

# Odle's Doodles...



Larry W. Odle,

Our amazing God is always busy, doing what matters for eternity in the most loving and grace-filled ways. I had the opportunity to catch a glimpse of this, traveling a few weeks ago with Church Planting Director, Walt Moser, to visit pastors and church planters in the Kansas area. We began by sharing and praying with Pastor Tim Buzan at Heartland Church in Blue Springs, MO. We found out that he is taking a new step of faith by becoming fulltime for the first time since the church's inception. Pray for Tim as he makes this transition. Our next meeting was with Curtis Young, planting a new church in urban Kansas City, KS. God is truly blessing this work SoulSearch is forming a group (in conjunction with Heartland Church) to plant another new church in Independence, MO. Our trail west next took us to Lawrence, KS where Brandon Brillhart is planting Relevate

Church in this growing university community. Brandon's vision and energy is impressive. God is helping them build a strong core group from which to develop a ministering group of believers. Matt Zoderow is the church planter in Manhattan, KS where Christ Fellowship is being established as our ministry in another university town with a growing population. Our last stop was with Dylan Mortimer, pastor of River-City church in inner city Kansas City, MO. God is doing some unique and exciting things in and through this congregation. All of these ministries look and feel very different from one another, but have one primary thing in common – they are places where God is mightily and visibly at work bringing people into relationship with Himself and using His people to impact

lives in their communities.

Immediately following this tour, I spent three days teaching the School of Church Leadership class in Omaha. Five students were involved in this first class working toward a Master's degree (or auditing) and they are enthusiastically encouraging others to join them for the second class, which will begin in Spring. If you are interested in more information, contact the district office. Dr. Vladimir Kharlamov will be teaching Spiritual Formation, a class that he has previously taught on the seminary level. God has worked in miraculous ways so that this Odessa (Ukraine) Seminary grad (where Heartland District has been involved since 2005) is now ministering directly into the lives of Heartland pastors and lay leaders. God's grace has once again come full circle! Isn't He amazing?! He is doing "more than we can ask, think or even imagine" (Eph. 3:20).



## RESOURCE ROOM...

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

### International Short-term Mission Trips:

- ◆ Belize – January 23-27, 2012 ( Adult/Sponsor Pre-trip)
- ◆ Belize— July 6-17, 2012 (Youth/Adult Mission trip)

◆ Dominican Republic – February 18-27, 2012 (Women)

◆ Ukraine – July 12-24, 2012

Sister Church

Prison Aftercare Project

Odessa Theological Sem.

Contact the District Office for further information on any of these opportunities to serve the Lord and His worldwide church.

Keep looking for the Lord's goodness and power at work all around you!

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### Special points of interest:

- Please PRAY for churches without pastors
- CHURCH PLANTS! How can you help?
- Board of Overseers/Dec.2-3@Faith, SF, SD
- IMPACT for Sr. High / Jan. 7-8 @ Bethel U.
- Network Gatherings/Jan23-26@Orlando, FL
- Pastor's Prayer Gathering/Mar.5-7 @Faith Baptist, Sioux Falls, SD



## New Birth in the Heartland ! Walt Moser, Director of Church Planting

God continues to bless Converge Heartland with men that are called by God to start new churches. God graciously connected us with Brandon and Wendi Brillhart who have a passion to proclaim the gospel in Lawrence, KS. In October 2011, Brandon and Wendi participated in a church planter assessment, which confirmed their gifting to start a new church. After reviewing their planting plan and confirming their theological agreement with Converge Heartland they have been approved by Converge Heartland's Board of Overseers. Brandon joins us with 17 years of ministry experience. At Brandon's last church

in Clarion, PA he was instrumental in planting two campus churches. Brandon describes himself with the following values:

"I believe God has given me the gift of evangelism and my main desire is to see lost people come to know my Savior.

I believe in using creative ways in spreading the gospel just as Jesus did in His earthly ministry.

I want to lead a ministry that's interested in using forward thinking ideas in reaching their community.

I want to lead a community of



believers to love the Lord with all their hearts and to be really relevant in loving their neighbors.

I believe that God uses godly families to reach the world and it's up to the church to train and release those families."

You can follow **Relevate**, the name of Brandon's plant, on [FaceBook](#) and also follow Brandon's blog [Living Radically Uncomfortable](#)



Lawrence, KS is 35 miles west of Kansas City on interstate 70.

- 90,000 people in Lawrence with a 15% growth rate since 2000
- Only 25% of these people have any religious affiliation (75% un-churched).
- A survey of Lawrence produced a tally of all 84 churches meaning the church-to-person ratio is 1:1071.

## God's Kingdom in Motion

tyler @thetablekearney.com



Coming into Kearney without a leadership team has been my greatest hurdle for the past two years. We have had new believers, rather experienced followers of Christ, but few who are immediately choosing to lead and serve. Through our prayers, I believe God has brought us some new leadership that will take The Table to the next level. We are assembling a

lead team with some of these individuals. The goal is to use the callings and leadership skills that this team brings to The Table to grow our vision and ministries. They will also help us meet the needs of our expanding influence. Please pray that God continues to help me assemble this team, and gives us vision for His church.



## Here to reach the un-reached!

The mission of 2 Pillars Church is to reach the un-reached for Christ

the edge of, and outside of our comfort zone by befriending lost people – spending time with them, getting to know them, and loving them.

and transform the city of Lincoln by loving God and loving people.

Reaching means we don't just live selfishly for ourselves.

