



FRONTLINES

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2017

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

INVESTING YOUR EFFORTS WISELY

BY CARTER SANGER

“With great power comes great responsibility.” — Uncle Ben (from Spider Man)

Martin Luther wasn’t Spider Man, but he would have readily resonated with this philosophy. In the providence of God his influence skyrocketed in Germany, in the Holy Roman Empire, and as far away as England in his own day.

With the advent of the printing press, his name and

face became well known throughout the land so much so that on his fretful journey to Worms in 1521 to face the Emperor and Roman Catholic electors to give an account of his books, he was recognized in every town. Without any desire and with much surprise, Luther found himself the people’s hero and thus felt a weight of responsibility to do something with the influence he had been given.

It reminds me of the parable of the talents [units of mon-

ey]. To three servants talents were given to be invested. When the master returned he asked what they had done. Two invested the talents and doubled what they had been given. The other buried his in the sand so that he didn’t lose it.

The two who had invested their talents were rewarded and given more to manage. The one who had buried his talent had it taken away and was thrown into the outer darkness. The point is clear, God gives us privilege, power, influence, gifts that we might invest them in His kingdom. After all, they belong to him.

It also reminds me of the story Jesus tells of the rich man and Lazarus, who have both passed from this life. The rich man is in hell, and Lazarus is at Abraham’s bosom. When the rich man asks Abraham for relief, Abraham replies, “Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.” (Luke 16:25) There is an implicit

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Remember to “fall back” and get some extra sleep when Daylight Saving ends on November 5.
- Please note that there will be no Sunday School on November 26.
- Thursday evening Ladies’ Bible Study will end this semester on October 27, and the morning group will end on November 30 with a craft day.
- God is good. Let us give thanks for his provision.

HERE’S HOW HAVEN IS DOING:

LAUNCH TEAM MEMBERS

18

goal of 25 members by January

FUNDRAISING

70%

of the total 2018 budget

HAVEN

October 2017 Update

For questions on how to get involved or how to become a prayer partner contact Nathan Cotton (832)309-6487

61

goal of 100 partners by January

PRAYER PARTNERS

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY GENE COVER



Harvey relief funds from the EPC and other churches will help some of our members and their neighbors.

The November meeting of the Session and Deacons has been postponed until Tuesday, December 5.

- The Elders and Deacons started a new study this month of Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger's book *Simple Church*. The author notes that several corporations have succeeded when they went to a simpler approach to their products, e.g., Apple's one button, Google's simple look, Southwest Airlines no-frills, no hubs, and Papa John's simple menu.

Jesus boiled the 613 commandments in the Pentateuch down to just two commandments. One leader boiled church down to a simple discipleship process.

These "Aha! I get it!" moments are scary because they lead to change. Simple doesn't mean easy,

however. In the coming months, we'll be studying four key words: Clarity, Movement, Alignment, and Focus. One emphasis in our WELL teams will be to keep the main thing, the main thing.

- Nathan Cotton gave us an update on their church planting progress. They are now 70% funded for the first year. As we heard during Nathan's sermon on October 15, his church will be named Haven and will have its first worship service on Palm Sunday, 2018. Besides monetary support, Cornerstone will give the unused sound equipment in the gym to his church.
- We are moving forward with new signs around our campus. The one on Mason Road will be a sign with brick posts, and there will be two matching signs at the entrances to the parking lot. There will also be lettering on the south side of the sanctuary. Most of the cost is covered by the insurance settlement for the sign that was destroyed by the car accident.
- Session approved Extending Grace's plans for next year's activities: a mission conference, a mission project, a prayer meeting for our missions, and Missions Moments during worship.
- Session also agreed on additional distribution of Hurricane Harvey relief funds that have been received from EPC's General Assembly. About \$75,000 have been distributed so far.

INVITE INTERNATIONALS INTO YOUR HOME FOR THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to welcome internationals into our homes. In the past several years, generous community volunteers have opened up their homes and invited students to see how Americans celebrate Thanksgiving. There is a long list of students who have indicated interest in experiencing a traditional Thanksgiving gathering.

Bridges needs your help to welcome them in our homes for the holiday. Students love the

opportunity to see the foods we cook and to be in a family setting. It is also a wonderful opportunity to build friendship and witness of Christ's love.

Would you and your family be willing to have students join you on Thanksgiving? It could be on Thanksgiving Day or another time if that works better for you.

For more information, or to sign up, contact Daka Dyussekov.

CORNERSTONE'S FEEDING B4 FEASTING 2017

BY CAROL KUTZER

This is Cornerstone's Eleventh year to host our Feeding B4 Feasting event. The purpose of Feeding B4 Feasting is to provide Thanksgiving meals for the hungry before we enjoy our own feasts.

We will accept donations starting October 15 through November 12. Our goal is to put together 16 boxed Thanksgiving meals.

Please consider helping in the following ways:

- Sign up to bring menu items by visiting: www.signupgenius.com/go/10COC48AAAD2FAAFDO-feeding1 or follow the link on the Cornerstone website.

- You may leave your donations in the red barrel in the church office.
- In lieu of providing food (particularly perishables like turkeys, pies, breads, etc.) consider donating a gift card from HEB.
- Write a letter to the family who will receive the meal.
- Include a favorite recipe with all the ingredients with a special note as to why it's a family tradition.
- Pray for the families receiving the meals.

On Halloween, we are asking families who trick-or-treat to make Feeding B4 Feasting part of the fun. We will have fliers for them to hand out to the houses

they visit asking for food donations. If you would like some fliers feel free to grab some from the church office.

The CSCK families will spend the morning of Sunday, November 12, decorating boxes and writing letters and prayers to the KCM customers.

