

FROM THE FIELD

M A G A Z I N E



VOL
002

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

FALL 2022

“My aim is to preach the gospel where Christ has not been named, so that I will not build on someone else’s foundation, but, as it is written, ‘Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.’”

—

ROMANS 15:20-21



FROM THE FIELD

M A G A Z I N E

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A LETTER FROM CORNERSTONE GLOBAL

Hello Cornerstone Church,

We're excited to share this issue of *From the Field* with you. We hope these stories help to display some of the incredible ways that God is at work—not only in our church, but around the world as well.

I recently became the Global Missions Pastor at Cornerstone Church and I am excited to continue the legacy of faithfulness that Cornerstone began as a local church with a global vision. As a global team, we strive to help our members gain a clearer global vision by offering short-term and summer trips not only to students, but to church members of all ages. We also assist in the mobilization and education of local Salt Company and community leaders so they can lovingly welcome internationals to Ames. Globally, we equip and send many laborers toward long-term missions. We do all of these activities, locally and internationally, so that “the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).

We invite you to consider how God may be leading you to learn about, pray for, give, and possibly even go to the nations. May the following stories inspire you on that path.

-Eric

OUR GLOBAL TEAM



Eric Warren

Global Missions Pastor



Shannon Boman

Global Ministry Leader

How to connect:

✉ missions@cornerstonelife.com

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PRAY

In Luke 10:2 Jesus tells us one of the greatest ways that we can participate in the expansion of the Gospel is to pray. Join us at Nations Nights as we pray for God to be known by all people.

read
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WELCOME

With thousands of international students at Iowa State, we have an incredible opportunity to bring the Gospel to students from all over the world; By participating in IFC, everyone can have the opportunity to love the sojourner.

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GIVE

As members of Cornerstone give generously they participate in global missions. Fourteen percent of what is given to the Cornerstone general fund goes toward global missions. Members can also give toward global missions by directly supporting our overseas missionaries.

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WHAT IS GOD INVITING YOU TO?

LEARN

Throughout the year, we will provide several opportunities to learn about global missions from overseas workers sent out from Cornerstone. Through Lunch & Learns and Nations Nights, members can explore God's heart for the world and understand their role in it.

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CARE

Cornerstone desires to care for those we have sent abroad. Living away from friends, family, and familiarity can be overwhelming. Members can care for our overseas missionaries by adopting them into their connection group.

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GO

Cornerstone Church offers numerous exposure trips for our members. Not only do these trips encourage our overseas partners, but they also allow participants to gain wisdom and cross-cultural experiences by observing the faith of our dear brothers and sisters overseas.

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from the field

EVEN WHEN THINGS DON'T MAKE SENSE, GOD PROVIDES

A story of a Cornerstone family on the field.

LUKE & ALLY SLOTERDYK
with International Mission Board

Nairobi, Kenya



My husband and I experienced callings from the Lord early in our lives. Both of us felt God pulling us towards sub-Saharan Africa, and after multiple short-term trips to Malawi, we had a deep love and adoration for sub-Saharan African people. A position as University Disciple-Makers in Nairobi, Kenya dropped in our laps as we were prayerfully considering long-term missions. With clear direction from the Lord, we took the position. We moved to Nairobi in June of 2021 after I graduated from Iowa State University.

The harvest is plentiful, and the workers are few in Nairobi.

The more that we learned about missions, the more confused we were as to why God made it so clear we were supposed to be in Kenya, a supposedly “Christian nation.”

With so many unreached people groups out there, why would we be here? Why were we giving up our lives to share the Gospel in a place where almost every bus has “Jesus is Lord” painted on it? It didn’t make sense to us, yet God was patient in our questioning.

God very slowly began to reveal why He had us here. Kenya may be a Christian nation on paper, but it is hard to find Christians who have someone walking alongside them teaching them how to share the Gospel. The Luke 10:2 prayer is an ever-present reality here as the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few in Nairobi. So many Kenyans are ready to accept the Gospel the first time it is shared with them, but the reality is, not many people are here sharing this good news.



Over and over again we have seen God use our surrendered hearts. When we say “yes” to whatever He has for us, even if it does not make sense, He will provide.

A few months after we arrived in Kenya, I met a university girl named Winter. Winter was extremely interested in meeting for discipleship weekly and did whatever it took to be on campus with me. She asked hard questions and slowly started to open up about the realities of her life. She was raised in a “Christian home,” which was everything but Christian. Her parents were both emotionally and physically abusive, claiming it was all “in the name of the Lord.” They went to a church every Saturday that was more focused on witchcraft than on Jesus. All of her life she was told that she was too sinful to receive any blessings from the Lord and that she would be forever cursed. Through months of meeting with Winter, I slowly saw her begin to experience true freedom in Christ. She started to realize what she had considered to be Christian truth was actually false teaching: This false teaching was missing the beauty of the Gospel. She finally understood that though she was sinful, she had access to full forgiveness of sins in Christ. There would be no condemnation in Christ Jesus if she believed in Him. Now, Winter is on campus every week, leading discipleship groups, and sharing the Gospel with other students. She’s currently praying about what it would look like to live cross-culturally and take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. It does not make any sense for a university student to strip off cultural norms of Christianity and choose the true Gospel, but God provided



spiritual understanding to Winter so she was able to do just that.

Winter’s story isn’t the only one like this. There are so many students who are ready to hear the Gospel. And when they receive proper discipleship, they are eager to take the Gospel to the nations. We strive to see African churches sending African missionaries to the ends of the earth. Even if God only uses us in one missionary’s story, we are so grateful to be a part of the mighty work He is doing here in Kenya.

