

# FRONTLINES

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

## BUILD YOUR HOUSE ON THE ROCK

BY CARTER SANGER

Shifts in society are like waves. Eventually, they affect everyone and if you're not anchored to something stronger than the wave, you will be swept up in it. This has always been the case, of course. At times, the gospel has been that wave. It swept through the Roman world impacting everyone in its wake, either by conversion to the faith or by shaping their view of the world. At times in history, however, the gospel wave has grown small others have overtaken it.

If you watch a wakeboarder behind a boat, you notice how the wake of the boat has an impact on him. If he's good, the wave is his friend. He rides its, jumps

it, and even uses it for protection from other waves. But sometimes the boat hits a wave much bigger than its wake and suddenly the boat's wake gets swallowed up and the wakeboarder gets swept over.

As I look around at our world today, it seems that a tidal wave is sweeping through society, a tidal wave that is bringing with it a moral revolution. Theo Hobson, a British theologian and liberal thinker, defines a "moral revolution" like this:

"That which was repudiated must be celebrated. That which was celebrated must be repudiated. And those who will not celebrate must themselves be repudiated."

We see this happening as Biblical morality gets replaced with cultural morality. Justice has given way to social justice, and a two-gender complementary sexuality has given way to a fluid sexual identity and orientation.

While it might be disturbing to see this happening in the world, it is devastating to see it happening in the church. Even young people raised in classical Christian schools are questioning Biblical morality on issues of gender and social justice.

How did this happen? How did we reach a place where cultural morality became more authoritative than Biblical morality? How did

*(Continued on page 5)*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Daylight Saving begins on Sunday, March 14.
- The lunch celebrating the Shumates has been tentatively rescheduled for April 18.
- Palm Sunday is March 28. We will celebrate Maundy Thursday here at Cornerstone on Thursday, April 1. Easter Sunday will be April 4.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS	2
FINANCIAL REPORT	2
VBS PLANNING UNDERWAY	3
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS	3
UPDATE FROM DAKA	4
CALENDAR	7
GO LIVE SET TO LAUNCH	8

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING APPROVES BUDGET FOR 2021 AND INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

A congregational meeting was held following worship on Sunday, February 14.

A copy of the budget for 2021 was sent to each member, and there was a

time for questions about it to be answered. If you did not get a copy and would like one, there are extras available. The budget was approved.

In addition, two new officers were installed. They are Tom Lott as Elder and Jeremy Smith as Deacon.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

BY TOM LOTT

- At the meeting, Carter gave a devotional about the current cultural climate. Over the last twenty years, it seems there has been a reversal in our society: What was once considered good, is now thought to be not good, or even evil. That which was once repudiated, is now encouraged. This has been an issue for the last few years, certainly, in regard to traditional marriage,

homosexuality, and so forth. This type of thinking has worked its way into institutions, particularly higher education.

Today, the Christian sector is particularly vilified. It makes us ask the question, how does this type of thinking creep in? It creeps in when the house is built on the sand, and not on the Rock, who is Jesus Christ.

We agree that it's important to treat everyone with dignity and respect, but only because we are all created in the image of the Sovereign God. Psalm 1 is particularly concerned with this: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates

*(Continued on page 4)*

"The Session is considering acquiring a UV system to filter the air in the Education Building, and possibly the sanctuary."



New Elder Jim Kolesar and Deacon Todd Elgie were installed during worship on Sunday, January 31.

## THANK YOU FROM KATHLEEN

*I hardly have words to express how thankful I am for the women of our church and how you loved me and our family at the baby shower. I asked God to shine the light of his countenance upon me, and He did, through you all.*

*May Gourlay organized a time of tasty treats and fellowship of surpassing worth, and your prayers brought me to tears. I say it all the time, because it's true, that our church is a priceless gem, rare in the world. We love you."*

*peace and grace,*

**Kathleen**

**CrossLife.org**

## VBS IS COMING DOWN THE TRACK!

BY CAROL KUTZER

The planning team met for the first time and excitement is high for this summer's VBS. Want to be part of the action? Contact Carol at [info@CornerstoneKaty.org](mailto:info@CornerstoneKaty.org) or 281-579-1080.

