

Year One – New Building

“You guide me with Your counsel . . .” Psalm 73:24a

Wednesday, December 1, 2004 marked the one year anniversary in the new building. It’s been an amazing journey and we’ve learned a lot. As you recall, we posted a sign during our building process that was meant to dwarf all signs belonging to any sub-contractor or financial institution. It stated:

This Project is Made Possible by the Power of the Lord God Almighty

Throughout this great adventure, we have learned to trust God to meet our needs even when we weren’t sure exactly what they would be. For example, in 2002 when we spoke with Corn Belt Energy about what we might expect an electric bill to run for a building of our building’s size, we were told to budget \$10,000/month. We took a big gulp and did just that. But God intervened, and allowed us to receive a grant to install a geothermal system. Because of that system, we are able to heat and cool the building for about one third that quoted cost!

But God didn’t stop there. He allowed us to find exactly one acre of land suitable for our septic field. Do you remember that much-publicized “Largest Septic Field in McLean County” which belongs to us? (It’s not only the largest, but the Most-Prayed-Over Septic Field in McLean County!) Because of the concern that was expressed by the local authorities, we have had to monitor and report all water usage in the building each and every day along with total number of people in the building at any one time. The concern was that the septic field would not be adequate to handle the use. Not to worry. Even on Grandparent’s Day in November with 300 grandparents and over 400 students, we only used slightly over 2,000 gallons. Over the past year, we’ve used 355,410 total gallons of water. What’s the capacity of our famous septic field? Over the period of one year, our septic field was designed to handle 75,555,000 gallons! It’s been suggested that our sign out front should read –

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**Cornerstone Christian Academy
Home of the Largest Septic Field
in McLean County
We Have Room for You!**

Looks like our septic system will suffice for Phase II . . .

And what about Phase II? What will it be and when will it happen? Well, we are in the beginning stages of working with the Aspen Group to design Cornerstone’s facility expansion. We hope to add a senior high wing (or pod!) as well as an elementary pod. It’s possible that we will also be able to add both the primary and junior high wings. With moving classrooms into the wings, we will then be able to renovate current space to add our cafeteria, music and band rooms, computer labs, and a larger library. We’ll be able to add bleachers to our current gymnasium which will increase seating by another 300-400.

And what about sports fields? We certainly do want to build them! Our master plan will include fields of all kinds as well as tennis courts and more parking. We have even asked our farmer to lay aside 10 acres in the spring for a soccer field and a baseball field should we have the monies available to build them sooner than our building expansion.

How will we pay for such an expansion? We don’t know, but we serve a God who does! He is already at work to accomplish what man thinks is impossible. Our “New Wing” fund is growing! Sitting in the development office right now is a mason jar with over \$200 in it, collected by CCA students from one family. Next to the jar is a baggie with \$2.57 marked in what looks like 3rd grade writing, “Money for New Wings.” Yet another story comes from a 2nd grader who was talking with his parents over the holidays about how he could collect money for the school. He decided that he would give up Pizza Lunch and donate that money to the new wings. And so CCA now receives a building donation check instead of a Pizza Lunch check! Another story of God’s provision for the expansion came from a 4th grader. He and his dad attended an ISU men’s basketball game recently. The dad took the younger brother to the restroom and found a 50/50 ticket on the floor. The 50/50 tickets are sold separately and give the holder a chance at a jackpot which also feeds the ISU scholarship fund. When the ticket number was flashed on the scoreboard as a winner, the dad exclaimed, “I can’t believe this! I found the ticket in the bathroom!” He claimed the prize of \$200 and the conclusion was drawn that God wanted Cornerstone to have that money for the new wings.

Finally, on Feb. 8th, CCA kindergarteners celebrated “100 Day.” It was officially the 100th day of school for this academic year. What did we receive? Baggies of 100 pennies for the New Wings from four students who thought to remember that day in a special way.