God has been patient to show us that He did not call us to Kenya to change Kenya. He called us to Kenya to be faithful. And while we are faithful, He is using Kenya to sharpen, refine, and challenge us. During our time here, He has increased our love for the nations and our love for cross-cultural work.

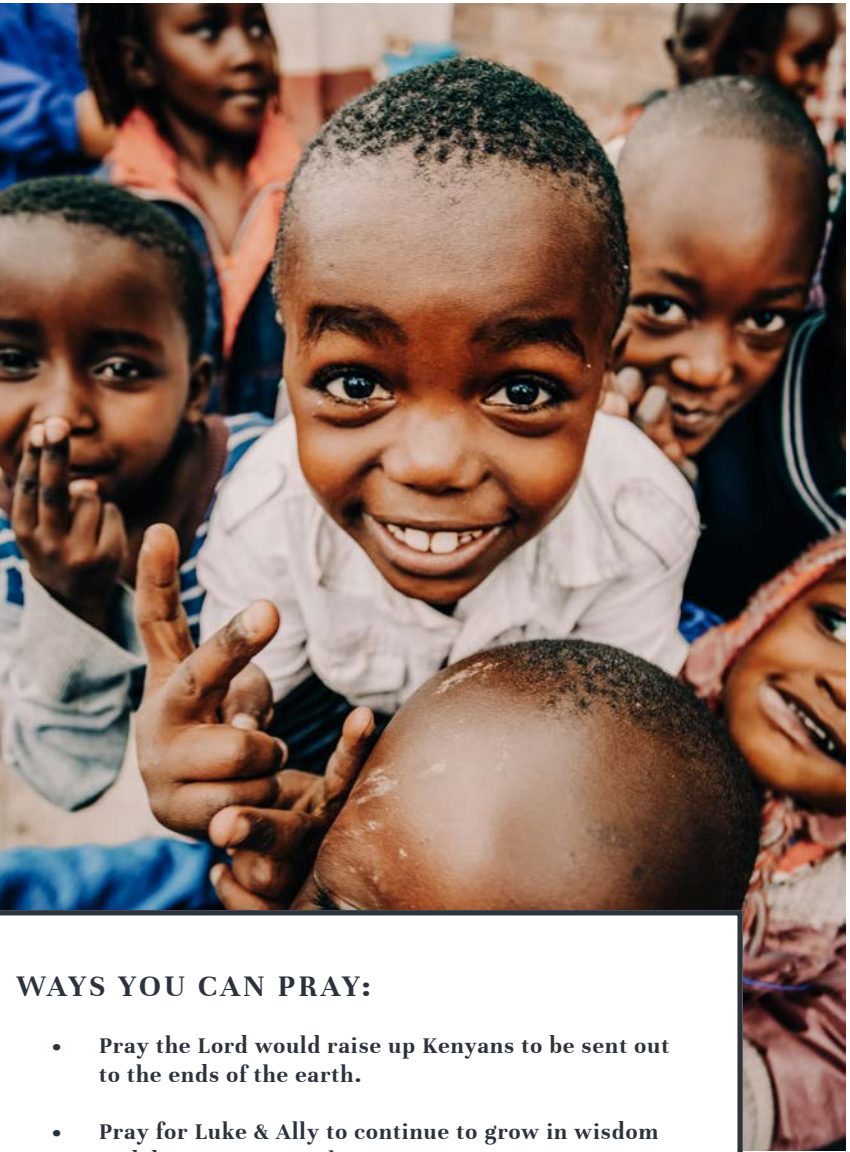
Our life should not just be about learning what is right to do, we must actually do it.

James chapter one is about being doers of the word and not just hearers. Our life should not just be about learning what is right to do, we must actually do it.

“

Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

James 1:27



WAYS YOU CAN PRAY:

- Pray the Lord would raise up Kenyans to be sent out to the ends of the earth.
- Pray for Luke & Ally to continue to grow in wisdom and discernment as they continue ministry in Kenya.
- Pray for Luke & Ally as they are in the process of an international adoption.

Time and time again, God has

made a way where there was

no way.

We couldn’t get James 1:27 out of our minds, “Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” We weren’t old enough to start adoption in Kenya and we did not have the funds to do so. However, this pull on our hearts would not go away. Even though it did not make sense, we stepped into the international adoption process to adopt a baby from Malawi, where our call for missions began. Time and time again, God has made a way where there was no way. God made a way for us even though we are not of legal age to adopt internationally through an age waiver granted to us from the Malawian government. He made a way where there was no way with finances. Through the generosity of Cornerstone Church and a grant, we have been able to cover all of our adoption expenses.

Over and over again we have seen God use our surrendered hearts. When we say “yes” to whatever He has for us, even if it does not make sense, He will provide.

- Ally

Email allysloterdyk@protonmail.com to hear more about Luke and Ally’s plans in Nairobi.



from the field

FINDING CLARITY AS A FAITHFUL PRESENCE

A story of a family preparing to move to the field.

During the summer of 2016, my 12-year-old brother tragically died when things went wrong during a routine tonsillectomy. This shook me to the core. I was attending William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa at the time, playing football and planning to marry my now-wife, Lydia, in just three short weeks. It was during that summer, while in the lows of losing a brother and the highs of being a newlywed, that I really wrestled with the meaning of life: Why am I here? Is God good? And, if God is good, how could He let such horrible things happen? Through much lament (and God’s grace) the only conclusion that made sense was that God must love me if He was willing to send His own Son to suffer His wrath in my place. I found great peace in that reality. However, my heart was troubled at the realization that many people don’t ever have a chance to hear this good

news before they die. I had seen first-hand how short life can be. I felt that God was calling me to more—to share this message with others—but I wasn’t sure what that meant.



