

ATLAS of Osceola Co.

Attaining Truth, Love And Self-control

955 2nd Ave
 Sibley, IA 51249
 Ph:712-754-4311
 www.atlasofsibley.org
 atlasoco@premieronline.net.net

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From the Director's Desk...



I asked Clint if he'd write something for our newsletter. And in the time it took to drink a cup of coffee, he penned what follows. Crazy talent.

I missed him terribly the past several years while he was caught-up in the thrills of the drug-culture. But our staff and prayer-teams often prayed that Jesus would "take him down." And Jesus did.

Clint is so relieved, despite what's just around the corner for him. I'm relieved too. It's great to have him back—absolutely great.

Clark

Greetings from the Lost and Found.....Again,

"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." Romans 7:18

I can't make that up! That's Paul (as in, Apostle Paul), but oh, that's me too. My last attempt to distance myself from God is going to land me in a federal prison—and how thankful I am for it. Yes, I surrender my will once again to my Creator. It sucks that my surrender to God is usually in handcuffs, but it's surrender nonetheless. I recently got out of treatment at New Life Treatment



Center in Woodstock, MN, and it definitely lived up to its name. I am living a "new life." I am a drug addict and alcoholic, but it turns out my struggle is actually with sobriety. What a revelation! You can take the drugs and booze away from me but I'm still not a "well" person. I have a heart condition that can only be filled by God, through the Holy Spirit. It's that simple. Becoming an addict was not my choice, but my sobriety is. And my sobriety is a direct reflection of my spiritual condition. I ask each morning for God's will to fill my heart and keep me sober. Matthew 12:43 is a great metaphor for my life. It's about an evil spirit leaving my heart and to me, that's my addiction. But, if I don't fill that void with God, the evil spirit comes back to my heart and finds it swept clean, but empty. The spirit then finds seven other spirits more evil than itself and they enter and live there, creating even more despair. This is where Atlas comes in. They help me furnish my heart and fill the void where my addictions used to be. And, they care about my whole life, not just the addiction part of it. I have many character defects, but Clark helps me examine the entire painting of my life, not just the misplaced brush strokes. The staff help me see it's not so much what I've done, but what's been done for me. God knows I'll fail. I think sometimes I humor him when I try to run my own life. But he loves me enough to watch

"What is ATLAS?"

"A place to come when you don't know where to turn."

To put it simply, we are here to help those experiencing distress. Emotional, spiritual, physical or relational issues can turn one's world upside-down. ATLAS offers a safe, confidential place to let it all out and then talk it through. We will listen, encourage and pray with you. It's our mission and privilege to love each person, guide them in the right direction and walk with them on their journey.

If you are struggling with life— anxiety, addictions, depression, relationships, **anything**—come talk to us. We're ready to listen.

me fail. How awesome is that? He says in Lamentations 53:40, "Let us examine our ways, and test them and let us return to the Lord." I can't seem to make my ways work because I'm all about me; it's my nature. I'm selfish. God wants to break-through my selfishness and break-down my sinful nature so I will return to him. I've lived a good portion of my life in the dark but I feel God grows me most in the dark. I believe he does this so I'll recognize that **He** is the light. Atlas and the staff here are God's light bulbs in Sibley. It's a safe place for me. They'll leave the light on for ya—I'm thankful for that.



Clint (A grateful believer and addict)

From the Mailbag Friends,



Thank you so much for thinking of us as we settle in our new home! You have been such a blessing in my fiancé's life, which now includes mine. Your kindness, support and cheering him on are things I can't thank you enough for. You are doing great work and I appreciate everything you do. I am excited to be a part of this community knowing there are people like you here.

Thanks again. Stephanie



The Community Choir Cantata **"Sing Christmas"** will be presented on **Sunday, Dec. 16**, 2:00 PM at S-O High School.

The concert will be directed by S-O vocal instructor Ben Sides and serve as a *benefit for ATLAS of Osceola County.*



TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT

It's really that simple.

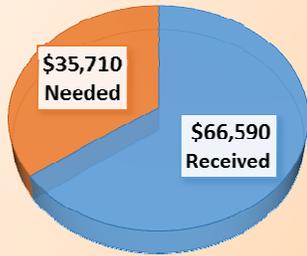
For 11 years and counting, you've kept the ATLAS door open. . . and we're

counting on you again. Yes, we know that God can afford His work; this is his ministry, not ours. But we also know God uses His people to bless others—and you have blessed us.

All of us at ATLAS offer our deepest appreciation to first-time givers, monthly supporters and the faithful partners who've supported us since the beginning. Offerings collected for ATLAS in our area churches happen at just the right time and are a tremendous blessing. We praise God for the farmers who donate gifts of grain, families who direct memorial gifts to ATLAS and our friends who respond to the newsletter wish-lists. Each gift is stretched and wisely used to touch as many lives as possible. As of Nov. 1, our appointments total 1395 for 2018. That's a lot of lives being touched and our schedule isn't slowing. Thank-YOU for making this possible.

If you've not contributed before, come join us! Your Thanksgiving and year-end tax deductible gifts will be greatly appreciated and timely. We ask you to join us as we pray-in the rest of our annual budget and praise God in advance for providing.

TOTAL BUDGET: \$102,300



When we join together using our gifts, God works to accomplish great things—right here on our local mission-field.



CHOOSE US!

Attention all Amazon users!

Log into your account using smile.amazon.com. Then choose "ATLAS of Osceola" as your **favorite** charity and we will receive a donation

from Amazon deposited directly into our bank account. It's that easy.

Client Quotes

- "I've considered divorce just to avoid holidays with her family."
- "If Jesus lived next to my neighbors he wouldn't love them either."
- "Your lobby is the absolute cutest thing ever!"
- "Even when it's raining outside, the sun is shining in here."
- "You listened to me—even when you knew I was lying."
- "I wish I could donate enough money to keep ATLAS open forever."



"Jude's Jottings"

A Bird's-Eye-View

Greetings from the birdcage! This is your favorite parakeet, Jude, with an important message. This Christmas, if you want to bless individuals and families who come through our ATLAS door, here are 3 simple ways you can!

Purchase a laundry basket and fill it with Kleenex, toilet-paper, paper-towels and laundry soap. These are practical items every household will use. Around ATLAS, we're all about practical.



If that idea rattles your cage, perhaps this one's for you. Many of our peeps struggle to afford a traditional holiday meal. So bring in a frozen ham or turkey. A gift like this can change a holiday meal from Mac-and Cheese to magnificent!

And if shopping ruffles-your-feathers, here's an alternative that works all-year-round. Gift cards from any local business/gas station/grocery store/Walmart are a great way to encourage a struggling individual/family and allow them to purchase items they need. Additionally, our staff will utilize the gift-cards throughout the year to bless our peeps as needs arise AND to celebrate victories of accomplishment, sobriety and self-control!! That's the part we really love.



Please bring any of the above items to our office by Mon. Dec. 10. We'll then begin blessing our peeps with your gifts during the two weeks prior to Christmas and well into 2019.

Wishing all of you a blessed Thanksgiving, a splendid Christmas—and thanking you for blessing our peeps so generously.

Joyfully yours,

Jude



ATLAS Wish List



Frozen turkeys—hams

Ground beef—Coffee

Cannon ink #240 & 241

Bottled water/Pop—all kinds

Postage stamp sheets or rolls

Toilet paper—Paper towels—Kleenex