Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

**Pastor Charles Sharpe – CNS International Ministries**

**What Heartland is All About**

Growing up on my family’s small farm near LaBelle, Missouri, I never imagined what God had in store for my life. In 1964, I founded Ozark National Life Insurance Company, which quickly grew to be one of the region’s leading insurance companies. The success of Ozark is, in itself, a testimony to God’s faithfulness. Through it, we founded a community called Heartland with a vision for meeting the needs of northeastern Missouri and regions beyond. It is a place where people can experience restoration through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Heartland is dedicated to helping people with broken lives experience peace through Christ, develop a good work ethic, and live victoriously in every area of life.

In the Scriptures, Psalm 107 is a perfect picture of the church at Heartland. The psalmist describes people in all kinds of desperate situations. They cried out to the Lord, and He saved them. Not only did He save them, but He guided them to a safe haven—to a city where they could live and raise their families.

That city is not just Heartland, of course. It is the Church of the Living God—the true City of Refuge. Those who make Heartland their home have found a refuge from many kinds of needs in their lives.

The psalmist describes us in several categories: those who wandered in the wilderness, hungry and thirsty, with fainting souls. Those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death. Prisoners in misery and chains because of our rebellion. Those who were fools in their rebellious ways, abhorring even food to eat. Those who went down to the sea in great ships to do business and were caught in terrifying storms.

We all fit somewhere in those descriptions. And we all have this in common—when we called out to God in our distress, He rescued us. It is good to reflect on Psalm 107 and find hope in its words. When we see again what God has done for us, the psalmist tells us what our response should be... Give thanks to the Lord for His loving kindness, and for His wonders to the sons of men!

If we can do anything here at Heartland to help you or your family, please don’t hesitate to ask.

- Charlie Sharpe, Founder
  CNS International Ministries, Inc.

Charlie and Laurie Sharpe live on the Heartland campus near Bethel, Missouri. Since 1998, they have opened their home and their hearts with one goal for every person who sets foot on campus—that they would fall in love with Jesus Christ and serve Him for the rest of their lives.

We believe it is not enough to merely know the Gospel, we must allow it to transform us and let God impact every aspect of our lives.
I Know God is a Restorer

Within six months of my birth in Ft. Worth, Texas, my dad was put into prison. Seven years later he was released, and it was at that point he introduced me to alcohol and cigarettes, and sexually molested me as well. He locked me into closets and water heater rooms, leaving me in there for two to three days at a time. During this time we moved back and forth between Texas and Missouri, then to Quincy, Illinois. At the age of 10, I was struck by a car and almost died, but I was brought back to life by an A.E.D. They administered this from the scene of the accident to the ambulance and finally at the hospital. This accident left me with a broken leg, and consequently I have metal plates, bolts and nuts in my leg. Boy, were these some “fun” times in my life.

I started smoking marijuana at the age of 12 and popping pills at the same time. When I was 16, I was introduced to cocaine, meth, and acid. This was in addition to drinking alcohol on a consistent basis. I lived in this lifestyle up until I was 41. During that time I was arrested more than 20 times. Needless to say the police knew my name! I went to 15 or 20 rehabs during that period of my life. I was stabbed, beat up on several occasions, and went through two divorces. Plus, I lost custody of my daughter and did not get to see her from the ages of three years old until she was 21.

During this time I was sentenced to five years of probation, which I violated within eight hours. I got into two or three fights, broke out a window in a bar which cut my hands up, and the cops tracked me down through the blood trail I left over a distance of five blocks. I was released so I could go to the hospital, but after seeing the probation officer, I did 48 hours in jail. That was the point where I told him I needed help! I asked him to go to a place called Heartland, so I could get my life straight, but little did I know what God’s intentions were for my life.

I arrived at Heartland on March 4, 2007. This was during Heartland’s annual missions conference. We went to church for five straight days. Let me tell you, that seemed like an awful long time to go to church, but God was working on my heart. After a couple of days of trying not to go to the altar, I gave my life to God, and then things started to change. The plans I had of going back out and getting drunk and high within two or three months went away. God was putting me in His service.