What does the future hold for Cornerstone? A bigger building. Perhaps another gymnasium. Sports fields and someday, even a kitchen for our cafeteria. How? Exodus 15:11 is a good reminder for us:

“Who among the gods is like You, O LORD?

Who is like You –
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?”

There is no God like our God! And however He chooses to provide for us, we will give Him the glory. Remember our sign? We still have it, and it will again sit in front of our property during Phase II to announce to all that

**This Project [and every CCA project!]
is Made Possible by the Power
of the Lord God Almighty**



Giving Update 2004-2005

Did you know? Our parents are *great* donors. Since July 1, parents have given over \$100,000 in donations! CCA has many parents who are also donors, and we are humbled when parents who pay tuition also give. Thanks to so many of you who have God's grace of giving!

Did you know? 107 students receive tuition assistance thanks to you, our donors! Our goal this year is over \$120,000! We are only 1/3 of the way there. Tuition Assistance is not a budget line item; this is another fund that is supplied through your generous gifts. Each year as assistance is granted, we take a step of faith, believing that God will provide the monies already awarded. We thank God for those donors He has used to make attending Cornerstone possible for so many.

Did you know? Speaking of Tuition Assistance, did you know that Cornerstone's preschool students support a student in South Africa? This student's name is Zamambo and she attends an ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) school there. Our preschool students help support her tuition on a monthly basis.

Last month, one of our pre-kindergarten students came in with an envelope. He said, "I've got something for Zamambo!" Inside the envelope was \$50.00. He went on to say that the money was his very own. When questioned about why he would give so much of his own money away when he could have used it to buy toys for himself, he responded, "Because I asked Jesus into my heart and I wanted to let Zamambo know." They had been talking about salvation in their class and this boy had gone home and prayed to receive Christ as his personal Savior on his own. Out of a heart of gratitude for what Jesus had done for him, he shared all he had with another, in the hopes that she too, will come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Is tuition assistance important? It certainly is to a South African girl named Zamambo, and it's important to CCA students as well. It has eternal significance in the kingdom of God.

Did you know? Our faculty, staff and board are *great* donors! In fact, 100% of Cornerstone administration, teachers and support staff donate to God's work here. Many give monthly! Last year alone, Cornerstone's staff of 40 gave \$82,000 back to the Lord!

Did you know? At the end of 2004, we completed our pledges toward Phase I of our building. Although many people gave to the building who had never pledged money, the monies pledged amounted to \$421,000. Development experts tell us that you can expect only 80% of pledged monies to actually come in. God did better than 80%. When the final numbers were in, we received 105% of the pledges! How did that happen? Even when there were uncompleted pledges by some, others gave over and above what they had pledged to make up more than the difference. How can we not believe God for money for Phase II?



Giving Table through February, 2005

Annual Fund Giving 7/04-2/05	Tuition Assistance Giving 7/04-2/05	Building Fund Giving 7/04-2/05	Total Giving 7/04-2/05
\$80,434.83	\$45,685.77	\$100,611.44-Phase I \$32,425.09-Phase II	\$259,157.13
Same Period 2003-2004			
\$102,774.89	\$39,117.56	\$198,530.89*	\$340,423.34*
Same Period 2002-2003			
\$40,747.56	\$35,774.98	\$732,607.44	\$809,129.98
Same Period 2001-2002			
\$46,228.68	\$25,570.31	\$502,046.79	\$573,845.78
Same Period 2000-2001			
\$62,417.94	\$10,066.77	\$32,201.05	\$104,685.76
Same Period 1999-2000			
\$57,704.66	\$15,566.00	0	\$73,270.66

*includes \$100,000 grant received from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation

God's Corner

"I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which He is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us – yes, the many good things He has done..."

