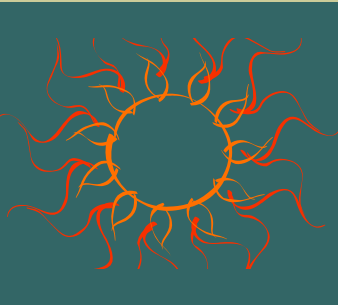


Summer Edition

August 1, 2011



HEARTLAND BAPTIST DISTRICT

CONVERGE

# Quarterly HEARTBEAT

## Odle's Doodles...



Larry W. Odle,

A few Sundays ago I was attending Faith Baptist Fellowship in Sioux Falls, SD and they commissioned a missions team to go to Grand Island, NE to aid our Centro de Vida congregation there with VBS and evangelism. As I looked at the team standing across the front of the platform I was thrilled to see adults, teens, and families including young children all partnering together for this significant ministry. This is a great example of intergenerational approach to doing Kingdom work. That is the theme for our 2011 annual meeting and for our district's future. I long for a time when all of our churches will be not just

multi-generational, but intergenerational in ministry philosophy. "TO ALL GENERATIONS" will be the resounding biblical mandate at our district gathering Sept. 16-17 at Faith Baptist in Sioux Falls, SD. We have nationally known speakers and presenters, including Pastor John Jenkins (senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Glenarden, MD, CWW's largest congregation and VP of National Ministries) and Amy Hanson, author of "Baby Boomers and Beyond: Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults over 50".



Despite our financial challenges in meeting the budget during this last fiscal year, the Board of Overseers have approved a much higher budget for 2011-12! How can they do this? Because they are men of faith, vision and faithful stewardship. The reality is that Heartland is conducting more and more ministry across the district and the globe. Kingdom impact from our 55 churches is moving ahead with unprecedented momentum. You will want to come to annual meeting where you will hear the details of what God is doing in our midst! We look forward to seeing you there.

In the meantime, keep praying and partnering with us in this great work



### RESOURCE ROOM...

*"Coming alongside to help you do what God has called you to do in your community and world"*

School of Church Leadership  
Friday-Sunday  
October 14-16 and  
November 11-13  
Overland Hills Church  
707 Gruenther Road  
Papillion, Nebraska  
Registration Deadline:  
September 17, 2011

Perhaps you are a ministry volunteer, small group leader, engaged in youth, children or worship ministries. Maybe you are a staff member who has never had the opportunity for theological education. The *Converge* School of Church Leadership is designed for you!

You can obtain a Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Leadership with a Church Leadership Emphasis by completing six "Learning Site" Courses and 6 Online Courses, or audit and simply enjoy learning!

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#### Special points of interest:

- Please PRAY for the District Staff Members
- School of Church Leadership Degree
- Annual Meeting Sept. 16-17
- CHURCH PLANTS! Current and pending
- Women's Mission Trip



# Growth in the Heartland !

## Walt Moser, Director of Church Planting



Praying and acting to reach the unchurched...

Zao Community Church  
(Zao means living or alive).  
Brandon, SD

Pastor Zach Sommerlot

Zao Community Church exists to glorify and spread a passion for God in Brandon and *AMONG THE NATIONS* by being focused on...  
The Glory of God;  
The Kingdom of God;  
Gospel transformation; Discipleship;  
The Bible; Being led by the Spirit; Relationships; Church planting; Cross cultural missions catalysts

Church Plants at some stage  
or connection with  
Converge Heartland

Relevate, Lawrence, KS

Brandon & Wendi Brillhart are going to church planter assessment August 23-25, 2011. God has burdened their heart for Lawrence, Kansas. They have already established a core group there.

Strong connections have been made with four other individuals desiring prayer about planting churches with Converge Heartland.

Christ Fellowship: Manhattan, KS

Pastor Matt Zodrow

Christ Fellowship is a church that is built on truth and relationships, where God is worshiped, people are transformed, and the kingdom is expanded.