NATE & LYDIA
with Campus2Campus

South Asia

God has graciously allowed us to be a part of His redemption story to the people of South Asia.

It was clear God was doing something incredible, and I knew I wanted to be a part of it.



Two years later, I transferred from William Penn to Iowa State University to finish my studies in Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science. Lydia and I heard of this “Salt Company” thing going on in Ames, and decided to check it out. I remember walking into Cornerstone on a Thursday night, sitting in the balcony, and looking across hundreds of college students singing “In Christ Alone” at the top of their lungs. I wept. Growing up, I didn’t know many peers who truly knew and loved Jesus, so when I saw so many students in one place worshipping Jesus, I lost it. I said, “I never want to leave this place.” It was clear God was doing something incredible and I knew that I wanted to be a part of it.

After that first year at Iowa State, we moved to the Minneapolis area for a summer engineering internship. It was then we started attending Salt City Church and really enjoyed it. It was also during that summer my dad was

It became clear to me that we should go overseas.

supposed to attend a missions conference in the Twin Cities. However, he could not attend due to a coaching engagement and asked Lydia and I to fill in for him. At the conference I learned about God’s heart for the nations, and it became clear to me we should go overseas.

We returned to Ames for my last year of school and got connected with International Friendship Connection. IFC was an incredible community for us because it allowed us to lead and teach international students. It also gave us an idea of what ministry could look like overseas. It was during this time that we saw one of our international friends come to know Christ.

At Christmastime that year, we were able to go on a short-term trip to

Vietnam to share the Gospel. We spent ten days roaming the streets of Ho Chin Minh City sharing with people who had never heard of the name of Jesus. It was at the end of this trip that both Lydia and I decided we must give our lives to sharing the Gospel

What a blessing to be in God’s will serving Him with our lives.

with the unreached people of Asia. We couldn’t look at these people, who have essentially no chance of hearing the Gospel before they die, and then go back to the American dream.

Upon our return to the States, we started to put a plan together for moving overseas long-term. Our heart’s desire was to move immediately after graduation, but logistically there were many roadblocks. Due to those roadblocks,

the global team suggested we move back to the Minneapolis area for two years to help kickstart an IFC ministry and take a job offer I received.

While at Salt City Church, we connected with a guy who was planning to lead a team to South Asia through Campus2Campus. This location had already been on our hearts for many reasons. We ended up joining the South Asia Team! In January 2022, we started support-raising, and we took a vision trip this past July. This was a great preview for us as we will be returning for our official move in February 2023.

Our story is one of God leading us as we served others so He could open our eyes to the wonder of His redemptive story. There are many parts that we would not have chosen for ourselves, but what a blessing to be in God’s will serving Him with our lives.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
—
Luke 10:2

South Asia

God promises us that every tribe, tongue, and nation will one day be together worshipping Him in Heaven. God has graciously allowed us to be a part of His redemption story to the people of South Asia and we invite you to join us. Perhaps God is pulling on your heart to move overseas with our team. Maybe God has called you to stay and reach the nations through ministries like IFC. I would ask you to consider reaching the nations through financially supporting my family or our teammates.

God is certainly calling you to pray. We ask that you pray God would have the same grace on the people of South Asia that He has had on you, and that He would send laborers. Pray that those in South Asia would have their eyes opened to truth and come to believe in Jesus Christ.

-Nate

Email nate.v@reliant.org to hear more about Nate and Lydia’s plans in South Asia.

PRAY FOR MUMBAI

A Cornerstone goer writes about Mumbai, India to help fuel our prayers for this place and these people.

Mumbai is one of the most unexplainable cities in the world. It is a place of extremes in nearly every category. Continue reading to get a glimpse of this amazing, overwhelming, exciting, confusing, and beautiful city.

A Rickshaw Ride Through Mumbai

Mumbai is one, big crazy adventure! A traveler arriving in Mumbai is likely to be wildly overstimulated by all of the noise, smells, and general chaos. They would likely travel by auto-rickshaw, the three-wheeled vehicle that serves as the most common method of transportation on the roads of Mumbai. Riding in a rickshaw through Mumbai is an adventure in itself. The open-air vehicles whip around the crowded, bumpy roads, looking for any space to squeeze through, often coming within an inch or two of colliding with another vehicle or a person walking along the street. A traveler is likely to experience a whiplash of smells as they find

themselves inhaling burning trash beside the road one moment, and the next moment realizing they are enjoying the amazing smells of a street food stand preparing *vada pav*, the delicious potato-based dish native to the area. Cows are sacred to the Hindu people of India; They are viewed as majestic animals and providers of sustenance with their milk. They are never killed or eaten, and are allowed to freely roam the busy streets of Mumbai as they please. Because of this, a rickshaw ride through Mumbai could potentially need redirecting because a herd of cows has wandered onto a road, making it temporarily impassable.



Facts About Mumbai

Mumbai is the second largest city in India with a population of 22 million. Every year the city grows by another 265,000 people, leading researchers to project that Mumbai will become the most populous city in the world by 2050. About one-third of the Unreached People Groups remaining in the world today can be found in India, and over 500 of these UPGs are represented in the city of Mumbai alone.

Mumbai is the financial, commercial, and entertainment capital of India. It is home to Bollywood, the Indian Hindi-language film industry. Most classic Bollywood films include

synchronized Indian dances, which is an amazing representation of the fun, unique, and generally over-the-top nature of India.

The wealth disparity in Mumbai is staggering. It is not uncommon to see a new BMW driving past a group of slum-dwellers searching through a pile of trash for redeemable goods to sell. The world’s most expensive private residence, known as Antilia, is located less than seven miles from Dharavi, the third largest slum in the world where over one million people live in shacks made of plywood and sheet metal. In fact, over 50% of the residents of Mumbai live in slums located all across the city.