God helped me to begin rebuilding my relationship with my family. They started to call me more and they saw the change that God had done in my life. Because of the change they wanted to be around me more often. God allowed me to see my daughter again after seven years of serving Him, which was a great blessing, along with seeing my four year old granddaughter for the first time. I was overjoyed and very thankful. Plus, God has allowed me to have a great relationship with my son and his wife, who have three children. Amen!

I graduated from the Heartland recovery program in September of 2008. I was working in laundry at the time, and eventually came on staff. I have worked to serve God and praise Him every day! God has allowed me to give back to the men what He has given me.

Sometimes I pull out my old photo ID when I tell my story. It’s a testimony in itself that I am a different person. One of my favorite Bible verses is from Psalm 23, “The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want.” I am so very thankful that He saved me from my sin and gave me back my family.

Today, Mitch’s job at the Heartland Men’s Center gives him the opportunity to share his own story of deliverance and hope with men who have burned a lot of bridges in their lives. Hearing his testimony gives them hope for what God can do in restoring their families as well. Mitch also takes great pleasure in beating them at handball, bags, and horseshoes in their spare time.
**BROOKE’S STORY**

I was raised in a home that believed in God, but did not go to church. At the age of 17, I began to smoke marijuana and run with the wrong people. I thought I was cool. I even ran away from home because mom and dad wouldn't let me date.

I met LJ when I was 18. He had just been released from prison, and I fell in love at first sight. We had a rocky nine years together but we hung in there. Because of our lifestyle, we even lost our children for a period of three months. Unfortunately, when we got them back, we were still not done with the world and we began to head right back down the same path.

Thinking about it now, I know God was speaking to us, “If you don't stop you will lose it all.” Did we stop? No! I slowed down and only used on the weekends and when the kids were not around. I thought if the kids were not there when I was using, at least they could not be taken away.

We had family members who were living in Heartland and their lives were different. I knew in my heart that God was asking us to go to Heartland, but I didn't want to be separated from my family. Then, LJ began to get worse and worse using meth. It was clear to me that we needed help. LJ came to the Heartland Men's Recovery Center. I stopped using and began to take care of my babies.

Six months later, LJ called and said he wanted his family with him. I packed what I could, sold everything else, and we moved to Heartland. God has changed my whole family and blessed us so much. I thought we would never have another child because of all the junk we had done, but God gave us a son, who is now two.

God blessed me with a true God fearing and loving family. God is the best part of the whole deal because if it wasn't for His loving correction there is no telling where any of us would be. Thank you, God, for your mercy and love. Without it, I believe I would be in hell.

**LJ’S STORY**

When I came to Heartland in 2010, I was broken from my addictions. By God's grace, He shook me and showed me there was going to be no more riding the fence.

Growing up, my family acknowledged God, but didn't think it was really necessary to go to church. But even from a young age, God already had His hand on me. I was in an accident when I was little and the doctors said I would be a vegetable for the rest of my life. But God raised me up.

My insecurities were part of what led to my drug addiction and doing time in prison. When I was released, I met my wife, Brooke, who is one of the things I am most grateful for in life. I did a lot of things I am not proud of, like not being a good husband or father when I was caught up in sin and all of the drugs. I found myself giving everything away that God had given me and my family.

When I finally came to Heartland, God began to restore my marriage and my health, and brought me to a place of unity with Christ. I am thankful for a church where my family can get teaching of God's Word.

Years ago, I always dreamed of sending my daughters to private school, and working on a ranch of some kind. Here at Heartland, we have both. Plus, two years ago God added a son to our family. I am so blessed.

I could not have asked for a better wife and mother to our children. Brooke and I may be short on words, but our goal is to live out our faith every day. One of my favorite verses is from James 2:17, "Even so faith, if it hath no works, is dead, being alone." I try to be an example to the men I work with at the Dairy, both in my work ethic and how I live my life. I have been encouraged and lifted up by people here at Heartland, and now I want to give back by doing the same. I can't begin to tell all that God has done for me, so I want to try to live so He is exalted every day in my life.

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There is plenty of laughter in the Derryberry farmhouse these days. Friends say it's a mixture of the joy that comes from serving Jesus and pure orneriness!
Welcome to rural America. Much like any small town, we’re always glad to have folks come and visit. In addition to restaurants, stores, auto repair, and more, what you will find at Heartland is an intentional Christian community, where men and women are finding hope in the power of Jesus Christ to change lives and restore families.