Isaiah 63:7

God will never cease to delight and amaze us as we watch Him at work. Just this week He has provided again! We were informed that we had won a drawing from Kidder Music and are now the recipients of a beautiful new piccolo! Mrs. Hagberg, our band director was thrilled! She even had the student picked out who would play it. Then, we received word that St. John's Lutheran Church had some "desks" to give away. We called, and they told us that they were some of those "folding chairs with desks attached." A local college had been meeting there and when they moved out, the desks were left. While we already have 70 of these, we will need more for next year! A quick trip to the church, and we added 38 additional desks for our upper school next year!

Praise the Lord for His many good gifts! Read on and see what else He has done . . .

"For God's glory I want to share my testimony of God's provision and plan in my family's experience here at Cornerstone. Our daughter started CCA in 2003 as a preschooler. In January 2004, we were financially unable to register her for kindergarten. Due to recent job changes and trials, our income didn't even begin to cover our basic, simple monthly living expenses. I believed this: if God wanted our daughter at CCA, He'd provide the way; if He didn't provide the money, He wanted to use her for Jesus in the public school. April 2004 came and it was time to register her at the public school. During the school tour, I had to fight back tears, as I just didn't want her there! But then I felt two things. One, doing God's will is costly (to send her to public school would mean giving up what I wanted). Two, I didn't have to worry about the future – in other words, the Holy Spirit was whispering to me that even though I really didn't know where my daughter would end up in the fall, He did. There was a quiet peace amidst this "storm." I didn't need to think or worry about the future, I only needed to leave it in God's hands, obey, and His will would be done.

One month after that, a friend came to me and said that she and her husband wanted to pay our daughter's way to CCA, as they see their money as a gift from God to be used for His purposes! Again, I fought back tears (tears of joy this time!) and told her I'd have to talk to my husband and pray. To me, it was just too much money to accept without praying about it first. This family was not giving out of great financial excess or any riches (other than their Heavenly Father's!). They were a hard-working, middle class Cornerstone family. To me, this would be sacrificial giving. My husband and I prayed and a week went by. Then he said, 'I think we should do it. I think it's a gift from God.' Well, I knew I needed to call my friend to take the offer, but I didn't want to. I would have felt better if she'd call me and extend the offer again. But finally, I made up my mind to do it, and set a specific time when I would pick up the phone to make the call. One half hour before that time came, the phone rang. It was my friend! She said, 'So, are you ready to do it?' She was not going to take no for an answer! What a great confirmation from heaven!

So, that is how God got our daughter into kindergarten at Cornerstone. As He increased our faith, taught us more about money and as things became more financially stable for our family, we were able to take over the monthly payments. Praise God!

I give all thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for his wonderful working in our situation. I'm thankful to my friends for their willingness to be His earthly channel of blessing. God knew our daughter wasn't ready yet to be a light in the public school. She needed first to be beefed up in the Word. And I know she gets lots of "Bible beefing" at CCA! Perhaps someone reading this is encountering a similar difficulty, financial or otherwise. I've learned that God will put 'His kids' at CCA if that's where He wants them and if we're willing to be obedient. He knows what His children need and how He plans for them to serve Him. Our part is to rest and trust in Him, no matter what that plan might be.

I urge you to remember this joy: His ways for getting or keeping His children at Cornerstone Christian Academy are 'awesomely wondrous' and beyond our wildest imaginations!

In Christ,

A Cornerstone Mom"

God is good and is still at work in this place!



Will you PRAY with us?

Spirit Week – March 7-11 – Mike Baker and Andy Huetten, speakers

- ◆ Pray that God will supernaturally work among our student body that week!
- ◆ Pray that many will come to salvation in Christ
- ◆ Pray for conviction of sin and a spirit of repentance
- ◆ Pray for God's protection for CCA families and staff during this week

Also, pray with us for...

- ◆ Risers for our choir
- ◆ A large electric screen for our stage
- ◆ A riding vacuum cleaner for our halls
- ◆ Many new students for next fall
- ◆ That God will keep the students of His choosing here, despite the "pull" of the world
- ◆ For God's will regarding the timing of our Phase II building project

