

“Impacting Culture for the Glory of God”

CORNERSTONE
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That’s our school motto, in case you didn’t know! But having an impact on culture is a difficult thing to measure, unless you receive an e-mail as we did just today. It’s always a pleasure to hear from CCA alumni, and the email came to us just in time to include in this edition of the *Courier*. It’s been reprinted with permission and we hope it will encourage you as much as it encouraged us to continue in “the good fight” of impacting culture for God’s glory—one student at a time.

Mrs. Shames,

Cornerstone and the teachers who have been involved in my life have changed my life so much and have shaped me to be the person I am today. I am so grateful for the administration here and my life would have been so much worse if I had not come here.

I lied to you on my application and at my interview with you when I was trying to get accepted into this school. I was just saying what I thought you wanted to hear. I couldn’t have cared less about getting to know God better and wanting a better education, I just wanted out of my current situation. I was searching to find myself but I didn’t exactly know that at the moment. I was not a Christian. Sure, I believed that God and Christ existed and I recognized that Christ died to take away my sins but that was the extent of it. I was ignorant and didn’t recognize that part of truly believing is acting it out and living your life in reverence and dedication to God. I know that now. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Let’s face it, some of the people I was friends with and went to school with before Cornerstone are lost souls right now, and they do not have people in their lives reaching out to them. I would have been one of those people. Granted, there are a lot of really nice people that I went to school with, but being nice and doing good isn’t enough unless you’re doing it for the right reasons and out of Christ’s love. I thank you so much for the opportunity you gave me and I carry and use the things I have learned with me each and every day.

The staff you have at Cornerstone is one of a kind. I hope that the school can continue to be set apart and be an example for the community. I do not want the school to turn into just another high school. The whole atmosphere of CCA seriously changed my life so much for the better and I hope that it can continue to do that for many, many more students to come. I have cried many times thinking about the school and how grateful I am that I had the opportunity to go there and I just hope that you will be able to stand your ground and not conform to the rest of the world. The strictness of the administration, the rules, the curriculum, prayer in classes, and the ability to do everything out of genuine love for one another is a huge part of Cornerstone. It is what sets us apart from the rest of the world and it is amazing.

I want to be a teacher some day and I hope that I can impact my students’ lives as much as my teachers at CCA have done for me. It is my dream that I can bring the love of Christ to as many people as possible through encounters and relationships that I will have as a teacher and in that position of authority.

I just wanted to take the time to tell you that I really, truly appreciate everything you have done for me and to give you some encouragement. You, and the rest of the administration are amazing and I hope that you can continue to work wonders in the lives of your students.

*Thank you so much.
Love, Melissa Stalter [Class of 2009]*



Melissa Stalter

Reaching the “Least of These”—City Campus Update

Becky Shames, Administrator

After two years back at our beloved Bell Street location, the Board of Trustees has made the decision to close our City Campus. However, this does not represent a change in philosophy nor in our sense of calling to reach “the least of these.” It is simply a change of location, nothing more. The

“These students are Cornerstone kids in every sense of the word.”

Becky Shames

primary reason, as you might guess, is financial. The downturn of the economy has impacted both campuses, but City Campus which is funded almost completely by donation felt it even more keenly than the main campus. And so, City Campus will close, and those students who choose to stay at Cornerstone will transfer to main campus.

Even in this difficult decision we have seen God’s direction in so many ways. For example, last November, April Kinzinger and I visited Boston Trinity Academy, an urban school that is successfully combining two populations – inner city kids and upper middle class kids. We will be implementing some of what we learned there in the coming year at Cornerstone. Second, after our first year at City Campus, several families recognized the value of a rigorous Christ-centered education and asked to enroll older siblings. We transported five students to the main campus this past year. They flourished. This obviated the requirement for a second campus. These students are Cornerstone kids in every sense of the

word. Finally, we found ourselves feeling so grateful that God, in His wisdom, told us “no” when we asked for the YMCA. Had that transfer occurred, we would have found ourselves in a much more difficult financial position. He protected us from ourselves!

So where does that leave us? What changes will occur? Actually, as noted above, the only real change for the preschoolers and kindergartners and first graders who will transfer is only one of location. There are some logistical considerations from our perspective, however, that need to be addressed. These students will still be here as “sponsored” students. Though each family pays some tuition, the balance will have to be donated, just as it is for the many students who receive student assistance at the main campus each year. The bigger issue is one of transportation. Many of these families do not have access to transportation to get their children to our main campus. We are praying for a second shuttle! This would allow us to have a couple of stops in town to give the families that need it closer access to transportation. The second shuttle would then also be available for field trips, service projects, etc. throughout the year. The good news is that we believe we can purchase a good used shuttle that would carry a lower

monthly payment than we were paying for rent at Bell Street. Until God provides the right vehicle for us, we’ll be asking for volunteers who would be willing to transport these students. I am so grateful that God is already moving in the hearts of some of our parents to do just that. (Please note: a second shuttle is necessary because our current vehicle is on the road almost daily and would be unavailable – particularly in the afternoons.)

The only other consideration is a financial one. But as is the case with *all* student assistance, the cost for these students must be donated. It does not come out of tuition dollars (remember that tuition does not cover the cost of education here, so in that sense, all students receive assistance). We still rely on our Heavenly Father to move in the hearts of His people to give so these precious children have access to an education that would otherwise be out of their reach. The good news is that by moving those students to main campus, our costs will be much lower than they would have been.

