

*Special Thanksgiving Edition*

HEARTLAND AMERICA

# Communicator

CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

KANSAS

ARKANSAS

MISSOURI

OKLAHOMA

*“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous in every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*

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## An Attitude of Gratitude

*“Every experience God gives us, every person he puts in our lives, is the perfect preparation for the future that only he can see.” ~ Corrie Ten Boom*

The world that most of us live in is like one long super-highway experience. Everything and everybody is moving at break-neck speed. I keep this snapshot in my mind of how it was in some of the large cities we have passed through over the years. You had to be aware—all the time—of where you were, which lane you needed to be in, and who was coming at you. The entrance ramps to the freeway systems were launching pads more than anything else.

While serving in California, where we were prone to travel long distances between our visits, Adana and I came to sort of a “traveling” agreement. She would drive on the open roads, and I would take over when we hit the outskirts of the large cities. I can almost hear the snap of the seat belt buckle, and the surge of the engine as I entered one of those launching ramps that would propel us into a flurry of vehicles, all of which were going somewhere - fast! This was a time for “present tense” concentration.

I have come to the conclusion that our sense of NOW (the present) is the most fleeting part of our life. In one sense, our present represents the shortest frame of reality for us. Our sense of NOW is constantly being pushed by the past, and pulled by our future. It is a fact that we cannot hold on to the present, for, in the blink of an eye, it becomes our past, and we are literally being flung into the future.

It is not my intention to get into some sort of a whole life philosophy discussion. It is, however, my full intention to emphasize the truth of valuing the NOW in our life. Corrie Ten Boom’s statement above holds within it a powerful truth. First, God has a perfect plan for us.

**REGIONAL COUPLES RETREAT — February 7-9, 2014**  
**INFORMATION AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE READY IN DECEMBER**



## Drinking From My Saucer

I've never made a fortune,  
and it's probably too late now.  
But I don't worry about that much,  
I'm happy anyhow

And as I go along life's way,  
I'm reaping better than I sowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches,  
and sometimes the going's tough  
But I've got loving ones all around me,  
and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his Blessings,  
and the Mercies He's bestowed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went  
wrong,  
My faith wore somewhat thin.  
But all at once the dark clouds broke,  
and the sun peeped through again.

So Lord, help me not to gripe,  
about the tough rows I have hoed.  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage,  
When the way grows steep and rough.  
I'll not ask for other blessings,  
I'm already Blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy,  
to help others bear their loads.  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

- Unknown



## 2014 International Assembly July 30 – August 3, 2014!

This upcoming International Assembly has all of the marks of being historic in nature, and one of the best attended Assemblies in many years. Due to its location (Florida), we are expecting a large representation from the islands, and surrounding states. Please take note of the reservation information. Please be advised -- Reservations for the host hotels open January 1, 2014. If you are planning to attend, wisdom dictates that you make your reservation early. More information will be forthcoming in our next newsletter.

**CHECK OUT ALL THE INFO:** [WWW.cogop.org/assembly.html](http://WWW.cogop.org/assembly.html)

## S.H.A.R.E.

### SUSTAINING HEALTH AND RELATIONAL-MINISTRY EXCELLENCE

On Saturday, October 26, we had our final State S.H.A.R.E. Meeting for 2013. This particular meeting was for the Pastors & Ministers in Oklahoma. Our four S.H.A.R.E. Meetings were well attended in each of our states. General topics included a re-introduction of our electronic communication system for the Heartland America Region. Our region alone enjoys the benefit of a dedicated email system. We have also initiated and developed an Internet Campus where teaching and various messages are available including the sermons and devotionals from our 2013 Regional Convention. The Regional Overseer also shared information with the pastors regarding the selection process to fill the vacancy in the office of the General Overseer.

