

The Only Real Work

The halls are quiet at 7:20 a.m. on Wednesday morning. As I arrive, I notice several cars in the parking lot. When I enter the building, I see a light coming from a room at the end of the hall. I go to investigate, wondering if that light was left on all night. But what I find instead, which moves me almost to tears, is the sight of five men sitting quietly around a table. Each has his Bible open before him, and is praying silently.

What I have witnessed on this morning is the CCA Dads who come to pray each and every week. They have prayed for specific needs for our building project. They have prayed for our move. They have prayed for God's miraculous provision through His people. They have prayed for the weather. They have prayed for bleachers and playgrounds. They have prayed for gym floors and locker rooms. Their perseverance amazes me and makes me extremely thankful that God has brought each one of them to this place. Although it's been going on since Thanksgiving, I marvel. And my gratefulness comes because I know that as I, and the rest of the Building Committee, make decisions from the kind of doorknobs on each classroom door to the color and design of the exterior block, each of these decisions has come with the wisdom that has been called down from above. J.I. Packer has written:

The prayer of a Christian is not an attempt to force God's hand, but a humble acknowledgment of helplessness and dependence. When we are on our knees, we know that it is not we who control the world; it is not in our power, therefore, to supply our needs by our own independent efforts; every good thing that we desire for ourselves and for others must be sought from God, and will come, if it comes at all, as a gift from His hands.

By *praying* we recognize our helplessness and dependence. By *praying* we recognize that we are not in control of our plans. And although we know we can't use God simply to accomplish our aims, we do come – expressing our needs, committing them to Him and leaving the outcome in His hands. It is the only real work we do.

So we thank our CCA Dads – the faithful few – who give of their time to commit to pray for our needs, our plans, and our goals. We recognize that what they do each week is the heartbeat of this school. We know that they serve as an example to their family, as well as to each of our staff who look for them on Wednesday mornings in the room down the hall with the light on.

With a grateful heart,

April Kinzinger
Director of Development

New Building Project Update

God continues to astound us with His goodness! It is thrilling to see our new building going up. Construction began officially on November 19th, 2002, with the moving of dirt. After the building pad was established and the footings poured, steel began to be erected. The steel around the gymnasium was the first to go up, followed by the steel for the surrounding classrooms and administration area. It seems as if the building changes daily!

On Wednesday, February 26th, we closed on a \$3,500,000 tax exempt bond issued through the Illinois Development Finance Authority. This came after months of prayer and piles of paperwork! More than a few remarkable things occurred in the process. Because this is a tax-exempt bond, we were able to secure an incredibly low interest rate of 4.4%. We were told by the bond attorneys that since this would not be a “bank qualified” bond, we should not expect a bank to purchase it. Instead, we would have to find individuals who were willing to invest. It seemed like a daunting task. But as we have long known, God had a better plan. In fact, Heartland Bank did buy the bond, cutting down substantially on the red tape and the cost. Those in the know are amazed! We’ve been told more than once that it just doesn’t happen that way. But our response is: **“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.”** (Isaiah 40:28). Nothing is too difficult for Him!

This money plus the almost \$1.7 million in gifts and pledges that we have received from our donors is all we will need to finish Cornerstone’s new building. But we would still ask you to pray for us! We have not included any building payments in our budget for the next three years. Those will come out of the continued giving of God’s people.

Many of you have been out to the building site and have seen for yourselves the steel beams that are already in place. As of this writing, the green roof panels are being applied, and the block wall around the gymnasium can easily be seen. You can make out the entryway in the front of the building (there is a similar one in the back), and soon the exterior walls will be going up. We have been in meetings to decide on heating and cooling systems (ours will be geo-thermal), as well as computer networking, security systems and intercoms. We even know the hardware for our doors and

the layout of the locker rooms. We are dealing with everything from water softeners to the exact placement of our new sign. And, after each decision, we know we are just a little bit closer to actually moving in.

When’s the target date for our move? We still don’t know for certain. So much will depend on the spring weather. As of right now, it seems we will be able to move during November.

Want to see photos of our building progress? Go to our website – cornerstonechristian.com – and you’ll find a link to the construction website. Our contractors update these photos several times a month, so you can keep up with the progress.

In the meantime, please join us and

- ❖ **PRAY** – that God will raise up many new donors to fund this project
- ❖ **PRAY** – for safety for all workers on the job site
- ❖ **PRAY** – for God’s timing for our occupancy
- ❖ **PRAY** – for our building to be a testimony to our community
- ❖ **PRAY** – for God to be well pleased and glorified throughout the entire building process

Additional thoughts . . .

Before us in the construction of our new building is a perfect metaphor of the relationship that we have with you and your children as a school.

