

“Joy to the World”

. . . and other lessons from “The Mighty Messengers”

I’ve just come from an all-school rehearsal of Cornerstone’s Christmas Program, “The Mighty Messengers.” This Christmas musical tells the story of the birth of Christ through angelic ‘mighty messengers’ as well as talking animals, shepherds, wise men, and Joseph and Mary. What a wonderful sound to hear our Cornerstone elementary kids – 213 strong – sing about our Savior’s birth!

The songs included in the musical are both new and old. One of my favorites is the carol, “Joy to the World.” The story behind this song begins in Germany, in 1692, when little George Handel began making music on his clavier, an instrument like a piano. George grew up to become a prominent musician, writing many popular songs and musicals during his lifetime. When he was about 56 years old, he began to reflect on his accomplishments. His music had been adored by thousands and performed before Kings and Queens, but he wasn’t satisfied. He wanted to write something much greater – something that would bring profound **joy** to all who listened.

So Handel began to pray, asking God to help him write something significant. For almost three weeks he labored day and night, until finally he emerged having composed his immortal “Messiah,” a musical that has been performed more than any other.

Meanwhile, in England there lived a man named Isaac Watts. Watts began writing verses as a small child. When he was a teenager, he complained that the songs sung in church were hard to sing. His father challenged him to write some that were better. And so he did. For the next two years Isaac Watts wrote a new hymn every week. People loved his poems, particularly the one based on Psalm 98, a passage which announces a message of **joy**.

Nearly a century later a Boston composer and music publisher, Lowell Mason, found Watts’ poem of **joy** and wanted to publish it. There was only one problem – he didn’t have a proper musical setting. In his search he came upon a beautiful melody within Handel’s Messiah. And so Mason published Watts’ poem, set it to Handel’s music and created one of the world’s most beloved Christmas carols, “**Joy** to the World.”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room.
And heaven and nature sing.

The angel said of Jesus’ birth,

*“Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great **joy**.” Luke 2:10*

Why did Christ come to earth? Cornerstone students can tell you that it was for the purpose of making eternal **joy** possible for us.

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith who for the **joy** set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2*

Even in our preschool program, children are taught that Christmas is more than presents under the tree. They learn that because of Christ’s birth, God has provided a way to receive His gift of eternal life.

*“. . . in Your presence is fullness of **joy**, at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
Psalm 16:11*

There really is a reason to sing about the birth of Christ. You can hear the Cornerstone students sing about it at our Christmas program to be held Thursday, Dec. 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Vale Baptist Church.

“**Joy** to the World” has been sung and recorded by the best musicians around. Of late, it was recorded by Whitney Houston for the movie, “The Preacher’s Wife.” Mariah Carey has her own arrangement, as does Michael Bolton and Hoyt Axton. Three Dog Night had their own completely different version of it, and even Frank Sinatra sang it. But I don’t believe that I have heard it sung more beautifully than I heard this morning by Cornerstone kids who have learned exactly where true **joy** comes from.

*“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now,
you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious **joy**,
for you are receiving the goal of your faith,
the salvation of your souls.”
I Peter 1:8,9*

April Kinzinger,
Director of Development



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New Building Project Update

As many of you may already know, Cornerstone now owns 78 acres east of Bloomington on Ireland Grove Road. The closing was held November 1st, and already surveyors and engineers have been busy gathering information which will help us as we get ready to build.

Phase I of our New Building Project will provide us with 48,000 square feet of new space. If you remember the drawing of the building that we have had designed for us, you remember that it has a square center with four wings. The center portion of the building includes a gymnasium, library, cafeteria, music and art rooms, a computer lab, and administrative offices. The wings hold over 40 classrooms which would allow us to grow through high school. The cost for this building is approximately 8.5 million dollars.

Our Phase I project will be the center portion of our final building. It will include a gymnasium with a stage, a library, administrative offices, and 27 classrooms. The cost for Phase I will be 4.5 million dollars.

