

From the Administrator's Desk

If you've been part of the Cornerstone family for any length of time, you know that I ruminate on the future of Cornerstone students. What will they be doing 10 years from now, I wonder? What impact will they be having on our culture? Where will God send them? It's one of those things I pray for regularly – that God would raise up a generation that will influence all aspects of our society as well as the world at large for the good of others and, most of all, for God's glory. Little did I guess that God would begin to answer that prayer in the summer of 2003. The following letter arrived in my office in late August. It encouraged me beyond words. I hope it will do the same for you.

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is with great joy that I want to commend the work that Cornerstone Christian Academy is doing in preparing students of godly character! May I please share a recent experience with you?

I am the Elementary Assistant Administrator and a Second Grade Teacher at _____ - a private Christian school. On August 13-16, I accompanied my husband on a business trip to a lovely location in _____ to enjoy the last few days of summer before returning to school. While there, I had a chance to visit with a young man in the lobby of the hotel. This polite youngster had begun his educational career in your preschool and is currently a student at Cornerstone Christian Academy.

[This boy] was cheerful, conversant, and bubbling in his enthusiasm for Christ! (When asked what he thought the best thing was about attending a Christian school, he said, "You can talk about Jesus.") He had his younger sister in his care for the few minutes that we chatted and he spoke to her with such loving direction. It was also exciting to hear him speak fondly of his teacher from last year and express the great relationship that this teacher had forged with the students.

It is obvious that the Christian principles being shared in your school (and in his home, I am sure) have borne great fruit! With your permission, I would like to pray for your school during this school year. I know that when believers are doing things for the Lord that the enemy often lurks to sow seeds of discord. May God place a hedge of protection about Cornerstone Christian Academy and its preschool this year!

*Most Sincerely,
[Signed]*

As we begin our 7th year, it remains obvious that God is still at work in this place. His touch is evident everywhere we look: He assembled an outstanding staff (again); our students want to be here and we get to watch as God develops them both spiritually and physically; we are seeing student leaders emerge, especially in the Upper School; and our new building is more beautiful with each passing day.

I no longer have to wonder what God has planned for the bright and beautiful young people He has entrusted to us. It is happening right in front of our eyes! How privileged I am to be part of it. Thanks for your involvement in His work here. We couldn't do it without you because we know that the enemy is indeed lurking "to sow seeds of discord" among us. We, too, will pray that God will place a hedge of protection about us so that His work will continue unhindered. Will you join us in that prayer?

In the meantime, we continue to forge ahead, trusting in the One who has called us. May He be glorified in us and through us.

In His Great Name,

Becky Shames

New Building Project Update

If you haven't driven by the new school lately, you're in for a treat! Already the drywall is being put up, and carpeting has been ordered. The geo-thermal system has been installed, and by September 15th the air-conditioning in the gymnasium will be turned on to prepare the room for the installation of the maple flooring.

Bleachers have been ordered, and lockers will be installed mid-October. Basketball backboards are set to be delivered this week, and the flag pole anchor has already been poured. Paint is being applied, and the site will soon be graded for parking lots, and lawns. Final architectural touches are being finished and the new masonry sign will be built by the end of October. It seems as if each time we visit it the building itself just gets bigger!

When will we move in? We've set a tentative date for November 28th. Yes, that's the day after Thanksgiving! We hope to move over that weekend as long as the building is complete and the occupancy permit is in our hands. At that time we'll need lots of volunteers to help, so if you're in town, mark that date on your calendar! We'll keep you posted of our progress as we draw close to Thanksgiving.

Fiscal 2002-2003 Giving

Annual Fund Giving 7/02-6/03	Tuition Assistance Giving 7/02-6/03	Building Fund Giving 7/02-6/03	Total Giving 7/02-6/03
\$54,529.92	\$47,258.34	\$891,371.02	\$993,160.18
Same Period 2001-2002			
\$75,095.36	\$43,477.63	\$577,302.95	\$695,550.94
Same Period 2000-2001			
\$95,451.68	\$18,548.43	\$36,242.12	\$150,242.23
Same Period 1999-2000			
\$79,453.64	\$27,183.00	0	\$106,636.64

What else can we say but "Praise the Lord!" We have been the beneficiaries of His grace again and again as we look at the giving of His people to His work.

Over the past year, the **Building Fund** has been the focus of giving to Cornerstone. And while we still have need of funds for our new building, we also have a need for about \$80,000 for **Tuition Assistance** monies. This is money that is given to students who have a need and who could not be at Cornerstone without it. This is an increase of \$20,000 more than last year. It is not a budgeted amount, but must come from donors who want to play a part in training students to be 'leaders in their communities and lifetime followers of Jesus Christ.'

Our **Annual Fund** represents monies that are expended annually. This too is an important fund because it covers operational costs. These monies fill in the gap between tuition cost and the actual cost to educate.