The businesses at Heartland are all open to the public, providing jobs for staff and people in the recovery programs. We believe in a holistic approach to ministry. Getting healthy spiritually is the most important step. But along with that, a good work ethic and restored relationships are key as well.

You’re welcome to come do business in our little “town” any time, or join us for church! We look forward to the opportunity to serve you.
Come and See Us!

From the southwest, like Kansas City: Take Hwy 36 East to Shelbina. North on Highway 15 at Shelbina (through Shelbyville and Bethel). About 2 miles north of Bethel on Highway 15 take Heartland Drive (Hwy E) to the right (east). Stay on Heartland Drive (Hwy E) for about 4 miles and turn left (west).

From the southeast, like St. Louis, Hannibal: Take Hwy 36 West to Shelbina. North on Highway 15 at Shelbina (through Shelbyville and Bethel). About 2 miles north of Bethel on Highway 15 take Heartland Drive (Hwy E) to the right (east). Stay on Heartland Drive (Hwy E) for about 4 miles and turn left (west).

From the northeast, like Quincy, Illinois: Take Hwy 6 West and turn left at Highway 156 in Ewing, Missouri. Stay on Highway 156 until Newark, turn left (south) on Heartland Drive (Hwy E). Stay on Heartland Drive (Hwy E) for about 4 miles and turn right (west).

From the northwest, like Kirksville: Take Hwy 6 East out of Kirksville about 25 miles to Route 15. Turn right (south) on Highway 15 and go about 10 miles. Turn left (east) on Highway 156 and go to Newark. Turn right on Heartland Drive (Hwy E) for about 4 miles and turn right (west).

1. Heartland Creamery, 660-284-4900
4. Cleansing Waters Laundry, 660-284-4134
5. Heartland Christian Academy, 660-284-6300 / Church
6. Dorothy Sharpe-Moore Building:
   Administrative Offices, 660-284-6212
   Mission House Thrift Store, 660-284-4175
   Heartland Telecommunications, 660-284-6152
7. Heartland TV Studio, 660-284-4103
8. Scribbles & Scribes Ink, 660-284-6230
11. Heartland Cannery
12. Calvary Medical Center, 660-284-4300
13. Ozark Lodge & Steakhouse, 660-284-6333
15. Heartland Gym, College Classrooms
God Has a Plan

I was born in Lawton, Oklahoma, to a very loving mother and father, who taught me many things. They raised me to have standards for myself, and to do my best. My dad always told me I could do anything I wanted in life and be anything I wanted to be. I know they believed in me and did their very best, but there was always one thing missing, Jesus. At a young age my mom was privileged to be a stay at home mom, which gave me and my sister a lot of time to be together (I am sure that my mother went crazy sometimes). Though it was wonderful to be with mom, it seemed like we did not see my dad that much because he worked twelve hour shifts at Goodyear. I know he was there for us always, but “bringing home the bacon” was a priority.

Even from a young age I was a people pleaser. I remember being afraid that I would hurt others or cause my teachers to be disappointed in me. The people pleasing followed me into a life of rebellion through middle school and high school. I hid it well, sneaking around doing things that I knew would disappoint my parents or people I cared about. I became involved with guys, and because I was in the people pleasing business to somehow prove myself, promiscuity became my life. I would do what I wanted and keep it all a secret so no one would know, or so I thought. I was confronted one day in a way that I did not expect—God himself was calling me out.

I went with a friend to a church meeting for the first time that I can actually remember and conviction was heavy on my heart. I reluctantly decided I did not want to be the way I was and that I wanted to change. Looking back, it is as if I became a deer in hunting season, and the Devil had a huge shot gun and a bullet with my name on it, and I let him hit me. The bullet did not look like a small piece of metal; it looked like doubt, confusion and people pleasing. I remember trying to justify my actions by saying that it was not my fault I did all the things that I did. I told myself that I only messed around with guys so much because my dad worked plenty and I just wanted a man’s attention. I fell back to my old ways and even became worse than I was before I had met Jesus. I picked up drugs along the way, became more promiscuous, and I used my cheerleader status to cover it up. I was a mess, yet completely okay with my filth.

