

Forth Quarter Ministry Report 2007

KIDZone

We continue to have fun learning our **ABC's** in KIDZone! **A relationship with Jesus** is further developed in the K-5 Room as the kids pray for one another. The passion Zach Pearson showed while praying for Bene Hatlevig to be healed of his cancer was wonderful to behold! **Biblical Truth** is being learned in the Preschool Room as our preschoolers learn about the miracles of Jesus! The Nursery continues to experience **Community** as the children are genuinely happy to see their friends in a place just for them!

We're happy to share that we have several new volunteers joining our team. Joining the Nursery is Jennifer Breen, Dana Head, and Arianna Quackenbush. Joining the K-5 Room is Megan Van De Loo. I'd also like to commend Kathryn Hilden and Lauren Oliver. They are both teachers in the Preschool Room and are mature, dedicated high school age students! It is such a blessing to see students that used to experience KIDZone as a student gives back by teaching! Thanks to God for sending us these wonderful volunteers to love our little ones! If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of our children at Cornerstone, check your KIDZone box in your program and we'll contact you!

Our most recent success was the Annual KIDZone Christmas Program. It should truly be called the Annual KIDZone/Core Christmas Program. We are so thrilled at the Core's partnership with putting this program together. The Core students and KIDZone kids were just spectacular. I have to give a huge thanks to the KIDZone Leader Team, with a honorable mention for Cindy Sikora from our team and Sherry Steinhoff from The Core team. These women put in hours of planning, practicing, and leading! Way to help the kids shine for Jesus Cindy and Sherry!

Our next big event is our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Please pray that many of our volunteers would be able to attend to be honored for their contributions to the Kingdom. It is always a fun night of eating good food and celebrating what God has done in KIDZone!

Serving Him,

Michelle Zlabek

Office:

The office has been functioning well the past three months. It was wonderful to see that our general fund income has been staying on budget. We are still at a small deficit ending December 31, 2007 of -\$446.19, but I know God will continue to bless Cornerstone. Our general fund ending balance as of December 31st was \$18,444.11. Thankfully, all our taxes are balanced, sent in and done!

Some of the current needs for Cornerstone would be to get all the “little” projects done around here. I believe we are in the process of getting ready to work on them. Please let the office know if you’d like to be on the maintenance list of workers to help.

Cornerstone was also blessed with bringing Ben Newman on board as our new Associate Pastor back in October. God worked out all the details of their house selling and providing safety while traveling from South Carolina. Another praise to report is that our son John and daughter in law Elizabeth both accepted the Lord back in December. Which brings me to a prayer request. That they would attend church regularly and get connected here at Cornerstone. Also that guest would be filling out the info sheet and regular attenders would get to the office birth dates and anniversary dates for your family.

It is my hope that everyone continues to read the Wednesday E letter and hear about all the amazing things happening daily in the building. People being saved through the Compassion Ministry, people stopping in to receive information about Cornerstone, or people just coming in or calling for prayer. It is a joy to serve in His House! Lea

Media

Our big story has been the replacement of a large amount of equipment from this summer’s burglary. We were able to replace almost everything at a better quality than what we lost. There are still some bugs we’re figuring out, but we are excited to be providing a lot of new and innovative things in this area based on our new improved equipment. That is a huge win for this ministry.

The Media Team is thrilled to welcome back Becky Rech after an absence. Lance Wulf is moving on after several years of service. Thanks for everything Lance!!!

One few prayer requests would be to work out a couple of bugs in the media shout program we’d like to see fixed, and we’re starting work on a new Family Room located in the old electric room at the back of the auditorium. Prayer’s for timely work and everything to go smooth for that process.

Life Group Ministry Report

Forth Quarter 2007

“To create a safe small group environment where participants experience Biblically functioning community that nurtures spiritual growth.”

We have had a ton of action the last 6 months in the Life Group ministry! To begin, let me vision cast a bit . . . Life Groups are the backbone and lifeblood of our church. They are meant to function as the “primary care unit” for everyone in the church. That means that when triumph or trouble occurs in your life, your Life Group will be there for you. This is NOT the job for paid pastoral staff – like some churches. It is the responsibility of your Life Group . . . that is the Biblical model for care and this is our model. This is the way we provide much needed community, and also one of the main ways we are spiritually fed at Cornerstone.

So . . . it should be “abnormal” to not be connected in a Life Group.

