



FRONTLINES

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

SAVED BY GRACE

BY CARTER SANGER

The Reformers of the 16th Century championed the doctrine of salvation by grace. It is an important and practical doctrine. It is important because there is no salvation without it. It is practical because a diverse, civil society dies without it.

Powerful Grace

The gospel is a message of grace and is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. To really appreciate that power you have to look at where we start and where we end. From a legal perspective, we start

guilty before the law. The Bible teaches that the penalty of sin is death. Unless you get that, grace will never seem like much.

Why death and not some less severe judgment? Real justice requires the penalty to fit the crime. If we deserve the death penalty, then we must be guilty of some horrendous crime. Most people don't think of themselves as having any crime on their record that severe. A little lie here, a little lie there isn't such a big deal, right? It certainly doesn't warrant the death penalty. So what is it that

makes us so guilty? It's simple, really. We were made in the image of God who is holy. When we aren't holy, we fail at the very core of our created purpose. We've marred God himself. There is no greater crime than that!

Another way of looking at it is from a spiritual ability perspective. Paul describes us as "dead in our trespasses and sins." Jesus teaches that we must be born again, something that is entirely dependent on other people. When Jesus raises Lazarus

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Holiday schedule: *The church office will be closed on Monday, July 4, in honor of Independence Day.*

The following EPC Vision statement was frequently referred to at the General Assembly:

"To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus' love as a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through

- transformation [revitalization],
- multiplication, and
- effective biblical leadership."

36TH EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS AT WARD

BY GENE COVER

Linda and I had the privilege of attending the 36th EPC General Assembly in Livonia, Michigan at historic Ward Church. Ward Church has been a particular church for sixty years, whose pastor in 1981 when the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was formed was Bartlett Hess, one of the six founding pastors of EPC. In

many ways, Ward is considered the mother church of the EPC. With over 1,200 commissioners and guests from across the US in attendance, we were served quite well by 460 volunteers from Ward.

The theme of this year's conference was **Renewed: I am making all things new** (Revelation 21:5). The transformation and renova-

tion of Detroit was used as an example, but God's work extends around the world.

Despite the serious issues facing our church today, the assembly was remarkably free from dissent and argument. The only potentially contentious issue was the new Preliminary Position Paper on Human Sexuality,

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY: WORK AND WORSHIP

(Continued from page 1) and even this issue did not generate an argument - an indicator to me of the unity that the Holy Spirit brings to our deliberations. The new paper softens the tone on our response to those who do not accept the Biblical view of sexuality and marriage, while at the same time stating firmly



The Covers were happy to connect with Rob and Kimmy Hock at General Assembly. Rob and Kimmy were part of Cornerstone in the mid-90's, and the church helped him attend seminary. Rob is now lead pastor at Southport EPC in Indianapolis.

that the Bible is quite clear on these subjects. You will find this new preliminary position paper attached to this newsletter. The older position paper on the Sanctity of Marriage, adopted in 2004, covers some aspects of marriage that are not included in the new paper, so you may want to download the older paper before it is removed from the EPC website.

Older position papers are available upon request from the GA office. The preliminary paper will now go to the presbyteries for their approval and (assuming that a majority approves it) will have a final ratifying vote at next year's General Assembly.

In other business before the assembly, ten new missionaries were commissioned in what is a moving ceremony. Part of their vows includes the statement that they accept the

hardship and potential martyrdom that their service may bring. This brings home once again that our greatest work in support of missionaries who are laboring in the hard and dangerous places of the world is to pray for them.

We are a small denomination: 592 churches compared to 200 churches five years ago, with 171,000 members, but we are having an impact on the world that is out of proportion to our size. We have 69 missionary teams around the world, 24 church plants (up from seven five years ago), and have added 27 new churches (four in Gulf South Presbytery) last year. We are still a denomination of small churches: 70% of our churches have less than 200 in attendance in Worship, and 50% have less than 100.

