



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

September, 2023

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

LEANING INTO PRAYER

Proverbs 19:21 & 23 (ESV) say:

21 Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

23 The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.

These touchpoints of ancient wisdom help us understand how we are more than conquerors in all things (Romans 8) and how we have a sure inheritance in Christ even as he is working out all things according to the counsel of his will (Ephesians 1). There have been many times lately that we have had to lean on these promises of God through less than desired circumstances. Last month we had one of our Faith Fellowship Weekends, which was on perseverance in prayer. The DOC changed schedules on everything in the chapel less than two weeks before the event. At one point the event was officially cancelled and then called back on a day later. We found ourselves continuing to practice what we were focusing on, persevering in prayer, knowing that only if God moved would the weekend come together and take place through all the headwinds in scheduling we were dealing with. By God's grace, a small group of volunteers and staff were able to lead a good weekend experience and provide hope at a time when many other changes around the prison were dampening the spirits of the men.

At the beginning of September, we were also able to bring back a service we hadn't done in years. We held a worship service in the visit room where friends and family of our men were able to get a taste of what Cornerstone church is like. Again, there were schedule changes and challenges. And again, God provided a rich time of worship and growth. As men sang old familiar hymns acapella their extended families, spouses, and friends got to hear what we hear so often. They got to hear a love of the Lord that comes through in worship when men restored to freedom in Christ rise above their current challenges, set aside what others think, and thank God from deep in their hearts.

Inside the prison, our weekly schedules have been cut back and re-arranged. Our evening times for study and worship have been pushed into the day. Many of the men have less access to work, and all have had cuts in the frequency of recreation time. Through it all, the men have increasingly leaned into prayer. (continued on the back page)

This includes a marked increase in the men publicly praying during church for the prison administration and correctional officers. The stress, frustration, and anxiety over changes that have brought down morale are all palpable. Even so, we rest satisfied with less, knowing that while we have less it is bringing us to increasingly lean on the Lord who ultimately satisfies and who works out even our stresses and challenges for his good purposes.

- *Pastor Scott Van Voorst*

Prayer Requests:

- 1) The annual Cornerstone Council elections will be coming up soon. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the members to elect the men that He wants in the council of His church. Pray also for Pastor Scott and the current council that they are given wisdom for leading the Cornerstone Prison Church.
- 2) Pray for the executive staff of the prison, correction officers, and visitors that enter the prison on a daily basis.
- 3) Pray for the inmates to remain calm and prayerful during this time of uncertainty.

Cornerstone Prison Church meets every Friday afternoons for worship. 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.

E: office@cornerstonepcsd.org

Online giving is available at www.cornerstonepcsd.org, then click on the support tab, financial support and give online.
It's safe and secure.

Cornerstone Prison Church

www.cornerstonepcsd.org

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Check out our website!
www.cornerstonepcsd.org

You will find opportunities and information about Cornerstone. Our goal is to stay connected with you.

No donation is too small...

Cornerstone Prison Church is asking for donations of yarn. The inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary have the opportunity to knit hats for children in need.

The prison does not provide the yarn, so we ask churches and individuals to help with this important ministry. Please contact Jean to coordinate a drop-off location if needed.



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.