

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Scott's Perspective — "Putting Up with Others' Faults"

One of the all-time classics on Christian spirituality is Thomas a Kempis' *"The Imitation of Christ."* Many Christians today only read books or sing songs that have been written in the past decade or two – as if nothing of value was communicated by God to His people during the 1900 years from the completion of the New Testament until recently. Thomas a Kempis wrote in the early to mid 1400s. *The Imitation of Christ* is one of the most influential Christian writings of the past 500+ years. It is well worth reading today by any Christian desiring to develop greater intimacy and friendship with Christ and to grow in His likeness.

Following is a quote from William Creasy's translation of this classic (Book 1, Chapter 16, "Of Putting Up with Others' Faults"):

"What we cannot change in ourselves or in others we ought to endure patiently until God wishes it to be otherwise. Perhaps it is this way to try our patience, for without trials our merits count for little. Nevertheless, when you run into such problems you ought to pray that God may find it fitting to help you and that you may bear your troubles well. If anyone who is spoken to once or twice will not listen and change his ways, do not argue with him, but leave it all to God, for he knows well how to turn bad things into good. He knows how to accomplish his will and how to express himself fully in all his servants.

"Take pains to be patient in bearing the faults and weaknesses of others, for you too have many flaws that others must put up with. If you cannot make yourself as you would like to be, how can you expect to have another person entirely to your liking? We would willingly have others be perfect, and yet we fail to correct our own faults. We want others to be strictly corrected, and yet we are un-

willing to be corrected ourselves. Other peoples' far-ranging freedom annoys us, and yet we insist on having our own way. We wish others to be tied down by rules, and yet we will not allow ourselves to be held in check in any way at all. It is evident how rarely we think of our neighbor as ourselves!

"If everything were perfect, what would we have to endure from others for God's sake? But now God has so arranged things that we may learn to bear each other's burdens, for no one is without faults, no one is without burdens, no one is wholly self-sufficient, no one has enough wisdom all by himself. That being the case, we must support and comfort each other; together we must help, teach and advise one another, for the strength that each person has will best be seen in times of trouble. Such times do not make us weak; they show us what we are."

Who of us can say that we have become everything we hope to be in this life? That we have attained the full measure of maturity and Christ-likeness that we hope to attain in this life?

If we would focus our attention and energy on our own needs for growth and correction and greater godliness, would that not be a big enough challenge for anyone? Yet instead of keeping our own faults in sight and working on correcting them, look how much energy we expend focusing on the faults of others and how they should be more like us and do things more our way!

If you cannot make yourself as you would like to be, how can you expect to have another person entirely to your liking?

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- July 1 AM Communion
6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- July 1-6 Sixers Camp
- July 2 11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon/Olive Garden
- July 3-16 Moldova Trip
- July 8 AM Chris Creech
6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- July 8-13 Jr. High Camp
- July 12 10:30 a.m. NSAM Water Bottle Labeling
- July 14 1:30 p.m. NSAM Water Bottles/Parade
- July 15 AM Pastor Tony
6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- July 15-20 Sr. High Camp
- July 22 Business Meeting after AM Service
6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- July 29 Noon
All Church Picnic at Sheridan Meadows
- July 29-Aug. 3 No Limits Missions Project

Minding the business of others and focusing on correcting their faults is often futile business. For one, we may not see their faults correctly due to lack of complete knowledge and understanding of all the factors influencing their behavior. For another, the other person may not be looking to us for correction and may even resent unsolicited advice. For another, we cannot control the choices and behaviors of others even if they do listen to us.

Focusing on correcting our own faults is likely to be much more profitable. Though our self-understanding may be somewhat deficient, we likely understand ourselves better than others. And we have much greater degree of control over our own choices and actions than over others'. Even so, most of us struggle to make ourselves into the person we would like to be.

If you cannot make yourself as you would like to be, how can you expect to have another person entirely to your liking?

It is particularly incongruous when we are so attentive to meditating on and correcting faults in others that are similar to our own faults or less serious than some of our own faults. It is so easy to fall into the trap of paying more attention to the faults of others than to our own faults.

