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From the Director's Desk...



A Day at ATLAS— Director's Schedule

8 AM – Arrive at office, turn up the heat, start coffee pot and feed the birds. Next, I pray over the day's schedule and then check for messages/return calls before appointments start at 9.

9 AM – Father of 4 from Primghar living with depression and bipolar issues. He also deals with heartaches caused by his adult daughter's defiance and history of poor choices.

10 AM – 8th grade boy who longs to be loved by his father who lives 4 hours from here. He catches a ride from school (in George) to ATLAS courtesy of his Grandparents.

11 AM – Man separated from his wife of 30 years due to a domestic issue. He's hoping to return home and work toward being the husband, father and grandfather he hasn't been for far too long.

12 PM – Blessed lunch hour, during which I eat, run errands and try to clear my head.

1 PM – Young man entering his probation period following a plunge into legal trouble. He's learning valuable lessons the hard way but probation should be a breeze for him.

2 PM – Former drug addict from Everly who has decided no more drugs and no more trips to prison. He's 4 months sober! From ATLAS he goes to Sheldon to see his therapist and his probation officer. He schedules all of us the same afternoon missing only a ½ day of work a week.

3 PM – Brand new daddy from Little Rock who's juggling work, family and duties that come with living in your own

house. At 20, he's choosing responsibility vs. the opposite as he did in his teens.

4 PM – Local trucker with prior porn addiction and sexting issues. He's working on self-control concerning his adult step-children as well as rebuilding trust in his marriage.

5 PM – Whistle blows! (I wish Sibley had a five o'clock whistle.)

Some appointments take me out of the office into homes or jail cells but most are

in-office. If there's a cancellation or unscheduled hour during the day, I'll write encouragement notes to our guys who could use something positive in their mailbox. A typical day for Jan and Tricia would be similar except their peeps are women. The next day we do it again with different peeps. And the next day. . . you get the picture.

Our men and women, young and mature come because they desire change in their lives and appreciate a safe, confidential place to let it all out and then talk it through. They know they won't be judged at ATLAS and they know we don't give-up on anyone. Those reasons explain our busy schedule. But perhaps the most important reason is this: we let people know they matter—they matter to Jesus and they matter to us.

"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'll listen.



With the Holidays fast approaching, I'm reminded that this time of year can be filled with heart-warming fellowship for some and overwhelming loneliness for others. Comfort comes in the wonderful message of Christmas: God With Us. God gave Jesus to mankind as the very first Christmas present—the

maker of the world with a belly-button! He came to us and lived among us. Jesus ate, drank, laughed and cried just like we do. And when the time came, He died and He rose again so that we can have a real relationship with God. At the center of the Christmas message is a God of love who desires to be with us. God's presence is evident at the ATLAS

office every day. His gifts of comfort, mercy and grace are demonstrated in the way the message of truth, love and self-control is shared with our clients and their families. It's our prayer that God continues to bless the ATLAS ministry and all those who support it.

Peg Van Kley, Board Member

Clark

All the best...

As we wave good-bye to 2019, the ATLAS family will also wave goodbye to our staff mentor, **Jan Pearson**. Jan's been part of the ATLAS family since day-one in 2007. Over the years, Jan's provided encouragement and wise counsel to scores of women. Her personality, background and life experiences enabled her to walk alongside others smoothly and skillfully. I've learned a lot from Jan over the years and am thankful to have been her teammate. Jan's peeps will miss her like crazy—as will I.

Won't it be something, Jan, when someday we'll see the other side of the tapestry? All the lives you've touched and prayers you've prayed—woven into something so beautiful our minds can't begin to imagine it. Until that day comes, I know you'll continue being the hands and feet of Jesus. It's second nature for you. Thank-you for giving of yourself and making ATLAS a place of refuge and hope for so many people—board and staff included. Indeed. We'll miss you terribly. Godspeed, my friend.

Clark



TO ALL WHO HAVE GIVEN

For 12 years and counting, our supporters have kept the ATLAS door open. We know God uses His people to bless others and our tireless financial partners have blessed us. At ATLAS, God uses your gifts to help people right here in our community. And you can count on us to stretch and wisely use each gift to touch as many lives as possible. As of Nov. 1, our appointments total 1684 for 2019. That many appointments constitute a lot of lives—and that's why we need **ALL** of you! So if you've not contributed before and want to support a local ministry, here are easy ways to financially support ATLAS:

- Mail your check or drop it off.
- Set-up automatic donation through your bank using bill-pay or direct deposit.
- Farmers can deliver grain to an elevator as a charitable gift to ATLAS.
- We are a registered non-profit with Thrivent Financial and the Amazon Smile Foundation
- We accept charitable donations of stocks/securities. Call to request the info sheet needed.
- And don't forget: there's an ATLAS jar at Dyno's!

Please join us as we pray-in the rest of our 2019 budget. Your tax-deductible, year-end gifts will be most appreciated and timely. We praise God in advance for providing and thank all of you who remember ATLAS with your gifts. Those gifts bless our local population and allow ATLAS staff to love, listen and gently steer those who come through our door to the most magnificent gift ever given—Jesus.



"Jude's Jottings"

A Bird's-Eye-View

Greetings from the birdcage! This Christmas you can bless the peeps who come through our door and here are 3 simple ways you can!

Purchase a sturdy laundry basket and fill it with Kleenex, toilet-paper, paper towels and laundry soap. These practical items are appreciated in every household. 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 mundane to *magnificent!*

And if shopping ruffles-your-feathers, here's an alternative that works all-year-round. . . and this one's our favorite. Gift cards from any local gas station/grocery store/Dollar General/Ace Hardware, etc., are a great way to encourage a struggling individual/family. 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 about gift cards we love the most! It makes us sing!!

So please bring any of the above items to our office by Mon. Dec. 9. We'll then begin blessing our peeps with your gifts during the two weeks prior to Christmas and well into 2020.



Have a blessed Thanksgiving and a splendid Christmas season. Thank-you for remembering our peeps and thank-you for remembering ATLAS.

Joyfully yours,

Jude



Client Quotes

- "I think I have nothing to say when I get here and then talk your head off the whole hour."
- "Coming to this place helped me save my career."
- "I'm not big on God, but this prayer-thing you do here is working and making me think."
- "Did you hear what those lefty nut-bags are doin' to 'Baby It's Cold Outside?' It's freakin' insane!!"

"When we join together using our gifts, God works to accomplish great things!"

ATLAS Budget-2019

