



FRONTLINES

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Renewing our families, our communities, and our world by bringing faith and life together in Christ.

WHY SHORT-TERM MISSIONS?

BY CARTER SANGER

This month 11 members of Cornerstone will be taking a 7-day mission trip to Guatemala. It's worth asking, "Why short-term missions?" Here are some of the ways I've heard the question asked:

Wouldn't the funds required to send a team for such a short-term be better spent by a church already in the area, or missionaries going for long-term? What can you get accomplished in 7 days? I've heard that it puts the missionaries already there under a heavy burden to get their ministry duties accomplished, and prepare things to do for the short-term team. Isn't this the case? Doesn't it put the team at risk?

All of these things might very well be true. So then, why? Let me give my answer in two-parts. First, let me explain some of the benefits of short-term missions, with our trip to Guatemala as an example. Let me give some background.

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church sponsored Juan Monroy's seminary education. Juan is the pastor of a church resulting from our own prayers (not only ours, but certainly including ours). Five or six years ago we asked God to show us how we could engage in foreign missions by planting a church where few existed. God's answer came in the providential arrival of Pablo Monroy, who wanted to move his Hispanic congre-

gation to Cornerstone and reach Spanish speaking people in Katy. With our recent study of our demographics pointing out the increase in Hispanic people this made sense.

Pablo happens to be from Guatemala, and when we told him of our desire to plant a church as our foreign mission, he invited us to his home town. We went. We visited several potential places to plant a church. When we visited Jalapa we met Pablo's brother, Juan. He had been leading a Bible study small group in his home that had grown quite large. We worshiped with him and this group, prayed with his con-

(Continued on page 5)

PRAYER SERVICE FOR MISSIONS TO BE SUNDAY, MAY 20

An important way to help our Guatemala Team is to pray for them.

We will have a special Prayer Service in the sanctuary on Sunday evening, May 20, at 5:30 p.m. to cover them with prayer.

At this time, we will also be praying for the various missions which Cornerstone supports—both foreign and local.

Plan to come and join in lifting our mission efforts to God at this special service.

"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."

Colossians 4:3-4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The last day for Sunday School before summer is May 13. Worship will continue at 10:30 a.m.*
- *Presbytery of the Gulf South meets in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on April 28-29. Several members of Cornerstone will be attending. Look for a report next month.*
- *Extra copies of the Cornerstone directory are still available. Pick one up in the church foyer.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| HELP FOR GUATEMALA TRIP | 2 |
| SESSION HIGHLIGHTS | 2 |
| GRADUATES' LUNCH | 3 |
| CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS | 3 |
| BRIDGES UPDATE | 4 |
| NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | 6 |
| SUMMER CLOSINGS | 8 |

HELP US GET TO GUATEMALA!

BY CAROL KUTZER

This Sunday, be sure to stop by the Guatemala display in the foyer of the Sanctuary to learn the latest about the upcoming trip beginning on May 24. The display provides more information on how you can be part of the mission, even if you are unable to travel with the team.

- **Pray:** Pray for the team, the people they will meet and opportunities to share about Jesus. (Cornerstone Team includes Steve Bressler; Joey Gourlay; Jim Kolesar; Carol, Jack, & Tucker Kutzer; Jeff Magee;

Carter & Fenton Sanger; and Allen & Pat White. Cosecha de Vida Team includes: Eric DiCesare; James Dover; Devlin Johnson; and Pablo Monroy)

- **Shoes:** Obtain one or more names of children to pray for and donate money to buy them shoes.
- **T-Shirt:** Buy a team t-shirt or two for \$20 each.
- **Odd Jobs:** Hire Joey Gourlay, Tucker Kutzer or Fenton Sanger to do a few odd jobs. Funds will go to support the mission trip. Contact the following: May Gourlay (281) 543-

3692, Rhonda Sanger (281) 966-5400 or Carol Kutzer at (281) 579-1080.

- **BBQ for Mother's Day:** Order BBQ chicken or brisket from Steve Bressler. Funds will go to support the mission trip. See the display in the foyer or contact Steve Bressler (281) 229-2307 for more information.

While the team is gone be sure to pray for them daily and follow their adventure at CornerstoneKaty.org or [Facebook.com/cornerstonekaty/](https://www.facebook.com/cornerstonekaty/).