Jesus warned against this same tendency in **Matthew 7:1 - 5 (NIV)** ***1*"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. *2*For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and**

with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. *3*"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? *4*How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? *5*You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Jesus is not saying there is no such thing as right or wrong behavior. He is not a moral relativist who says that the only moral absolute is the command to not judge anyone else's behavior. God has clearly revealed His standards of right and wrong. To acknowledge that some behavior is wrong in God's eyes is not a violation of Jesus' teaching "do not judge."

But Jesus is clearly warning against our human tendency to focus more attention on the faults of others than on correcting our own faults. And when we do so, we do not see clearly the faults of others – our vision is distorted by the log in our own eye. There are times when it is appropriate to correct someone else's faults – but first, pay attention to your own. Don't be harder on the faults of others than you are on your own.

As Thomas a Kempis says: *"Take pains to be patient in bearing the faults and weaknesses of others, for you too have many flaws that others must put up with."*

Church Financial Report

Giving to the General Fund (church budget) during June averaged \$8,088 per Sunday (compared to budget of \$8,823). For the first quarter of the fiscal year (April – June), giving averaged \$8,028 per Sunday (compared to \$7,404 year-ago). We are a couple of thousand dollars short of setting aside the full amount for Debt Retirement from the General Fund.

Giving to the Building Fund for June was \$6,203.

So far the Moldova team has received \$12,711 of the \$30,000 needed for their mission trip. They leave July 3 for two weeks. Some team members may be paying \$1000 or more out of their own pocket for the trip. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to Cornerstone STEM with a memo "Moldova." Please do this in addition to your regular giving to the church.

NS Food Pantry

July needs for the North Scott Food Pantry are **school supplies**. Around the time of NS school registrations, the donated school supplies are divided between the seven North Scott schools and are made available for those students who arrive without adequate school supplies.

As always, your generosity is appreciated.



A Word From Pastor Mark

We are just two days away from Team New Orleans embarking on its fourth trip down to help bring hope to the discouraged (article written 6.21.07). There is much excitement in the air as twenty-two of us load up in three mini vans and one truck early Saturday morning for the trek to Slidell, LA. I guarantee that the team will learn more about their teammates, more about the heart of God, and it will also help us to see ourselves more clearly.

I unexpectedly received a book in the mail this morning from Amazon.com. I did not recall ordering it but I went to the website and it shows that I did. I don't think my age has anything to do with not remembering. The book is titled, *Trolls & Truth*. The author, Jimmy Dorrell, is Pastor of Church Under the Bridge. What started as a Bible study with five homeless men that met underneath an interstate bridge in Waco, Texas, has turned into a church of over 300 people of many races and economic backgrounds. And yes, they still meet for services under the bridge.

I opened up the table of contents and was intrigued by chapter 14- "The Rich Need the Poor." Why do people who have enough money to care for themselves need the poor? But the rich do need the poor. Dorrell explains, "The basic assumption held by most middle-class Christians is that they are here to help the poor and unfortunate. Very few of them understand how much they need the poor in their own lives to help them grow in faith and understanding. Relationships between rich and poor change both parties. Just ask any wealthy person who has left the comfort of his or her own culture and gotten involved among struggling folks. Most will say something like this, 'I went over to that part of town to help them, but what I discovered is how much they helped me!' And it is true. The poor, oppressed, sick, imprisoned,

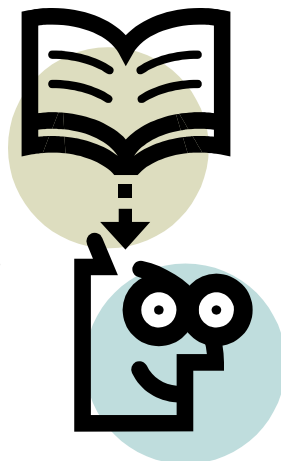
hungry, and mentally ill all teach us about the most important things in life, to which those with wealth often become blinded."

Anyone who has taken a mission trip to Mexico, Moldova, and even New Orleans would agree with Dorrell's statements.

They have come away with the reality that the poor have actually helped them in their faith. One comes back changed by the poor's love, generosity, and deep faith. One comes back with a more appreciative, gracious and generous heart than they left with. In New Orleans, you will come into contact with the poor. Our teams have helped many who were financially unable to overcome Katrina. It seemed though that some of the poorest we served had such a love and joy and strong faith in Jesus. James 2:5 reads, "Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?" We were there to bring hope to the discouraged but it was us who received much hope through coming into contact with people like Lulu.

