



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

February 2018

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

In the Wake of Tragedy

All of us deal with tragedy. Many who are incarcerated have had to deal with it from various views – including some who have done things that are considered tragic. The following is a devotional that was written for our weekly worship bulletin. You are invited into the emotions of painful experiences in order to be spurred on to maturity in Christ.

I write this the day after a 19-year-old former student opened fire in a Florida High School, killing 17 and injuring 14 more. On the radio we can hear lots of opinions. On TV we see lots of troubling scenes. On social media, words are plentiful. In all this, I reflect on my own initial response. My wife heard about it before I did and asked, "Was there a school shooting in Florida?" My initial reaction was quite unfeeling, almost unalarmed and uncaring. That scares me almost as much as the event itself.

I know that John 16:33 records Jesus' words, "In this world you will have trouble." Yet, I don't think this verse has prepared any of us for the amount of pain inflicted by the shooter or the amount of pain that the shooter has experienced that could lead to such an action. In the next sentence, Jesus follows with the words, "But take heart! I have overcome the world." So, what was your initial response to hearing the news?

Surprise, anger, fear, indifference (my first response, but not my current one), helplessness? What does your response tell you about your faith and your relationship with God? Mine indicated to me that there is a lack of love for people and a disconnection between God's heart and mine. I think of the words in Genesis 6:6 where God is troubled and regrets creating the human race, yet with greater parental love than we can imagine, yet God did not abandon us.

I long for the day that my response to this event and others like it will be a divine mixture of immense brokenness and overwhelming love. Often, we run from God, other times we want the safety of God's protection and the peace of God's presence.

I long for the day when all I want is God – not just selfishly wanting the things God offers.

In the struggles, we can take heart because God has this, too – Jesus has overcome the world.

These words from a song by Natalie Grant are my prayer – you can make them your prayer too!

Help me want the Healer, more than the healing.
Help me want the Savior, more than the saving.
Help me want the Giver, more than the giving.
Help me want you Jesus more than anything. Amen.

- Pastor Rick

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have trouble.
But take heart!
I have overcome
the world."
John 16:33

Upcoming Visitors:

- Feb. 16 - Chandler CRC
- Feb. 23 - Dordt College, Sioux Center
- March 2 - 1st Reformed, Edgerton
- March 9 - 1st CRC, Hull
- March 16 - Dakota Jubilee
- March 23 - Dordt College, Sioux Center

If you would like to schedule a visit, email Terese at office@cornerstonepcsd.org.

We can come to you...

Pastor Rick and Pastor Doug are willing to provide Pulpit Supply and a Cornerstone Prison Church update on a Sunday morning or evening.

Please email Rick or Doug directly at doug@cornerstonepcsd.org or rick@cornerstonepcsd.org



Cornerstone 12th Annual Benefit Banquet

You are invited!

When: Monday, April 9, 2018 - 6:30pm.

Where: Trinity CRC - Rock Valley

Music: Valley Male Chorus

Chit Chat Catering will be providing the food.

Please join us for an evening of celebrating how the Holy Spirit is working in hearts and lives of inmates in the SDSP!

A freewill offering will be taken to help with Cornerstone financial needs.

RSVP to Kim at 712.476.5292 or at www.cornerstonepcsd.org

**Cornerstone
Prison
Church**

www.cornerstonepcsd.org

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Faith Fellowship Weekend...

What a blessing.

We began and ended the weekend with one of our largest groups. There were many deep conversations, many questions asked and many glimpses of the Holy Spirit's work.

Thank you for your prayers.

Your support of prison ministry is vital to Cornerstone!

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.