You can be part of this trip, even if you don't leave home.



We were happy to welcome Amanda Vaksdal as Cornerstone's newest member. She

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT

Implementing Simple Church

Carter continued our devotional study by reviewing Chapter 6 of Rainer and Geiger's book, *Simple Church*. As a reminder, the simple church model is focused on Clarity,

Movement, Alignment and Focus. The primary focus of this chapter was on Movement.

It involves the sequential steps in the process that causes people to move to greater areas of commitment. If we want our process to move people, our programming must be strategic and sequential. The question was then asked, "How do we accomplish this?"

There was quite a bit of discussion about how our church leadership needs to be addressing this issue, and most importantly how we align all of the aspects of our ministry to guide our people to the primary goal which is *spiritual maturity*.

What is spiritual maturity? Our members need to be able to actively profess and defend the essentials of the faith. If they are at a Masters level now, they need to be progressing toward a Doctorate. The Elders and the Deacons will be meeting soon to discuss how we can come up with a clear and simple process to accomplish this.

Sharing prayers

The Session and Deacons divided into groups, shared prayer requests, and prayed for each other.

Campus security

Jonathan Tucker discussed the ongoing process to effectively address improved campus security. With the recent inci-

(Continued on page 3)

ACTIVITIES ARE SHUTTING DOWN FOR SUMMER

While we will continue to worship together every Sunday, and several small groups will meet through the summer, a number of activities will end in April or early May.

Kidz Club

The last Kidz Club for spring was held at the Gallery apartments near Cornerstone on Tuesday, April 24.

Thanks to the Kutzers, Saugiers, Covers, Debi Barrett, Joey Gourlay, Rhonda Sanger, Jeremy Smith, and Becky Yuvancic for hanging out on the tennis court and sharing the love of Christ with kids living in the apartments.

Carol Kutzer taught the kids to tell the stories of the Lost Sheep and Blind Bartemaus with great hand motions. Several of them could recite the whole story.

Stepping Stones

Thanks to our presenters for this session—Alisa Cotton, Beverly Tucker, Lores Glover, and Evelyn Saugier! Besides the Cornerstone girls, we had an equal number from their homeschool group who attended.

The topics covered included true beauty, being a forever friend, real obedience, and overcoming common lies. The book [Lies Young Women Believe](#) was a good source

for the April meeting, and we hope to use some of its other chapters next year.

Stepping Stones is Cornerstone's ministry for girls ages 10 and up.

Ladies Bible Study

The Thursday morning Bible study focused on the book [Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together](#). This book by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth is an in-depth look at the short passage of Titus 2:1-5, 10. It generated some good discussions and personal revelations.

The study was led by Beverly Tucker, Alisa Cotton, Linda Lott, and Evelyn Saugier.

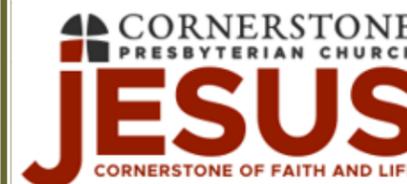


Besides a time of fellowship and discussion, each week included prayer for each other.

Sunday School

In order to give all our Sunday School teachers a little time off, we will not have Sunday School during the summer months. Many of you will be traveling then, and we pray for safe vacations for all our members.

Be looking for start dates for each of these in the fall.



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*Seeking to renew our families,
our communities, and our world
by bringing faith and life
together in Christ.*



2018 NATIONAL PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Please use the prayer below as you pray for our country, either at home or with others at the National Day of Prayer Celebration. Worship services will be held at Christ EPC at 12:00 noon and at the Merrill Center at 7:00 p.m.

Our Dear Heavenly Father, while we come to You in complete humility, we also come to You with boldness in the authoritative name of Your One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Jesus' name, fill us now with Your Holy Spirit and lead us as we pray in Jesus' name for America.

Oh God, we are burdened for our nation today. We turn from the sins that we have committed against your Word and your Name. We turn away from our contentious words and ways toward one another that has led us to division and polarization. We turn away from our disrespect and lack of dignity toward each other, and we turn away from our continual devaluation of all human life from the womb until death in this world. We also turn away from and refuse to participate in skepticism, criticism, and cynicism in our nation. We turn away from anything that divides us, and we run toward the gospel of Jesus Christ that is the only thing that has the power to unite us together.