## The Holy Spirit's Job

[tyler@thetablekearney.com](mailto:tyler@thetablekearney.com)



**THE TABLE**  
A Christian Community

Through the Summer we are meeting in small groups to go through a study called "The Tangible Kingdom". The goal is to discover how God can use us as individuals and a community to bring a taste of God's Eternal Kingdom right here into this world.

Francis Chan's most recent book is called "The Forgotten God" It talks about the third member of the Trinity; The Holy Spirit. You know, the one we forget about. This past month has reminded me that it is the Holy Spirit of God who

changes people, not me. I have been spending time with some of our new, young believers, and those who are journeying toward Jesus. It has been a privilege to watch the Holy Spirit at work.

I recently sat with a new believer who began to share something he did, but couldn't explain why it felt so wrong. "Is this not a good idea to do?" he asked me. Wow, the Holy Spirit is in the business of convicting folks to spur them on to be more like Jesus.

A young believer in our congregation shared that despite all her friends telling

her to get back at her ex-husband she just somehow knew it wasn't right. She chose to bless him instead, so that he might see God in her. Whoa... the Holy Spirit still guides people.

I also had the privilege of sharing conversations with people who were not even curious about God, but have begun to ask serious questions about the life of faith. The Holy Spirit really does draw people to God. I'm so thankful to get to be a part of God's work at The Table. Thanks for your support that makes this ministry possible.



**SOULSEARCH**

...you are not far from the Kingdom of God

SoulSearch: Kansas City, KS

Pastor Curtis Young

We are a church planting movement, starting in Kansas City, Kansas, that will become a cooperative of churches that serve to expand God's Kingdom, support our communities, and love our cities into a relationship with Christ.

[soulsearchmovement@gmail.com](mailto:soulsearchmovement@gmail.com)

## Transformed Lives...

The Table: Kearney, NE

Pastor Tyler Wilterding

The Vision of The Table Christian Community is to invite people to The Table of Christ to connect with others, learn the truths of God, be transformed by God, and serve in mission together.

2 Pillars: Lincoln, NE

Pastor Todd Bumgarner

We are a gospel-centered, missionally-focused church located in the downtown heart of Lincoln.



# Going and Growing... and Giving

## Debra Weitala, Director of Women's Ministries



Great news...we have sent our container of food to **Art & Dorothy Helwig, Converge Worldwide missionaries in Nigeria.** They are in a season of starvation....the time between all available food being consumed and before the new harvest. We are able to fill that gap with 285,000 meals. We (Deb) are still working to raise the remaining \$15,000 for the May packing event that provided this container of food.

The Helwigs care for no less than 2,550 orphaned children in 1,600 foster homes. There is a generation that has been obliterated due to the HIV/AIDS crisis so the

ART & DOROTHY HELWIG



children and the elderly remain. Art and Dorothy are reaching into their lives by

*"We appreciate this development very much and will praise God with those whose lives will be brought close to His love through this act of kindness and compassion."  
With gratitude and praise,  
Rev. Arthur and Mrs. Dorothy Helwig*

educating and caring for them along with bringing them the Gospel. They are working closely with communities and the local government to reach as many people in as many places as they can. This food is life saving in so many ways. Art and Dorothy are well aware of our district as Art went to the University of Sioux Falls and Sioux Falls Seminary. For more information on the great work they are doing go to:

<http://www.convergeworldwide.org/give/156450>

This past May when we packed the container we also packed an additional 55,000 meals to make it 1,000,000 meals packed since April 16th, 2009. The additional meals were distributed locally through the Salvation Army, regionally through a ministry on a SD Reservation and through Mission Haiti that will deliver 60,000 meals to orphanages in Haiti.



What a blessing to be able to be an answer to prayer for so many people. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and donations!