You do not need to travel outside the Quad Cities to learn from the poor. There are many opportunities in our area with Sunshine Ministries, Urban Edge Ministries, Salvation Army or even John Lewis.

Dorrell adds, "God created the church as a body whose parts need each other to function properly. The rich need the poor to help them learn truths of the gospel from which they are blinded." God doesn't want His children to have distorted vision. He wants His children to see clearly. Have you had your blinders taken off through going and serving the poor? May the going and serving change your heart and make you richer in faith.



New Orleans Teams Earn Award

Operation Blessing nominated our teams for a National Excellence in Service Award for our work in Hurricane Katrina recovery and rebuilding efforts in 2006. We were chosen as a winner of the President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. We received a recognition certificate, a letter from the White House, and letter of thanks from the President's Council. One of the paragraphs from the President' Council reads, "This Award recognizes your dedication to volunteer service and signifies that you have served your community and your country with distinction. Through your volunteer efforts, you are demonstrating values that make our nation strong and you are helping to build a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility in America." It is encouraging to receive a letter from the President. But what will be even better is if we one day hear "Well done good and faithful servant" from the King of Kings!

NSAM Water Bottle Give-Away

We are organizing our Annual Eldridge Days Water Bottle Give-Away on Saturday, July 14th. The parade used to be at noon and was moved to 3:00 p.m. The team will be organizing at 1:30 p.m. and deliver the water prior to the parade starting. This is an easy outreach for your whole family to show the community that God loves them in a practical way.

Also, if you'd like to help label the water please come to the Water Label party on Thursday, July 12th at 10:30 a.m

Seeking First His Kingdom

by Teresa Bivens

A year ago while in Moldova when Lucy Schmidt asked me if I would help her plan the mission trip for 2007, I didn't think it would be possible. With finishing the final year of Kendra's home schooling, planning the ceremony and party, getting her ready to head off to college and dealing with the everyday life of raising two teens, how in the world could I even GO on a mission trip again, let alone help lead it?!

Here I am a year later, knowing that the answer to that question is this: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matt. 6:33

CBC Blood Drive Coming

SAVE your blood for:

Tuesday, August 14th

Cornerstone Blood Drive

Blood is now needed from the Quad Cities to help our troops.

Those from Cornerstone currently serving in the Armed Forces are: Ryan Hoover, Seth Major and Peter Schaub.

"Crusaders" Softball Team



Following is a schedule for our men's team. All games are played at Trinity Lutheran Church at Central Park and Marquette.

Come and join the fun!!!

Thursday	July 12 @ 5:45 p.m.
Wednesday	July 18 @ 5:45 p.m.
Wednesday	July 25 @ 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	July 31 @ 5:45 p.m.

August 8-12
Double Elimination Tournament

This past year has probably been the most busy and intense of my life, but God has been the strength of my heart. He has ordered my steps because I have continued to seek Him first.

Did I do a perfect job of seeking Him? No. Did I ever slip and put Him second or third or lower? Yes, of course. I'm human. But, for the most part, I gave Him my days and asked Him to work them out according to His will. He has been faithful, and I know He will continue to be just that. His Word is true, and He wants to do the same for each of us!

AWANA 2007-2008

Stan Howell will soon begin calling last year's AWANA staff to see if they are willing to serve for this year.

AWANA is an inter-denominational program whose purpose is to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

Grades: Kindergarten-6th grade
(3 & 4 year old program (Cubbies)
for helper's children)

Monday nights, September-April
6:30-8:15 p.m.

If you are interested in being involved in the AWANA program, please contact Stan at 391-2271.

Casual Sunday

Cornerstone Family Picnic
July 29 12:00 noon (right after church)
Sheridan Meadows

We will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs and providing a drink!

Bring a salad or dessert to share and your own table service.

Lots of games and fun!!



Faith Community Nursing exists at Cornerstone Baptist Church to minister to the body of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, by helping to meet health care needs (Mt.25:35-36) to live life abundantly (Jn10:10b).