Highlights for Linda and me at GA are the worship services, all six of them. The real high point was the service on Friday evening when Keith and Kristyn Getty ("In Christ Alone," etc.) led our singing. The message on "Stir Up the Flame" was brought by Leighton Ford, Billy Graham's brother-in-law. The band led a jam session in the hallway after worship. What a glorious evening! Scott McKee, our host pastor, gave a stirring message on "Milestone Reflections". Ask me about his comment on the effects of gravity. Harvey Carey, an inner city Detroit pastor, gave a rousing sermon on "A Re-

newed Renewal." Past Moderator Mike Moses spoke to us about "How You Doin'?", which dealt with the stress that pastors are under, their physical, spiritual, and emotional life, and our care for them. We have ordered copies on CD's of some of the sermons and will be glad to loan them out.

In one of the talks about our Engage 2025 efforts to reach Muslims, we were surprised to learn that more Muslims have left that faith since year 2000 than have ever left in the last 1,400 years: 69 "movements" so far in the 21st century compared to 16 since the year 700. A "movement" is counted as 1,000 baptisms or 100 new churches formed over a twenty-year period. It is felt that Muslims are increasingly becoming disillusioned with the promise they thought their faith held and are seeing the hypocrisy and evilness of that faith and are saying, "Enough". Our support of missionaries in Lebanon is well placed.

We received greetings from two large Presbyterian denominations in Brazil and Mexico and have opened channels for cooperation with these denominations.

As usual, we came back from GA refreshed and energized. It was definitely worth the trip. Next year's GA will be in Sacramento, California.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE EPC'S GROWTH:

2007

182 churches
8 presbyteries
66,300 members

2016

592 churches
13 presbyteries
171,000+ members

JULY 4 COOKOUT AND POOL PARTY PLANNED



Everyone is invited to gather for fellowship and fun at Jim and Becky Yuvancic's on Monday, July 4, at 4:00 -8:00 p.m. Plan to kick back and enjoy some time in the country with your church family. Their pool will be inviting on a hot day, too.

Please bring food and beverages for your family (and maybe to share). Grills will be available and condiments will be provided.

Also, please bring your own lawn chairs and swimming necessities.

Important: The Yuvancic's subdivision is a gated community; therefore, RSVPs are needed. If you plan to attend please contact Alisa Cotton.

Women's Central Perk will be Friday, July 15, at 7:00 p.m., in the Education Building. Come join your sisters for a relaxing evening!

MISSIONARIES TO VISIT IN JULY

We are delighted that two of the missionary couples which Cornerstone helps support will be visiting us in July.

Marlen and Aselia and their four daughters will be with us for worship on Sunday, July 10. They will share some of what they are doing through Campus during the service and will be available to visit with members following worship.

They will be staying with Kent and Evelyn Saugier over the weekend, so if you would like to have a time to meet with them personally, contact the Saugiers.

On Tuesday, July 19, **Nick and Amanda and their three little ones** will be in Katy. Our Extending Grace team will meet with them at John and Debi Barrett's home that evening to get an update on their new assignment. They will be working with Nour and Rebecca there.

Cornerstone members are also invited to join the EG team to hear from them then. Please let Debi Barrett know if you plan to attend.



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our communities, and our world
by bringing faith and life
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WHO, WHAT & HOW COMMUNICATIONS CHEAT SHEET

What	Contact	Submission Deadline	Subscription Required?
Print			
<i>Frontlines</i> Monthly Newsletter	Linda Cover	Last Tuesday of the month preceding publication	Yes
Worship Bulletin Weekly Inserts	Carol Kutzer	By noon Tuesday for the following Sunday	
Electronic			
Web site CornerstoneKaty.org	Carol Kutzer or Carter Sanger	As needed	
eNews weekly email	Carol Kutzer	By Thursday for sending out on Friday	Yes See website
<i>Frontlines</i> via email	Linda Cover		Yes
Prayer Chain via email	Linda Cover (email)	As needed	Yes
Facebook Page Cornerstone Katy	Carol Kutzer		Like Us
Announcement Slides	Carol Kutzer	Thursday prior to service	
Verbal			
Oral Announcements during Service	Carter Sanger	Friday prior to service	
Emergency Phone Chain	Carter Sanger, Carol Kutzer, or Gene Cover	As needed	
Other			
Request for formal action by Session	Clerk of Session: Gene Cover or appropriate Session member	Third Monday monthly	
Request for formal action by Deacons	Deacons' Clerk:	As needed	
Calendar Events	Carol Kutzer	As needed	
Requests for Building or Facilities Use	Carol Kutzer	Two weeks prior to event.	
Budget or reimbursement requests	Jonathan Tucker:	As needed	
Childcare requests for church events	Carol Kutzer	Two weeks before the event	

DON'T MISS MEN'S NIGHT OUT

Gentlemen, bring a friend and enjoy some fellowship at Chuy's Mexican Restaurant this summer.