Some highlights:

1. We had 9 brand new groups that started over the last 4 months, and have added several dozen people to the ministry that were not in the community of Life Groups!
2. We have started meeting regularly with the Life Group Ministry Team (comprised of the coaches: Gail Dix, Tim Burkhalter, Ann Wales, Jon Zlabek, and now Ben Newman).
3. We will have our second “Superhuddle” on January 27th, where all the Life Group Leaders and Apprentices gather for vision casting, teaching and then breaking up into our coaching “pods” for care and prayer. This will help get all the Life Group Leaders and Coaches on the same page. Life Group Leaders will continue their regular huddles on the other quarters of the year with their Coaches.
4. We developed an “assimilation” plan – getting people plugged into Life Groups smoothly. As part of this process, we re-tooled the Life Group brochure, the Life Group webpage, and Joel Rech is coordinating an awesome interactive database that will be a tool for health and growth.

My two prayer requests are 1) for everyone at Cornerstone to be plugged into a healthy Life Group for Community and Spiritual Growth – no one is left behind, and 2) that new apprentices rise up and be part of another Turbo group starting in the late spring to ensure we have enough openings for Fall 2008.

Please continue to read: “Life Group Ministry Essentials Nuts & Bolts” for more details

Jon Zlabek
Life Group Ministry Leader



The Mission

To create a safe small group environment where participants experience Biblically functioning community that nurtures spiritual growth.

The Roles

Life Group Leaders: Create Community . . . Nurture Spiritual Growth

Coaches: Support and develop Life Group Leaders through monthly contacts, quarterly huddles, and yearly visits.

The “Wins”

1. A great Biblically functioning community “moment” happens within a Life Group
2. A new person joins a Life Group
3. A new Apprentice is selected
4. A new Life Group Leader starts a group

The Essentials

1. Think “Life Change” – The goal for people in your group is to be moving to be more like Jesus. Is the fruit of the spirit more evident in your peoples’ lives as shown by the “5 G’s” (Grace, Growth, Group, Gifts, Good Stewardship)? Have them create and follow their Spiritual Formation Plans and go to Sunday Mornings and Connected Services.
2. Cultivate relationships with one another – You need to put time in outside of LG and Sunday mornings. Relationships are like bank accounts – they start empty and require regular intentional deposits over time.
3. Provide care – You are the Pastors and Shepherds of your group. Be there for your members. Your group – not paid pastoral staff – is their “primary care” in the church.
4. Promote participation – Be navigators of the discussion, not instructors of the material.
5. Replace yourself – Identify and develop apprentice leaders in your group.
6. Multiply influence – Birthing opens the door for other unconnected people to participate in biblically functioning community. If your group doesn’t birth, the kingdom doesn’t locally expand.

Some Nuts and Bolts

1. Make sure YOUR spiritual formation is strong. Speed of the leader, speed of the group.
2. Help your group members develop and hold each other accountable to their Spiritual Formation Plans.
3. Develop and use a signed covenant – include purpose, core values, confidentiality agreement, agreement to discuss and pray for unchurched friends/family, regular service projects, agreement to create and follow individual Spiritual Formation Plans, and a Matthew 18 conflict resolution agreement.
4. Make a list of and use your group members:
 - a. Spiritual Gifts – Empower others in your group to serve in your group
 - b. Love Languages (<http://www.greaterquest.com/LoveLanguages.asp>)
 - c. Meyers Briggs Personality Type (<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp>)
 - d. Birthdays & Anniversaries – Celebrate with your group!
5. Don't ignore span of care. Jesus only poured Himself into 12 guys . . . are you better than Him?
6. Encourage your group members to take Cornerstone U classes and move toward membership as appropriate. **You** must be fully participating in the Cornerstone Leadership Academy.

Compassion Ministry

- *What has been going on the past 3 months in your ministry?*
 - Over the last three months we have had Trick or Treat for your Neighbor, Cookies & Caroling at the Schuh-Mullen Homes, and our third annual Christmas Banquet!
 - Our food pantry usage continues to be high (~75+ families / individuals per month, which is about 3x as many as last year) (All the other county services refer to us now and we're on the Great Rivers 211 Emergency Assistance List!)
 - Our clothing closet has been receiving a lot of use as well with the winter season in full swing.
 - Prison Ministry - The highlights have been the increase in volunteers (in the jail and writing letters), the increase in people trying our church (we have a couple that come regularly), how the church responds to everyone (no fears just love), and the

number of people that are blessed by our letters. They want us to keep them coming.

