



Atlas: Lincoln

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Attaining Truth, Love, And Self-control

Brody M. Van Roekel
Staff Mentor

“If one falls down, their friend can help them up, but pity the one who falls and has no one to help them up!”

Ecclesiastes 4:10

Board Members:
Jeff Heerspink
Carissa Martin
Jen Hinrichs
Brook Talsma

The Inaugural Edition

Greetings and a warm welcome to the *very* first edition of the Atlas: Lincoln Newsletter. We hope this can be just another tangible way in which you can keep up with everything happening at the Atlas here in Lincoln, NE. This and future quarterly newsletters will be a great source of updates, various requests, scheduling matters, and, most importantly, stories. There’s a reason Jesus so often taught through parable. People identify with stories because we see ourselves in them and we see God moving through them. We hope these newsletters become not just a place for information, but a place to be encouraged and to see the vibrant and present movements of God in the midst of life’s struggles. *-Brody*

Lucy’s Story

A few weeks ago, a brother in Christ and I helped a young woman named Lucy and her two kids escape a domestic-violence situation. She met this brother of mine by God’s grace as she was walking, and he called me. On a random Thursday afternoon, he and I went over to Lucy’s apartment, packed up everything she owned along with stuff for her kids while her abusive partner was at work, and moved them away from the darkness and pain that inflicted their lives into a safe place. Through the entire process, he and I had the privilege of ministering and loving on her, her mom, and many others whose paths we happen to cross that afternoon. She was safe, and I had a blast playing with her two little kids, who seemed to believe that I was a jungle-gym. This is the sort of thing that I love about Atlas. Quick responding, boots on the ground, ready for action. The opportunities around us to go to work in the Kingdom abound. The harvest is plentiful, and I'm thankful for every day that we're privileged to go into the world, proclaiming through word and deed the love, grace, and truth of our Savior, Christ Jesus.

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WHAT IS ATLAS?

“A place to come when you don’t know where to turn.”

Emotional, spiritual, physical or relational issues can turn one’s world upside-down. For people struggling down a rough place on life’s road, Atlas is a safe, confidential place to come in and let it all out. Our services are free to the public. We listen, encourage and pray with folks who come through our door. We make referrals and do our best to love each person, guide them in the right direction and walk with them on their journey – regardless of the distance. We are excited to find ways to touch lives for Christ in this community. We let each person know they matter. They matter to Jesus and they matter to us.

Almost Three Months On...

With just over 90 days behind us, Atlas: Lincoln still feels so new and at the same time like it's been going for years. We've covered so much ground in such a short time and even though there's so much more to do, we rejoice for the opportunities before us.

In fewer days than it takes to break a bad habit, we've...

- Hosted our *first* mentor training. Nine faithful followers of Jesus Christ sat with us for an evening and learned what it means to be a Christian mentor. We've scheduled another training on December 3 to equip even more followers of Jesus.
- Raised over a third of our year-end target. We have some huge goals for the future, but are thankful that the God we serve is so much bigger.
- Met with dozens of Lincoln faith-leaders from just as many churches and organizations. These meetings have encouraged and affirmed our mission to touch lives for Christ. People are catching the vision and excited about the Atlas heartbeat. The community is already coming together.

The pain and struggles around us abound, but then so too do our opportunities to walk the road of life with people, showing them Christ's love and the restorative power of the Gospel. We get a chance to step into the lives of folks like Lucy, like my friend Randy whom we're working with daily to get housing before the winter sets in, like my friend Brady who just started treatment. We're not defined by the darkness we fight daily. We are, all of us, who Christ says we are, "Beloved." Christ gives us a light to shine into the darkness around us, and shine we will. -Brody

Photo from our first training!



Meeting people at Project Homeless Connect



Thank you, thank you, thank you

To all those who have supported our ministry here financially, thank you. Without you, we would not be able to help the hurting, equip followers of Jesus Christ, and unite our community.

With your support, we've been able to launch Atlas: Lincoln and have already seen God moving so vividly.

There's a great vision cast ahead of us and we long for the ability to touch the folks in our neighborhoods for Christ.

Your financial partnership makes such a difference in the lives of so many people here.

Here are three ways to financially partner with us!

- Mail your check to Atlas of Lincoln. (745 D St., Lincoln, NE 68502, you can make it out to *F-Street Neighborhood Church* for now)
- Internet banking/automatic bill pay can be arranged through your bank or financial institution and eliminates having to remember writing a check each month. (email for more information atlasoflincoln@gmail.com)
- *We hope to have an internet donation button set up soon!

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

“And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4:19

We set a goal of raising \$25,000 between our launch in August and the end of the year. This will help set us up for our first full year of ministry in 2019. We've reached almost **40%** of that goal. Praise God!