Lord, in this critical hour in our nation, we pray for unity in America. Only You can bring unity, harmony, and

oneness in America. As your Word calls us in Ephesians 4:3, "Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace", we ask You to empower us to make every effort to live in unity, to call for unity, and to forward unity in America continually.

We pray for the churches in America to unify in Jesus Christ and to pray as one unified spiritual family for America. May Your Church pray for America passionately, perpetually, privately, and publicly.

We pray for God's power to unify families, workplaces, communities, and cities in America. By Your Spirit, lead us to forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and unity.

We pray for people of all ethnicities and races in America to come together as one, living in peace and unity together. Oh Lord, because each of us is created in Your image, please give us the courage to stand against all racial and ethnic division, denouncing it as evil and sinful, while simultaneously coming together in unity with all persons knowing this is God's will for us.

We pray in unity for the security of our nation. We ask You to preserve the United

States of America from the forces of evil that are threatening our lives and our future. God, please guard all persons in public and private settings from anyone or anything that desires to harm us or take our lives. Our future is in Your hands.

We agree clearly, unite visibly, and pray extraordinarily for the next Great Spiritual Awakening in America. Oh Lord, wake up Your church spiritually and convict Your people to agree clearly, unite visibly, and pray extraordinarily until the next Great Spiritual Awakening occurs in our generation.

Oh God, we stand together upon Your words in *Psalm 133:1*, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony." Through Jesus' name and by the Holy Spirit's power, we pray for all Americans to unify and to live together in unity.

In the mighty and majestic name of Jesus Christ who is the Only Savior and the Only Hope in this world, we pray. Amen.

Dr. Ronnie Floyd
President, National Day of Prayer Task Force
Senior Pastor, Cross Church



Unity is the theme for this year's National Day of Prayer.

"MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE **UNITY** OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE."
EPHESIANS 4:3

JOIN US FOR LUNCH ON MAY 6 TO CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES

Congratulations, Joey and Haylee!!!

Join us for lunch immediately following worship service on Sunday, May 6. Let's celebrate our graduates Joey Gourlay and Haylee Nesbit.

If you plan to attend, please use one of the bulletin inserts

to RSVP and place it in the offering plate. We want to be sure we have enough food.

If you can help with setting up, providing side dishes, serving line or clean up please contact Beverly Tucker.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is...**
The winner of April's Cotton Ball Game is Eri. Her guess of 157 came the closest to the actual number of cotton balls in the jar (172) – without going over. Congratulations, Eri! She will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon and 2 bags of miscellaneous Easter candy.

Be sure to submit your guess for May's Jolly Rancher Game...and be **sure to write clearly and include your FIRST & LAST names.** To encourage our kids to

read the *Frontlines* newsletter, winners must ask Mrs. Kutzer for their prize.

☺ **Kid's Camps for Cornerstone Kids:**
Plans are under consideration for two children's Kid's Camps here at Cornerstone. They would be once in June and once in July probably from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More information will be made available later.

☺ **May 13 Last Day for Sunday Morning Classes:**

Sunday Morning classes will begin the break for Summer on May 20. Classes will resume after Labor Day in September.

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:**
Question of the month: What fictional world or place would you like to visit?

- Ms. Ann Alcorn: None
- Ms. Carol Rutar: Hogwarts
- Ms. Kinsey Spain: Neverland
- Ms. Laura Garay: Willy Wonka factory



The last day for Sunday School before our summer break will be May 13.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

(Continued from page 2)
dents in various locales such as Sutherland Springs, this is, needless to say, a very important issue. It was decided that a team of two elders and two deacons will work together on this project.

New members
Several new families have been interviewed for membership and have recently joined. There have also been three baptisms and two approvals to receive Communion. Praise be to God.

As always, the Session concluded with prayers for the needs at Cornerstone.

Tom Lott

"IT WAS DECIDED THAT A TEAM OF TWO ELDERS AND TWO DEACONS WILL WORK TOGETHER ON [CAMPUS SECURITY]."