As we go into Phase II of our project and begin adding wings to the center core, we will reconfigure the center space to include things like a cafeteria and fine arts rooms.

When will we break ground? That seems to be the question of the year! Certainly our hope is to break ground in the spring or early summer of 2002, but God will have to provide the money needed! We don't have \$4,500,000 – not even close. But God is at work already. Recently, the staff of Cornerstone Christian Academy pledged close to \$150,000 towards this new building! We count it a privilege to work with people who see the vision for what a school such as ours can mean in the life of a student.

Another question frequently asked is, “When will you start to do some fundraising events?” While we understand that for many schools events held to raise money are regularly scheduled, Cornerstone has never had this policy. Instead, CCA has relied upon *voluntary gift support* to cover the difference between tuition and the actual cost to educate.

Voluntary Gift Support is exactly what the words say: “voluntary” because it is without obligation; “gift” in that it expects nothing in return; “support” in that it is offered in affirmation of our mission.

So we will again rely upon voluntary gift support as we look forward to building a new school “In His Time – For His Glory.”

One more question we continue to hear is “How long will it take to build the building once groundbreaking has taken place?” According to our builders, if all happens exactly according to plan, and the weather cooperates, our building could be completed in five months. We would move into it as soon as it is completed.

Here's how you can help:

- 1) **PRAY** that the board will know God's timing for ground breaking
- 2) **PRAY** that God will raise up the donors we need to provide lead gifts for our building
- 3) **PRAY** that the land will be found suitable for water and the septic system
- 4) **PRAY** for the perfect design and final drawings
- 5) **PRAY** and ask God what part He may want you to have
- 6) **PRAY** that God will be glorified throughout the entire process

Giving Update 2001-2002

Annual Fund Giving 7/01-11/01	Tuition Assistance Giving 7/01-11/01	Building Fund Giving 7/01-11/01	Total Giving 7/01-11/01
\$30,577.18	\$11,044.80	\$19,448.83	\$60,570.81
Same Period 2000-2001			
\$29,183.44	\$ 4,438.02	\$13,349.00	\$46,970.46
Same Period 1999-2000			
\$31,596.15	\$14,127.00	0	\$45,723.15

Our Tuition Assistance Goal for this year is \$35,000.00. Pray that God will provide the monies needed for those students receiving assistance!

Our Active Donors 2001-2002 include:

- 27 Parents
- 28 Grandparents
- 2 Churches
- 26 CCA Staff & Board
- 19 Friends of the School

We pray regularly for our donors and thank God for them.

*“A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.”
Proverbs 18:16*

Dates to Note

Re-enrollment of our current students will begin January 3rd, 2002. Our preschoolers can also apply for kindergarten during this time. February 1, 2002 is the deadline for re-enrollment.

On February 5th, an Open House will be held for prospective students and their families. Open enrollment will begin on that date, and applications will be taken for preschool through 8th grade.

Good Neighbor Grants

We are praising and thanking God for six State Farm employees who donated over 40 hours each to Cornerstone. By doing so, CCA will receive \$3,000 from the State Farm Foundation. Not only are we grateful for the money, but for all the work that was accomplished in those 240 hours!

Dads' & Pastors' Prayer Breakfast

Dads, put the date of Wednesday, January 23rd, 2002 on your calendars! We'll have our 4th Annual Dads' & Pastors' Prayer Breakfast. We're praying for record attendance as men gather together to pray for the spiritual life of our school. Invite your pastor and don't miss it!

Grandparents' Day Held at Cornerstone

It was a busy day Friday, November 16th as we held our 3rd Annual Grandparents' Day. Almost 200 grandparents came from all over to spend the morning at Cornerstone with elementary students in grades kindergarten through 5th.

Our Chapel speaker was Pastor Gary York from Eastview Christian Church. He spoke from 2 Kings 22 about young king Josiah, and the importance of being obedient.

Following Chapel, our grandparents visited the classrooms and received a special gift from their grandchildren. Thanks to those grandparents who 'adopted' another CCA student for the day!