# FROM FIELD

CHURCH PLANTING.

CHURCH STRENGTHENING.

CORNERSTONE GLOBAL ISSUE 001

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### **OVERVIEW**

Cornerstone Global exists to send healthy members & resources to plant and strengthen churches with strategic partnerships around the world.

## CHURCH PLANTING

Cornerstone's global vision involves collaborating with other Salt Network Churches through Salt Network Global. As a church and network, we have a unique calling to reach not only university students of North America, but of the entire world. Salt Network Global has a vision to see Gospel Church Movement teams – sent from our Salt Network churches – in the top 100 university cities in the world. Each of these cities has over 100,000 university students and little to no access the Gospel message.

Over thirty people from six Salt Network churches are currently long-term overseas workers in five cities across the world under the Salt Network Global vision.

God is using Cornerstone to have an impact around the globe. As you read these stories, we invite you to pray for these specific people and ministries overseas. We pray these stories would stir your heart toward God as the God of all people, tribes and tongues. The following questions can help you step into your part of making disciples of all nations:

- # How can I be praying for the nations?
- God is certainly calling me to my neighbors today, but is it possible he could be calling my family and I overseas?

There are so many ways God can use you to make his name known amongst the nations, have you asked God to use you?

## CHURCH STRENGTHENING

In addition to planting, we want to strengthen churches through training & networking pastors, and helping churches rise out of poverty through community development. One of our partners, the Hope Center in Zambia, hosts pastor trainings and helps strengthen the community by feeding and educating vulnerable and orphaned children in the surrounding villages. They plan to start a medical facility this year to meet some of the physical needs in their community.

Another partner, Mission Starfish in Haiti, educates over 400 children in poverty and is involved with pastor trainings. We pray that God would be glorified in our efforts to help strengthen these churches and communities.

- If I am staying, how can I be welcoming people from other nations into my home?
- Could I create space in my finances to give to those sent with Salt Network Global overseas?

# MOVING MY FAMILY OF FIVE TO THAILAND

### **BRANDIE THOMPSON**

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### WAYS YOU CAN PRAY:

- 器 Pray that the Lord would provide for us financially, as we will be on a 100% support raised salary.
- Pray that We would trust the Lord in the actual transition of moving overseas, and that He would give us wisdom as we shepherd our kids through this move.
- Pray for God to open up the eyes of people's hearts in Bangkok that have never heard the name of Jesus
  that they would taste and see that the Lord is good and desire to repent, believe and obey Him!

The past few months have brought a lot of change to our family! God has opened a door for Caleb and I to move our family from Lawrence, Kansas to Bangkok, Thailand in the spring of 2022. Caleb and I will be moving with our two daughters, Mila (3) and Teagan (2). We are also about to have our first little boy, Brooks, in just a few short weeks. Lots of changes are coming, and we couldn't be more grateful to the Lord!

When the Lord first opened this door for us to go, it was pretty evident rather quickly that it was worth it for us to move our family with a team overseas. Caleb and I both have had a burden since college to be among a people group that has little to no access to the gospel. In the city of Bangkok alone there are nearly 10 million people, with 1 million being university students and only 0.6% of the population considered Christians.

This alone drew our hearts to pray for the city and for more laborers to continue going to the unreached. It is also worth it for us to move cross culturally because of the comfort in the scriptures that God's plan to









rescue people already has the final victory. We can go in humility and confidence that He will provide for us and will continue to draw people to Himself. We know it will be challenging, but we are so eager and excited to see how God will use our team in Bangkok to bring glory to Himself!

With all the excitement also comes some hardships. As a stay at home mom, I know it will be hard to surrender my comfort and control. It is hard for me to think about all the unknowns – how we will get around the city as a family of five? What will day to day look like for me in an apartment with three young children and no car? How will we adjust to not knowing the language or culture right away? These are some of the questions that run through my head that I have to surrender to the Lord and trust that He is sovereign and will work all things out for our good.