My love for pleasing people is what kept me in the church. I soon fell for a guy in the church that was actually going somewhere in life. It is only by God’s grace that he is still completely in love with Jesus and serves him as a youth pastor in Oklahoma. I am grateful that he pointed me in the right direction.

On June 9, 2010, I was at a youth camp. I was truly changed in that Turner Falls Tabernacle, which was basically a metal roof, concrete flooring and wooden pews to accommodate about 700 people. This place was not fancy with amazing lights; I actually recall only about 10 of those garage lights that you use when working on a car to light up the place, but God can use anything. It was a new thing I encountered that day. I was filled with the Holy Spirit and changed forever. I literally let go of everything that I used to do. I basically lost all my friends because I did not do anything that they did any more. I spent all my free time at the church, and became a different person.

Soon after, I felt the Lord calling me into children’s ministry and to go to Bible college. I found a Bible college in the middle of a cornfield and God said, “That’s the one!” so I went. I graduated from Heartland Christian College in May of 2014 and have loved every minute of my life serving the College.

Recently I work at Heartland Christian Academy with elementary students and also in the daycare. I’m part of our church children’s ministry, GPS Kids (Growing Physically and Spiritually), and help with projection on our worship team. I find that God has blessed me beyond what I can imagine, not because of me, but because of mercy and grace. I know that He has given me such a heart for children, and for reaching out, and I know He has a plan to use me!

Chelsea’s love for people is evident by the children who are always surrounding her, and the opportunities she makes to share the love of God with people at the mall, in the grocery store, or while eating out. Chelsea plans to continue her education, and has enrolled at Central Christian College of the Bible for online classes.
Living in Freedom Day by Day

Josh Smith – Heartland Telecommunications

Being raised in a house with a single parent has become commonplace for many homes in America. I was raised in such a home by my mother along with my two older sisters. I was three years old when my parents divorced. I spent my younger years playing with GI Joes and Legos, and grew up watching Transformers and Star Wars. I spent weeks here and there with my dad. His job moved him all over the country, so I was a well-traveled kid.

My mom’s parents lived in Kirksville, Missouri, so that’s where we moved to after the divorce. My grandparents were major influences in my life and I learned many things from their examples. We attended a local church in Kirksville, and were students in their private Christian School. I was raised to be honest and respectful of others. I also had a healthy fear of getting into trouble. My grandad was a man who gave his time and energy to serve his community. He volunteered at a local food pantry, and I spent a lot of my free time with him.

Between school, the church, and youth group services, I grew up with a lot of rules that intended to point me toward God. Though stifling at the time, they kept me safe. Some such rules were we weren’t allowed to date, and we were discouraged from rated R movies, and secular music. I also didn’t have many friends outside the church or school. I was a part of a church that lived morally good lives, met on Sundays and did their best to be a New Testament church.

But the Bible talks about a group of people that knew God, and did not honor Him as God. This became the path I was on once my teenage years hit and I started to look for what else life had to offer. I began finding comfort in music that was more about fame, women and self-gain. I found movies and magazines that aren’t appropriate for anyone and began down a dark path of self-loathing. I stayed away from drugs and alcohol mostly because those were the “big sins”, thinking I was a good kid still, who wasn’t too screwed up. I may have looked like a good kid on the outside, but my heart was full of lies and fear.

Without having a dad around in my daily life, I kept those feelings, emotions and problems to myself. I had ample opportunity and many leaders in my life who would have helped me through these years, but shame and pride kept me inward. The night that I decided to change didn’t have any major fanfare. We were having special services one week with a visiting pastor who had lived a life of drug and alcohol abuse. After his testimony he asked if anyone felt like their eternity was uncertain. I found myself sitting up my chair and raising my hand for salvation. I remember my grandad sitting next to me. I wish that I could tell you that after that moment my life was perfect and I never struggled with sin again, but life takes work, and God has a promise of peace and freedom to all who seek it.

