

Don't Forget!

Sometimes I am ashamed at how quickly I forget what God has done for this school. That is especially true because God gives me public opportunities to share what He has done, and I have promised Him that if He will give us stories to tell, we will tell them. Last week is a case in point.

We were praying for keyboards (I'll get back to this) when April asked me if I remembered how we got our music stands. I didn't. I was grateful for her reminder. Two years ago, Mr. Hart, our brand new band director, needed music stands. He knew what to do. During one of our staff prayer times, he asked God to give us some. Not too long after that, we were given a donation which was designated toward the purchase of two music stands. We were excited by God's swift answer and placed our order. When they arrived we discovered that the company had not shipped us two music stands after all, but two *cases* of music stands (12!). Of course we called and let them know of the mistake, but because the shipping cost was so high, they never came to get the extra 10. We are using them for our expanding band program today. God works in mysterious ways!

It was an important reminder. You see, our music program is growing right along with the rest of the school. As a result, our Music teacher, Kevin Niles, is traveling to some classrooms. It is not practical to carry our beautiful (and expensive) keyboard (also a gift from God) from place to place. So instead we looked into purchasing a smaller, lighter, and less expensive keyboard. As we conducted our research, it hit me that none of us had prayed for a keyboard (had I remembered the music stand story, I might have thought of this sooner). But better late than never, we put the purchase on hold and decided to pray. April and I did just that on Wednesday morning. By Thursday afternoon at 3:00 we had a story to tell. Did God give us a keyboard? NO!! He gave us *three!*

I have learned an important lesson. . . again. God wants us to ask Him for everything. It would have been easy for us to write a check for a keyboard, but what a blessing we would have missed (not to mention two extra keyboards). I am reminded over and over again that depending on God to provide for us is so much better than trusting in our own resources. First of all, it's much more exciting, and besides that, He does more for us – immeasurably more – than all we ask or imagine.

Cornerstone Christian Academy stands as a testimony to our great God. It is His school and exists for His glory. As long as He ordains that the school exists, we can trust Him to provide for us. That is one truth that I am committed to *never* forget. I hope you won't, either.

***When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers . . . to give you –a land with . . . all kinds of good things you did not provide –then when you . . . are satisfied,
be careful that you do not forget the Lord.***

Deuteronomy 6:10-13

Remembering His goodness,

Becky Shames, Administrator

2004-2005

Giving to Cornerstone

Landscaping! It seems as if it's been a long time in coming, but you'll soon see landscaping around our flagpole and trees planted by the parking lot, thanks to the generosity of the CCA parents. Pray that God will help all our plantings to grow and thrive!

Giving! If you are new to the Cornerstone family, you may not know that CCA does not do fundraising events. You'll never be asked to help with an auction, or to sell Christmas paper or candy bars. Instead, we depend on the voluntary giving of God's people to His work. We have three funds to which you may donate:

The Annual Fund – This fund represents monies that are expended annually. This is an important fund because it covers operational costs which fill the gap between tuition costs and actual cost to operate.

The Building Fund – The Building Fund is still a big part of giving here at Cornerstone! While we are still paying for this wonderful facility, we are praying that God will raise up the monies needed for two additional wings to be built. You can't be in this building very long before it becomes obvious that we're out of space already!

Never given to the Building Fund and want to be a part of what God is doing here? We'd love to talk to you more about regularly scheduled giving. Call April Kinzinger, Director of Development at 662-9900.

The Tuition Assistance Fund – This academic year Cornerstone has committed to \$120,000 of tuition assistance awards. This money is never a part of our annual budget, but must be raised entirely through voluntary gift donations. Over 100 students this year are receiving some form of assistance! We are walking by faith and trusting God to meet our needs in this fund. Will you pray with us?

How was giving last year? Below is a chart that shows giving comparisons over the past 5 years:

Thank you, our donors, so very much for your faithful support! Parents gave over \$100,000 in financial gifts last year, and grandparents over \$60,000. The board and staff of CCA contributed over \$90,000. In fact, we experienced 100% participation in giving from the staff and board!

Already this fiscal year, we have received over \$50,000 in donations. God is faithful and He continues to provide what we need.

How can you be a part?

Monthly Giving

Many of our donors give on a monthly basis. We provide pre-paid envelopes for your use. *Note: A monthly gift of \$93.75 designated to our Tuition Assistance Fund would meet the needs of 1 student receiving a quarter scholarship.*

Matching Gifts

Your employer may be one that has a matching gift program. Matching gifts can often double your personal contribution. To find out if your company has a matching gift program, contact the human resources or personnel department. When you make your gift to CCA, complete the form your employer will provide and enclose it with your gift to CCA. We do the rest.