The heart of our S.H.A.R.E. Meetings revolved around a teaching entitled, **"Rediscovering The Holy Spirit."** Pastor Larry Duncan did an outstanding job in presenting this challenging and extremely enlightening study. We experienced the presence and power of the Spirit in each of our meetings. At the conclusion of the teaching in Oklahoma, we had a significant time of prayer, and moving of the Spirit among us. This teaching will be available for viewing and downloading on our Internet Campus very soon. Our pastors will receive the link. You can navigate to our Internet Campus from the "Quick Links" Menu on our Regional Website.

# 2013 Heartland America REGIONAL CONVENTION



Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry



Youth Guest Speaker, Palma Hutchinson

*We are Better TOGETHER!*

Arkansas

Kansas

Missouri

Oklahoma



Awesome  
Children's Ministry

Pictures are great, but they can't tell the whole story of how the Lord blessed at our Regional Convention.

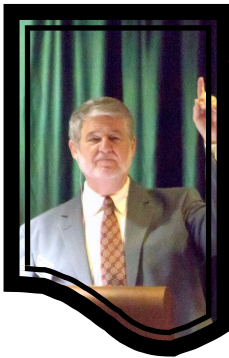
**We really are better together!**



Oklahoma  
Youth  
Director  
Loyd Collins, Jr.



Pastor  
Larry  
Duncan



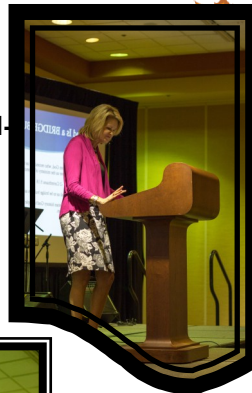
International  
Missions  
Coordinator,  
Cathy Payne



Overseer  
Pense



International Children's  
Ministry Director  
Kathy Creasy



Scott &  
Crystal Fuller  
Kansas State  
Youth  
Directors



Stars of the Stage that day!



Kids Prayer Time



# AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

(Continued From Page 1)

It is a certainty that our Heavenly Father goes about prepping us for His plan for our life in a most interesting manner. I am convinced that He brings GOOD into our lives and allows BAD to touch us through our experience with the people that cross our paths throughout our life.

Oh, how sweet are the thoughts of the now hundreds and hundreds of people that have come through my life that have blessed me so much. Their tenderness, generosity, kindness, and thoughtfulness is like a spring of life-giving water that nourishes and refreshes my heart and life on a daily basis.

And, oh, how bitter tasting is my remembrances of the few that offered the opposite of all the positive and powerful qualities that I mentioned above. Their harshness, deception, trickery, and rejection still pierces my soul. I fully admit the unkind words, and their calculating, and scheming ways, still bring a shudder to my spirit. And, a “Why” flashes into my mind when I think of how hard I worked, and how much I sacrificed to gain their favor and respect, only to be the recipient of their spiteful ways.

I am remembering those “Now” moments here. The vast majority of those fleeting **now moments** brings a softness to my heart, and an unspoken “thank you” follows quickly behind those memories. Those hurtful moments, however, may well have been my best life teacher.

How can we truly appreciate the goodness of life that comes through people unless we have something in sharp contrast with which to compare them. How can we truthfully, in all sincerity, have a positive ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE if we haven’t experienced the emotion and pain of rejection? How can we truly enjoy the warm glow of summer’s sunlight unless we have some recollection of the bite of winter’s icy breath?

Corrie Ten Boom may have received a point of knowledge and inspiration from the Apostle Paul’s comment in Romans 8: 28. Paul said... **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”**

## ... And we know

This verse in the Bible introduces a source of consolation and support drawn from the fact that **all things** are under the direction of an infinitely wise Being who has purposed the salvation of the Believer, and who has appointed **ALL THINGS** that they shall contribute to that purpose.

## ... all things

This includes all our afflictions and trials; all the persecutions and calamities to which we are exposed. Though they are many, and long-continued, yet they are among the means that are appointed for our welfare.