Reaching means we live on

*"So when we talk about "reaching the unreached," we should expect ourselves to be stretched. We don't reach the unreached by identifying them and then walking by. Rather, like the Samaritan, we identify them, allow our lives to be interrupted, and help."*

Reaching takes time and commitment and ultimately the love for others that only the Holy Spirit can implant in our hearts



**SOULSEARCH**

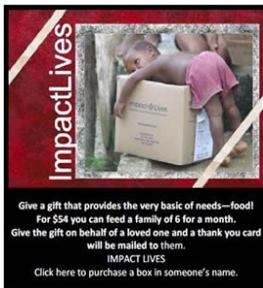
...you are not far from the Kingdom of God

How do you see Christ at work? SoulSearch wants to allow others to see Him by focusing on goals and missions in the Kansas City metro area through leadership and discipleship development in creating small groups, and serving the community.

soulsearchmovement@gmail.com

# Going and Growing... Women's Mission Trip/Retreat

Debra Weitala, Director of Women's Ministries



The past few years I have taken teams of people to the Dominican Republic in conjunction with the food packing events

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

we do with ImpactLives. This has been a transforming experience for all who have participated.

**So why not give this opportunity to the women of our district?**

As we come together as a team we will see how to take elements from what we learn in our training and put it to work in

our churches. I have watched women from my church begin serving and leading ministries, studies and community service.

I am asking you to consider sending a woman and/or a number of women from your church to experience becoming a team during this unique time of training. (No food pack with this trip)

**It's a great time! Completely step out of your life for nine days and experience life in a third world country. You will leave a piece of your heart in the Dominican Republic but you will find your heart is all the bigger for it!**

**February 18-27, 2012**

The cost of the trip will be \$1,575 plus airfare. We will build, paint, lead and learn.



The Converge Heartland

**Women's Retreat** is going to be at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City. Our speaker is Dee Sheveland and she is going to draw us into a deeper time with Christ that will involve personal reflection and prayer. Lied Lodge will be a great place for us to step away from the group and be in communion with our Lord. The retreat is April 13-14, 2012. Materials will come out in January but please mark your calendars.



Lied Lodge, Nebraska City, NE

## In OUR Church Plant ...

**ZAO** (Brandon, SD) and **Christ Fellowship** (Manhattan, KS)

**ZAO church meets 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning at Pizza Ranch in Brandon, SD.**

*If you come on Sunday morning you can expect...* casual atmosphere, friendly people, coffee, class during the sermon time for 1-5th grade, a blend of hymns and contemporary worship songs led by guitar and a sermon that comes from the Bible and aims to be relevant to life. We try to create a very reverent yet joyful atmosphere to worship God corporately.

**Christ Fellowship** is a church made up of regular people that have come to know an extraordinary God, and gather to; worship, learn, grow, share, and encourage. Our structure is simple by design, and so are the activities we engage in. You will not find a lot of programs or offerings, but we hope that you do find a group of people who loves God, each other, and others. If you are not perfect and want to pursue God and His truth through relationships we welcome you, no matter

where you have been or what you know. We have a vision to be a church built on truth and relationships. Only the Holy

*We believe that church is a type of family that covenants together to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, love one another, and help others to do the same.*

Spirit convicts people's hearts. Only God saves. So while we have an active part in reaching the unreached, we must also trust that God

will do his part in their lives in his perfect and divine timing.

## Prayer Partners Ministry. . . [darylkathy@gmail.com](mailto:darylkathy@gmail.com) or 712-239-2810

"Listening to, praying with, and offering encouragement for the pastors and spouses of Converge Heartland District". This is the mission statement of our newly created prayer ministry.

Having "repositioned for ministry" (as opposed to "retiring") and moving to Sioux Falls, SD we began to develop our passion for prayer and concern for pastors into a ministry for which we had felt a need over our 33+ years of pastoral ministry. At times, ministry can be lonely for the pastoral family. Having someone

who will **confidentially** listen and pray can be a God-send. Knowing that someone is praying daily for you, your family, and congregation can bring much needed encouragement.

We have about 55 senior pastors in our district. Our goal is to visit each one in their homes once a year. Beginning in July, we travelled to western Nebraska meeting with six pastoral couples. We were struck by two things - the beautiful expanse of countryside and the depth of dedicated pastoral couples that God

has brought to us in the Heartland.

Since that time we have visited five additional ministry sites, rejoicing, grieving, laughing and crying with them as they shared their concerns and lives. There have been follow-up phone calls and e-mails to get prayer updates.

Pray for us that we are able to continue to serve the Kingdom and our Master in this way. If you have a prayer request or care to be a part of supporting this ministry, please contact us! We'd love to hear from you! Daryl & Kathy Runion

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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

### DECEMBER

**2-3 Overseers Board Meeting**

Faith Baptist Fellowship,  
Sioux Falls, SD

**25 Christmas!**

### JANUARY

**6-7 IMPACT**

Sr. High Discipleship  
w/Greg Speck  
Bethel Univ., St.Paul,MN

**7 Recharge**

For people ministering to  
children, youth, families.  
Bethel Univ. St.Paul, MN  
<http://www.bethel.edu/news-events/calendar/>

### JANUARY (cont.)

**23-26 CONVERGE WW Network Gatherings**  
Orlando, FL

### FEBRUARY

**9 Pastors/Staff Seminar-**  
Bethel Univ. St.Paul, MN

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

**10-12 Middle School Winter Retreat**  
Swan Lake Camp,  
Viborg, SD

**25-26 IGNITE**

Jr. High Discipleship  
w/ Greg Speck  
Bethel Univ.,St.Paul, MN  
<http://www.bethel.edu/news-events/calendar/>

### MARCH

**4 Youth Mega Rally**  
w/Rapture Ruckus/Greg Speck

**5-7 Pastors’ Prayer Gathering** Faith Baptist,  
Sioux Falls, SD  
[www.faithbaptistfellowship.com](http://www.faithbaptistfellowship.com)

**16-17 Overseers Board Meeting**  
Omaha, NE or online



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