About 65% of the population is 35-years-old or younger. The city of Mumbai has over 700,000 college students, more than the entire student population of any major athletic conference in the U.S. (including the Big 10 with the new additions of USC and UCLA). Many of these universities are the most prestigious in India. As India continues to establish itself as an economic world power, it is not hard to imagine the massive influence that these young leaders will have in shaping the futures of India, Asia, and the world.

Spirituality of Mumbai

Mumbai is a deeply spiritual place. Hundreds of Hindu temples, Muslim mosques, and other spiritual sites can be found all over the city and are

regularly visited by people seeking spiritual blessings and protection. There is always another Hindu shrine or temple right around the corner as you hear the Muslim call to prayer several times a day regardless of where you live in the city.

Only 2.5% of Mumbians call themselves Christian, and many of those who affiliate with Christianity hold beliefs that are false, syncretistic versions of Christianity. The most popular “Christian” place of worship

Hindus make up the vast majority of Mumbai’s population, and Hindu beliefs and traditions influence everything about the city. Most Mumbians will say their favorite time of year is *Ganpati*, a 10-day festival in early fall where Hindus worship the elephant-headed god, Ganesh, by building massive idols of him, parading them through the city, and then throwing them out into the sea. Hindus worship millions of gods: Each region, caste, family, and individual has different gods they worship at



in Mumbai is called “Mount Mary” where people go to purchase offerings to place before a large idol of Mary in hopes that she will bless them. Someone could buy a plastic leg from a nearby vendor in order to place it before the idol of Mary as they pray for healing for their father’s aching leg. Sadly, the name of Jesus is largely unknown in Mumbai. And, those who have heard His name almost certainly have a twisted perception of who He is.

different times and for different reasons. However, many people (especially young people) are simply going along with family traditions without any true understanding or conviction about their Hindu faith.

As an example shared by some overseas partners, a teammate noticed a 20-something-year-old girl who was bowing and praying in front of a massive, golden idol in the center of the temple. The team members

there pointed to the idol and asked her, “Which god is that?” The girl responded, “I don’t know.”

This brief interaction is a great representation of the hearts of many people in Mumbai. Many people in Mumbai are following along with the religious expectations put upon them by their families, but in reality they are spiritually clueless. They believe there are real spiritual forces that can affect their lives, and because of this, they are willing to live and worship in a way that enables them to stay on many gods’ good side. Yet deep down they sense that something is missing.

It doesn’t take long to realize one thing is true of the city of Mumbai: Jesus is not receiving the worship He deserves. Idols, temples, and images of gods exist all over the city proclaiming



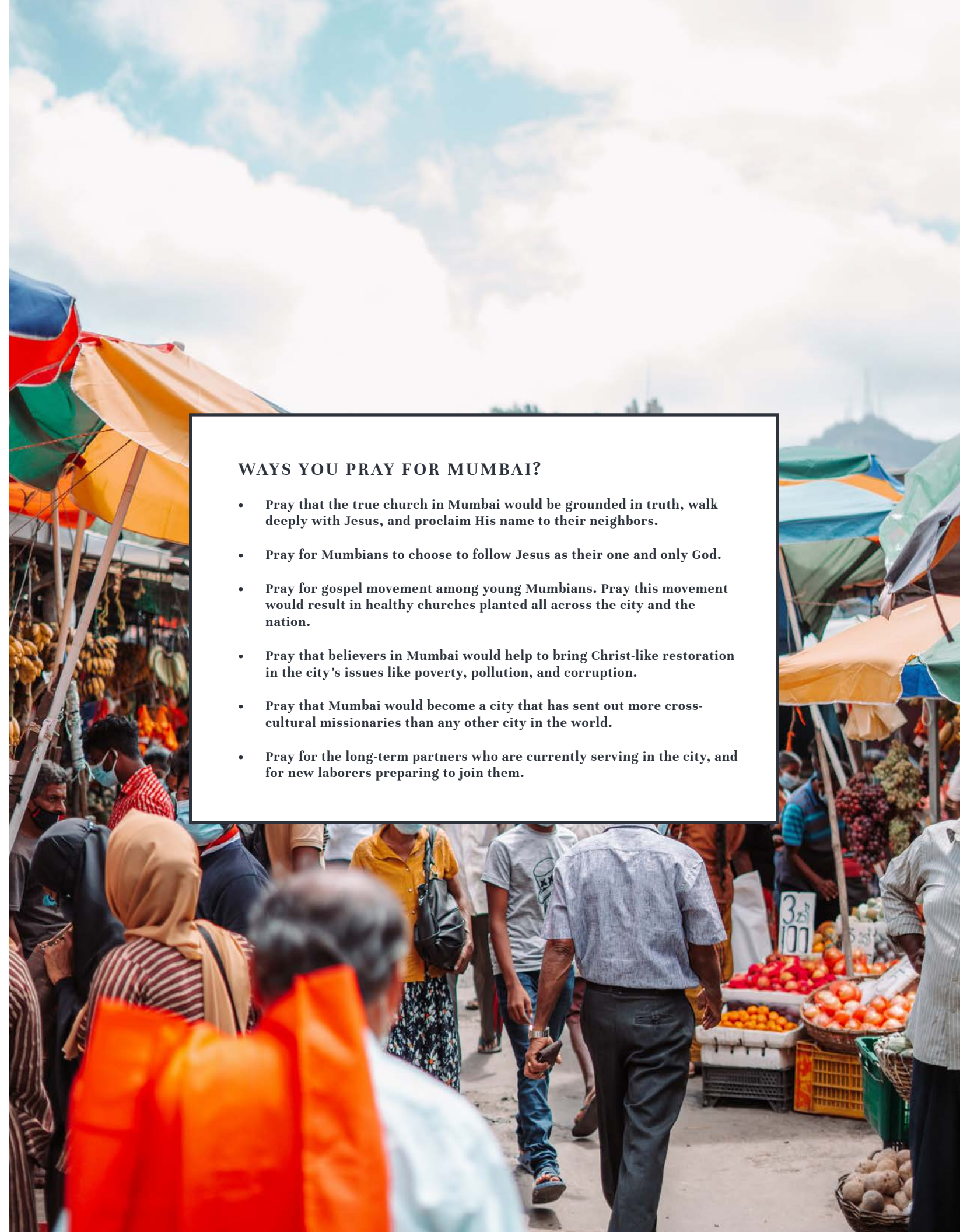
the names of every god except for the one, true God. The city of Mumbai doesn’t know the name or true character of the Son of God who died and rose to redeem them and restore them to their Father who loves them.

