



FRONTLINES

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2020

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

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

BY CARTER SANGER

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14–16)

In a world that is overrun by hate, fear, confusion, and division, the believer shines bright. It’s a bit hard to believe. It’s hard to believe because it means something is fundamentally

different about the believer. How does that happen? And it’s hard to believe because we don’t always or even often see this light. That’s sad. Let’s address both of these.

There is something fundamentally different about someone whose faith is in the Lord.

The Bible calls this good news and launches into a rich teaching on it. Simply put, “the old has gone, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The prophets anticipated what God would do for his people through the work of Christ,

I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes... (Ezekiel 36:26–27)

Because this is true, you have every spiritual blessing in Christ, from forgiveness of your guilt and sin to adoption as sons of God. You are destined to be “holy and blameless in his sight.” These are things that give you an entirely new identity and indicate that foreign power is at work in you.

The world doesn’t always or even often see

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Sunday Morning Classes will be suspended for the Christmas season beginning December 20. Classes will resume on January 10.
- Reminder to send in your favorite Bible verses for the newsletter.
- Worship Training will hopefully resume after the New Year. Look for future announcements.

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EVENTS PLANNED FOR DECEMBER

**Friday, December 4:
Christmas Ceili at 7:00 PM - & - Parents’ Night Out at 6:00 PM**

Ceili: Join us for an evening of Christmas music and storytelling around the fire in a variation of a traditional Irish ceili.

In an "open-mic" format, musicians are invited to come and play their favorite Christmas song or join the other musicians in the round. Contact Jeremy

Smith at (281) 222-0687 or emailweeze@yahoo.com for more information about the Ceili.

Parents’ Night Out:

Whether or not you attend the Ceili, childcare is available. Parents may drop off their elementary aged or younger children at Cornerstone to enjoy a night to themselves on Friday, December 4 at 6:00–10:00 p.m.

We will feed them some pizza, do a craft or two, and munch on popcorn while we watch a movie. There is no cost for this event this year. You may want to send your kids in their PJs and with pillow and blanket for movie time. So that we can have enough supplies and food for everyone, please contact the church office by December 1 to register your kiddos.

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*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

Our sympathy is extended to Rhonda Sanger and her family in the death of her father, Ron Brewster.



Parents can drop off their kids at the church Friday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. and have a night out.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session and Deacons did not meet in November. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 1.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is:** The winner of November's Jolly Rancher Game is Jayden M.! Jayden's guess of 155 came the closest to the actual number of candies without going over. (The actual count was 177.) Congratulations, Mr. Jayden! He will receive all the Jolly Ranchers in the jar.

Be sure to submit your guess for December's Candy 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.

☺ **Parents' Night Out:** Parents may drop off their elementary aged or younger children at Cornerstone to enjoy a night to themselves on Friday, December 4, at 6:00–10:00 p.m. We will feed them some pizza, do a craft or two, and munch on popcorn while we watch a movie.

There is no cost for this event this year. You may want to send your kids in

their PJs and with pillow and blanket for movie time. So that we can have enough supplies and food for everyone, please contact the church office by December 1 to register your kiddos. (281) 579-1080 | info@CornerstoneKaty.org

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:** What's your favorite place you've ever visited?

- Ms. Ann Alcorn: Beaches in Florida
- Ms. Kinsey Spain: Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

CHRISTMAS SUPPORT FOR PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

BY DEBI BARRETT

This year Cornerstone will be supporting Pregnancy Help Center by offering a PHC Christmas Tree, as we've done in the past.

For three weeks, beginning Sunday November 29, we will have a tree in the Sanctuary Foyer filled with "ornaments". Each paper ornament will have an item printed on it that you may purchase to help the women and their families -- anything

from items for the babies and toddlers, to maternity clothes, to Gift Cards. We will have a Christmas box near the tree where you can leave your donated items. Our last day to receive donations will be Sunday, December 13.

The mission at the Pregnancy Help Center is to minister to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of women and their extended families as they deal with the circum-

stances surrounding a present, potential, or former pregnancy, by sharing the truth and love of Jesus Christ.

They provide pregnancy tests, peer mentoring for men and women, educational classes, and the Earn While You Learn (EWYL) program. The Pregnancy Help Center encourages and teaches healthy parenting. They also provide abortion recovery classes for those that are in need of heal-



Pick an ornament from the tree in the foyer by Sunday, December 13, to donate to the Pregnancy Help Center.