## ... work together for good

They shall cooperate; they shall mutually contribute to our good. They take away our affections from this world; they teach us truth about our frail, temporary condition; they lead us to look to God for support, and to heaven for a final home; and they produce a subdued spirit, a humble outlook, a patient, tender, and kind disposition. This has been the experience of all true believers; and at the end of life they have been able to say it was good for them to have been molded by the hard things in life.

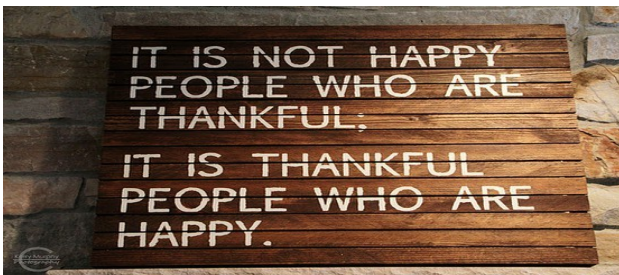
## ... to them that love God

This is characteristic of true Christianity. To this person, afflictions will prove to be blessings. To others, they often prove otherwise. On others they are seen as chastisements; and they produce complaining; instead of peace, rebellion; instead of submission, anger, impatience, and hatred, instead of calmness, patience and love. We must apply ourselves to understanding these principles that we may maintain an attitude of gratitude.

I want to conclude my comments by saying that Adana and I have enjoyed our work in Heartland America. We love this part of the world that offers so much diversity. We love the seasons of the year. But, most of all, we have enjoyed the love of the people of the Heartland. The only attitude that I have regarding our work together is one of true gratitude. What an honor it is to work side by side with our pastors and church family.

We pray that you will have a blessed Thanksgiving season with your family and your friends. **Enjoy the NOW moments for they will soon be the past.** Make good memories by speaking hope and life.

- Wayne Pense, Heartland America Regional Overseer





## The Main Ingredient Oklahoma Women's Ministry



from

Thanks to everyone who attended our Women's Conference in October! What an amazing "TASTE" of love from our Heavenly Father. He was with us in a mighty way. We had 92 women in attendance and I'm so proud to report we had ladies

every state in our region! We had a wonderful time of worship, anointed Word, and fellowship.

We were so blessed to have Sharon Farruggia from Knoxville, TN as our special guest. She delivered anointed Word and I have since received several reports of salvation and deliverance from our ladies. We can't make it in this world without "The Main Ingredient". Thanks again to all of you who attended and to all of the local leaders who encouraged their ladies to come. It wouldn't have been the same without you!

God Bless,  
Karen Barnett  
Oklahoma Women's Ministries Director



# WE WON'T BE SHAKEN Fall Youth Retreat

Arkansas 2013 Fall Youth Retreat

Greetings from Camp Kahoka! The 2013 Arkansas Fall Retreat, "We Won't Be Shaken", is in the history books. What a great time of fellowship and ministry. We had 35 campers in attendance and were blessed to have Scott and Crystal Fuller from Olathe, Kansas to serve as our retreat evangelists. Our theme was taken from Psalms 62:6 which says, "Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken." We learned about how big our God is and how our relationship with him impacts everything in our lives. Our youth were challenged to complete activities in which a firm foundation was needed. If the foundation did not hold, you often times got very messy! We finished out the weekend with a message from Bro. Scott, Holy Communion and prayer. God was so good to us and blessed us beyond measure. We look forward to the summer for more great times at Camp Kahoka!



What have they done to you Scott?

Jason & LaCinda Whittington  
Arkansas Youth Retreat Directors



## PAYING IT FORWARD

**MEANING:** Pay it forward is a term for describing the beneficiary of a good deed repaying it to others instead of to the original benefactor.