All the unknowns are hard to think about. However, God in his kindness has already raised up an incredible team to go with us. Two families of which also have young children. This is such an answered prayer!

#### HOW GOD CAN USE A

# SHORT-TERM TRIP TO CHANGE **YOUR LIFE**

#### **GARRETT BELZER**

This summer, I was given the opportunity to travel overseas to Kenya with the mission of meeting college students, learning culture, and ultimately spreading the Gospel of Christ. I knew that this experience would open my eyes, but little did I know that it would change my entire perspective on the Christian life.

I used to subconsciously believe that the Great Commission was either for missionaries or really holy Christians and that sharing the Gospel was optional. But this summer, I learned that not only is it for all Christians, but it is absolutely necessary.

Living in another country for nearly 2 months, I was stripped of many things: many idols of money or simple freedoms, my comfort, people's approval, social media, simple pleasures, etc. Many times I thought that having these things taken away would negatively affect me. But I soon came to realize not only was it incredibly beneficial to me, but it was so life giving and soul enriching. To be stripped of everything allowed me to live a life that was solely focused on knowing Christ and making Him known. But shouldn't we always live like that? (Hebrews 12:1-3)

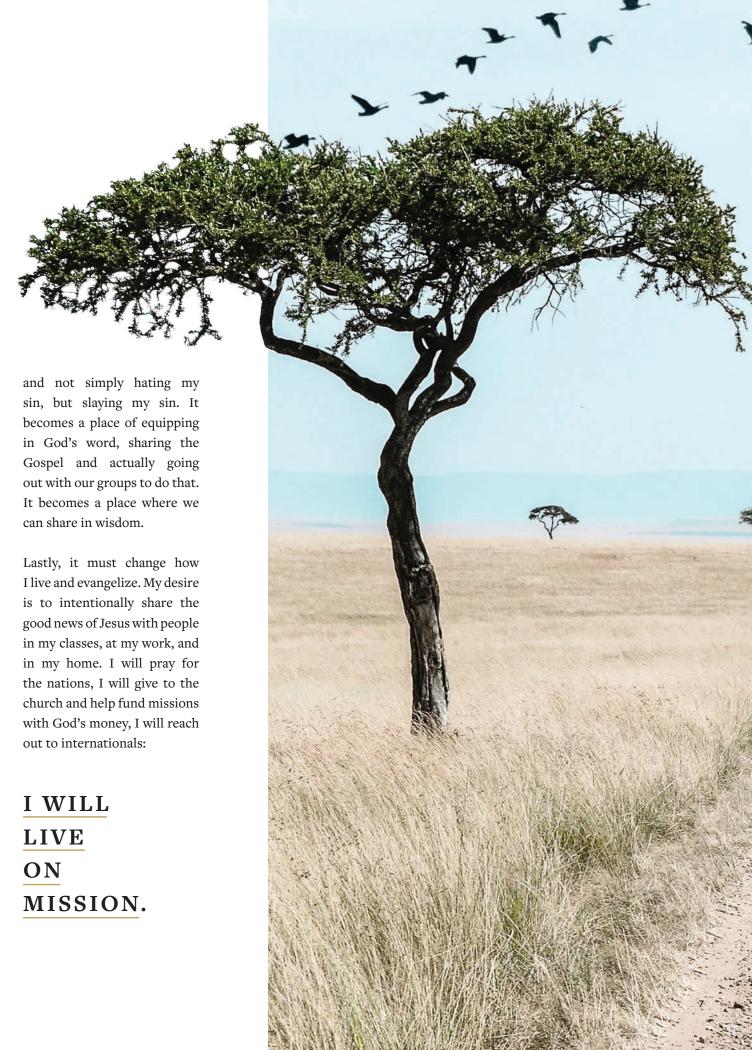
TO BE STRIPPED OF **EVERYTHING ALLOWED** ME TO LIVE A LIFE THAT SOLELY FOCUSED ON KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN.