LADIES' COOKIE EXCHANGE CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

BY DONIECE RUSSELL

Ladies, we will have our annual Christmas Cookie Swap on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 the Cookie Swap will be outdoors on the church patio. Please bring your cookies individually

packaged. If you bring goodies to be eaten at the event, we ask that you individually package those as well.

There will also be a fun \$5 gift exchange game. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped \$5 gift without your name on it.

See our Facebook event invitation to RSVP or ask questions. You can also contact Evelyn or Doniece (if you need more details. Please come and bring a friend for this sweet time of fun and fellowship.



The Cookie Swap will be Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH DAKA

Dear family in Christ,

Hope this email finds you well. I wanted to give you a little update on our ministry.

We have started meeting students one-on-one and in smaller groups with masks and social distancing. All our Bible studies are still online via Zoom, and we are excited that some of our students

who went back to their home countries can join us. We have also started doing some outdoor socials for students, since many of them are fatigued and tired of this pandemic.

More specifically, I wanted to ask you to pray for us this Friday as we are having a Thanksgiving dinner with some students. Obviously we

expect a much smaller group. Pray for me as I will be sharing the Gospel through a Thanksgiving message. Pray for the hearts of the students to be open to the Gospel.

Thank you again! Let us know how we can be praying for you too.

Blessings,
Daka



FEEDING B4 FEASTING RECAP - 2020



BY CAROL KUTZER

This was a record-breaking year!! Due to everyone's generosity, we were able to donate 25 full Thanksgiving meals – this is more than we have ever done before! The boxes went to Katy Christian Ministry this year.

A GINORMOUS thanks to Kristin Corkran, Adika Colston, Lores Glover, Lauren Torregano, and several Liberty students for their help with the sorting, packing and loading of the boxes.

Let us praise the Lord for His bountiful provision and for allowing us to be part of His ministry to Katy, Texas.

(more photos available on Facebook @ Cornerstone Presbyterian Church)



NEWS FROM KAZAKSTAN

BY AIDAR

So, this is our plan for the ministry:

- I took back my pastoral responsibility for Shanyrock church. Officially I'm a pastor of the church since November 1st.

As a pastor I will also be responsible for the development for our church leaders. By plan, first meeting of the leaders will be held on November 14. It will be strategic planning for next eight months.

- Aliya and I want to focus on

discipleship. We have people to work with.

- I plan to finish Grace School of Theology seminary (MABS). I have only one course left. God willing by the end of this December, I will graduate my seminary study.
- We also are working on our Education Center project. We want to develop and use this Center as a platform for evangelism, first to build real and meaningful relationships with customers and second for those relationships to



lead to disciple making.

It's an avenue to meet people and share the love of Christ with them. Also, we want to enter the business sphere and have an access to business people, who serve in the same field, and build real and meaningful relationships with them. Aliya will be fully responsible for this project, and I will be helping her.

... this is our plan till next summer. Due to COVID our plan might have some changes.

EXCERPTS FROM THE REPORT TO THE 2020 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Submitted by Rufus Smith, Tom Werner, and Dean Weaver

The following are excerpts from the report presented to the 2020 General Assembly:

The 38th General Assembly (2018) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church authorized the Moderator to appoint the Revelation 7:9 Task Force to explore ways that the EPC could embody more of the Kingdom of God as it has been finally and fully revealed in the scriptures. With eyes of faith... *"After I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language before the throne and before the Lamb."* (Revelation 7:9)

After months of "listening" inside the EPC, our team began to compile the data and did some preliminary and summary findings. After considerable theological study and discussion, our Interim Report was written to provide both what we have learned and the theological foundations for a Revelation 7:9 Church. **The final detailed report is available at www.epc.org/files/ga2019document-revelation79taskforceinterimreport.**

This spring, the Task Force began listening to Christian leaders and organizations outside of the EPC. Each member of the Task Force has recruited and enlisted other Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders from

the EPC to join their "listening teams" as we begin to sit at the feet of those who helped their churches and organizations to become representative of the Kingdom's grand revelation mosaic.