NEWS FROM BRIDGES

There is some exciting news from Daka and Heather.

They are expecting a new baby in November! They have asked for us to:

- Pray for Heather, as the first trimester has been more challenging for her with the nausea and other things.
- Pray for healthy mama and healthy baby.
- Pray for a smooth pregnancy and delivery.

Recovery efforts

In other news, they are grateful for over 1000 college students with Cru who came from all over the U.S. for their Spring Break to help with the Harvey relief/

rebuilding initiative.

Counting the cost

A young Middle Eastern Muslim, whom we will call "Hussein", has given his life to Christ at great expense. His family has basically disowned him for making this decision. It is a great encouragement to see Hussein's faith in the Lord as he follows Him in obedience, willing to be rejected by his own family. Please lift him up in prayer that God would continue to strengthen and provide for Hussein as he is potentially facing being cut off financially from his parents.

Easter Party outreach
Bridges celebrated Easter

with their annual Easter Party. Around 70 students from around the world came for a backyard party where there was good food and fun games, including an Easter Egg hunt.

More importantly, Congolese student Lena shared her testimony and a Bridges staff member explained the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. As a team, they will follow up with the students who came, many of whom expressed a desire to talk further about the resurrection. Pray that Jesus will bring them into a relationship with himself!

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS: MANY BENEFITS

(Continued from page 1)

gregation, and asked God to bless Juan and his wife in this new work. It seemed that God was planting a church right before our eyes!

While Juan had great passion for the Lord and a heart for these people, he didn't have any theological training. We brought this report back to Cornerstone and our mission committee agreed to pay for Juan to get theological training. That was 2013. On May 26, Juan is graduating. So here are the benefits.

- We hope to encourage Juan by standing with him as he graduates. We aren't just faceless dollars coming down South. We are real flesh and blood that God has moved to provide for Juan.
- We hope to encourage the church that Juan leads. They will see that they aren't alone and God's arm is not too short to provide from anywhere.
- We hope to show the unity of God's people as it stretches across national boundaries, cultural boundaries, ethnic boundaries, and language boundaries.
- We will support the local economy through the purchase of shoes for the kids and families living in Trash Town.
- We will leave children with a respite from the dangers of living in such a place, showing God at work through

one of his instruments.

- We will show the love of God as we give our time and energy to meeting the needs of a people so far removed from us.

It isn't just the people of Guatemala that will benefit. In fact, I would say the bigger benefits will be to Cornerstone and especially our team.

- Being part of a mission team requires faith as they raise funds they may not otherwise have. (The funds raised for this trip would not otherwise be raised at all, so we cannot say the money would be better spent by missionaries in the field. The money simply wouldn't be there.)
- Entering a foreign culture forces you to lean on God and your team. There is a sense of brotherhood you can gain no other way.
- Facing threats and dangers in the work of missions gives us a small taste of Jesus' own life. He lived under constant threat and danger.
- The heightened nerves associated with such an adventure puts you in a minute-by-minute need to trust God, a discipline that we are called to cultivate.
- By stepping out of our culture and into another one, we get to see our culture with fresh eyes and, God willing, come away with a deeper appreciation for what God has done for us.
- Like those we go to serve,

we also gain a sense of the rich diversity of the united body of Christ.

- It nurtures a passion for a greater commitment to missions and ministry back home. That passion is contagious as we tell our stories.

These are some of the benefits of short-term missions. But the simple answer as to why is the Biblical mandate and model. Jesus told us to go in the Great Commission. "*Go and make disciples of all nations...*" We get to be part of that great commission by going.

And Jesus' modeled it for us by sending out his disciples on short-term missions. In Luke 10: *the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.*² *And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*³ *Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves...*⁹ *Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."*¹⁰

¹⁶ *"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."*

¹⁷ *The seventy-two returned with joy...*

So next time we take a short-term mission trip, come with us!

For the Kingdom,
Carter

"WE HOPE TO SHOW THE UNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE AS IT STRETCHES ACROSS NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, CULTURAL BOUNDARIES, ECONOMIC BOUNDARIES, ETHNIC BOUNDARIES, AND LANGUAGE BOUNDARIES."



Providing shoes for children living in squalid conditions is one goal of this trip.