In the following years God began to give me the desire to see other kids set free. In the summer of 2002, I moved to the Heartland community and attended a two year Bible College. I met a girl who soon after became my wife, and we’ve been married for eight wonderful years. I have two energetic young children and I love being a father and husband. I strive to be an example of how to be a father, and how to love my wife unconditionally. As a parent now, I look back at my single mother raising three kids and have mountains of respect for her and every single parent out there that makes it work. Growing up I never noticed that we skimped and saved, and sometimes went without.

I currently work in the IT Department at Heartland and I’m pursuing an online Bachelor degree in Computer Science. I have the opportunity to touch each department in Heartland, and many areas of my local community. More recently, my wife and I joined with a few other young couples to start a youth group in our community with the goal of helping them find their identity in God. God has put me in a place where I can be a husband, a brother, a father, a friend and most importantly a son. My dad and I talk often and have had many father/son trips together in recent years.

The Bible tells us that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love. When I found myself too deep in addiction and full of shame and doubt, God came and met me. I wasn’t changed in an instant, but God has given me a Spirit of power. I work daily to live in that Spirit, and to be a godly example to the younger generation. My life is committed to my family and committed to be a light in my community. I am no longer bound by addiction, or driven inward by fear. It is through the power of God’s promise that anyone can be free.

There is always plenty of activity around the Smith house. In addition to keeping two young children occupied, Josh and Cathy often host friends and youth for board games and snacks. Josh’s mother also shares her testimony in this edition of the Heartland newsletter. See page 8.
I grew up in a great Christian home. I was blessed beyond words to see, living before me, examples of God as Father, brother, friend, and family. My mom was sick and mostly bedridden; my dad worked delivering oil to ranchers; and we didn't have much to live on, but we always had more than enough. With two older brothers and two older sisters, grandparents, lots of aunts, uncles and cousins our dinner table was neverlonely. If extra family wasn't there we could always count on my dad picking up a hitchhiker or bringing someone home from a weekly jail ministry. Whatever little we had, we shared. After Sunday dinner my dad would put us kids in the car and we would help him take communion to the elderly or go pray for the sick. When we were home it was normal to find us gathered around my mom while she was in bed to talk about our day or hear what God had laid on her heart to pray about.

At 11 years of age I wanted to be baptized in water. When I came up out of the water I was changed, full of joy, and I was crying. My pastor at the time told me to stop! He said I was being a silly, emotional girl, and I was crushed. Shortly after this my dad went to a prayer meeting and was filled with the Holy Spirit. He embraced this new life and shared it with all of us. Even my mom from her bed raised her hands and asked God to fill her. He answered her prayer. Each one of us was filled, and I finally understood I was not a silly girl. I was filled with joy unspeakable!

I would like to say that this was my entire life and it just kept getting better. Unfortunately it was the late 60's early 70's in California, and while I was in the middle of the Jesus Movement, I was also in the middle of the Hippie culture. Drugs were readily available and at 12 years old I was introduced to cigarettes and cheap liquor. By the time I was in junior high I began smoking pot and taking any pill I was handed, mostly hallucinogens. I learned quickly to lie to and deceive my parents. My church youth leaders would see what was going on, but wanting to be "friends" and "cool", they never said a word.

During this time of my life all the way through high school I would go to Billy Graham crusades and walk the aisle for salvation. I'd go to prayer meetings. I even sang in a traveling church choir that would preach Jesus was coming. Then on the weekends I would party and drink until someone had to walk me so I wouldn't pass out and die. I had become such a good liar that I deceived myself and felt I really did still love God and was serving Him, but what I had become was a hypocrite. In some of those meetings, I led friends to the Lord and they later become pastors and have recently thanked me for introducing them to Jesus. I was such a mess and am thankful that salvation belongs to God and not me!

Later in my twenties when I got married, I was hungry for the same relationship my parents had. But I continued to cave to my lusts and was soon introduced to cocaine. For some time drugs and alcohol consumed our marriage. One day I found myself on the bathroom floor crying out to God for forgiveness until He became my all again. But through many years of trying, our marriage ended, and I found myself a single mom of three young children.

I moved to where my parents were living, in Kirksville, Missouri, and became part of an amazing church family. One thing that was important to me as my children grew was to keep their relationship with their father as healthy as possible, no matter what. God's Word says "honor your father and mother, as the Lord your He has commanded you, so that you may live long and it will go well with you.” NOT honor them if they stay together or whatever, but HONOR THEM, period. So I tried to teach them to honor their father whether he was there or not, serving God or not, keeping promises or not.