Gifts of Stock

You may find it more convenient and financially advantageous to make a gift of appreciated securities, which will eliminate capital gains taxes to you. For additional information, please contact April Kinzinger at 662-9900.

| Annual Fund Giving 7/03-6/04 | Tuition Assistance Giving 7/03-6/04 | Building Fund Giving 7/03-6/04 | Total Giving 7/03-6/04 |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$140,229.44 | \$49,542.68 | \$269,687.31 | \$459,459.43 |
| Same Period 2002-2003 | | | |
| \$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 |

"God's work done God's way will never lack God's supply" Hudson Taylor, missionary to China

Requests & Answers

It's evident time and time again that God hears and answers the prayers of His children. In June's issue of the *Courier*, we asked that you pray for a drum set and weight equipment for this fall. God answered in an abundant way as weight equipment began to appear at the school. One CCA dad donated a bench and weights while another brought a rack, weights, and a weight cage. Still another CCA parent spent time e-mailing employees at State Farm who were selling weight equipment to see if they wanted to donate some to us! We are expecting a rowing machine soon, and already have an exercise bike. The room is now filled with both equipment and high school students!

God also blessed us with not one, but two drum sets! One will be used for practice purposes, and the other, a brand new set, will be used for our praise and worship band.

So what do we need prayer for today? Let me give you a few things to add to your prayer list.

- Continued safety for our families as they drive to school
- That God would give us favor with the Dr. Scholl Foundation; that we might be recipients of a grant for tuition assistance
- A high school wing addition!
- An elementary wing addition!
- A cafeteria
- A large electric screen for our stage
- A custom stage curtain

God continues to answer our prayers for both small and large items. Read on . . .



At Work!

The Playground Story . . .

You've all been waiting to hear about our new playground! It's beautiful and the elementary students have loved playing on it during recess. We've even noticed high school classes meeting there! It was the centerpiece of our all-school picnic September 9th, and continues to be a magnet for young and old alike.

So, here's the story. In mid-July, a letter went out to Cornerstone's families and friends telling about the gifts to the playground by our students. It talked about birthday money given up, and lost tooth money being donated. It spoke of the many, many prayers by little ones for a playground. In that letter we said that postcards were being readied for a special mailing to our students to announce that God had indeed provided the much-prayed-for playground. We wanted the children to be the first ones to know when God answered their prayers. More money for the playground began to come in. Students continued to come by the school to bring sacks of change. We were moving closer to the \$29,000.00 needed for the equipment alone. Then, during the last week in July, we received a call. "How much do you still need for the playground?" the caller asked. We told him, "\$13,115.95." The man on the other end of the phone responded by saying, "Why don't my wife and I come over to the school and take care of that?" Which is exactly what they did. The playground was ordered and the postcards were mailed. And God increased the faith of hundreds of children who now know that He hears even the prayers of His little ones.

Another "Furniture Story" . . .

God has always provided Cornerstone with plenty of furniture from the very first desks and chairs He brought us in 1998 to the new ones given to us by a local church last year. We've never gone without a teacher's desk or folding chairs. Each has been a gift from His hand. So here's another "furniture story."

Looking at the schedule for this fall, it was apparent that we would utilize every room in the building every hour. Our choral music room would also have to double as a high school Bible class. Furniture became an issue since desks are needed for a class, but stacking chairs are better for use in a music room. So in May, we began to pray. We prayed that God would provide us with folding chairs with tablet arm desks attached that could be folded down when not in use to make way for the stacking chairs normally used in that room. Little did we know that God had already answered that request some 8 years before.

In 1996, before Cornerstone was even founded, a group of people in Bloomington/Normal were meeting to plan and pray about a new Christian school in the community. Cornerstone Christian Academy would be the outcome of that initial committee. A local church gave them some folding chairs with attached tablet arm desks, and one of the committee members stored 75 of them in her basement. After reading June's issue of the *Courier*, she called the school to see if we had any need for those long-forgotten chairs. They were just what we had been praying for! We didn't even remember that God had already provided them to us years ago.

Our God is awesome!

upcoming

Founder's Banquet

Mark your calendars for Thursday, October 28th! Our 7th annual Founder's Banquet will be held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center at 6:30 PM.

What's the Founder's Banquet? It's an opportunity for parents, grandparents, and friends of Cornerstone to come together for a great meal and hear a gifted speaker. It's not a fundraiser, it's an occasion to praise and thank God for what He's doing in this place. The cost? It's free! You will have to R.S.V.P., so watch for the invitation in early October.

This year's speaker will be Dr. Vernard T. Gant. Dr. Gant is currently the Director of Urban School Services for the Association of Christian Schools International. He is on the National Board and Executive Committee of the Black Alliance of Educational Options, and has been the recipient twice of the Outstanding Young Religious Leader Award presented by the Inner City Jaycees of Birmingham, Alabama. He was named "Birminghamian of the Year" by *Birmingham* Magazine, a publication of the Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce, and was the former Executive Director and CEO of Cornerstone Schools of Alabama.

Dr. Gant is married to Cynthia, a former school administrator, and they have four children: Benaiah, Zanetta, Alisha, and Jericha.