Mumbians are similar to the Athenians in Acts 17 who Paul finds praying to a statue of an unnamed god, searching for spiritual truth, but not knowing where to find it. Moreover, the pressures put upon

them to stay loyal to the traditions and beliefs of their families often make them unwilling to search for truth, leaving them trapped in the dissatisfying worship of false gods who don’t love them like the true God in Heaven who made them.

WAYS YOU PRAY FOR MUMBAI?

- Pray that the true church in Mumbai would be grounded in truth, walk deeply with Jesus, and proclaim His name to their neighbors.
- Pray for Mumbians to choose to follow Jesus as their one and only God.
- Pray for gospel movement among young Mumbians. Pray this movement would result in healthy churches planted all across the city and the nation.
- Pray that believers in Mumbai would help to bring Christ-like restoration in the city’s issues like poverty, pollution, and corruption.
- Pray that Mumbai would become a city that has sent out more cross-cultural missionaries than any other city in the world.
- Pray for the long-term partners who are currently serving in the city, and for new laborers preparing to join them.





from the field

LOVING ON KIDS LIVING ON THE PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

The impact of a short-term community trip.

When I was first asked to go on the community trip to Pine Ridge, I definitely had questions. The balance between being helpful and hurtful can be hard to distinguish. The more I learned about Cornerstone’s partnership with Čhaŋkú Wašté Ranch on the Pine Ridge reservation, the more confident I became that it was helpful. Honestly, God wasn’t just opening the door for me to go, He was swinging it wide open. The timing of everything was orchestrated completely by Him.

A typical day in the life of Čhaŋkú Wašté began with a dance party to welcome native kids in for the day. It was filled with “high-five tunnels” for everyone to run through to gather in the chapel room. We set up Bible time, games, and art stations for each age group. The days included fun and cherished

talks over meals with shared excitement for “meatball sub” day. We read God’s word, learned about wisdom, and worshiped together. Through our love and care for these kids, we hoped to show them a glimpse of God’s love.

God wasn’t just opening the
door for me to go, He was
swinging it wide open.



EMILY MANDERFIELD
Cornerstone Member

*Pine Ridge Reservation,
South Dakota*



This trip symbolized what it meant to meet people where they are. I will admit that I was oblivious to poverty and suffering within our own country. Learning about the generational abuse and food insecurity that was occurring just hours away was eye-opening. However, the heart behind this trip wasn't to show off or to say we accomplished "x, y, and z" on the nearby Lakota reservations. Instead, ministry here looked like getting chalk dust on our legs, swinging jump ropes, making up handshakes, kicking around soccer balls, singing country songs on the back of the bus, talking about Jesus, playing

gaga ball, and getting soaked on water day.

Another reason I loved this trip was because of the way we cared for the kids. We were able to offer breakfast bars, home cooked lunches, and take-home sack dinners. These were all opportunities for us to meet the physical needs at Čhaŋkú Wašté, and bring security and joy to many of these kids. A huge part of Jesus' ministry was His desire to care for physical needs. Through meeting these kids' physical needs, the Gospel and love of the Father was shared. Understanding this truth

Pine Ridge Reservation

South Dakota

has greatly impacted me and it's why I became a nurse.

I think there is beauty in helping people physically because this act opens doors to walk alongside them emotionally and spiritually, too. The kids living on the Pine Ridge Reservation felt the love of Jesus through our team of Cornerstone members showing up and being available for them. Imperfect people were used by God to serve the Čhaŋkú Wašté children that He loves so deeply.

I am also thankful for the long-term staff at Čhaŋkú Wašté and the overall purpose behind this trip. The staff are able to invest in these kids' lives in ways we couldn't. They encouraged us to have Gospel-centered conversations with kids and to welcome the Čhaŋkú Wašté staff into the conversations as well. This relational stability is important when sharing the Gospel with others and helps them to create long-term relationships with the children.

“Going doesn’t always mean moving across the ocean to share the Gospel, but it does require going out of your way daily to be intentional with people from all tribes, tongues, and nations.”

This past year, I've been intentionally praying and learning about God's heart for reaching the nations. I have found His love for all nations is woven throughout the Old and New Testament. What God has taught me time and time again through my International Friendship Connection (IFC) family group and by going to the Čhaŋkú Wašté reservation, is that regardless of where you live, you can still care for the nations. This may mean caravanning in a fifteen-passenger van for twelve hours to visit the Lakota tribe, or hosting a group of international students in your home. Going doesn't always mean moving across the ocean to share the Gospel, but it does require going out of your way daily to be intentional with people from all tribes, tongues, and nations.



