

Cornerstone Prison Church: **Praises & Prayers**

Thursday October 29, 2009

Pastor Steve & Diane Moerman

PO Box 36, Worthing, SD 57077

Ph. 605-372-0113 - Email cpccrc@yahoo.com

Greetings Ministry Partners, (please note at the end of the newsletter how you can continue to help!)

GOD IS WORKING AT CORNERSTONE!! (so busy we needed two pages this newsletter!!)

Baptism & Professions of Faith – Since late August we have had one baptism and five professions of faith here at Cornerstone. We are thrilled to see God working in these men's lives. It was great to hear these men testify to how God has worked in them and also how He has used fellow Christians to come along side of them in their faith development. It was especially satisfying to hear them profess how they are new creations in Jesus Christ, their Savior.

Cornerstone Bible College Begins: We have completed a 7 week class on church history. It was helpful for the class to see how we as a church have moved from Acts to today. In early October, we began using *Timothy Institute* material on *Caring for God's People*. So far we have had between 20 and 30 men attending, who want to take their faith walk to a new level.

On August 30 we had our first church fellowship meal. It was attended by nearly 120 people. Here are a couple of insider responses:

Pork Chop Meal - We would like to express our heart-felt thanks and gratitude to all who participated in making the "PORK CHOP" meal possible. Not only for arranging it, but also for all the work and time that went into preparing for it. A "Special" thanks to those who donated the corn, pork chops, dinner rolls, and ice cream. The meal was wonderful and greatly appreciated. We are ever so grateful. - by Michael Tieszen

Pork Chop Meal - Hospitality is an art. Making sure a guest is welcomed, warmed, and well fed require creativity, organization, and teamwork. I

can't explain in words how much each man who attended the meal, that was served by the leaders and outsiders of our church, enjoyed themselves. These good people freely and gracefully fed us a meal of fabulous pork chops, corn on the cob, baked potatoes, rolls, and a great dish of ice cream to top it all off for desert.

It says in Luke 3:11 "If you have food, share it with those who are hungry". Each person has a vital part to play in the life of the church and it's important to be grateful for the gifts we are given by anyone around us.

Spending the evening eating a good meal with our fellow brothers and sisters and singing praises was a great time. It encourages in us, the hope that in a world of tough breaks, pride, and self sufficiency, we must walk humbly with God. Only when we live according to God's ways, will we begin to affect our homes, our society, our prisons, and our world. Thank you to all the brothers and sisters. The men of this prison respect and are grateful for all you do to help our congregation. - by Derek Kokesh

Bidin' Time Concert – This group is a Christian rock group from Sioux Falls (though the lead singer is still Canadian). We appreciated that they could come in and praise our God while the world outside had *Life-Light* going on. We also had several numbers performed by some of our inside musicians.

Bidin' Time Concert: On September 5, 2009, a Saturday afternoon, it was a day of praise as the Christian band known as Bidin' Time performed for us men, here at Cornerstone Church behind the prison walls. To hear real Rock & Roll and have lyrics praising God was a very exciting experience. There were lots of guitar riffs, excellent drums, and a mellow bass.

One can only experience and hear the music to understand the excitement brought forth by this band. It's a true blessing to have Bid n' time come to our church and share these talents and their faith with us. It's a positive reminder that our lives should be characterized by moral purity, patience and peacefulness so that we "Shine Brightly", just like Bid n' time in this dark world. Our thanks and prayers go out to the members of the band. We welcome them anytime to come and worship with us as part of our family here in the prison church. - by Silver McClanahan

Broken Walls Concert on September 25 - Broken Walls is a Christian Native American group from Canada that plays a mix of traditional and Christian rock music. We were thankful to have them come in during the *All-Heritage Week* at Cornerstone. We had over 110 men attend the concert, many of whom do not usually come up for services.

Broken Walls - Music has been an integral part of Hebrew and Christian life since its inception. Today we see all forms of Christian music. Some music from different cultures, some from different lifestyles. One thing is for sure, the men at the South Dakota State Penitentiary were blessed with the presence of a band by the name of "Broken Walls", on Friday night of this month.

These men, who traveled a great distance, are men of God. One had a "too Cool" Mohawk, one quiet, with a talent for the rhythm of bass, and a drummer who gave his all and is an inspiration to others. You could feel the Spiritual power of this band and their music. The message they gave and the respected honesty of their personal experiences. These men are wonderful musicians and representative of what faith, hope, and love are truly all about. - by Silver McClanahan

Prison Fellowship Weekend – We had our *Prison Fellowship Weekend* on October 17 & 18. It was a great weekend as we discussed the theme of a “New Community.” The theme addressed our need to have healthy relationships and especially how they begin with a healthy relationship with God. We had three of the sessions led by insiders, who did an excellent job. Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave of their time to be with us.

How you can help the men of Cornerstone!!

Christmas at the prison: Over the past few years several of you have asked how you can make a difference for the men at Christmas time. Here are some ways that you can help bring a bit of Christmas joy behind the prison walls by helping with our Christmas sack program:

Christmas sacks – consider sending a donation to Cornerstone to help cover the costs of giving everyone at the prison a bag of Christmas goodies. Send your checks to Cornerstone at the address above and clearly mark them for the Christmas sack program.

Christmas cards – consider sending cards from your Sunday school children. Have your class make Christmas cards to put in the Christmas sacks. Cards cannot have glue or glitter on them. They should be no larger than a ¼ page when folded. They can include drawings, stampings, writing, & the student’s first name. Please have an adult review them to insure that they are appropriate. Send the completed cards to Cornerstone at the address above.

Christmas Fudge – consider making a batch of fudge. We try to have homemade fudge for each of the Christmas sacks. You contact us at the address above for the approved recipe along with the time and place to deliver the fudge. We have also sent a copy of the recipe to many of our churches.

Make plans to visit us. The men who are part of Cornerstone truly appreciate it when you take the time to join us. Your willingness to join us tells them that they still matter. If you or your group is interested in attending one of our Friday evening services please contact Pastor Steve.

Your continued financial support is needed: We would like to ask both churches and individuals to consider making Cornerstone part of your Thanksgiving and/or year end giving. Remember that Cornerstone receives no government funding and is entirely dependent on the outside church for our continued ministry. If you would like to contribute, donations can be sent to: Cornerstone Prison Church, C/O Marlin Van Ruler, 3909 E. 15th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57103. All donations are tax deductible. Please pray that God will continue to provide for the ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve & Diane Moerman



Our text is 1 Peter 2:4-5