Or you can visit: <https://signup.com/go/GCzZqnE> (or use the QR code below) and select VBS 2021. This list will be updated frequently so

check back often. The tentative date for VBS is Monday – Thursday, June 14 – 17. Students will start each day at 8:45 a.m. and finish around 12:00.

In the coming months we will have more information available so stay tuned. Until then, will you join us in this prayer this month?

“Lord, thank you for this VBS opportunity. Let this event be an opportunity to

for us pour into the lives of kids in our community. Holy Spirit, please speak to the hearts of each child, leader, volunteer, parent, and caretaker.

“Let us glorify Jesus in all that we do. We pray this ministry strengthens relationships, changes hearts, and brings kids, families, and volunteers closer to You. We pray in Jesus' name. Thank you, Lord.”



Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY CAROL KUTZER

☺ **And the winner is:**  
The winner of February's Candy Hearts Game is William Gourlay! His guess of 650 was the closest to the number of candies in the jar (869). Congratulations, Mr. William! He will receive all the candy in the jar.

Be sure to submit your guess for March's Miscellaneous 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.

☺ **Worship Training:**  
Don't forget, worship training has resumed.

☺ **Spring Break Schedule:** There will be no Sunday morning classes

on March 14 to allow for Spring Break travel. That is also the start of Daylight Saving Time, so be sure to set you clocks FORWARD 1 hour the night before.

☺ **VBS 2021:** Mark your calendars for Monday – Thursday, June 14 – 17. For more information see the article in this newsletter.

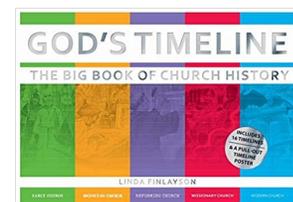
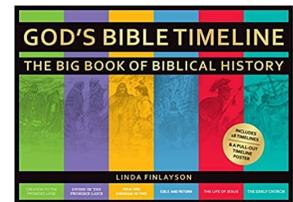
☺ **Kids can serve:** Are you interested in finding ways for your children to be more outwardly focused? Here are some great ways kids can serve the church family:

- o Clean white boards
- o Emptying the church's recycle bins
- o Greeting / hand out bulletins
- o Greet any children visiting Cornerstone
- o Sort and straighten puzzles & toys
- o Clean up sanctuary after service

o Pick up trash outside

☺ **New Resources:** I recently added two books to our collection of resources for our Children's Ministry. What excited me about these books is they help children understand the big picture of God's story and how we fit into it. They are written by Linda Finlayson who is married to Sandy Finlayson, librarian and professor at Westminster Theological Seminary.

God's Bible Timeline covers: Creation to the Promised Land; Living in the Promised Land; From One Kingdom to Two; Exile and Return; The Messiah; and the Early Church. God's Timeline covers: the Early Church; Medieval Church; Reforming Church; Missionary Church; and the Modern Church



Both books are chock full of illustrations, pictures and include pull-out timelines to help kids see the big picture.

These are available for our teachers and parents to borrow.



Bridges was able to put together Care Packages for about 100 students.

Prayer requests and praises:

- Praise God for about 1200 participants at the Vision conference from 86 different countries.
- Pray for Mo and others who are eager to learn and searching the Truth to find it soon.
- Pray for the students who have received our Care Packages, especially those who indicated that they are interested spiritually.
- Continue praying for Abdul as he goes back home, to grow in his faith and be connected to a community of faith.

## NEWS FROM DAKA

Dear friends,  
From January 1-3 international students from 86 countries watched (virtually) main sessions around topics like faith, science and mental health. In the end Vision Together included 1,200 participants: students, staff members, and volunteers.

Our annual Bridges Vision conference allows us to share the gospel in a culturally relevant way with non-believers and deepen the faith of the believing students. As for a Houston group we were able to gather physically on campus to watch the sessions and discuss it with each other. We had a group of about 12 students, both believers and seekers. My friend Mo, a Muslim PHD student from the ME expressed, "I've learned so much about the Bible and who Jesus is, it's

very interesting and hopefully to learn more."

As we are starting a new semester, we are still dealing with Covid reality and restrictions on campus. However, we have seen some new international students arriving from their home countries. We were able to host a Welcome party and we've had around 45 new students. On top of that by God's grace and His provision we were able to give away care packages to around 100 new international students. Care packages contained various snacks, detergent, masks, hand sanitizer, bridges water bottle, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush, wipes and etc. Our students were very grateful to receive these care packages and it allowed us to connect with them even more deeply.