Learn more about our Pine Ridge Reservation partner:

chankuwaste.com

Learn more about short-term community trips:

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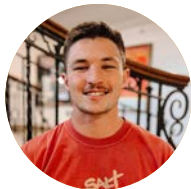




from the field

WHAT GOD DID WHEN I SAID YES

*How God taught me to say ‘yes’ through a
Salt Company summer trip.*



JAMES CHISM
Salt Company Student
Indonesia

“Have Your Yes on the Table” is a phrase that has made me cringe the vast majority of my Christian life. The meaning behind those six, innocent words is that we should live in a state of availability to go wherever and whenever God calls us. This sentiment is often seen in the Bible as Jesus regularly challenges His followers to pick up their cross, say goodbye to friends and families, and go wherever the Gospel takes them. I wish I could say I easily obey this command, and

**I was seeing what it looked
like to live transformed by the
Gospel and to live on mission.
I wanted in.**

that I am fully ready to follow God wherever He calls me. That hasn’t been the story of my life, or at least it hadn’t been the story of my life until this summer.

My faith journey began earnestly in my junior year of high school when I started attending Cornerstone Youth on Wednesday nights. Soon after, I started attending church on Sundays. I had never before heard the Gospel preached as powerfully and clearly as at Cornerstone, and I was so blessed to be welcomed and loved by staff, students, and adult leaders. For the first time in my life I was seeing what it looked like to live transformed by the Gospel and to live on mission. I wanted in.

This is where the process of having my “yes” on the table began. I was asked to be a Youth Student Leader, to which I quickly said “yes,” but mostly because it met my need to achieve. A year later, I began my collegiate adventure at Iowa State, and quickly said “yes” to The Salt Company. My first year in The Salt Company showed me what it looked like to live differently from the world, and I said “yes” to fleeing from sin, living in community, and actively

God wants and deserves my whole heart and my unconditional “yes” on the table.



repenting. However, my heart was still marked with a “yes, if” mentality or “yes, but” attitude: “Yes God, I’ll do this *if* I still have time to pursue all my other goals and dreams;” “Yes God, I will, *but* only out of a sense of obligation, and I won’t put my heart into it.”

As my freshman year ended I had the opportunity to apply to be a Connection Group leader. Even this “yes” came with hesitations as I wrestled hard with how much time I would have to give up from my pursuit

of other titles and accolades to be a faithful student leader.

But God, as He always is, was faithful with my “yes,” and I started a Connection Group within my fraternity. I was able to see 20+ college students engage in some form of ministry and I was able to walk alongside several students who gave their lives to Christ. One would think that this would be the lesson I needed to learn that saying “yes” to God is always worth it, however, my stubborn heart still had doubts.

Fast forward one more year. I was a junior sitting down at Burgies Coffee shop with a Salt staff member who quickly became the 100th person in my life to encourage me to spend a summer overseas on a mission trip through The Salt Company. After many more conversations, prayers, and wrestling, I told God “yes,” *but* I was going to need a spring internship and have friends on my summer team.

God instantly went to work in showing me that saying “yes” is always worth it.

A few months later, after accepting an internship for the spring and submitting my application for a summer trip, God instantly went to work in showing me that saying “yes” is always worth it, and that His plan is greater than mine. God put me on a team of random peers I barely knew instead of the group of friends I’d expected. But, God’s plan was greater than mine and I formed new, deep, sanctifying friendships with the best team ever.

Putting me on a team greater than I could have imagined, was just a small part of the work God did in my heart.



My “yes” is fully on the table. Wherever God leads me, I’ll go.

new chapter in my walk with Christ, I know without a doubt that my “yes” is fully on the table. Wherever God leads me, I’ll go. Whether it’s back to southeast Asia, to Eugene, Oregon, or down the street here in Ames, I will go wherever God calls me. I know there is no greater purpose and no sweeter joy than stepping forward to share and live out the Gospel news of Jesus Christ. I know the same is true for you too: Will you give God your “yes?”

I had the incredible opportunity to lead a team of eight students in having 512 conversations with southeast Asians, sharing the Gospel 281 times, and opening the Bible 55 times with new international friends. Over the course of the summer we were able to lead two girls from death to life as they became new believers in Christ. Our team was also able to start a Bible study that has continued on after we left.

My eyes were opened to the overwhelming goodness of God and the unbearable weight of my sin. I felt God break down and rebuild my heart’s posture toward people around me. I started to see everyone as the image-bearers they are, and I can feel my eyes changing to view all of God’s

children the same way that He does. I witnessed with my own eyes the way God’s plan is so, so much greater than mine, and I unknowingly played an active part in watching the ways God never gives up on people. The list goes on and on of the ways in which God opened my eyes to a new and deeper understanding of Him, myself, and how He views His world.

There’s one lesson I’ll hold closely for the rest of my life: God wants my “yes.” Not just a half-hearted “yes,” a fake “yes,” or a “yes, but.” No. God wants and deserves my whole heart and my unconditional “yes” on the table.

So, as I enter my final year of college at Iowa State and prepare to begin a



THE SALT COMPANY’S IFC HIGHLIGHT

A home away from home for international students at Iowa State University.

International Friendship Connection is a ministry of The Salt Company that aims to welcome, serve, and support international students and families in Ames through weekly family groups, events, and English conversation partners. We hope to help others experience love, hope, and meaning in their lives through Christ and community, and so we asked some IFC students this question:

How has IFC been your home away from home?

Ainé



📍 *Democratic Republic of Congo*

I can’t thank Aaron enough for reaching out and introducing me to IFC the first semester of my junior year. He invited me to his family group and told me what to expect. After a couple weeks getting familiar with the people, we started hanging out outside of school. The love and hospitality they showed made me feel at home. IFC provided a learning environment where different cultures worldwide meet, and it became another learning opportunity I loved. The night activities and all the outings made my life in Ames smooth and healthy. Maya Angelou said, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you say and what you do, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” IFC truly has become my second home.