When an organization or individual begins a construction project the first step is to hire a contractor to oversee the building process. He may try to accomplish some of the work himself, but in today’s construction much of what needs to be done can only be accomplished by specialists, such as electricians, plumbers, etc. These specialists are called subcontractors.

In the case of your children we can see clearly God is the owner. He has contracted with you, the parent, to oversee the construction of their lives. You are stewards of these lives and are charged to bring them up in the ways of God. In the same way a contractor now must look after the interest of the owner, so you must now look after the interest of God in building the lives of your children.

The school and your church are like the subcontractors on a construction job. They are

directly responsible to the contractor. They are specialists. They do not participate in the entire construction process. They help the contractor accomplish the aspects of the project.

CCA is a subcontractor to your home. We take our job very seriously. It is our role to do all we can to support you as a parent to accomplish the goals God has for your child. How they are educated will determine much of how they view God's world. We can never become complacent! You have subcontracted Cornerstone Christian Academy to oversee this very important process. Nevertheless, we cannot do it without your involvement.

We need your contribution at every level of our school. From volunteering in the building to helping your student with his or her homework, we covet your participation. Partner with us as we help you **'bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord'** (Ephesians 6:4).



Giving Update 2002-2003

Annual Fund Giving 7/02-3/03	Tuition Assistance Giving 7/02-3/03	Building Fund Giving 7/02-3/03	Total Giving 7/02-3/03
\$43,824.43	\$36,510.24	\$752,908.58	\$833,243.25
Same Period 2001-2002			
\$65,331.53	\$28,893.89	\$513,984.45	\$608,209.87
Same Period 2000-2001			
\$67,759.04	\$15,788.02	\$32,301.05	\$115,848.11
Same Period 1999-2000			
\$61,166.73	\$15,769.00	0	\$76,935.73

Our Building Fund has experienced the most activity this fiscal year, with over \$750,000 given since July 1.

Many of you have received pledge forms for 2003-2005. We are asking you to prayerfully consider partnering with the Lord in building our new school. We thank God that 71 Cornerstone families and 70 grandparents are CCA donors!

Cornerstone also accepts gifts of stock. We were thrilled to accept such a gift from a family who now lives in Texas. They were so pleased with the education that their preschooler had while at

Cornerstone that the father said he couldn't think of a better place to send his gift. If you would like to make a gift of stock, please call April Kinzinger at 821-9232.

Our Tuition Assistance Goal for this year is \$60,000.00. Money for this fund is not budgeted but must be given during the year by donors. Because of the generosity of donors this year, as well as the carry-over in the fund from last year, we have over half of what is needed. But, because of some unforeseen circumstances, we now have additional families that need assistance. We are praying that God would raise up donors who will support our tuition assistance program. If you feel led to make a donation to help a student attend Cornerstone, please mark your check 'tuition assistance.'

Our Annual Fund, which completes our yearly operating budget, is down considerably from past years due to the increased giving to our Building Fund. Pray with us that God will provide money to meet our regular operating budget, which tuition does not cover.



Prayer Circle

Special thanks to our Prayer Circle Moms who meet every other week to pray for our staff and students! They uphold our teachers in prayer, as well as pray through a list of other requests relating to the school's needs. We feel so blessed that God has seen fit to raise up such an army of prayer warriors! They are a constant source of encouragement to CCA staff.

If you would like to pray for Cornerstone, this meeting is for you! Prayer Circle meets every other Thursday at 8:45 AM. For more information please contact Lyn Landon at 827-6960.

State Farm 'Good Neighbor' Grants

This year Cornerstone will receive \$6,500 from the State Farm Foundation from 13 employees who donated over 40 hours each to Cornerstone. If you are a State Farm employee or retiree, you may also donate hours to qualify for a grant. We'll have many small jobs over the summer, such as laminating books. Then, when we're ready to move, we will be able to use as many of you as can help. We're praying for an army of volunteers! We'll keep you posted on dates as we know them.

Also received from State Farm: 24 laptop computers! We're thrilled to have these laptops for use by our staff as well as in our library in the new building.

School Calendar

The calendar for the 2003-2004 academic year is now posted on our website for your summer planning!



Spirit Week

Cornerstone students experienced "Spirit Week 2003" the week of April 7th. During that week elementary students had Chapel daily with Pastor Nate Best from Bloomington Bible Church (and a Cornerstone staff member) as their speaker. Each morning he came to Chapel dressed in a different colored t-shirt meant to represent the truth of the gospel. Middle school students had the great privilege to hear Pastor John Pruzina from the Evangelical Free Church as their speaker. It was wonderful to see God at work in the lives of our students as many came to Christ!