This month our focus will be on osteoporosis. So, what is osteoporosis? It is a disease of the bone that causes bones to weaken and become more prone to fracture. Bone is a living tissue that is in a constant state of regeneration, as old bone is removed (bone resorption) and replaced by new bone (bone formation). By mid-30s most people begin to gradually lose bone strength as the balance between bone resorption and bone formation shifts, so that more bone is lost than can be replaced. As a result, bones become thinner and structurally weaker.

As we age this process happens naturally. The good news is that we can do things to counteract this process. Risk factors include low dietary intake of calcium and vitamin D. Other risk factors include eating disorders, cigarette smoking, alcohol abuse, sedentary lifestyle, and some prescription

medications. Osteoporosis can be diagnosed by a simple Bone Density Test. Ask your healthcare provider for more details.

Treatment and prevention of osteoporosis are very similar. Include 1000 – 1500 mg of Calcium in your diet along with 400 – 300 IU/day of vitamin D. (Calcium cannot be absorbed without the presence of vitamin D so make sure that you take them together.) Milk fortified with vitamin D is the best way to get your daily calcium and vitamin D needs. (2 – 3 glasses per day).

Other ways to decrease your risk factors for osteoporosis is to get moving. Exercise including weight bearing activities keeps bones healthy. If you have any of the other risk factors, talk to your healthcare provider for further help. If we can prevent osteoporosis through these simple activities what is stopping us?

To review our previous healthy lifestyle changes we are recommending 30 minutes of activity 5 times per week. You can add to that weight-bearing activity 1 to 3 times per week. Also we have discussed water intake. The recommendation is 6 to 8 glasses of water per day. For our bone health and feeling of fullness, add 2 to 3 glasses of milk per day. As small changes are made to your diet through out the year you are on your way to a healthier lifestyle.

Sonshine Ministry (a division of Urban Edge Ministries)

I had the privilege of bringing 11 kids to VBS...7 of them first timers. They had such a wonderful time. I will be spending time with them through-out the summer and sharing the good news of Jesus.

Pray that they will be able to attend Awana this fall.

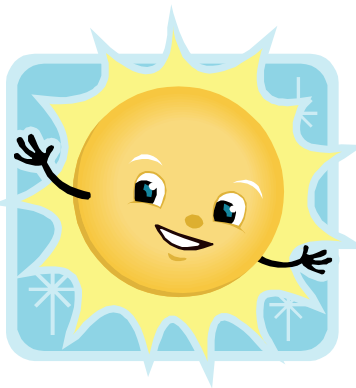
Bill Hagge, Rich Mohr and I are doing a Bible study/Archery night every other week for a group of Jr/Sr High boys. They are studying Proverbs. We have a meal together and we are having a great time.

Karla Marti & I will be doing a Bible Study for 7th, 8th, & 9th grade girls. The study will be emphasizing purity and other pressures girls of this age face.

At Meadowlawn Nursing Home I have been using the small booklet on Heaven by Randy Alcorn that we received at Easter. This has been an interesting study to do and I believe the booklet plus the scripture verses that Randy uses to back up his thoughts has been a real encouragement to the residents.

Recently I gave a Bible to a bedridden resident and when I returned two weeks later, she had read all the way thru Phile-

mon (except, she confessed to skipping alot of the "begats and begots") I thought that was fantastic!!! I also gave her one of the "Heaven" booklets and she has read thru that several times, plus looking up all the scripture references.



Please consider donating large print Bibles that I can give to residents who do not have a one. I also need bud vases. The residents enjoy getting a flower and a card for their birthdays.

If you ever have questions concerning the Sonshine Ministry, please just ask. I would be happy to speak at your Small Group or ABF class.

I believe there will be some exciting things happening in the near future. Please keep this ministry in your prayers and if you are able, consider giving financially. Checks can be made out to Urban Edge with Sonshine written in the memo.