Harika



📍 *India*

I came to know about IFC through MyState StuOrgs. I joined a family group immediately after learning about it. The first thing I said was that I wish I knew about IFC sooner. I came to the U.S. in January 2022 and I would be lying if I said it has been an easy adjustment. I have made some great friends through IFC who have constantly supported me and helped me adjust to Ames. Now it has become my home away from home. I cannot think of any other gathering where I get to meet people from all over the world and share their perspectives on almost everything. I am glad to be a part of it. Everyone gets excited for Fridays for many reasons, but for me it’s to hang out with my family group.

Ashley

📍 *China*

For me, IFC is a family that always supports, helps, and accompanies me for whatever I’m going through in life. I could always find friends from IFC, and they are always very kind, nice and warm. There is something special creating this warm and friendly group of people. I really appreciate the opportunity to join this big family. As an international student, I feel I am not a foreigner or a traveler. IFC has made me feel like I have built a special kind of connection with the U.S.

A LITTLE TASTE OF HEAVEN ON EARTH

Every tribe, people and language gathered together.



BRUCE & JODIE HELD
IFC Community Leaders

Ames, Iowa

Six years ago we became empty nesters. Although we were happy for our girls and their pursuits, there was a sense of emptiness. A friend told us about the ministry of International Friendship Connection and we became a part of IFC in the fall of 2016. What a gap it has filled! We personally know what it’s like to move somewhere and not know anyone. The “home away from home” concept was a need we believed we could fill by the grace of God.

On Friday nights, ISU students from all over the world arrive on our little street and come to our home for food,

friendship, and a time of studying Scripture. IFC has stretched and grown us by providing opportunities to share the Gospel and to labor side by side with other Salt Company Student Leaders and Community Leaders to “make disciples of all nations.” Frequently, we find ourselves encouraged by these leaders while striving to encourage them.

With many of our international students being grad students, we feel this is a good fit for us. Bruce has gone through graduate school at ISU and can relate to what they are experiencing and discuss the ups and downs of graduate research with them.

Revelation 7:9 says there will be a great multitude from every nation, every tribe, and every language standing before the throne and worshiping the Lamb on the throne. We get a little taste of this whenever we fellowship and worship together. One of our favorite evenings is our Family Group Christmas party where we gather around the piano, united in

Christ and worship with people from all over the world.

The experiences we’ve had and the friends we’ve made with both internationals and other leaders has been enriching and has led to life-long friendships. We could have never imagined the special relationships we have with Ugandans, Nigerians, Beninese, Ghanians, Chinese, Iranians, Indians, Malaysians, South Koreans, and the list goes on. The tapestry of international connections the Lord has woven is a wonderful blessing.

- Jodie

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**LEARN
ABOUT
IFC**








GLOBAL DOLLARS

What your giving has supported.

Thank you, Cornerstone Church, for your generosity and your faithfulness in supporting your church. For every dollar you give to Cornerstone, \$0.50 (that’s half!) goes toward ministry outside the walls of Cornerstone, with \$0.14 of every dollar going toward global ministry. Here are a few highlights to illustrate how your giving has supported Cornerstone’s global ministry in the last year:

<p>\$ 282,000</p> <p>Given to church planting in global university cities.</p>	<p>\$ 231,000</p> <p>Given to support Cornerstone members sent globally.</p>
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Through both Cornerstone's general and overflow budgets, our church is able to support many ministry partners around the world. Here are a few ministries we partner with for global impact:

 <p>Mission Starfish Haiti</p> <p>\$10,000</p> <p>For solar panels at the school.</p>	 <p>Afghanistan</p> <p>\$5,000</p> <p>For humanitarian needs.</p>
 <p>Indigenous Church Planting Among Muslims</p> <p>\$30,000</p> <p>For mideastern Christians reaching Muslims.</p>	 <p>Serve India</p> <p>\$20,000</p> <p>For local pastor training.</p>
 <p>Jonathan’s House (Central African Republic)</p> <p>\$30,000</p> <p>For a lunch program providing meals to orphaned or hungry children.</p>	<div><p>The Hope Center (Zambia)</p><p>\$20,000</p><p>For orphan care, pastor training, agricultural development, and medical relief.</p></div> <div><p>Ukraine</p><p>\$10,000</p><p>For relief to those displaced or impacted by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.</p></div>

Set up your giving (one-time or recurring) at cornerstonelife.com/give

SUPPORTING AND CARING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONARIES

How you can care for those sent overseas from Cornerstone.



ERIC WARREN
Cornerstone Global Missions Pastor

Saying “yes” to the mission field is certainly a big decision. There are many things that a goer (a term we use for missionaries) will need to sacrifice, and many life plans that will need to change or get put on hold. The goer must apply to a sending agency and begin fundraising. Then, they arrive on the field and adjust to their new home country. There’s a long period of language and culture acquisition. Then, there’s Gospel ministry with all its ups and downs, encouragements and disappointments, fruit and fruitlessness, success and failure. Birthdays and holidays pass. Missionary teammates come and go. Weddings, funerals, family reunions, and other big events at home are missed. They, their spouses, and their kids miss out on friendships with people that are like them. The cost of discipleship is very real, and very much felt when moving overseas.

However, there is great joy in following the Lord and deciding to make God’s name known among the nations. The Holy Spirit gives power and strength that enables goers to both endure difficult hardships and feel emboldened as His witnesses. Goers often see fruit as they build friendships, speak about Jesus, and live in ways that beg the question, “What makes you different?” Goers delight to represent God as His ambassadors, and they rejoice when they see hearts change as they walk with Jesus and abide in Him through every season of their sent lives.

Goers need rope holders.