The concept was rediscovered and described by Benjamin Franklin, in a letter to Benjamin Webb dated April 25, 1784:

*"I do not pretend to give such a deed; I only lend it to you. When you [...] meet with another honest Man in similar Distress, you must pay me by lending this Sum to him; enjoining him to discharge the Debt by a like operation, when he shall be able, and shall meet with another opportunity. I hope it may thus go thro' many hands, before it meets with a Knave that will stop its Progress. This is a trick of mine for doing a deal of good with a little money."*

\*\*\*\*\*

Once there was a family of very modest means. They lived in a small country house. On thanksgiving night, they all sat down for dinner, and there was a knock at the door. The father went to the door and opened it. There stood an old man in old torn clothes, with ripped pants and missing buttons. He was carrying a basket full of vegetables. He asked the family if they wanted to buy some vegetables from him. They said sure and invited him to spend thanksgiving with them, but he kindly declined, as he had many more vegetables to sell. Over time, the family and the old man became friends.

The man brought vegetables to the family every week. They soon found out that he was almost blind and had cataracts on his eyes. But he was so friendly that they learned to look forward to his visits and started to enjoy his company. One day as he was delivering the vegetables, he said, "I had the greatest blessing yesterday! I found a basket of clothes outside my house that someone had left for me." The family, (knowing that he needed clothes, left the basket of clothes outside his house), said, "really, how wonderful!" The old blind man said, "the most wonderful part is that, I found a family that really needed the clothes."

Ironic isn't it. A poor man who is almost blind, sees the blessing of giving to those less fortunate... paying it forward...

\*\*\*\*\*

Sarah-Jayne read the book Pay It Forward and realized that the world would be a better place if everyone just did three favors for others. Having lost her own father at the age of eight, she had great empathy for children of a family friend who had just been widowed. Sarah-Jayne took time out to chat to the children allaying their fears and making life much easier for their mother. This 'success' prompted the second favor which was to set up a counseling service at her school, particularly to reduce the amount of bullying. Her third favor was for her neighbor, an elderly woman who was losing her sight. As she had been the one to introduce the Pay it Forward book to Sarah-Jayne, and was an avid reader, it was a real act of paying it forward to take time out every night and read aloud to this neighbor and keep her company. "I couldn't believe at first how three small favors could help so many people and all the people I helped have promised to pay the favor forward." from a posting on a kindness site from Sarah-Jayne Wright , aged 18 from the U.K.:

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### HEARTLAND AMERICA REGION –



Come on Heartland Family - why don't we begin a PAY IT FORWARD IN THE HEARTLAND CAMPAIGN? Let's start looking

for opportunities to bless someone that has a need, or, for no reason at all! Why don't we take advantage of the blessings God has given to us, and SHARE! Pay for another family's meal in a restaurant. Help someone who cannot buy Thanksgiving dinner for their family. Put gas in someone's car. Are there Senior's around you that could just use a few extra groceries, or a special invitation to their favorite restaurant, or just a few minutes of your time? Is there anyone cold in your city? Are you watching for people in the grocery store that look stressed when they come to the cash register? Can you spare a SMILE? Can you ask a stranger, "How are you?" Could you listen for the whisper of the Spirit to let you know where you could invest \$100 or \$500, or ??? IT PAYS TO GIVE!

# EMPOWERED!

**ANointed TO LEAD**  
August 16-18, 2013

OKCFC Omega  
Youth Ministry



Musical Guest:  
Nothing Else  
Speaker:  
Miguel Lopez

(405)634-7000  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/EMPOWEREDOKCFC

8300 S. Santa Fe /  
OKC, OK 73117

## WOW!

Our Oklahoma City Family Church and our District Youth Directors sponsored this awesome event for our youth. Churches and Youth Groups from all over the state gathered for this 3-day ministry event.

Special thanks to Josue & Jackie Chavez for your visionary leadership!

