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For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite." Isaiah 57:15 ESV

Revival. Spiritual awakening. A movement of the Holy Spirit. What started spontaneously during a regular Asbury University (pictured above) chapel service on February 8th, went on for weeks at Asbury, spreading to other colleges, universities, and seminaries. Was it revival? Awakening? A movement of the Holy Spirit? Yes.

"Revival is a strange and sovereign work of God in which He visits His people, restoring, reanimating and releasing them into the fullness of His blessing," writes Stephen Olford. Richard Owen Roberts defines spiritual awakening as "an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit of God producing extraordinary results." True revival is not a meeting; true revival is a movement of the Holy Spirit.

Such awakenings begin with prayer, faith, focus, and vision. They are marked by a deep recognition of the need for revival, widespread, humble repentance of sin, obedience to Christian responsibilities, and the exercise of Spirit enlivened faith. Free confession of sin to the entire congregation is a hallmark of revival. Having experienced the touch of revival a few times in my life, I tell you that it is palpable and powerful. You will never forget it. You will long for its return.

"We cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again," said G. Campbell Morgan. Revival is an extraordinary movement of the Spirit of God. It can not be produced. It can not be faked. It can be sought in prayer.

As you gather for worship weekly, as you pray individually, with family, and in small groups, continue to pray for revival. Freely confess sin. Humbly seek contrition. Set the sails. Ask God to send the wind once more. Oh, what God can do!

In Christ,
Aaron



A church that looks like Heaven. A church with all types of people. That's the vision of Pastor Tanner and Naomi Devereaux for **Imago Dei Church**, Omaha.

Coming to Nebraska from Missouri more than a year and a half ago, Tanner had that vision of a church of all kinds of people. Serving with his in-laws, Rick and Sherri Lechner, at **Way Maker Baptist Church**, Omaha, that vision began to focus as a new church in Midtown Omaha. With Renewed Hope Church moving from the HCN building in Midtown to the Cornerstone Baptist Church property in La Vista, the HCN building in Midtown is open for a new church plant.

It is our joy to announce Imago Dei is in its beginning phases. Pastor Tanner is a church planter resident of **CityLight Mosaic**, Omaha. With Mosaic as the sending church, NAMB's Send Network, and HCN assisting, the Devereauxs are moving forward. Imago Dei will plant in the HCN building with the vision to reach Midtown. Weekly prayer nights begin April 18th. Core team launch is targeted for September. With weekly, public worship services starting in February 2024.

We are **thankful for the support** of Pastor Rick and Way Maker, Pastor Jacob Richardson and Mosaic, and Ryan Johnston and Send Network. And **we thank all of you** for giving to the Cooperative Program, Annie Armstrong, and HCN to support new churches like Imago Dei. Thank you! More so, we thank you for your prayers.

Join us in prayer

- Pray for more people to commit to join the Imago Dei core team.
- Pray for the growing discipleship and direction of the core team.
- Pray for the Devereaux family and in parenting their son, Rev.
- Pray for God's financial provision to launch Imago Dei.

You can learn more about Imago Dei or the Devereaux family by contacting Pastor Tanner at devereauxtanner298@gmail.com or (417) 379-1496.



THE HEARTLAND CHURCH NETWORK

Annual Christmas Fellowship

The Heartland Church Network (HCN) Annual Christmas Fellowship was held on Jan 7th, 2023. The event was held at the Millard Social Hall. This year, there were around 45 people in attendance.

Our speakers for the morning were John and Julie Shields. The Shields' provided a heartfelt message with a light lesson about how we can identify and learn from our Christmas challenges in the past, present, and future.

While the food was being prepared to serve, each table was given the prompt: Tell us your worst Christmas story. At the end of the day, each table voted for who had the "best" tale. The winning storytellers were each given \$50 cash! One of the winning stories involved pine scented aftershave and a dog that hadn't been outside in quite awhile. You can try to figure out the rest of the story.



The guests enjoyed delicious selections of braised beef and grilled chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad, and dinner rolls, all of which were prepared by Eddie's Catering. For dessert, there were multiple flavors of pies to choose from.

It is always a joy to see our associational pastors, their spouses, and accompanying lay-people. We look forward to hosting this event every year, and we sincerely hope to see you at the next one!





Heartland Church Network (HCN) provided Sexual Abuse Awareness Training from Ministry Safe on February 4th, 2023.

The goal of the training was to equip ministry leaders, staff members and volunteers with facts and misconceptions related to child sexual abuse, including the basic characteristics of an abuser, the grooming process of the offender, and key indicators of child sexual abuse.

When staff members and volunteers are equipped with the 'eyes to see' the grooming process of an abuser and key indicators of child sexual abuse, they are better able to protect the children in their care.

After the formal training videos, there was a round table discussion that allowed for a question-and-answer session for the attendees.

The round table panel consisted of Kelly Wallace, Children's Minister, LifeSpring, Bellevue, and Aaron Householder of HCN. Both shared from their experience and their passion to keep kids safe.

Many believe that child sexual abuse can't happen in their church or ministry, or that no one they know could be an abuser. This illusion of safety is often found in churches, schools, camps, and mission services. The documented facts show that child sexual abuse can and does happen in the very places our children should be safest.

If you missed this training or are just interested in taking this training, it will be offered again on August 5th, 2023, from 9 AM to 12 PM at the HCN building and on Zoom.

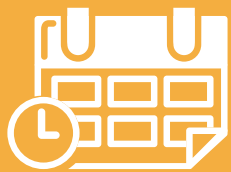
Contact Dave Graves, Projects Coordinator for Heartland Church Network for additional information, at dave@heartlandchurchnetwork.org or 402-423-5062.

- 1 UNDERSTANDING THE RISK
- 2 AN EFFECTIVE SAFETY SYSTEM
- 3 SCREENING PROCESSES
- 4 CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS
- 5 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

“ Every church needs to be prepared for the worst because it isn't a matter of if, but when. ”

Aaron Householder, HCN AMS

*steps to strengthen the safety of your children's ministry



LOOKING AHEAD



APRIL 28 - 29, 2023

MINISTER & SPOUSE RETREAT

The Arbor Day Lodge
Nebraska City, NE

The 2023 Minister and Spouse Retreat will be held April 28 and 29 at Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, NE. This is a short time of restoration for ministers and their spouses and a chance to connect on a deeper level with other ministers in the network.

heartlandchurchnetwork.org/minister-spouse-retreat

Interested in helping those struck by natural disaster? Sign up and attend our training on May 6, 2023. After completion, you will have the necessary safety training and skills to be a part of our nationwide Disaster Relief team!

DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING

First Baptist Church of Bellevue

MAY 6, 2023

heartlandchurchnetwork.org/dr-training

Heartland Church Network

CHILDREN'S CAMP

JULY 24 - 28

CAMP OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LOUISVILLE, NE

Save the date! Heartland Church Network's Children's Camp is July 24 - 28, 2023. Children's Camp is 5-days full of fun and Jesus! Kids will get to go swimming, play games, make crafts and hear from real-life missionaries! Parents can count on a quality, safe, and affordable opportunity that ensures your children will experience a week to remember.

REGISTER NOW FOR CHILDREN'S CAMP 2023! FORMS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL CAN BE FOUND AT HEARTLANDCHURCHNETWORK.ORG

heartlandchurchnetwork.org/childrens-camp

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