Thank you.
Jan Kloss



July 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:40 a.m. Prayer AM Communion 6:00 p.m. Home Groups <i>July 1-6 Sixers Camp</i>	2 11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon at Olive Garden, Davenport 6:00 p.m. Walk 7:00 p.m. Food & Love Bible Study	3 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles/Idelers <i>July 3-16 Moldova Trip</i>	4 Independence Day	5 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	6	7
8 8:40 a.m. Prayer Nurses Office Open AM Chris Creech 6:00 p.m. Home Groups <i>July 8-13 Jr. Hi Camp</i>	9 6:00 p.m. Walk 7:00 p.m. Food & Love Bible Study	10 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles/Idelers	11 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	12 10:30 a.m. NSAM Water Bottle Labeling 5:45 p.m. Crusader's Softball Game, Dav. 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	13	14 7:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting at Village Inn, Dav. 1:30 p.m. NSAM Water Bottles for Eldridge Parade
15 8:40 a.m. Prayer AM Pastor Tony 6:00 p.m. Home Groups <i>July 15-20 Sr. Hi. Camp</i>	16 6:00 p.m. Walk 7:00 p.m. Food & Love Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Youth Purpose Team Meeting	17 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Singles Game Night/ROCK	18 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 5:45 p.m. Crusader's Softball Game, Dav. 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Purpose Team Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 8:15 p.m. Deacons	19 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	20	21
22 8:40 a.m. Prayer Nurses Office Open Business Mtg. after AM 6:00 p.m. Home Groups	23 6:00 p.m. Walk 7:00 p.m. Food & Love Bible Study	24 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles/Idelers	25 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Crusader's Softball Game, Dav.	26 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	27	28
29 8:40 a.m. Prayer CASUAL SUNDAY Noon All Church Picnic at Sheridan Meadows July 29-Aug. 3 No Limits Missions Project	30 6:00 p.m. Walk 7:00 p.m. Food & Love Bible Study	31 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Crusader's Softball Game/Dav. 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles/Idelers				

July Birthdays:

1	Grant Hansel Gail Welchman Jimmy Skadal	16	Katelyn Birtell Daniel Aisenbrey Hunter Orcutt	29	Gerald Hodgett Alexandria Hawley
2	Patti VanDyke Lucy Schmidt Rachel Bennett	17	Terry Schmidt Shawnelle Eliassen	30	Lisa Hurr Kevin Hagedorn Sharon Greving
3	Kent Lage Terry Major	18	Dave Haycraft	31	Jim Ferrel Stan Howell

July Anniversaries:

4	Phil Hart Lily Holst Thomas Butler	20	Thomas Green Molly Kaiser Yorton Hagedorn Art Nickerson	1	Tom & Sandy Carlson Brent & Tammy Bullock Stephan & Sandy Nass Dan & Debi Allison
6	Kathryne Green Pinky Stalnaker	21	Suzy Gainer Jim McGimpsey	10	Jason & Darla Lacey Pastor Andrew & Nikki Le Ryan & Deana Trotter
8	Janette Armbruster Lou Aisenbrey	22	Leah Carlson Julie Davis	11	Jeff & Colleen Olson Marc & Kelly Orcutt
10	Melissa Crouch Benjamin Boddicker	23	Sandra Wohlford	20	Aaron & Patti VanDyke Mark & Lori Rempe
11	Catherine Schaub Marcia Boddicker	24	Kendra Ervin	23	Bob & Luanna Brabant Tim & Kris Schwarz (25 yrs.) Jim & Cassie Ferrel
12	Bryan Witzenburg	25	Lora Youmans Joe Collins Chuck Agan Mike Mohr	23	Don & Betsy Jones Howard & Leilana Keeney (50 yrs.) Mark & Julie Bader
13	Kerry Skinner Andrew Skinner	26	Drake Marti Jamie Johnson Darlene Geist	24	Bryan & Jessica Witzenburg Dale & Phyllis Arentson Don & Lori Paulus (25 yrs.)
14	Caitlyn Nass	28	Earl Osterberg Taelor Rempe Austen Rempe	25	
15	Joel Wright Debi Allison			26	

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“Planning Ahead For All The Right Reasons” class

Cherie Emmick, representing Runge Mortuary and Dignity Memorial, will be presenting a complimentary “Planning Ahead For All The Right Reasons” class. This will be a short (30-40 minutes) informational program that won't bore you. Any age can benefit from the information. It's a subject we all think about from time to time but rarely discuss. We all have questions. When it comes to end of life matters, would you know who to call? What should you do? How much will this cost? Have you planned to overspend? Does your family know your wishes? Do you know their wishes?

Please contact Pastor Mark at 285-8080 if you are interested in attending. Refreshments will be provided and someone will go home with a nice door prize.



Come and join us on Sunday Mornings:

Sunday School Opportunities	
for the Family	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:10 a.m.