I am so thankful that God took me 8,000 miles from home to strip me of my pride and apathy and show me how I'm supposed to live a life to the full (John 10:10). Kenya has some incredibly beautiful sites and lovely people, but NOTHING compares to seeing someone go from death to life — a joy that God does not need us for but something He deeply desires for us to take part of in our everyday lives.

Now that I am home, my prayer is that my experience overseas is one of many Spirit-lead catalysts among those within Salt Company to radically change the way I love and obey Christ, behold and cherish His Word, and ultimately revolutionize my walks with Christ — killing my "cultural Christianity" once and for all. Specifically, this means three things must change for me.

The first is to abide well and radically and intentionally spend time in God's Word, studying it, resting in it, memorizing it each day and inviting others into our quiet time.

Secondly, it must change how I see community. Small group now becomes a place of not just confession but active repentance





#### **BEGINNINGS IN CHINA**

I'm originally from a small city in Northwest China. I moved to a large University in East Asia in 2014 to begin my studies. In 2016, when I was a sophomore, I became friends with some students from Iowa who shared the Gospel with me. They invited me to begin studying the Bible alongside them and others within Salt and Light Church (a church plant catalyzed by a Salt Network Global team).

At first, I went to these Bible studies because I wanted to practice my English and because the people there were so kind. They always put other people before themselves and that was very different from what I knew about people. After a year of studying the Bible with them, I professed faith in Christ and was baptized.

However, my understanding of the gospel was still so small at that point. That initial profession

of faith was more motivated by a desire to be a part of that family than truly understanding my need for Jesus.

#### MOVING TO THAILAND

After I became a believer, I began working for an incredible school where I met many Christians. They were such a blessing to me because they lived out their faith through daily life and answered all my crazy questions with wisdom and patience.

Through the shepherding of Salt and Light Church, I grew in understanding of the value of sharing the hope of Jesus with others. Through the 1 year theology program, LEAD, we were equipped with not only the knowledge of the truth, but also the mission of making disciples of Jesus. By the end of this program, I felt led to change my job because I wanted to have more opportunities to be around people who had not heard of Jesus. I even got a second job

working part-time at a bakery, so I could have more interactions with unbelievers. I wanted to use the things I had learned to bless people, just like my life had been impacted by those around me.

God had grown my desire to be around those who had not heard about the hope found in Jesus. As this desire grew, I began to have conversations with those in my church and began to pray about pursuing international missions. Around that time, leaders of the Bangkok team (Clint and Miranda) asked if I would consider moving with them to Thailand. After many changes and prayers, I felt led to join the team.

Now, I have been here for two months and have had many opportunities to meet Thai people and share the hope of Jesus. I continue to be amazed at God's plan.

### WAYS YOU CAN PRAY:

- 器 learning the language.
- Christ would keep working in their hearts and lead them to the only Almighty God.



To have a humble heart to serve and be flexible in this new culture. Pray for wisdom and words in talking with people about Christ and

My parents and brother are not believers yet, I have had more chances to share the good news with them as I share about life here. Pray that

avriade

As a country boy from rural northeast Iowa, my passion and appreciation for wildlife and God's creation drove me to study natural resources at Iowa State and obtain a Bachelor's degree in Animal Ecology in 2018. It was in these four years in Ames that God brought me from an outdoors-loving farm boy to a young man with the conviction and desire to transplant my life to an East-Asian metropolis for the sake of the Gospel.

### HEART FOR THE NATIONS

AND MELODY FRANZEN

DAN

It started when I graduated high school and began thinking about what I really wanted to live for. God used several missions books and "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan to help me do some serious introspection and "waking up" to both the vanity of pursuing material things, and to the urgency and eternal significance of bringing the Gospel to those who have no access to it. It was at this time I began praying: "God, don't let me waste my life on temporary things." "God, help me to live for things of eternal value. Use my life to save hundreds and impact thousands for Your Name."