Will you please pray with us that God will continue to provide for all of His work here? As we continue to wage war “against the powers of this dark world” (Eph. 6: 12), we know it will not be easy. But we are also mindful of Jesus’ words to all who would follow Him: “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me” (Matt. 25:40).

Cornerstone Christian Academy does not discriminate against students of any gender, race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in its admission of educational policies or its scholarship, athletic or other school-administered programs.

“Lead Me on Level Ground”

April Kinzinger, Director of Development

You may remember hearing last fall that CCA had received a gift for the installation of a soccer field. We had been looking forward to putting this in over the summer, so we were getting the necessary quotes—from the cost of the grass seed to soccer field goal systems. What we hadn't counted on, however, had the largest price tag.

Our ground needed to be leveled.

You might not think that moving a little bit of dirt around would cost all that much, but actually, it does. When the quote came in, we literally gasped.

The price? \$200,000.

The donation that had been given was not nearly enough to cover this unforeseen expense. So we began to do what we have always done—we prayed and asked God for level ground.

We know God cares about our ground! I can remember something that happened seven years ago this month—June, 2003. We were in the throes of building our facility, and the health department told us that after some percolation testing, they determined that our ground was not suitable for a septic field that would be large enough for a building our size. The alternative would have been a specialized system that would need a trained and licensed septic supervisor—a much more expensive option! And so on a very hot day in June, several of us donned hard hats and walked out just west of the con-

struction site and knelt down on the hardest ground you can imagine, and we asked God for 1 acre of suitable ground for a septic field. It was an impossible request in our eyes, but certainly not for God. We then hired our own percolation tester, and he announced that he had located exactly 1 acre of appropriate ground! The health department wasn't willing to take our word for it, so they hired yet more testers. Again we prayed, this time that their new test results would be even better than ours. And they were. God is amazing.

Today we have the largest septic field in McLean County—and it's working just fine. God cares about ground! In April of 2004 He supplied us with free grass seed and the seeder to plant it. Last year He raised up a donor to landscape the property with a myriad of beautiful trees. We know He cares about our 78 acres!

Which brings us back to the present and the problem of uneven ground.

Psalm 143:5 says, *“I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all Your works and consider what Your hands have done . . .”* As I remembered all God had done for our ground, I knew He even cared about how level it was. I just didn't know how He would go about answering our prayer.

He used a phone call.

Our board president called me and said a man he knew would be coming to school to talk about what it might take for a ball dia-

mond to be installed on the property. When I met with him, I shared the cost of ground preparation for both the soccer field and a potential ball diamond. He then talked about a Christian farmer he knew who could move dirt, but who lived about 40 miles away. In the course of the conversation, I suddenly realized that I knew the man in question personally.

Which led to another phone call. This time I called the farmer and asked if he would consider coming out to Cornerstone and looking over the ground to give us his opinion. He came out that very day, bringing with him another farmer who might help him. After about an hour walking the ground, I asked him for a price to level it within an inch. He said, “I'll do it for the price of the diesel fuel.” The man with him responded, “And I'll pay for the diesel fuel.”

I stood there in the field in utter amazement. God had given us another “ground” story. I could say with the Psalmist, *“I meditate on all Your works and consider what Your hands have done . . .”*

Nothing is too hard for the One who holds all of the earth in His hands. He's in the business of overcoming our mountainous obstacles and producing level ground to lead us on. In fact, later in Psalm 143 David writes, *“Teach me to do Your will for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”*

Ours should be flat within the month.

“If There's Money Left Over . . .”

That was the question from a parent who received word that her student had received a Student Assistance award for the 2010-2011 academic year. Even with that award, it was going to be challenging for this mom to make ends meet! She was asking that if there was any money left over after all the assistance awards were given, could she apply for additional help? We smile when we hear questions like this, because not only is there no money left over, *there's no money to begin with!* Even though to date over \$200,000 has been granted in tuition assistance awards for next year, Cornerstone doesn't have any of it. You see, the awards are made before any of the money is ever given. We never know from one year to the next just how many donations will come in for our Student Assistance Fund. We walk by faith, just as so many of our families do. Giving for last year was \$126,000, but we awarded over \$230,000 in assistance!

While that may be a grim statistic for some, we know that as we walk in obedient faith, God provides. He has ways of providing that we haven't even thought about, so the question never has to be, “if there's money left over . . .”, but rather “will you pray that I might trust God to supply?”

We know He will.

Commencement 2010!!

Cornerstone's fourth commencement ceremony was held on Saturday, May 29th and boasted our biggest graduating class ever!

Administrator Becky Shames brought the commencement address, entitled, *"Not Many of You,"* using I Corinthians 1:26,27 as her text.

While we are sad to see our seniors leave us to go on to higher education, you can tell by the picture at the right that they feel other-

wise! Celebrating the end of their Cornerstone career are seniors: Chris Ayers (Valedictorian), Levi Bauer, Logan Belgrave, Wendy Chen, Taylor Clark, Lauren Drop, Sarah Gregory, Shannon Harman, Reed Heeren, Sean Larsen, Kaci Mulcahey, Katie Newcom, Leah Schultz, Cassie Streutker, and Strother Wilson.



Congratulations Seniors!



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We're on the Web!
www.cornerstonechristian.com