



# 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

**January 2023**

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

## PERSEVERANCE

As Cornerstone Prison Church prepared to transition to a new year, we collectively acknowledged we have been through a lot and that God has been good to us. In the middle of many negative changes in the prison, schedule struggles, and times of uncertainty for parts of the programming the guys requested that we end the year on a note of thankfulness. Some said even if there is nothing else to be thankful for from this year, we can be thankful it is over and that God got us through it. Others, accepted the opportunity to shout out items of thankfulness and praise as we collectively celebrated God's goodness right in the middle of trials. The freedom we have in Christ, and the hope available to all in the family of God can give us the ability to persevere when the world would say it is time for a pity party. The Chapel we meet in froze over Christmas, literally bursting pipes and making a mess, but right in the middle of the mess we celebrated Christ's humble birth. With that mess only partially cleaned up and the background still a clutter of stuff waiting to be replaced when rooms are repaired, we ended the year with thankfulness. That is a kind of perseverance the world doesn't understand, but wishes it did.

The inside members of our outreach team recognized the trend of opportunities for and growth in perseverance and asked if we could make it the theme for our next Faith Fellowship weekend. The last weekend of February we will be reflecting on the gift of God's presence in the world's pains, the way God strengthens and leads us even through immediate problems, and the character development that happens when we persevere. Our theme verse for the weekend is: James 1:2-4 (NIV) "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." It is a joyous thing that the church on the inside is maturing and that guys who have little are able to celebrate the goodness of God even as they are receiving less and dealing with more stress. One way to partner with us is to pray that this upcoming Faith Fellowship Weekend would have a good blend of challenges for the already mature and entry points for those seeking out the faith. The way many Christians are carrying themselves through the challenges is being notice and people are exploring the faith as they long for the peace that is seen in mature Christians who are persevering. Pray that God would continue maturing us all, that we would experience more of the contentment and completeness Jesus has made available.

*Pastor Scott*

Faith Fellowship Weekend is just around the corner.

Friday - Sunday, February 24-26

The selected theme for our Spring 2023 FFW is Perseverance. We will be concentrating on James 1:2-4, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

A 3-day weekend allows us to let go of the normal routines and focus on a Biblical Concept. During the weekend, we will share in worship, song, prayer, and listen to speakers share about their own examples of perseverance and how they see God working in their lives to persevere in the faith. After each speaker, we gather in small groups to discuss what we heard. If you are interested in volunteering for the weekend (all of it or just one day) please let us know soon so we can get organized in a timely manner.

**Watch for your invitation.**

The 15th annual is **Cornerstone Prison Church Benefit Banquet** coming soon.

Monday, April 3, 2023

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Banquet begins at 6:30 p.m.

Trinity Christian Reformed Church in Rock Valley.

Let us know if you will be attending so we can have enough of everything!  
To R.S.V.P. visit [www.cornerstonepcsd.org](http://www.cornerstonepcsd.org), Support tab, Annual Benefit Banquet tab, then call the phone number or fill out the "form" and it will make your reservation for you.

We look forward to seeing you!



# Cornerstone Prison Church

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

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Looking for a way to encourage others in their walk with Christ?

Join us for a worship service at Cornerstone.

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

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.