Once I connected with Cornerstone Church and the Salt Company my freshman year at college, I was given a space to grow in my faith in community with other guys, and given opportunities to gain exposure to global missions, such as a spring break trip with Engage Global, and a 2-month summer mission trip to Southeast Asia.

#### MOVING TO EAST ASIA

It was opportunities like these, along with getting to connect with and care for international students with IFC, that fostered my conviction and burden to spend

my life for the Gospel in the places it is not being preached. So, at the end of my junior year at Iowa State, the opportunity for a twoyear overseas residency in East Asia was presented to me for the first time. After much prayer and talking with family, I concluded that this was an answer to the prayer I had been praying for the last four years. This was my next step of obedience in the missional trajectory of my life.

#### MEETING MELODY

Shortly after my arrival to East Asia, I met a kind, bright-smiling Chinese girl named Melody, who had been giving every ounce of her spare time and energy to help serve the local house church my team was working with. As I later came to find out, she had left a good high-paying job, and a wonderful Christian community she loved to move to this city specifically to volunteer to help lead out at the house church with my team. As the months passed, both my desire to invest my life overseas and my feelings for Melody increased. After much prayer and conversation with leadership and other men in my life, in the fall of 2019, one year after first arriving, I was finally ready to pursue Melody.



week during the Chinese New Year. While nervous at first, I was quickly calmed by her family's genuine care and hospitality towards me. Following this week together with her family, our team made the decision to evacuate East Asia just before borders were locked down due to the ever-growing pandemic. I said goodbye to Melody at the airport thinking I'd see her again in a few short weeks or maybe a month. We failed to even hug each other before we were separated at customs.

As the pandemic spread worldwide, my team decided to return to the

We began dating intentionally, meeting once a week for bike rides or long walks, and it soon became clear to me we shared the same heart and values for life and marriage. In January 2020, after four months of dating, I visited her family for one States. What Melody first thought would be a few weeks turned into months, and our expected date to be reunited kept being pushed back farther and farther. Looking back, I'm incredibly grateful to God for keeping us so close through the long distance. In the year and four months we were apart, we almost always felt relationally close to each other.

I can't recall a single dry spell where FaceTiming each other wasn't a joy. What was hard was the waiting. I often felt like there was a wrestling match in my heart. At my best, I had

> a simple faith to trust that our separation was a grace given us by God, and that it was all being worked out for our good. At my worst, I was angry and confused at why God could withhold what I wanted so dearly and had waited for so patiently. All in all, I learned a great deal about waiting and trusting the Lord on a whole new

level. Besides this, Melody and I got really good at just talking to one another.

As my team made its long awaited return to Asia in the spring of 2021, after 498 days apart, Melody and I were reunited at last in Bangkok, Thailand. After already feeling committed to each other and ready for marriage for some time, we were engaged our first week back together, June 11 and married one month later with our team in Bangkok on July 11, 2021. We are now happily married and transitioning to life and ministry together in Asia.



## THE BIG HURT MARLIN RICE

TOP LEFT In the bush of central Zambia, tears filled the eyes of eight-year old Waneeta Kagima as she lay on the bare dirt, winching in agony. Two days earlier, Waneeta was riding a bicycle very fast down a gravel road and braked too hard, which threw her into stones. A large chunk of skin had been torn off her knee. Bone was showing in the wound. She was in terrible pain and 23 miles from the nearest medical clinic. But the clinic had exhausted its supplies four months earlier. There was no antibiotic, no ibuprofen, no bandages. Nothing.

TOP CENTER Ketty Kalunga dropped the chicken breast into the hot cooking oil, which exploded and burned her arm. She had no burn cream.

TOP RIGHT Joe Kalunga stepped outside his hut at night, and a cobra lying on his doorstep spit venom into his eye, which caused severe pain for three days. He had no ibuprofen. BOTTOM LEFT Senord Chibuye lay sleeping under a tree when someone maliciously poured boiling water on him, peeling the skin off his arm. He had no medicine.

