



# Cornerstone Prison Church

As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious **cornerstone**,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame."

1 Peter 2:4-6

**April 2024**

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

## Locked Down, but Lifted Up

The passage tied to our church name and featured in the top right corner of every newsletter comes from 1 Peter 2. Later in that same chapter you can also read: 19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

While these verses were applied to how believers can be a royal priesthood in this life while they were slaves in an ancient civil system, it has direct application to the lives of the men who make up Cornerstone Prison Church. Peter's concern was that Christians face suffering well, recognizing a connection to Christ's suffering for our sake and that how we suffer can point the world to Christ. While none of us want to suffer, we do experience suffering in this time. Recently there was a disturbance at the prison. Tensions had run high, after many beneficial opportunities had been reduced over months. Then there was an additional change that radically reduced communication between the men and their families. In the wake of the disturbance all the men in the prison were locked down. It has become fairly common that when a few men act up they all get locked down. This means chapel services end up being cancelled. It was a stark contrast this year, having the joy of Easter and a great evening at our annual banquet while the men of Cornerstone were locked down and the chapel was closed without knowing when services would resume. For a couple of weeks, the men were locked down, but that wasn't the whole story because many followers of Christ were lifting them up in prayer.

As we continue to navigate difficult times, we greatly appreciate the prayers and support of the broader church. I especially encourage you to continue to lift up the men at the times they suffer for the negative actions of others around them. Pray that the way they navigate these difficult times would bring glory to God and give others glimpse of the freedom available in Jesus Christ. Pray that by the work of the Holy Spirit they would feel that even when locked down they are in fact being lifted up.

*Pastor Scott*

**Cornerstone Prison Church Benefit Banquet** was held on Monday, April 1 and was a wonderful evening. Harmony of Hope performed a short concert. Trinity CRC in Rock Valley was bursting with praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We heard from two former inmates and Pastor Scott shared about the activities going on at Cornerstone and this year will be a year of “New Creation” based on the scripture from 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Of course, the food was delicious and catered by Red Rock Café from Rock Valley. A special thanks to all who attended the annual banquet and for the continued financial support that was raised. Thanks be to God!!  
If you couldn't make it this year, make a point to join us next year!



Didn't get to the Banquet?

**Want to donate?**

Use the form below or **DONATE ONLINE** on our website. Click Support, Financial Support, Give Online.

# Cornerstone Prison Church

[www.cornerstonepcsd.org](http://www.cornerstonepcsd.org)

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Join us for a Friday afternoon worship service at Cornerstone. We have spots open for you to visit starting in July. Contact Jean to schedule a date that works for you. We need to have at least 3 weeks notice to get the paperwork completed; then come and be blessed. Our email address: [office@cornerstonepcsd.org](mailto:office@cornerstonepcsd.org)

Give your gifts to Cornerstone Prison Church

Enclosed is a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ gift for Cornerstone Prison church

Please use for ( )General Fund ( )Bibles & Materials ( )Cornerstone Barnabus Foundation

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Please make checks payable to *Cornerstone Prison Church*.

Donations are tax deductible.

Donations can be sent to:

Cornerstone Prison Church, c/o David Vande Kamp, Treasurer,  
 801 S. Gordon Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57110.