



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

May 2023

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

Changes And Blessings

This year we have continued to practice our theme of perseverance. At the beginning of April changes in policy took effect resulting in additional paper work for visitors to attend our services. There was also some confusion around technicalities in the policy. Much of the confusion has been worked out. More recently the prison adjusted the daily schedule in a way that impacts our evening Bible Study and Worship times. This change should result in a larger amount of time with all our men at the church. It also means we don't get out until closer to 9 p.m.

At a recent Chaplains Advisory Committee meeting the leaders of many ministries had opportunity to share with one of the wardens the increase in challenges we have been facing. He assured us that we should find a new normal sooner rather than later and that our work is highly valued. In the middle of all the ups and downs God continues to do amazing work in the lives of men.

We celebrated Easter and the amazing hope we have because the message in one garden was a curse and the message from the one mistaken as a gardener is that a new day of freedom and forgiveness has dawned. We also recently had the opportunity to celebrate the profession of faith of three men.

Another blessing of the recent weeks was our annual banquet. God provided in a big way for this evening. We were blessed to hear updates from two men whose lives were changed by our prison church ministry (one was present and the other had recorded a video for us). We had time of fellowship, food, and worship. Attendees left with a greater understanding of how God continues to work through Cornerstone. The evening was also a big success as a fundraiser. When we focus on the things that are going wrong or the unique challenges within the prison setting, it can lead to weariness. When we remember to focus on Jesus, and celebrate the good things that he continues to do in and through his church we are renewed, encouraged, and energized to keep up the good work he has given Cornerstone Prison Church. (continued on back)

Whether in prayer, or by signing up to come visit us for a worship service we hope you will continue to be a part of the great cloud of witnesses around Cornerstone Prison Church. And may you continue to join us in focusing on Jesus, that together we would persevere in his love.

Hebrews 12:2-6 Reminds us :

“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” Whether you relate to our challenges or have very different struggles of your own, take joy in being sons and daughters of God, loved by the Father, saved by the Son, and comforted by the Holy Spirit.

- *Pastor Scott Van Voorst*



Cornerstone Prison Church

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Pictures from our Annual Benefit Banquet

