

Worthy Workmen

*“For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands.”
Deuteronomy 2:7*

In preparation to write this quarter’s *Courier*, I looked over past ones to see just how far Cornerstone has come. Last year at this time, we were still in the process of financing the remaining money for the building after the pledges had been made. It’s been a whirlwind of a process, and we still pinch ourselves every time we walk into this building.

Along the way, we worked with some amazing people. Let me tell you about just a few of them. First, there was Brad. Brad was our first contact with the Aspen Group, who would later become our contractors. We talked with him about a school we had seen in Adrian, Michigan that was the design we wanted for our school. We made an appointment to visit the home office in Remington, Indiana to discuss our project. The day after Christmas, 2000, Brad made the several hour trip in a snow storm to the Lenawee Christian School in Adrian, Michigan. He was able to get a maintenance man to let him in, where he took photographs of classrooms, offices, the library, the mechanical rooms and the gymnasium. On January 4, 2001, when we arrived at Aspen’s headquarters in Indiana, he surprised us with a presentation of the school we hoped to build. We loved this company from the start!

Then there was Scott. The father of two small children, he drove back and forth from Lafayette, Indiana, every day to oversee our project. We grew to love this young man as we saw the diligence and thoroughness with which he did the job. He was careful and attentive to detail, and always welcoming to us whenever we visited the job site.

Of course there was Don. He was our official Project Manager. He is a VP for the Aspen Group, and we were thrilled to have him working with us. He would open each Building Committee meeting with prayer, and was always excited to hear what God was doing at Cornerstone.

We can’t leave out Jack. Jack was our architect from the Aspen Group who took our ideas and made them come alive in drawings. It didn’t take him long to catch our vision, and now the results are here for all to see.

Certainly there were others. Men who worked in the snow to place beams and begin roofing. Men who poured cement and laid block walls. Men who painted and installed wiring. Men who laid carpet and installed our cornerstone. We thank God for every one of these workers.

On October 13, 2003, we allowed our students in the building for the very first time. That Sunday afternoon, they wrote verses on cement floors so that we would always be “walking on the Word.” After that day, there appeared leaning against the building outside a piece of beige metal that had been used for the fascia on the front of the building. On this piece of metal, one worker who had seen the Cornerstone students’ verses on the floor was moved to write verses of his own. We believe they reflect the attitude of all the wonderful men God used to build this place:

“The money brought into the temple was not spent for making silver basins, wick trimmers, sprinkling bowls, trumpets or any other articles of gold or silver for the temple of the LORD; it was paid to the workmen, who used it to repair the temple. They did not require an accounting from those to whom they gave the money to pay the workers, because they acted with complete honesty.”

II Kings 12:13-15

“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. . . For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

I Corinthians 3:9,11

With humble thanks for them all,

April Kinzinger, Director of Development



“What’s God Been Doing for Cornerstone?”

That’s a question that was asked by a parent just the other day. It doesn’t take long for us to begin to share the things God has been doing here recently. In case you haven’t heard, God is still at work at Cornerstone Christian Academy!

January-February, 2004 – We begin to enjoy our new building! God begins to provide things we still needed . . . like a sound system which was given by a donor. An additional refrigerator. Then, a donor contacted us and asked if we would like a video projector. What a great answer to prayer! A local church donated \$1,000 to purchase new folding chairs. Then, a screen company donated a tripod screen which was larger than anything we’ve had previously. It seemed as if God was providing everything we needed for our Building Dedication.

Grandparents’ Day – February 27, 2004 – We greeted over 300 grandparents to the school! They first heard a word of welcome from Becky Shames, and then joined us for a combined Chapel service with speaker, Mike Baker from Eastview Christian Church. Following Chapel, the grandparents were free to visit classrooms and see the building. We also made sure to invite them back in the evening for our . . .

Building Dedication – February 27, 2004 – After a great day with our grandparents, we had a wonderful evening as well! Almost 700 people crowded into our gym to rejoice with us over the building God provided. We heard from Ed Bahler, the CEO of the Aspen Group (our contractors) as well as Becky Shames, our Administrator. We enjoyed wonderful music and a great slide presentation that documented the entire building process. Most of all, we celebrated our great God! As our beautifully painted mural in the entrance hall of our school reads, “The LORD has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes!”

Spirit Week – March 8-12, 2004 – We experienced another great spiritual emphasis week. Many students were prayed with and made decisions to follow the Lord. Our own Pastor Nate Best was the lower school speaker and he spoke about the Lord’s Prayer. Following that chapel every day, the students did a “prayer walk” around the building. They prayed for each other, for their families, for God’s provision for our school, and for themselves. Upper school students heard from Pastor Wes Ooms, from Community Bible Fellowship of El Paso. Pastor Wes taught through Ecclesiastes, making the point that without God, life is meaningless. A parent reported to us later that her teenager had been listening. She had prayed at home with her mother, “Lord, don’t let me have You just as an ‘add-on’ in my life, I want You to be the driving force!”