BOTTOM CENTER Three-year old Memory Musonda tripped and fell into the cook fire, severely burning her tender arm. She had no medicine to help heal her young arm.

BOTTOM RIGHT School teacher Elliott Chipila and his friends climbed the mountain in the nighttime dark to a tiny mountain spring to fill their jugs with drinking water. As they waited they boiled water for a late supper, but a leopard also came to the spring to drink, which created a panic and the pot of boiling water was accidentally kicked onto Elliott's neck causing a severe burn. He had no medicine to heal the pain.









Dear Reader,

These stories are typical of the text messages and photos I receive every month from our Zambian pastors and friends. They plead that the Lord will provide medicine so that the physical hurts of their congregations can be healed. And Cornerstone has been able to gift them with a supply of medicine, bought in the capital of Lusaka, and transported 270 miles (or more) to five rural bush churches.

This is the only medicine to which they will have access as the government clinic is underfunded and often out of supply. Cornerstone has been generous in providing a gift of medicine, as a part of the Overflow giving and for that the Zambians have given glory to God. But the medicine will soon be exhausted and the pains will continue. Let's pray as a church for our dear brothers and sisters who face these challenges and ask God how we can help come alongside of them to meet their on-going needs.



- Marlin Kice



# INVESTING IN HAITI

### KRIS AND ANGIE DUGGAR

Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Mission Starfish is a light that shines brightly for Jesus in Gonaives, Haiti. The director of Mission Starfish is Silentor Esthil-Henderson. Born in Haiti, Silentor was adopted, and grew up in Iowa. He attended Iowa State University and was a member of Salt Company. Graduating from ISU Silentor received a call from God to return to Haiti to live and serve after the earthquake in 2010.

God is using Silentor in amazing ways to make a difference in his community, improving the lives of hundreds of kids every year through Christian education at the Mission Starfish School. Associated with the school is Mission Starfish Church, led by Pastor Claudnet. Silentor, Pastor Claudnet, along with the teachers and staff, are making an impact daily for God's Kingdom in one the poorest neighborhoods of Gonaives, Haiti.



GOD USES THE PEOPLE OF CORNERSTONE CHURCH TO BE DIFFERENCE-MAKERS IN HAITI.

GOD USES THE PEOPLE OF HAITI IN EVEN BIGGER WAYS TO IMPACT IOWANS WHO GO AND SERVE. Our daughter Peyton went a mission trip through Cornerstone Youth which led the Dugger family to be dedicated supporters of Silentor's work. We've served in Haiti on multiple occasions as a family, leading groups from church on week-long mission trips throughout the year. God uses the people of Cornerstone Church to be difference makers in Haiti.

God uses the people of Haiti in even bigger ways to impact Iowans who go and serve. The beautiful people of Haiti become family once you experience life with them in Gonaives! If you feel called by God to serve the poor, the family of God in Gonaives and Mission Starfish would love to partner with you. Sign up for the next mission trip to Haiti! We know God will use you and change you and your family in big ways through loving and serving the kids of Mission Starfish.



# WHAT IS GOD **INVITING YOU TO?**

#### PRAY

GIVE

In Luke 10:2 Jesus tells us that one of the greatest ways that we can participate in the expansion of the Gospel to the ends of the earth is to pray. Use the guide at right to direct your prayers for God to be known across all people.

#### WELCOME

With 4,000+ international students at Iowa State, we can share the Gospel with students from over 100 countries, most with little to no Gospel access. IFC gives opportunity for everyone to love the sojourner in our city.

As Cornerstone members give, they play a role in global missions. The Cornerstone general fund directs 14% of giving toward international efforts. You can also give by directly supporting our overseas missionaries.

#### LEARN

Every Spring we offer a fiveweek introduction to global missions class. In this class we explore God's heart for the world throughout the Scriptures, strategies for global missions, and your role in that global mission.

