



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

March 2023

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

Trusting During the Storm

We recently had our Faith Fellowship Weekend on the theme of Perseverance. We reflected on the way we can count it a joy in the middle of storms because our amazing God is with us through it all.

The fact that we had the weekend event was itself an act of perseverance. Most of the month before the event was marked by an extended lockdown in the prison. The acts of certain people had resulted in roughly two thirds of the guys losing opportunities for work, rec, and chapel. This meant many things for the guys as far as frustration, diminished incomes from the low weekly rate they already get, and very little opportunity to encourage one another to think about upcoming events. With less than a week before the event we had only about 25 percent of our usual sign ups for an event like this and we wondered whether to postpone. It felt like an uphill climb right up to the day of the event.

Then we had two days that were an experience of the image we had as our main picture of perseverance. For two days we lifted each other up over the final steps of the uphill climb and pointed out many ways God uses our perseverance to better us and those around us. One of the talks included reflection on Paul facing shipwreck in a storm. The whole story can be found in Acts 27. Verse 30-32 include this detail:

³⁰ In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. ³¹ Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." ³² So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away.

In the middle of our life storms, uphill climbs, and frustrations we tend to look around us for something to hold on to or to put our hope in. But when it comes to our spiritual journey with (continued on the back page)

Jesus, we need to cut the ropes, surrendering our trust to him alone. I mentioned that we had very few sign ups just a week before the event. When all was said and done, we had a slightly smaller group than usual, but we also had a unique experience. It is typical with these kinds of events to have some attrition throughout the event as guys who are less engaged chose to disengage. This Faith Fellowship Weekend we saw the smallest amount of attrition our team could remember. The whole experience truly was an opportunity to let go of preferred plans, to let go of many things we are prone to putting our hope in and see how God would do a great thing through our efforts to persevere.

Make sure to sign up for the annual banquet to hear more about God's work through Faith Fellowship Weekend and the ongoing work of Cornerstone Prison Church inside the South Dakota Penitentiary.

- *Pastor Scott*



Cornerstone Prison Church

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Cornerstone 15th Annual Benefit Banquet

You are invited!



When: Monday, April 3, 2023 - 6:30pm.

Where: Trinity CRC - Rock Valley

Music: Men of Jubilant Praise

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 by Monday, March 27

to Kim at 712.476.5292

or at www.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.