Lastly, please continue praying for Abdul (name changed), unfortunately he needs to go back home to his country soon. His asylum case isn't moving forward, plus he feels that it will be better for him to go back. We are trying to connect him to some believers in his home country so he can have a community.

Once again, we praise God for your ongoing partnership in reaching the future leaders of the world with the hope of Christ. It is an honor to represent Jesus alongside you to many of the international students making their way during this difficult year in Houston and beyond.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS CONT'D

*(Continued from page 2)*

- day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."
- The Elders and Deacons broke into groups of three and four and prayed for each other.
- The Session is considering acquiring a UV system to

filter the air in the Education Building, and possibly the sanctuary. The concern is how effective it might be. Carter will be looking into this more closely over the coming days.

- The Lord blessed us with 94 people in worship this past Sunday. It is probable that more chairs will need to be added, and provisions made to add single

seats for those who come alone.

- Cornerstone will host VBS this summer, the week of June 14. We will also have a Maundy Thursday service the evening of Thursday, April 1.
- As always, the meeting concluded with Shepherding and Care Group concerns and prayer.

## BUILD ON THE ROCK: WHO DO YOU ALIGN YOURSELF WITH?

*(Continued from page 1)*

it become the measuring stick against which all others are measured? If we can't identify how it happened, we too are in danger of being swept up by it.

Jesus' parable on the wise and foolish builders comes to mind. One built his house on the rock and another built his house on the sand. When the rains came, the house built on the rock withstood it. The one on the sand did not. The rock in Jesus' parable was His Word. To obey the words of Jesus is equivocated to building your house on the rock.

Psalm 1 sheds some light on how we get to the point of building on the sand.

*1 Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the  
counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of  
sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoff-  
ers;*

*<sup>2</sup>but his delight is in the law  
of the LORD,  
and on his law he medi-  
tates day and night.*

*(Psalm 1:1-2)*

It's a slow drift which begins by walking in the counsel of the wicked, or put another way, to walk in light of the world's counselors. We hear them in the news, in social media, in our entertainment, in our classrooms. When these voices become more favorable or prevalent than the preached Word of God

then you're walking in light of the world's counsel.

There is a subtle shift in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase from walking to standing which carries with it the idea of taking a stand. "This is who I stand with; this is who I associate with." That could be something as extreme as a radical group or even a political party, or it could simply be the group that embraces the "common sense" wisdom of the day.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> stanza is the most disturbing. It talks about not just taking a stand with a group, but joining in the scoffing of those who don't. It fits with our working definition of a moral revolution. Eventually, it isn't enough to celebrate what you once repudiated and repudiate what you once celebrated. You have to get to the point where you repudiate all who don't come along with it.

The point of the Psalm, however, is not the one who walks in the counsel of the wicked, or stands in the way of sinners, or sits in the seat of scoffers, but the one who instead "delights in the law of the Lord and meditates on it day and night." Just like Jesus' parable, it is a return to the Word of God as the anchor, the rock, the standard against which everything else must be measured.

This sounds well and good but how do we get to this place?

After all, many in the church would argue *for* the moral revolution. They would point to the good things about them. For example, in the equality act, legislation that is being proposed, these moral shifts would be codified into law. Al Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and president of the Evangelical Theological Society, believes "this bill would represent the greatest threat to religious liberty in decades in American public life... It will be very, very difficult for any Christian college university to operate in Christian conviction... The freedom of religion, the freedom of religious expression, the liberty that is America's first liberty and religious freedom can't be reduced to [explicitly Christian institutions serving a definable Christian purpose]. If it's reduced to that, it basically becomes an iceberg melting in a larger progressive ocean." (Al Mohler's daily briefing, 2/22/21)

How would that happen? It would happen because there are some good, Biblical appeals in them. President Biden, in support of it said this, "Every person should be treated with dignity and respect. And this bill represents a critical step toward ensuring that America lives up to our foundational values of freedom and equality for all." Everyone should be treated

*(Continued on page 6)*

"IT'S A SLOW DRIFT WHICH BEGINS BY WALKING IN THE COUNSEL OF THE WICKED, OR PUT ANOTHER WAY, TO WALK IN LIGHT OF THE WORLD'S COUNSELORS."