- Missions – We have a team of 10 for Haiti 2008 (May 15th-24th) - Shannon Rutz, Sarah & Jake Peloquin, Rosie & Don Edminster, Laura Woodfin, John Bayer, Al Campbell, Eric Pearson, and Pilar Zegiel. Our next team meeting is Sunday, February 10th. If you are on the fence about going, make your mind up before then!

- *What needs does your ministry have?*
 - We continue to have high usage in our food pantry, which means we always could use more food to give out. We supplement donations from you with perishable foods and other supplies from the Hunger Task Force. Last year we received about 5000 lbs. of food from them! Any monetary donations designated food pantry also help tremendously. If you want to donate items or money, please place them in the donation box on 3rd floor. We are always short on cereals, canned fruit, boxed dinners, soups, household cleaners, and personal hygiene products.
 - The clothing closet is in need of winter coats and men's jeans. Also, please let us know if you are interested in being on a list to help with mending and /or laundering clothing.
 - The prison ministry could also use monetary donations to help the prisoners with various needs.
 - Interested in being on a list of rotating transportation pick up? There are 7 families / individuals from the Christmas Banquet that would like rides to church!
 - Interested in helping with a "Big-ticket" item? We really would like to have a van to help with transportation!

- *What wins has your ministry experienced?*
 - Where do I start? There continue to be many people taking next steps in their walk with God through your efforts to reach out to them in love. Please take a minute to remember a few wins with us:
 - From the prison ministry – Re: Christmas Money Orders: Please thank everyone for me, all of the prisoners are so appreciative of being remembered this time of

year. They are brothers and sisters in Christ and we are showing His love to them.

- The Christmas Banquet was a big success! Many of the families are asking questions about how to take the next step for them – some are interested in coming to church! We have received at least 10 thank you notes from them!
 - People are so appreciative of the food, clothing, and monetary assistance, and there are great conversations happening about life with Jesus – some even dedicating their lives to Christ!
 - Keep reading the Cornerstone e-letters for regular updates on what’s happening! There’s too much to put down here!
- *New team members?*
 - Prison Ministry! We now have 3 female volunteers for jail Bible Study and Services and 2 for the men. We will be doing 9 services this year altogether and Bible Study every other week for men and 1x/month for the women. The men's Saturday morning Bible Study has moved to the church to be an extension of the Tuesday evening Bible Study in the jail. They regularly get guys in to minister to! We are writing letters to 21 people now and we have 5 volunteers doing that. :-)
 - Opportunities – Can your life group find a niche to fill? Ask Shannon for a tour and ideas! – Have an extra hour or two on a Monday or Thursday during the day? Come help or just spend some time talking with our neighbor friends (warning – this could be life changing!).
 - *Prayer Request?*
 - Missions – pray for team members and for Mountain Top Ministries in Haiti.
 - Community Benevolence – pray for meaningful conversations that lead people to Christ and for the resources needed to show God’s love.
 - Prison – pray for transitional housing and mentoring groups to form.
 - CM leadership team – pray for health and safety and spiritual growth. Satan doesn’t like what we’re doing.

- *Anything else you'd like to share?*
 - I want to commend all of you who are seeking God and wrestling with spiritual growth. Keep going! It's worth it! Is there a place in your spiritual formation plan for developing a lifestyle of compassion? Are you involved in a ministry area that you can incorporate compassion into? Ask us for ideas!
 - You can contact Shannon Rutz at 796-1861 or through compassion@cornerstonelacrosse.org !

Prayer Ministry Update

The Prayer Ministry has many irons in the fire and we are excited to see what God will do next. Beginning in January, Cornerstoners who are gifted with Intercession started a monthly gathering to encourage each other, learn about intercession, and pray. Also, the Prayer Team is gearing up for Lent to help Cornerstone Listen to God through prayer. We will be publishing weekly prayer guides and scheduling a corporate prayer meeting Feb 24. We are also coordinating prayer support for the Haiti Mission Trip, with April Butterfield is taking the lead on that effort.

Overall, we are very encouraged to see how God will continue to use the Prayer Ministry in these next few months to build His Church and help people to become fully devoted of Christ!

Kerri Bednarchuk