Gifts can be designated to any of these funds, or they can be undesignated and used where needed most. We are anticipating another great year of God's provision through people He chooses to use!

God's Corner

One of the features of our new building is our geo-thermal system. What is a geo-thermal system? Well, Cornerstone's system will have 20 water-to-air heat pump units throughout the building, all tied to a common outside earth loop. This loop, buried 4-6 feet deep horizontally, has a water-antifreeze solution circulating through it, moving heat back and forth to the ground. By using the ground as the heat source in the winter and heat sink in the summer, the building can be conditioned with approximately 70% less energy consumption than a conventional system.

The bottom line: the system will save the school over \$17,000/year in heating and cooling costs. It will pay for itself in 7.6 years.

Because of the increased cost of installing a geo-thermal system, we appealed to the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation in February for a grant to help underwrite the cost. As we sent out our first letter to them, we prayed that we would find favor with this

foundation and that they would want to help us. We were informed in May that Cornerstone was under consideration along with 5 other schools who had asked for grants for geo-thermal systems. The foundation told us that they would fund 1 or 2 of the proposals. To help make their decision, they asked that we submit a complete cost comparison along with other energy-saving features of our new building.

We were quickly becoming experts in geo-thermal systems and installations! After putting together the information requested, we prayed again. And again. Finally, on Monday, August 4th, we received the call. **The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation had voted to award Cornerstone Christian Academy \$100,000 to be used for a geo-thermal system!**

ALL GLORY TO GOD!

With grateful hearts we celebrated what God had done on our behalf! But God wasn't through. That same week we went to a local church that is upgrading its technology. One of their upgrades included the replacement of some copy machines. They wanted to know if we would like their 'old' ones. What wonderful machines they are! We will now move with a copy machine in every major part of our new building. And we have yet to purchase one ourselves!

We add this story to the hundreds of others that we can tell about His great provision. Cornerstone Christian Academy has always been His doing; how can we ever think that He will not take care of His own?

Prayer Concerns

Even as we ready ourselves to move into a new facility, it seems as if we have more prayer requests than ever! Would you join with us in praying for the following?

- Playground Equipment
- A Bus
- An Electronic Piano
- New office furniture
- God's provision for landscaping and sports fields
- A portable sound system
- Grass – in His time!

- A New Refrigerator
- Snow removal equipment

Would you also remember to pray . . .

- For CCA students and their families
- For wisdom and vision for CCA Board Members
 - Ron Brown, President
 - Ray Fisher, Trustee
 - Rex Gearhart, Trustee
 - Connie Urosevich, Trustee
 - Carol Strassheim, Trustee
 - Becky Shames, Administrator
- That we as a staff would be found faithful
- For God's financial provision this year in all funds
- That we would have knowledge of God's will
- That we would be good stewards of all He has provided
- That God would be greatly glorified in everything that happens at Cornerstone

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 2 & 3 – No School – ACSI Teachers' Conference
Oct. 9 & 10 – School Pictures
Oct. 30 – Founder's Banquet
Nov. 27 & 28 – Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 28 – CCA Moves into New Building (???)
Dec. 11 – Christmas Program (location TBA)
Dec. 22 – Jan. 4 – Christmas Break
Jan. 5 – Re-enrollment Begins
Jan. 21 – Dads' & Pastors' Prayer Breakfast
Feb. 27 – Grandparents' Day

CCA Sports Program Expands!

Last year Cornerstone began a sports program with boys' and girls' basketball. We are excited that this year we've added cross country, track, volleyball and cheerleading to the existing program. We also hope to be adding baseball, softball and soccer in the near future. Will you pray that God will provide the needed funds to put in sports fields at our new building?

Our Lower School is celebrating because for the first time we are offering P.E. in grades K-4. We look forward to our new gymnasium which will be in use every hour of the school day!

Founder's Banquet 2003

Mark Thursday, October 30th down on your calendars, get a babysitter, and make plans now to attend our 6th Annual Founder's Banquet. This year's banquet will be held at 6:30 PM at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center on Veteran's Parkway in Bloomington.

Our special speaker will be Dr. Keith Ray, President of Lincoln Christian College and Seminary. Dr. Ray became the 6th president of Lincoln Christian College and Seminary on July 1, 1998. Prior to coming to Lincoln, Dr. Ray was the president of Dallas Christian College, Dallas, Texas, from 1994 to 1998. He graduated from Lincoln Christian College and then received his Doctor of Ministry from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Dr. Ray has a strong commitment to Christ as well as to Christian education today.

After our speaker, we'll enjoy a slide show featuring Cornerstone students. It's a great opportunity to invite grandparents and friends. And what's even better – it's FREE! Watch the mail for ticket information and we'll see you there!