Friday, March 12, 2004 – This was the last day of “Spirit Week” and a special surprise was in store. At 8:45 AM, a yellow school bus pulled into our parking lot all the way from Cherokee, Iowa. Cornerstone Christian Academy is now the proud owner of a bus! The students filed out into the hallway and got to see a glimpse of this amazing sight. This bus has a story all its own. We were made aware of it from Dave Bates, the regional director of ACSI, who knew we were praying for one. It seems this small Christian school in Iowa had one to dispose of, and so the trip was made in February to go look at it. After prayer, it was decided that the price was right, and so it was delivered to us the day after students had prayed for a bus during their prayer walk.

God is good and is still at work at Cornerstone!

**Building Dedication Slide Show
DVD Now Available!**

We've made DVDs of the Building Dedication Slide Show which documented the building process, including "Verse Day" with the students, and "Moving Day." These DVDs are available for a donation of any amount. Be sure to tell us when you send your check if you would like one sent to you.

2003-04 Giving Update

Annual Fund Giving 7/03-3/04	Tuition Assistance Giving 7/03-3/04	Building Fund Giving 7/03-3/04	Total Giving 7/03-3/04
\$113,428.37	\$40,746.39	\$206,489.78	\$360,664.54
Same Period 2002-2003			
\$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. This is an important fund, because we have not included any building payments in our budget for the next two years. These payments will come out of the continued giving of God's people.

Forgotten your Building Pledge? Call April Kinzinger at 662-9900 for an update on your personal giving.

Never pledged to the building? It's certainly not too late! We would welcome additional building pledges over the next two years.

What else do we still need for our building? The grass will be planted later this month. We hope that God will provide landscaping of some kind, including trees and flowers. The other big item still on our prayer list is a playground! We have already talked to three playground suppliers, and have picked out the one we want to use. Feel free to come by the school and take a look at the three different playground options. We will have a separate playground area for our preschool, and then an elementary playground. We hope to use volunteer labor for installation, but even with that, the price tag is over \$27,000. Pray for God's provision!

We're already praying for a wing for our building! We're out of space already, and soon will have nowhere to go. The first wing that will be built will be our Senior High wing, which will have science and computer labs and eventually, a practice gym. We will need \$1.5 million to be able to build. Pray that God will raise up the needed funds to make that wing a reality.

Our Tuition Assistance goal this year is almost \$90,000! We are not yet half way there. Tuition Assistance is not a budget line item; this is another fund that is supplied through the generous gifts of committed donors. Almost 30% of our student body receive some form of assistance. Each year as assistance is granted, we take a step of faith, believing that God will provide the monies already committed. We thank God for those donors He has used to make attending Cornerstone possible for so many.

Our Annual Fund, which completes our yearly operating budget, is a much-needed fund! Because of our Annual Fund, we are able to meet our payroll obligations and hire excellent teachers. Pray with us that God will provide money to meet our regular operating budget, which tuition does not cover.

Want more information about giving gifts of stocks or bonds? Call April Kinzinger at 662-9900.



School Calendar

As soon as our school calendar is finished, it will be posted on our website for your summer planning!

Prayer Concerns

Would you join us in praying for the following?

- Wisdom and vision for our School Board – Ron Brown, Rex Gearhart, Ray Fisher, Connie Urosevich, Carol Strassheim and Becky Shames.
- That God will protect and grow those who made decisions during Spirit Week
- Playground equipment, landscaping, a tractor and mower for the grass that will grow!
- That we will be good neighbors to those around us.

Thanks to all . . .

Those who volunteer in the lunch room on Thursdays . . .

Those who volunteer in our library . . .

Those who help outside getting our land ready for grass . . .

Those who help teachers with grading papers . . .

Those who laminate, collate, staple, and do art waxing . . .

For all our volunteers – each one . . .

We couldn't do it without you! Thanks so much.

Prayer Circle

Special thanks to our Prayer Circle Moms who meet every other Thursday to pray for our staff and students! We feel so blessed to have such an army of prayer warriors! They are a constant source of encouragement to the CCA staff. For more information, contact Lyn Landon at 827-6960.

State Farm 'Good Neighbor' Grants

This year Cornerstone will receive \$8,000 from the State Farm Foundation from 16 employees/retirees who donated over 40 hours each to the school. 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 or helping with mailings. Talk to the school office for more information.

State Farm has also informed us that they will have 20 newer desktop computers for us later this spring. We're excited to be able to update our computer lab with these new systems!