Knowing I could not do this on my own, I looked to my friends to fill in where I lacked. Strong fathers in the church to model how dads lead a home, other moms (now lifelong friends) who taught me to say no and discipline with mercy and love. Of course my parents loved us all unconditionally and my brothers and sisters were always there as well. All three of my children have grown to be amazing, wellrounded adults. Some have children of their own now who I am proud to see are being raised in Godly homes to love Jesus and have Him be the center of their lives. I gave my parents a horrid time, some of it they didn't even know and I will be eternally sorry for. I pray my grandchildren will always be raised in that same love where forgiveness is freely given.

I lived in Heartland for five years before I moved back to California due to my own health issues and to care for my mother in her declining health. My parents have passed on now, and I've been back home at Heartland for two years. I love it here! I work at the Solid Rock Café where I enjoy serving the surrounding communities and getting to know a wide variety of people. When not working, I serve in my home which is a discipleship home for women with young children, whether they are single mothers who just need some help or their husband or boyfriend is in our Men's Recovery program and they are living here waiting to have their family restored. I am surrounded by their children or can often be found with my own grandchildren who live here, just loving on them and giving back as Jesus has given me so much.

Even though I'm a grandmother now, I'm once again experiencing the joy of that little girl who came up out of the baptismal water full of the Holy Spirit and of hope. I'm never letting go.

Stop in and say hello to Jan at the Solid Rock Cafe where she can be found cooking up some of the daily lunch specials, and sharing an encouraging word or smile with guests.
I was first saved when I was 11 years old; however, I didn't always walk with God in the direction He wanted me to go. In fact, I turned away from Him several times but for some reason He kept His hands on me. In 1993, I re-dedicated my life to Him and have been walking with Him since.

About January 2, 2009, I became gravely ill and was hospitalized off and on through April that year for a total of 45 days. My doctor was not sure what the problem was but did say that I was septic, which means I had an infection in my blood coursing through my body.

In November of that same year, I received a call from my insurance case manager nurse saying that she was sorry I had been diagnosed with Stage 3 Renal Failure. She told me not to worry, and that she was there to help me get a diet plan and I could call her anytime with new problems as they arose. Imagine my surprise, that was the first time I had ever heard that I was in any stage of renal failure.

Long story short, my husband and I really began to pray that God would see us through this. Early in 2012, I had to reduce my hours at work due to illness and fatigue, followed by medical leave in November when they placed my dialysis catheter. I began dialysis in late November that year, followed by a kidney transplant in April of 2013. My baby sister was my donor, so we were both at Barnes together. Surgery that was supposed to take up to seven hours or longer only took about three hours and I had no pain at all and had no ill effects from the anesthesia. I was only in the hospital five days and have only been back to the hospital twice for short periods.

I say all of that to say that God's people held me up to the Lord in prayer. He ministered to me every day as only He can. I prayed for peace and comfort. He didn't even allow me to worry about... I was in His hands and He had a plan in place for me and my life.

I still have the peace He gave me then for everything that comes up now. I cannot do anything about life's trials and scary times except trust Him. He has always seen me through, and I know beyond any doubt that He always will.

Out of a desire to bless others, Heartland's Mission House Thrift Store opened its doors in July of 2010. All proceeds go directly toward the Church's missions department efforts in places such as Thailand, Haiti, Egypt, India, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Moldova, Israel, Jericho, and the Philippines. Our newest venture to the reservations in South Dakota is also exciting. Specifically, we have provided dishwashers, dryers, a car, bicycles, motorcycles, food, clothing, electronics, land and so forth.

We are thankful for all of the donations from the surrounding communities and neighboring states. Donations are welcome. To contact the Mission House, call 660-284-4175.

The Thrift Store is open 10am-6pm Thursday, 10am-4pm Friday, and 10am-2pm Saturday, offering:
- Clothing and shoes for all ages
- 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

Susan and her husband Denzil are quick to testify about their trust in God, and are a blessing to many men and families who have found help for navigating life's challenges.