#### CARE

As a church, we want to take care of those sent abroad, away from the comforts of home, friends and family. You can take part in caring for overseas missionaries by adopting them into your connection group.

#### GO

Cornerstone offers numerous cultural exposure trips for our members to be a blessing to our overseas partners. It's an incredible opportunity to learn from the faith of our brothers and sisters living and working abroad.

#### LEARN MORE: GLOBAL.CORNERSTONELIFE.COM/GETINVOLVED

### PRAYING FOR THE NATIONS

There are many ways that you as an individual, family, or Connection Group can be praying for the nations. Here are a few ideas to help get you started:

#### FOR THE UNREACHED

Pray for the unreached people and places that Salt Network Global inspires to be serving in or are serving in.

- # BK Thailand # NR Kenya
- 🗱 KS Taiwan # OS Japan
- 🛱 MB India # Indonesia

#### MORE TO PRAY FOR:

- # Pray through the countries highlighted in Operation World (OPERATIONWORLD.COM)
- # Pray for a people group using the Joshua Project (JOSHUAPROJECT.NET)
- Pray for the 10/40 Window
- # Pray for refugees around the world

#### LUKE 10:02

Pray for laborers to be raised up for the harvest.



#### FOR THE WORKERS

Pray specifically for the workers that are sent out from Cornerstone Church or are on a Salt Network Global team.

#### FOR THE COMMUNITY

Pray for Salt Network Churches, Salt Company's, and IFC's reaching the lost in their communities in the U.S.

- # Cultural Christians in the USA
- # Unbelievers in the USA
- # International students living in the USA
- # Pray for orphans and widows in the world
- # Pray for a country or region that has been in the news this week
- \* Pray for an overseas worker that someone in the group knows personally
- Pray for unity in the Church worldwide

SET A 10:02 ALARM ON YOUR PHONE FOR A DAILY REMINDER

## **ADOPTING**

## AN **OVERSEAS** WORKER

#### BASIC CARE

- # Join your Overseas Worker's email update list
- \* Pray for your Worker during Connection Group (1x / mo)
- **Welcome your Worker to the** group when they're in the US
- **#** Touch base 1x / semester via Zoom with your Worker



ADOPT AN **OVERSEAS** WORKER

Taking the gospel to the nations

As overseas workers go out to proclaim the good news, they

often become discouraged and

consider quitting. Why? They

feel as if they are entirely on their

own, without the active support

is not an easy task.

of sending brothers & sisters who can uphold, encourage, provide, and pray for them.

Cornerstone Global's vision is to see each of our overseas workers supported by an individual or Connection Group through prayer & communication.

#### **ABOVE & BEYOND**

- Send care packages and birthday cards
- # Help connect them to resources when they're in town (i.e. housing, transportation)
- Consider having your Connection Group take a trip to visit your Worker in their country to learn about and encourage them in their work

# BLESSED AND A BLESSING

Our family has had the privilege to help out with IFC for the four years we have been in Ames. It has been a great avenue to share the gospel with the nations that God brings to Ames, Iowa. IFC has also been a blessing for our family since we all get to participate: The kids get exposure to friends from all over the world, interesting and delicious foods, and also get to see the gospel being shared. We enjoy being able to use our home for gospel purposes and it is also fun for our international friends to be welcomed into an American household and group of friends that cares deeply for each other. Our

### NATE & **KRYSTAL** PUSEY

family has also been blessed by the many other college and community leaders that we've worked with through IFC. We've gotten to see several of these leaders go overseas or help with church plants. lafe

We have loved being part of IFC! It has been a great opportunity for our family to fulfill part of the great commission by spreading the love of Jesus with people from all around the world- in the comfort of our living room in Ames, Iowa. We have gained many valuable friendships and have had many opportunities to speak wisdom, truth, and hope into



the lives of international students at Iowa State. Many of these students will return to their home country to become influential leaders in their community. What an amazing opportunity that God has brought to our doorstep! It has also been so exciting to see little bits of fruit along the way. We've had a student put her trust in Jesus because she can see the life change He has brought to others or another friend who wanted to learn more about the Bible so that he can share these truths with others. God is using IFC to change lives!