And mark your calendars for Thursday, August 11, as well. Contact Carl Peterson for more information.

Chuy's is located at 21300 Katy Freeway (I-10). The next event is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, at 6:30 p.m.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTED

A Congregational Meeting was held following worship on Sunday, June 5, to elect two members from the congregation-at-large to an Officer Nominating Committee.

Don Russell and Jonathan Tucker. The committee will consider candidates for Elder and Deacon and present a slate to be elected at a future Congregational Meeting.

time, please make your suggestions for officers to any one of these committee members. **Anyone who has been a member of Cornerstone for one year is eligible to be nominated.**



Please give your suggestions for officers to any member of the Nominating Committee.

Debi Barrett and Becky Yuvancic were elected. They will join Session representatives

Since nominees are not accepted from the floor at that

GRACE: FOUR P'S

(Continued from page 1)
from the dead he demonstrates what salvation looks like. It is the calling of a dead person to life. That's how powerful grace is.

Pervasive Grace
It is also pervasive. Grace doesn't stop with a new spiritual birth or in our adoption to be members of God's family. It carries us through life, molding us more and more into the image of God that we see in Jesus. Theologians call this sanctification and this grace never sleeps.

Prevailing Grace
And it is prevailing. In the end, grace wins the day. God will carry onto completion what he began in all who be-

lieve. Jesus explains that he will not lose any that God has given to him. While we may face setbacks in spiritual growth and even a falling away into sinful patterns for a time, — God's grace will prevail in the end, bringing us back to God. This gives us an anchor of assurance that so powerfully keeps in check the narrative the devil whispers in our ears that we are unworthy and forgotten.

Practical Grace
And it is extremely practical. It shapes our character in powerful ways. Grace leaves no room for racism, arrogance or pride. Christians who look down on others have forgotten (or never knew) the grace that

saves. It also leaves no room to judge any not yet touched by grace. While the church should preach and teach against specific sin, that teaching is for believers in their sanctification. Paul calls us not to judge those outside the church (1 Corinthians 5:11-13). The gospel wins and woos people *while* they are sinners (Romans 5:8), not after they've straightened themselves up. If that were not the case, then salvation would not be by grace. This grace calls us to extend grace to people in need, regardless of their particular worldview, politics, gender, race, sexual practices, etc.

"[GRACE] IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THERE IS NO SALVATION WITHOUT IT."

GREETINGS FROM THE JORGENSEN FAMILY

Dear Cornerstone Family:

It's been a whirlwind 4 months since, due to circumstances at work, we prayerfully made the decision to relocate back to PA. It's been grueling but I can see God was at work in many of the decisions and actions that took place.

We will miss you all, and a part of our hearts will always remain in Katy, TX. Corner-

stone is where our children were baptized, where they professed their faith in Christ and where we were privileged to serve in ministry together as a family.

We shared joys and sorrows with our Cornerstone family, much like a physical family, and God grew us every step of the way.

We continue to pray for God's hand on Cornerstone. That He will use you all as a beacon to the community and beyond, for His Glory.

God bless you all, please keep in touch, and if any of y'all are up in PA, our home is always open.

Farewell, for now.
In Him,
The Jorgensen Family.



We sadly said good-bye to the Jorgensens last month and pray for God to bless them in their new home.

ANTICIPATING THE LONG HELLO

The following is from Leigh McLeroy's email post, "Wednesday Words", on June 1. It seemed appropriate just now.

I'm no good at goodbyes. Never have been. When most kids rejoiced at the last day of school I silently grieved. I knew I would miss my teachers, and that there were likely some students I would not see again when roll was called in the fall. (I learned quickly as a child that most moves take place in summer, as did our own.)

Now, as a grown-up daughter, sister, aunt and friend, and a member of a small but strong community of faith [Leigh is a member of City of Refuge EPC in Houston], I've found that I dread those good-byes even more. I do not want the circle of people I love broken. I just don't. I long for us to remain connected to one another. I long to keep seeing the faces and hearing the voices of those

whose hearts are knit to mine. Every goodbye first stings like a cut and then aches like a bruise, and I am getting less and less graceful at receiving them....