This year our Feeding B4 Feasting ministry is supporting



P.O. Box 986
Katy, TX 77492-0986
(281) 391-5261



“THE PURPOSE OF FEEDING B4 FEASTING IS TO PROVIDE THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY...”

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is...**

The winner of October's Candy Corn Game is Miss Tasanee. Her guess of 450 pieces of candy was the closest to the count of 522 without going over. Congratulations, Tasanee! She will receive a Chick-fil-A coupon and all the candy corn and candy pumpkins from the jar.

Be sure to submit your guess for November'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:**

On Friday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m. parents may drop off their children in their PJs at Cornerstone and then spend a few hours Christmas shopping, wrapping gifts, attending the Christmas Ceili or enjoying some quiet time.

Please send a dinner with them. We will feed them, do a craft or two, and munch on popcorn while we watch a movie. Children should be picked up at or before 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 for the first child; \$5 each additional

child. Please contact the church office at (281) 579-1080 or email info@CornerstoneKaty.org by December 7 to register your kiddos.

☺ **Get to know our Childcare Workers:**

- Question of the month – What is your favorite color?
- Ms. Ann – lavender
 - Ms. Kinsey – blue & green
 - Ms. April – purple
 - Ms. Carol – red



NEW WEBSITE FOR BOB ROANE



Visit Bob Roane's website and subscribe to get updates.

Bob Roane is a great teacher, and he is now sharing some of his resources. You can subscribe to his blog and get devotionals, resources, and ministry updates. The following is from his recent email:

Dear Friends,
At the request of many, I have re-started our Words of Hope website: WOHBM.ORG. Please check it out at your convenience.

It now includes several blogs (1-2 page short articles).

It will soon include class notes, audio messages, and more.

Once again, I'm grateful for your prayers, fellowship, and support.

Your brother in Christ,
Bob

NEWS FROM QUEST CHURCH IN NEW BRAUNFELS

The following are excerpts from Brett Becker's recent email:

Hello Friends,
We serve an awesome God! I praise Him for all the good things He keeps doing in the life of this fledgling church!

Average Now in 60's

He keeps sending us new people, and we have returned to our earlier pattern of getting a higher return rate than the national average. We've also had some families that I thought we had lost who have come back. . . . This past Sunday we had 69 and, as always, there were plenty of regulars who weren't there.

I recently started praying for our people to do more inviting of their networks and that has really picked up. I praise God for answered prayers!

Reformation 500 - Five Solas

We only have one family from a Presbyterian/Reformed background, but I have been laying the foundations for a Reformed view of Scripture from day one whenever I see an opportunity in the passage I'm preaching and in things such as the *Gospel*

DNA discipleship program I am taking people through.

For the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this month I have been preaching on the Five Solas and am really pushing hard on Reformed distinctives, especially God's initiative and sovereignty in salvation. In previous pastorates, this type of thing has sent at least a few people packing in a major huff and creating as much conflict and division as they possibly can as they leave, but that hasn't happened yet - so once again I praise God!

Free Membership to Chamber of Commerce

When I signed up for one four-hour shift per month at the New Braunfels Visitor's Center I had no idea that a free membership to the Chamber of Commerce was one of the perks. The Chamber's monthly mixers draw hundreds of people and there are tons of other opportunities to meet people. I've wanted to be a part of this from the start, but it costs hundreds of dollars annually and I just couldn't justify that large of an expense when

we're squeezing every dollar as tightly as we can, so this is a huge blessing

Fall Festival

We are doing a big community outreach Fall Festival this coming Saturday [October 28]. Please pray that we make great connections with lots of new people this Saturday and see them again on Sundays!

Support still needed

As churches are preparing their budgets for 2018 at this time of year, it's fundraising season for me as a church planter. I'll be contacting as many of our churches as I can, because we are an experimental model of being a church plant of not just one mother church but of the entire former Central South Presbytery. . . . If I can raise an additional \$3,000 per month we can continue at full speed toward particularizing.

If I can pray for you or your church or be of service in any way, please let me know.

Thank You and God Bless You,
Brett



Brett and Corine Becker and their two children

INVESTING WISELY: PLEASING OURSELVES OR HELPING OTHERS?

(Continued from page 1)

rebuke for a selfish use of his privilege.

Isaiah is perhaps the hardest of all when he describes the evidence of Israel's guilt.

The Lord will enter into judgment with the elders and princes of his people: "It is you who have devoured the vineyard, the spoil of the poor is in your houses. What do you mean by crushing my people, by grinding the face of the poor?" (Isaiah 3:14-15) ... Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room... (Isaiah 5:8)

Passages such as these expose our guilt as they expose our selfish nature with the money, the privilege, the influence, etc. that we have. Of course, it isn't just our guilt but our pursuit of idols that will, in the end, leave us wanting. We will find, like the rich man, that they cannot quench our thirst; they cannot relieve our anguish.

What does it take to let go of pursuing such things for ourselves? What does it take to invest in the Kingdom, which risks our security and dreams for ease and luxury? It takes a strong faith in the gospel.

That it really is good news.

That being a child of God means I am secure and I have access to living water that will forever quench my desires. Only this will enable us to let go of worldly pursuits and invest our influence and wealth in Kingdom work.

For who knows that God has provided for you as he has for such a time as this?

For His Kingdom,
Carter



LEADERSHIP GROUP BEGINS

**Sundays 5:30-7:30 pm,
October 22 – December 17**

Be part of a new small group designed for spiritual leadership development. We'll work on spiritual disciplines, learn to embrace the ordinary means of grace, develop our theology, and consider what it means, practically, to live out our gospel calling as leaders in the places God has called us.

The group is open to everyone, especially future officers and ministry leaders, and meets on the patio.



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

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