# IFC

God has brought the nations to our communities here in the US. In Ames alone, there are 4,000 international students enrolled at Iowa State University and there are additionally many more immigrants and refugees who call Ames home. Part of the reason God has brought these people here is to mobilize the church to welcome these internationals by showing deep Gospel love while proclaiming life-changing Gospel truth to them.

Internationals often come to the US with not only deep spiritual needs, but also clear felt needs. Many are in need of improving their English skills, several are in need of transportation or just learning how to navigate dayto-day life or the culture in this foreign land, but all of them have a need for belonging, community, and relationships with people who notice them, care for them, welcome them, and make them feel at home.

SCAN HERE **TO LEARN EVEN MORE ABOUT IFC:** 



Being ready to engage internationals you meet out-and-about in your day-to-day life at all the places you go around Ames and build relationships with them.

# If you see internationals in Sunday morning services at Cornerstone, invite them over for lunch or a meal that week. Make them feel welcomed, seen, and known in our church.

# Consider joining our IFC ministry where we have regular events and weekly small group gatherings designed specifically for internationals

### INTERNATIONAL

FRIENDSHIP

CONNECTION







### **BE A PART**

CORNERSTONE MEMBERS CAN BE A PART OF BLESSING THE NATIONS WHO HAVE COME HERE IN A FEW DIFFERENT WAYS:

Engage in conversation. Ask questions about where they're from, why they're here, and their experience in the US

Look for ways you can serve or meet their needs

Build friendships: have them over for tea, invite them to friend/family gatherings and community events

Along the way, share your God story, hear their faith, explore the Bible with them, and pray for them

# Join our IFC conversation partners program.

Once or twice a year, we invite Cornerstone members to pair with an international student conversation partner to meet monthly.

## **UPCOMING COMMUNITY TRIPS**

#### DEC 20 - JAN 01

#### SOUTHEAST ASIA EVANGELISM

Christmas is an incredible time to share the Gospel in Southeast Asia. Students and professionals can make an incredible impact for the Gospel by coming alongside long-term workers and hosting Christmas parties for university students.

#### JUN 04 - JUN 17

#### ZAMBIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Hope Center in Zambia is a food program for vulnerable children as well as pastor training. There are currently efforts to get a medical center started near the Hope Center. We are seeking a few medical professionals to help get a program started.

#### JUN 18 - JUN 25

#### ALBANIA EVANGELISM

The very first mission trip from Cornerstone was to Albania. We've had an ongoing relationship with our partners there and will be sending a group to help support the

#### JAN 30 - FEB 12

#### SOUTH AFRICA EXPOSURE

Restoring Hope Village is a group of homes for children that are orphaned, neglected or abused. This is a great trip for singles or couples who want to experience life in another culture while positively contributing to the lives of God's children.

### FEB 2022

#### THAILAND MISSIONARY CARE

Every year, Campus2Campus sends staff on a retreat to rest and refresh through training and care. We are looking for a few people to join us in Thailand next year to help care for our missionary kids as their parents attend the retreat.

#### JUN 20 - JUN 24

#### PINE RIDGE EXPOSURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Chanku Waste Ranch is located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. This is the ministry of the local church at Pine Ridge and is the perfect trip for families to go on. There are opportunities to serve meeting medical needs, construction, and coordinating kids camp. The Lakota people are the most poverty impacted people in the U.S. and also have the highest suicide rates. There is an extreme need for the gospel in this place: an amazing opportunity to be a part of strengthening this church!

high school ministry. This will be an evangelism-based trip, and will also provide an opportunity for people to experience a culture different from their own.

### SCAN TO LEARN MORE OR EXPRESS INTEREST IN A TRIP