Visit our web site: www.hlandmissions.org
Giving My All to God

I grew up in a normal household. My parents worked hard, they provided for my sister, two brothers, and me. One of my brothers is a family man and conservative in his lifestyle. The other brother is fun and adventurous, which is the type of lifestyle I liked. I wanted to do things my way, in my timing and to have maximum fun at all times. This leaves little room for school work, work in general, and the things of God.

I started cheating in school around high school. I wanted good grades without effort, so cheating seemed the path to take. That will not help you in the long run though, which Christ has shown me of late. I started to drink and use drugs at the age of 19. I used to be the designated driver, then I would drink a beer for a few weeks, which progressed to getting drunk. A short time later I smoked marijuana and right after that tried cocaine. I did not become an addict overnight, but that snow ball started to roll down the hill and the pace quickened very rapidly. Before I knew it I could not quit. I tried to quit for about seven years, but was never successful. Overall I was addicted for 10 years and was a degenerate gambler in addition to the drug use. I loved sin more than God, more than my family and more than anyone else.

Around 26 I started to go to an Evangelical free church. The pastor had a big heart for addicts and we began a one on one Bible study for about six months. I went to that church for three years. Pastor Craig is the one who told me about Heartland. It took me approximately three months before I was ready to come into the program.

I would like to say I hit the door running for God when I came to the Men’s Recovery Center in July of 2010, but that is not the case. I had a lot of issues that I never dealt with for many years, namely, trying to impress people and giving in to my feelings instead of the truth. God has shown me that His forgiveness is instantaneous, but the sanctification process takes a while. It started with baby steps. I started with achievable goals. I obeyed the little rules; for example, shaving, making my bed and turning the lights out when I was not in the room. However, the little rules add up to being obedient to the authorities God has placed in your life.

I found one thing to start out with. I gave God my best effort at work, which is something I never did before. I missed 40 plus days of work the year before I came into Heartland and when I did actually make it to work I slept through my shift; I loved doing my own thing. However, when I came to Heartland I made a choice to give God everything I had. I had given the world everything I had and things did not work out as I planned, so I put that same level of intensity into serving God.

Then I started to let God help me with my poor attitude. I was a pretty nice guy until somebody disagreed with me, then I would argue with them until I was blue in the face. Not too many people listen to you when you are like sandpaper. The Bible says, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (NASB Proverbs 15:1). So I started to apply that principle in my life and amazingly my relationships started to improve. Doing things God’s way works!

Now I am learning to wait on the Lord, however, it is not happening quickly enough for me (smile). This is a process that requires a lot of trust. Having faith and trusting in God for every area of your life is difficult because I want to help God. However, I know this would be a mistake. God does not have a plan B, so I can be confident and let God work out His will in my life. One thing you will not hear from God is “oops.” God knows what He is doing and can be trusted! The enjoyable thing about letting God move is to see how He will accomplish His plan. I guarantee it is not how I would do it. The Bible says “His ways are higher than our ways and his thoughts are higher than our thoughts” (NASB Isaiah 55:9). Therefore, I will continue to fear the Lord as I walk out this life. When I used to play poker, I put all my money into the middle of a table when I thought I had the best hand. Now I have put everything in the middle and trust that Jesus will never put me to shame!

“Doing things God’s way works!”

Scott is on staff at the Heartland Men’s Recovery Program and is studying a bit differently these days. He is enrolled at Heartland Christian College, where it’s not just good grades he is after, but being equipped and ready for whatever God calls him to do.
Heartland Community Church
Straight from the Heart

You have probably seen Pastor Charles Sharpe and the Heartland Community Church on your local TV station. Our Straight from the Heart program airs every week, and is also available online at www.hland.tv.

Our church is the focal point of this small community in northeast Missouri called Heartland. One of our greatest joys is seeing families restored and made healthy by the power of Jesus Christ in their lives.

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

- Sunday School................................. 9:00am
- Sunday Worship .............................10:00am, 6:00pm
- Wednesday Worship
  (Royal Rangers & Missionettes for Kids) ..... 7:00pm

As a church, we are eager to serve people in our community and beyond. Our College students do service projects in nearby towns, and we provide a monthly worship service at a local nursing home. Members of the congregation help feed the hungry through an outreach to the homeless in Kansas City. We also send mission teams to places like Egypt, Israel, India, Moldova, and the Philippines every year. We support local pastors in many nations and host an annual conference where missionaries can come to be refreshed and renewed. Our Thrift Store provides affordable clothing and household items to this region, while the proceeds go toward blessing people internationally.

