



Cornerstone Prison Church Newsletter

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

Fall 2025

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

THE GOODNESS OF OUR FAITHFUL GOD

Many churches mark the change from summer to the new school year with kick-offs, big pushes for volunteers in the new season, and mindful that Classis is just around the corner (among other busy fall activities). At Cornerstone Prison Church the transition from summer to fall is less ceremonious and there is no ramp up of activity because our activities continue through the summer on their regular rhythm. An exception to this took place last week, similar to last fall (but thankfully much shorter this time) a problem in the prison had grown to the point of necessary action and a corresponding lockdown. This time, it was just one week that the chapel was closed and we were able to return to our Bible Study on Monday. The whole experience reminded me of a passage I recently read. Ecclesiastes 7:8-9 is in a section of wisdom writing more like you would expect to find in Proverbs and it says:

⁸ Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

⁹ Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.

When lockdowns happen, we do not really know when they will be lifted and the process can be frustrating. For the men in the prison, as well as our team the end of the lockdown is so much better than the beginning. The return to seeing what God is doing in the lives of his people, the return to worshipping with one another, the return to providing a presence of peace in an often agitated and aggravated place is better than the weight of knowing how much lockdowns negatively impact the wellbeing of many of the guys.

For our volunteers and staff, as well as for the guys who make up our church patience is so much better than pride it is basically priceless. Leaning into the fact that God is sovereign and faithful, leaning into the fact that the seemingly long days do pass, and patiently waiting on God's timing allows the frustrating times to be fruitful instead of fret-filled. (continued on back page)

As you interact in the wake of a frustrating change you can tell the difference between the people who have been practicing patience as a fruit of their spiritual wellbeing. You can tell which ones let anger get the best of them. Neither will have had a good time through the frustrating time, but one readily moves on into the new time with attention to the goodness of our faithful God, while the other carries the weight of anger that has lodged itself inside, still agitated by things that have passed. The volunteers and staff at Cornerstone Prison Church have had to regularly adapt, practice patience, and prayerfully invite God to continue working even when we are denied access to our place of work. Through it all he has been faithful to bring the right message to the right people, the right volunteer to the right man, the needed fellowship when people are frustrated at just the right time to remind everyone of his goodness.

As you go through the changes to the new school year consider how you are handling them, invite God to get ahead of any anger or pride, and pray for patience and peace for the process of change. You just might get a clearer view of the goodness of our faithful God in the middle of frustrating circumstances. Continue to pray for Cornerstone, God has brought men to the faith, deepened the faith of others, and provided a place for healing through hurts of the world over the summer season. Pray that he would continue this work, bring peace to those who are angry, and healing to those still licking their wounds after their pride got them in trouble.

Pastor Scott



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Cornerstone Prison Church
 meets
 every Friday evening for wor-
 ship. The guys are excited to
 meet new people.

Please join us!

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.

Bingo for Bibles...

On Sunday, November 9, the
 chow hall will be a place for
 men to play bingo and win a
 Bible .

We will have six leather study
 Bibles for the men to win and
 pop and cookies for their treat.

Please pray that these Bibles
 will be used by God to further
 HIS kingdom!!

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

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

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.