The best practices discerned in these "outside the EPC" listening conversations will be the focus of the Task Force's next season of work. Finally, it is our hope to present to the 40th General Assembly (2020) not only our finding after two years of work and study, but also concrete recommendations for how the EPC as a denomination and our congregations individually can better live into the great missional work of the Kingdom as realized in Revelation 7:9.



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LIGHT OF THE WORLD (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

Christians shine. It is important to understand that a Christian doesn't *choose* to shine the light of God for the world. He *is* the light of God for the world. These fundamental changes in him make that so. But the Christian can choose to hide that light and too often he does. What tempts us to hide this light? Often it is fear, whether of people's scorn, failure, or death itself.

Never in my lifetime have I seen such an onslaught of fear-inducing narratives being weaved by the influencers of this world. You can't turn on the news without being bombarded with news of the pandemic, and you can't turn to social media without feeling the pressure to conform to the prevailing views.

What is the answer? For one, it is to understand the nature of fear. In his book, *The Cry of the Soul*, Dan Allendar explains,

fear is basic to human existence. But the counsel of Scripture indicates that resolving our fear requires us to struggle with our deepest allegiance: It all boils down not to whether we fear, but what and whom we fear. (p. 72)

So, what *should* we fear? The wisdom literature of the Old Testament repeats, "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*" Even Jesus explains,

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy

both soul and body in hell.
(*Matthew 10:28*)

We are reminded time again that it is the one who fears the Lord that is guided and protected by the Lord. God's covenant is revealed to him and God's love embraces him. It is when we fear the Lord, that the fear of the things in the world are driven away. It is a healthy fear of the Lord that sits at the heart of the command to "be strong and courageous" that we find so often in the Bible.

*fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* (*Isaiah 41:10*)

Paul summarizes this so powerfully at the end of Romans 8.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ *As it is written,*

*"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ³⁸ *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,* ³⁹ *nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (*Romans 8:35-39*)

So, we must remember these things.

How do we do that? Time in prayer and the Word is paramount, and the worship of God is central. The corporate worship of God is the corporate bowing before the one we fear the most. It's as though we come to the mountain of God where we become aware of God as a consuming fire, of his very real presence.

The Psalmist shows this to be the key to his turnaround in the midst of his struggle with the world's perspective of life. "*when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.*" (*Psalm 73:16-17*)

Today, it is in the preaching of the Word and the participation in the sacraments that we experience this real presence. I find it interesting that all across the world, this is the very thing under attack, whether by the authorities or by the public sentiment in view of the pandemic. It's a classic strategy of war, "divide and conquer."

So, practically speaking, let us press on to meet together for worship, to come to the Lord's table, and to practice our faith in the world, even as it runs counter to the pervasive themes and common sense of the world's thinking. As we do so, the light that God has made us to be will shine brightly in an increasingly dark world.



Christmas at Cornerstone

(Continued from page 1)

**Thursday, December 10:
Ladies' Christmas Cookie Swap
at 7:00 PM**

Ladies, we will have our annual Christmas Cookie Swap on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 PM. Due to Covid-19 the Cookie Swap will be outdoors on the church patio.

Please bring your cookies individually packaged.

If you bring goodies to be eaten at the event, we ask that you individually package those as well. There will also be a fun \$5 gift exchange game. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped \$5 gift without your name on it. See our Facebook event invitation to

RSVP or ask questions. You can also contact Evelyn or Doniece if you need more details. Please come and bring a friend for this sweet time of fun and fellowship.

**Saturday, December 12:
Men's TWC 6:00 PM**

Scheduled for Saturday, December 12 at 6:00 PM at Tom Lott's home (5334 Harris Woods Trace, Fulshear). TWCs are events for men who attend Cornerstone (and their friends) to enjoy time together discussing theology. Bring your favorite beverage and munchies if you are able. Contact Tom for more information.

**Sunday, December 13: Youth
Christmas Party at 6:30 PM**

Junior & Senior high kids will gather at the Sanger home (2419 Fallen Branch Drive) from 6:30-9:00 PM. There will be games, food and a dessert competition. Contact Jonathan Shumate for more information.

**Thursday, December 24:
Christmas Eve Service at
6:00 PM & Open House**

Come celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. Enjoy an evening of music and sharing the Christmas story from scripture. Childcare for infants only. Following the service, join us for an Open House on the Patio.



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**On the Web @
www.cornerstonekaty.org**

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