If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider Heartland. And if you'd like to know more about new life in Jesus Christ, please call us at 660-284-6330. Our mailing address is: 6417 Shelby 150, Suite A, Bethel, MO 63434.

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Radio & Television Programming Schedule

Iowa Station
KWWL Channel 7 ................................................ Sunday, 6:00am

Quincy, Illinois Stations
WGEM Channel 10.1 & WGEM 105.9 FM Radio ...... Sunday, 9:00am
CW 10.2 .............................................................. Sunday, 10:00am
CGEM 10.3 Cable (Fox) ................................. Sunday, 7:00am
WTJR Channel 16 .............................. Sunday, 11:00am / Thursday, 8:00pm

View the TV show online at: www.hland.tv

Heartland Tours

Customized tours of Heartland are available for groups.

Visitors can tour the Heartland Dairies and see the milking carousel—where over 3000 cows are milked three times a day. Sample cheese made at our own Creamery. Plus, learn about the businesses and ministries which make up the Heartland community.

To schedule a tour, call 660-213-4584.

All guided tours must be scheduled in advance. Scheduled tour times start at 9:00am with last tour given at 3:00pm. Tours take 1.5-2 hours depending on group size; we can accommodate from the smallest of tours to charter buses, including school groups, agriculture groups, senior citizen day trips, and more.

Heartland Preview

Get a glimpse of what Heartland Christian College is all about at our annual College Preview Day:

March 20, 2015
8:30am-2pm

- See an overview of classes, dorm life and chapel, and what it’s like serving Jesus together.
- Hear from HCC students about their experiences on missions trips, worship team, and hands-on work opportunities.
- Discover how you as a disciple could learn and grow, and prepare for your next step in life.
- Campus tours available at 2:00pm.

March 20, 2015
8:30am-2pm

8:30 am Registration/ Meet and Greet
(Light Breakfast Provided)
9:00 am HCC Chapel
10:00 am Admissions, Academics, and Residential Living Basics
11:00 am Breakout Sessions with Students
12:00 pm Question & Answer Time
12:30 pm FREE Lunch with Professors and Students
1:30 pm “Wrapping it Up” Closing Session

*Campus tours available at 2:00pm.

Prospective students of all ages, along with parents, teachers and youth workers are welcome.

If you’re coming, RSVP at www.heartlandcollege.org or call (660) 284-4800.

The HCC Campus is Located at:
500 New Creation Road, Newark, MO 63458
To be held at Heartland Christian Academy, 101 Nations Boulevard.
(*Easy access for wheelchairs and the elderly. *To be held in the parking lot/soccer field on the east side of the school.)

**JULY 3, 2015**

**2-6:00pm: Heartland Tours**
Hop on the bus for a driving tour around Heartland and over to the Heartland Dairy. See the 60-stall carousel milking machine in action, and make a quick stop at the Goat Dairy to meet some of “the kids”. Upon your return, you will have opportunity to visit the Heartland Ford Museum and Solid Rock Café, the New Creation Country Store, and our Mission House Thrift Store. Tours depart from the School Gym.

**2-6:00pm: Heartland Info Expo**
In the School Gym, pick up information about Heartland’s many ministries and businesses. You can watch videos playing throughout the day, and hear stories of people who have found a new life. **Plus, register to win one of the prizes we’re giving away:** free oil changes, coupons for the Solid Rock Café, an overnight stay and meals at the Ozark Lodge & Steakhouse, Heartland gift cards, and more.

**6-7:30pm: Dinner & Entertainment**
Join us for a free Open House bbq featuring ________, sides, and soft drinks. Then, sit back and enjoy the music and a program by Heartland Community Church and a word from our founder, Charlie Sharpe.

**9:00pm: Professional Fireworks**
We’re holding a repeat performance of last year’s fabulous fireworks show—professionally set to music to celebrate our nation’s Independence Day.