96
New Beginnings, St. Peters, MO	91
Way of Life, KC, KS	86
Fredericktown, MO	73
Winona, MO	73
Hope Thru Grace, KC, MO	65
Birch Tree, MO	57
Wichita, KS	50
21st Street Fellow- ship, KC, KS	45
Springfield, MO (Wednesday night)	42
Eminence, MO	29
Delta, MO	26
Houston, MO	26
West Plains, MO	26

*Excludes youth camp experiences. Please see Youth Camp and Retreat Board report for camping and retreat statistics. The numbers in parenthesis are the totals given in last year's report.

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down, not wanting to personally portray something that wasn't genuine. I have had no direct, hands-on, down and dirty, day-after-day activity in any of the new church plants in Heartland: Wichita Spanish was dug out by Brother Mendez, Carthage Spanish was dug out by Brother Alarilo, Potosi was dug out by Brother and Sister King; the combining of two St. Louis churches—St. Peters and St. Charles—into a stronger, more vibrant church was done through pastors (the late) Bill Kabor, Jesse Adams, Gary Wood and Richie Ables and coupled with visionary members; the merging of 65th Street and Shawnee into a church experiencing great revival was the *hands on* work of pastors Shirley Halpain and Rodney Wilcox and their progressive members. All these ministers are the ones who did the work; they are the ones who deserve the sole recognition for these results: their burden, their prayers, their efforts, their obedience to the Spirit brought these results, but the backcloth to their work was a spiritual environment that allowed for the leading of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God!



Thus, let me again say that the evangelization of the Heartland will not be directly rooted at the territorial office in Springfield. There will be no “quippy” promotional jingles or corporate mottos or targets; rather, just as sheep beget sheep, so too, do churches need to beget churches, both by releasing those called of God and through the church's outreach and contact in their community. Yes, I know that we need to build-up many of our churches, but as that growth comes we cannot be so possessive as to squash the callings of others to reach out and plant new churches. How we need to see Acts 13:2 practiced: “And as they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.”