We can easily be caught up in dismissing everyone who disagrees with us.

## BUILT ON THE ROCK: IMMERSE YOURSELF IN GOD'S WORD



We inoculate ourselves by reading and studying God's word.

“AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU. THE VERB IS PAST TENSE. THE IDENTITY YOU ONCE HAD IS NO LONGER. NOW YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD.”

(Continued from page 5)  
with dignity and respect. Christians should be champions of such a statement. But as you go beyond that, you find at work a worldview that is antithetical to the Word of God. The only way to recognize this is by having a clear understanding of a Biblical worldview that comes by “meditating on the God's law day and night.”

It's one thing to treat a practicing homosexual with dignity and respect. You are called to do this, not because he is at liberty to practice his sexual preference however he sees fit, but because he is made in the image of God. But it is another thing to embrace his view of the world and applaud his choices. That would be treating with dignity and respect the very thing that mars the source of that dignity and respect, the image of God in him.

Paul writes to the church in Corinth,

*<sup>9</sup>Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters,*

*nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*  
(1 Corinthians 6:9–10)

To applaud or embrace his worldview applauds his journey toward the wrath of God. (Do you want others applauding you when you're headed to destruction?) Not only that, but all sin is at some level and in some way destructive to the flourishing of human society. I can have compassion on thieves and drunkards without embracing their thievery or their alcoholism. In the same way I can have compassion on those who practice homosexuality without embracing the LGBTQ+ worldview. To embrace his worldview or even accept it as legitimate is to cheer him on while he travels a disastrous road. That is antithetical to spreading good news.

The good news is that Jesus rescues those on the road to destruction. In the very next verse in 1 Corinthians Paul writes,

*<sup>11</sup>And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

And such were some of you. The verb is past tense. The identity you once had is no longer. Now you are a child of God. Now you have a new heart. Now you have a new love and so now you are on the road to a new worldview and you get that as you renew your mind in view of the good news. This is how Paul described it in his letter to the Romans,

*<sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)*

So, anchor yourself on the Word of God. Meditate on it day and night and as you do, look at the God behind it, the love that permeates it, and the life-giving worldview in it.

*Carter*

## STEPPING STONES WILL MEET THE 4TH FRIDAY EACH MONTH



Join us Friday, February 26, for Stepping Stones.

Stepping Stones, Cornerstone's monthly program for girls aged 10-14 will meet on Friday, February 26. We'll have a snack, a lesson, and a craft.

Girls are encouraged to invite their friends who may attend another church or do not have a church home.

We will have a program once a month each month through April, ending with a closing dinner in May.

## GO LIVE IS READY TO LAUNCH!

BY JONATHAN SHUMATE

Early access to the Go Live Program is in just a few weeks. So many of you have watched CrossLife go from the very beginning so I wanted to let you know what Go Live is and how it fits with CrossLife's purpose and mission.

Go Live is at the heart of why I started CrossLife. During my 20 years of experience in ministry I have seen a revolution in how we connect and learn. The majority of us now rely on digital media delivered through a mobile platform as a central part of how we take in and process information. It's hard to believe that just 15 years ago

I was editing my My Space page!

At the same time, I have seen many Christians continually struggle with regular habits of Christian growth. Reading and growing in their understanding of the Bible, integrating Christian beliefs with everyday life and values, overcoming sinful and unhealthy habits, and so on.

The Go Live program is designed to provide structure and support to help Christians grow in their faith. A membership cost just \$10/month and will allow CrossLife to develop similar programs in other languages so

that Christians around the world may have access to a Biblically rooted, accessible program for Christian growth.

If you have questions, please visit [golive.crosslife.org](http://golive.crosslife.org).

I am excited about this next stage of CrossLife's development, and I would love for you to sign up for a free 7 day trial. Early access for will begin on February 23 for those who sign up in advance. It will be open to everyone else a week later.

There is a lot more coming in 2021, Lord willing. I look forward to hearing how God uses it in your life.

"I have seen many Christians continually struggle with regular habits of Christian growth."



If you can't make it to church, remember that all our services are broadcast. You can watch it Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. or whenever it is convenient for you. Just go to Cornerstone's website.



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**On the Web @  
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