You can donate online at [www.convergeheartland.org](http://www.convergeheartland.org)

**Impact Lives**  
Transforming communities one life at a time.

## In Our District...

### Women's Mission Trip, February 18-27 2012

The past two years I have taken teams to the Dominican Republic with ImpactLives. The experience has transformed each team member, moving them towards living missionally everyday. Women in my teams have been drawn into leadership. It is my hope that we can have a team of



women experience the training in the field and bring back what they learn to their women's ministries. This year I used the training in my Tuesday night Bible Study group and now we have 6 or more women taking turns facilitating the group. Two of the women from the last trip took on the task of leading VBS even though it was new to them. **Doesn't that excite you?**



ImpactLives is a non-profit organization combining leadership training, education and service learning with humanitarian works. That means teams are trained for transformation leadership that leads to social innovation (here and abroad).

Cost of the trip: \$1,500 plus airfare (past two years it has been around \$850) includes housing, meals, training, travel to and from worksites. We will build, paint, lead and learn. A brochure will be coming

## God's Kingdom in Motion

### LOVE LIFT FOR UKRAINE

Converge Heartland's ministry to Ukraine is implementing major changes in strategy to better meet the challenges of ministry there. My recent trip to Odessa region proved to be the most productive and practical thus far. In consultation with Michael

Pishtoy, the new Senior Presbyterian (Executive Minister) we are now seeking additional Heartland churches to sister with key area congregations across southern Ukraine. These churches/pastors train and mentor 12-15 surrounding village ministries. Therefore, a church that sisters with the overseeing church will not only

I would love to come and speak to you about this opportunity.

minister to that community, but

also the entire locality around. You will be hearing more about this opportunity for dynamic impact. If your church wants to become part of this exciting new initiative, contact me at the district office and I will arrange to come and share more details.

# CONVERGE HEARTLAND

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**CONVERGE Worldwide (Baptist General Conference) Contact Information :**  
[www.convergeworldwide.org](http://www.convergeworldwide.org)  
On their home page you will find directories for:  
Headquarter Staff, District Offices, Churches, Missionaries etc.  
You may also go to [www.convergeheartland.org](http://www.convergeheartland.org) and click on the BGC links provided there.

## Calendar of Events

### JULY

**24 Pastors’/Ministry Staff Seminar**

“Biblical Peacemaking”  
Normandale Place  
Bethel Univ., St. Paul, MN

<http://www.bethel.edu/church-ministries>

**25-26 IGNITE**

Jr. High Discipleship w/  
Greg Speck

Bethel Univ., St. Paul, MN

<http://www.bethel.edu/news-events/calendar/>

### AUGUST

**6 Youth Mega Rally**

Bethel Univ., St. Paul, MN

<http://www.bethel.edu/news-events/calendar/>

### SEPTEMBER

**1 Pastors /Ministry Staff Seminar**

“Ministry to Military Families & Vets”

<http://www.bethel.edu/church-ministries>

**16-17 CONVERGE Heartland Annual Meeting**

**“To All Generations”**

Pastor John Jenkins and author Amy Hanson speaking.

Faith Baptist Fellowship

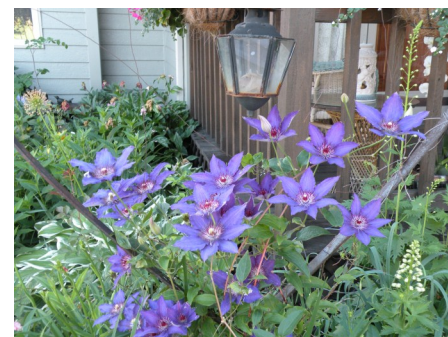
Sioux Falls, SD

Registration available online soon.

### OCTOBER

**SCHOOL OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

14-16 AND NOVEMBER 11-13  
OVERLAND HILLS CHURCH  
707 GRUENTHER ROAD  
PAPILLION, NEBRASKA  
**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2011**



***“Sharing God’s Heart in America’s Heartland”***