## 2014 HEARTLAND AMERICA REGIONAL CALENDAR



- KS/MO Winter Youth Retreat...Dec 27-29, 2013  
Cross Pointe Camp
- Oklahoma S.H.A.R.E ..... Jan. 18  
(Hope Church, BA)
- YOUTH QUAKE ..... Jan. 24-25  
(Sikeston, MO)
- Regional Couples Retreat.... Feb 7-9  
(Branson, MO)
- Arkansas S.H.A.R.E. .... Feb 22  
(Cabot, AR)
- Missouri S.H.A.R.E. .... March 8  
(Winona, MO)
- Kansas S.H.A.R.E. .... March 22  
(Olathe, KS)
- KS/MO Ladies Retreat..... April 4-6
- Heartland Camp Staff Training April 12
- EASTER SUNDAY ..... April 20
- Arkansas Ladies Retreat ..... April 25-27
- MOTHER'S DAY ..... May 11
- FATHER'S DAY ..... June 15
- International Assembly.... July 30-Aug 3

The special guest speakers, teachers, and singers did an outstanding job in ministering to our youth.

Empowered has been more than a youth conference with great teaching, awesome workshops and more than just worship. Empowered has created a unique environment that brings lasting life change through skits, anointed worship, exciting Christian bands (NOTHING ELSE) and powerful teachings and preaching (Guest Speaker; Miguel Lopez) Throughout the years hundreds of lives have been reached and will never be the same!

PLANS FOR EMPOWERED 2014 IN THE MAKING!



## V.I.P. YOUTH CAMP DATES

Regional Camp Staff Training April 12

Arkansas Camps:

Jr/Intermediate June 6-10  
Senior June 10-14

KS/Missouri Camps:

Kids Camp (West) June 6-8  
Kids Camp (East) July 20-23  
Senior Camp July 23-27

Oklahoma Camps:

Senior June 2-7  
Intermediate June 9-14  
Junior June 16-21



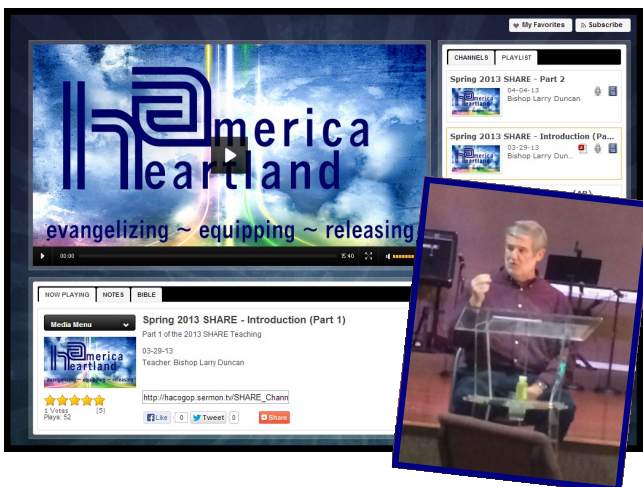
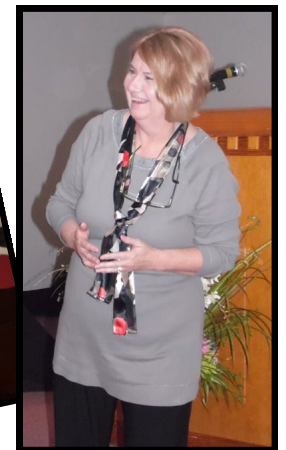
## 2013 Arkansas Ladies Conference

Arkansas Ladies Ministry Director, Teresa Tackett (and her great team) did their usual outstanding job in presenting this Ladies Conference. We appreciate the Trumann Church for hosting this inspirational event for the ladies.

Heartland America is blessed to have such dedicated leaders and AWESOME LADIES!

It's happening all around the region – our ladies are being blessed by the efforts of inspired leaders!

**THERE IS MORE TO COME!!!**



## HEARTLAND AMERICA INTERNET CAMPUS

DID YOU KNOW. . . The Heartland America Region of the Church of God of Prophecy has its own Internet Campus. This site has been in development for some time now and content is growing steadily. That content includes, 2013 Regional Convention Messages, S.H.A.R.E. Presentations, messages and encouragement from the Regional Overseer.

It's easy to find. It's easy to navigate.

And, it's YOUR CAMPUS!

[www.hacogop.sermon.tv/](http://www.hacogop.sermon.tv/)

(Note: Videos & content may be downloaded)