



# NEWSLETTER

## A Balanced Mission

By Matt Wright

Dr. Harry Ironside, the famous Bible teacher and longtime pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, used to tell a story about some believers he knew. This group decided that they were tired of the wrong sort of people invading their fellowship, so they would make a public stand to the community. They had a sign printed that boldly proclaimed "JESUS ONLY." Unfortunately (or maybe revealingly), wind broke apart half of the sign so it read instead, "US ONLY." Dr. Ironside used that example to speak

on the importance of having a balanced mission as a church that is not just about the internal church family, but also about reaching externally for the sake of others.

It is a mistake to view the church as being like a social club or community organization that is only for its members. This might be a common assumption, but it misses out on why the church exists. A church growth expert by the name of Win Arn did a study of over a thousand Christians in America and asked them what they perceived as the mission of the church. There were several possible answers, but the

overwhelming selection by 89% of participants was that they church exists, "To take care of my family's and my needs." Of course that is part of the church's mission, but that answer is incomplete. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote strongly of the church to care for one another and grow spiritually as a community (see his book, *Life Together*), but he also wrote this about the mission of the church: "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others."

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— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*

These two aspects of a church are essential as we both look internally by caring for one another as a church family, as well as extending our efforts externally to the community and world by being on a mission to reach others for Christ. These two aspects, the internal and the external

are not in conflict, and are instead complimentary ideas. In other words, our mission has to be balanced. Both evangelism and discipleship. When you hear us at Cornerstone speak about why we exist as a church to "make disciples," make sure to remember this includes both aspects of a balanced mission.



## You Talk, We Listen Campaign Results

At the recent annual congregational meeting, we shared the final You Talk, We Listen (YTWL) results. This effort included a survey, focus groups, followup discussion with the board, and a final written report. Our goal was to hear from you about some key questions about who we are and what kind of

church we want to be as we've transition from a church plant to a mature congregation. You can pick up a copy of the YTWL report at the Info Desk to learn more. Below are the three key takeaways.

01

### A Clear Mission: Make Disciples

Why do we exist as a church? Our core mission is to make disciples. This comes from Jesus' own words and involves both evangelism and discipleship. This permanent mission will become part of our new bylaws that are being drafted.

02

### A Small Church Family with Excellence

Cornerstone is an intentionally small church family that also functions with excellence. We hope to avoid the issues of either being a church where people disappear into a crowd or the issue of being a church where standards are lowered. A small church family with excellence is our goal.

03

### Leadership and Community Accountability

Overall communication between leadership and the congregation is being improved. We are also implementing a new governance model, based on the concept of accountability, where every level of the church has a role and is accountable to others.

# Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

An important tradition we have at Cornerstone is to thank everyone who volunteered during the previous year at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. For all the volunteers of the church, please know that we are grateful for your efforts. This year's event will be held on **Sunday, February 10, starting at 5:30 PM.**

We hold this banquet because so much of what we do depends on you, the volunteers who serve our different ministries. If you volunteered in any capacity, and as part of any ministry, then you are invited! We will have a catered meal, a time to recognize special contributions by different ministry leaders, and a wonderful evening to say thanks. If you plan on attending, please let us know by marking your Connect Card.

"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

— 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)

Our church functions with the help of these ministries and ministry leaders. Each ministry at Cornerstone has different responsibilities and ways to make a difference. If you would like to learn more about volunteering at Cornerstone, you can visit the church website and hit the "ministries" button at the top of the page. This link describes every one of our church ministries (or departments) and you can contact us about volunteer opportunities.



## New CYG (Teens) Room

The picture to the left shows the first Sunday of the new teens room! A big thanks to the donors who made the project possible. Their generous support helped to give the youth group a great new space

for them to meet in each week. This new renovation includes a kitchen area, new seating, and several pieces of technology for the teens. Contact [katrina@cccge.com](mailto:katrina@cccge.com) to learn more about CYG.

## Community News

**Don Vandevorde** - Be sure to welcome Don as the newest member at Cornerstone! He placed his membership last month, so welcome him as part of our church family.

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Do you have news to share with your church family? Feel free to submit on the back of your Connect Card any news like graduations, events, births, moves, new jobs, and more.

## Birthdays

February 5 - **Marilyn Leary**

February 9 - **Cormack McKinney**

February 28 - **Ben Moser**

# Four Reasons Why You Should Attend Cornerstone U'

Our weekly Sunday morning classes, called Cornerstone U', begin with a hot breakfast from 9am to 9:30am and then we offer a class time from 9:30am to 10:15am. These classes include a choice of two adult classes as well as classes for babies, kids, and teens. Why should you attend Cornerstone U'? In a recent edition of *Christianity Today*, Ed Stetzer shared four reasons why you should consider being part of a small class program like we have at Cornerstone. Here is an excerpt from the article:

## 1. Personal Discovery

First, personal discovery happens in small groups better than large groups for a number of reasons. You can learn, ask questions, involve yourself in the lives of others, and generally make yourself vulnerable among other people who are doing the same in small groups.

You just can't do that in sermons. There is no conversation, no feedback, and no questions. There's no room to challenge the preacher or even question any part of what's being taught. Spiritual growth happens better with others, in community, with open lines of communication and freedom to speak into one another's lives.

## 2. Smaller Communities Are More Effective

Second and closely related to the first, smaller communities act more like, well, communities. That may seem like a given, but the bigger the group is, the less like community it feels. The kind of community I am advocating requires a level of intimacy easily lost as numbers grow.

You simply cannot know everyone beyond a certain point, and you certainly will not open up about your struggles and sins in a large group of people you don't know.

## 3. Deeper Friendships

With that in mind, the third factor is that groups deliver deeper friendships that double as accountability. When people know you, really know you, your life becomes far more transparent, including your sin.

Others learn to read you and will call you out for those sins, creating opportunities to deal with real life difficulties as they surface. This is part of what we should expect from good friends.

## 4. Maximum Participation

Finally, groups deliver maximum participation. There are opportunities to discuss the issues with others in the church. Church life issues can be discussed openly among trusted friends.

Mission can be planned out and participated in together. Lives are sharpened and leaders developed. Small groups are an absolute necessity for involving as many people as possible in the life and ministry of your church.



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