As delighted as I was a few days ago to hear my sweet great-niece say her first discernible one-syllable words ("uh-oh"), my heart broke a little to also hear her chirp "bye-bye" to me, wrapped in her mother's arms on their front porch as I walked down the driveway. She reminded me that we learn early to say those words. We have to. And even with lots of practice they don't get any easier. Every time I left the home of my mother's oldest sister as a child, I left crying--and looking out the back window of the car until I could not see her face, her house, her street, her town. Only when I could no longer glimpse the top of the water tower would I turn around, wet-faced and resigned, and look toward home.

But praise be to God there are at least two unexpected gifts in our unwanted, life-long gathering up of goodbyes. First, each painful goodbye is a sign that we have loved--and this is no small thing. Then they are--for those of us who believe in the resurrection--a mournful prelude to a joyful day when parting will be no more. "Heaven," one writer has said, "is a long hello." Imagine it! Long hellos, hundreds, thousands of them, rolled into one eternal greeting: laughter and embracing and no hint of dread of the moment of goodbye. We won't need that skill, those words, ever again. Jesus made sure of it. In Him we will know only Hello, forever.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

(Revelation 21:4, NLT)

"...EACH PAINFUL GOODBYE IS A SIGN THAT WE HAVE LOVED--AND THIS IS NO SMALL THING."

LET'S CONTINUE TO SERVE THE ARC OF KATY THIS SUMMER

BY CAROL KUTZER

There are several ways you can help us be a blessing to the Arc campers while they are on campus this summer. If you would like to donate supplies (food, crafts, etc) please visit this website: www.volunteersignup.org/D7AA3. or you may donate money by dropping a check made out to Cornerstone EPC (memo: Arc of Katy) in the offering plate.

We will need volunteers on the following dates. Contact Linda Cover, Kim Elgie, May Gourlay, Carol Kutzer, Beverly Tucker or Lee Williams if you are interested.

Serve Lunch/Crafts/ Sports – Wednesdays, July 6 and August 3 - The first Wednesday of each of Arc's summer sessions will be "Cornerstone Day @ the Arc". We will start the day with Community Crafts at

10 a.m. This will be followed by Sports/Recreation time lead by May Gourlay and the youth kids. Then Linda Cover and her lunch team will serve the campers and volunteers lunch!

Easter in August – Monday, August 8 - Join us as we lead the Arc campers in an Easter Egg hunt and then help them create their own sets of Resurrection Eggs.

ARC Sunday – Sunday, August 7 - We will invite all the Arc campers and their families to join us for worship. Following the service there will be a **2:42 Lunch** where we will have the opportunity to meet and greet the Arc families and fellowship with them over a good meal. Everyone should wear Arc blue!

Open House – Thursday, August 11 - Each year, the Arc hosts an Open House to

show off what the campers learned throughout the summer. Everyone is invited. Cornerstone volunteers will coordinate and serve a reception following the Open House. Beverly Tucker is the coordinator for this event. Let her know if you have a special treat you would like to provide.



We are collecting empty egg cartons for the "Easter in August" project. If you have any, please drop them off in the church office.

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Do you ever wonder how those announcements get into the Sunday bulletin or on the church website? Have a prayer request, or want to ask the Session to deal with an issue that is troubling you?

Carol Kutzer has put together a chart showing who the contact person is for many of our Cornerstone activities and when they need information from you. Please look it over and maybe cut it out to keep as a handy reference. It is on the next page.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is...**
The winner of June's Gum Ball Game is Eliana! Her guess of 89 came the closest to the actual number of candies in the jar (without going over). The jar contained 91 gum balls. Congratulations, Miss Eliana! She will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon and all the gum balls from the jar. Be sure to submit your guess for July's Lifesaver's

Game...and be sure to write clearly and include your FULL name. To encourage our kids to read the *Frontlines* newsletter, winners must ask Mrs. Kutzer for their prize.

☺ **Nursery and toddler room phone lines** will be phased out beginning in July. However, we do still need for you to leave us your cell phone numbers when you drop off your children.



Welcome to the Lacy family! We are happy that Brian and Priscila Lacy, and their sons Marko and Octavio, have joined and are now officially part of our Cornerstone family.