But it’s still hard to go. Missionaries are humans, too. We are all built for communion with God’s people, and God gave us the church (i.e. each other) to help sustain us.

The very people goers are blessed to be in fellowship with are the very people they leave to respond to the Great Commission and go. In order to get people onto the field, and to keep them there, it’s necessary to support and sustain these goers through every stage in their journey: to the field, on the field, and back from the field. William Carey, a goer in the late 1700s, famously told his friend Andrew Fuller (who was staying), “I’m willing to descend down into the pit [referring to a hard place on the mission field] if you will hold the rope.” Goers need rope holders.

My wife Andrea and I spent two years overseas as missionaries in East Asia on a church planting team focused on university students. Reflecting on our experience, we felt both joys and hardships from our time serving on the field.



Let's not drop the rope, but grab ahold, never let go, and invite many others to join in.

During our stint overseas we experienced some seasons of great blessing and care from back home, while other times we wondered if we were forgotten by many in our church family. An example of a time we felt blessed was when a group of friends from our home church knew we wanted to do cloth diapering (which is an expensive initial investment) when we were expecting our first child while on the field. Our friends purchased and gave money toward purchasing cloth diapers for us, and they took it upon themselves to recruit several others in the church to do the same. Our need was more than met! However, I also recall a different season where we wondered if anyone was reading our email updates because of how few people replied to them. Overall, we did feel more supported than forgotten, and ultimately we saw first-hand how rope holders sustained us through those crazy years on the field.

It takes the combined work of many church members to play their part and contribute to caring for goers. Let's all hold the rope of our sent ones for the glory of Christ. Together we can support and sustain the work of cross-cultural missions in hard places by loving on, caring for, and remembering our goers. Let's not drop the rope, but grab ahold, never let go, and invite many others to join in, so that our partnership in this Gospel work may press on as healthy goers are supported and sustained to continue the great work of all nations knowing the one, true God.

- Eric

Caring for Goers Before They Get to the Field

- Most missionaries have a long and arduous task of raising a large amount of monthly, financial support. Don't be surprised or offended if they ask. Be honest and clear about your intentions with giving, whatever they are. Clarity is kindness. Faster commitment and follow-through will be a blessing.
- Ask them if you can be on their update list. They'll ask if you want to be on the list, but it's an encouragement if you request it even before they bring it up.
- Commit to praying for them. Help them know that you really mean it when you say you will pray for them.
- Tell other church members about their work. You can be just as excited to tell others about the vision as they are. Rope holders are recruiters and vision casters too.
- Plan a going away party or a send-off. Make sure the timing is convenient and it's about who they want invited. Celebrate their obedience, pray for them, honor them, encourage them, and love them well before they go.



Caring for Goers While on the Field

- Schedule video calls and ask them about not only what's great, but what's hard. Share the same about your life in America.
- Read their updates and pray for their prayer requests. Reply to the emails, and ask follow-up questions about things they've mentioned in previous updates, so they know people care about and remember these things.
- Send them random messages through whatever messaging app they use. Emojis, gifs, photos, funny stories, and weird YouTube videos will put a smile on their face and help them feel the joys of normal friendship.
- Spiritual health is of utmost importance. Send them encouraging Bible verses, or share an e-book with them.
- Send care packages or other gifts. Packages can be mailed, or occasionally sent through someone going on a trip, to that place. More simply, send an e-gift card from Amazon, pay for online subscriptions or streaming services, or electronically send them money to go and do something local.
- Remember them on holidays, birthdays, or other special occasions. Email them your family Christmas card, or a birthday card, or throw a virtual baby shower for them. And, invite them to join in virtually on these same occasions as they happen back home, too.
- Consider visiting them. They will love the hugs and the familiarity you will bring. You will be able to walk the streets, eat the food, and experience the sights, sounds, and smells of their new city. Interact with the locals and meet their friends. You will identify on a much

deeper level with what their life and ministry is like, and it will both fuel your prayers and your continued conversations with them.

- Talk to your connection group about adopting them as an overseas worker to multiply the effect of caring well for these goers. It will also infuse a missional heart into your group.



Caring for Goers When Back in the U.S.

- Offer up any resources you may have (or tap into connections you have) such as a place to stay, a vehicle, an extra cell phone, or a weekend away at a lake house.
- Share with them the experiences they've missed while they were away. Favorite foods, a hobby, or their favorite sports team have been inaccessible to them for a while!

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We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 2:8



- Invite them into spaces to deepen friendships or create new ones. If you're having a guys' night, a gals' getaway, a barbecue, or a birthday party, invite them to join.
- Ask more than just, "How was your trip?" or "How is (the country)?" Ask specific questions of how God is at work, especially regarding the people they have mentioned in their updates. When appropriate, invite them to share the tough stuff, too.
- Invite them to your connection group to share about their work and ministry. If you have already adopted them as an overseas worker, your group will love the chance to meet them in-person, and vice versa. If they're around for a while, invite them to become a member of the group.

ADOPT AN
OVERSEAS
WORKER



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

One way to engage in God's heart for the world is through participating in free, learning opportunities. This fall, we have two opportunities: Lunch & Learns and Nations Nights. Lunch & Learns are a great way to interact with Cornerstone missionaries and to learn about what God is doing globally through our church family. Nations Nights are a monthly rhythm to engage in God's global vision by studying scripture, hearing from C2C staff/Cornerstone global staff, and spending time in prayer and worship.

Upcoming

Lunch & Learns

12p in Equipping Room
(free lunch provided)

Sept 18
Oct 23
Nov 20

Upcoming

Nations Nights

7p at rotating homes

Oct 2
Oct 30
Nov 27

cornerstonelife.com/sending



SHORT-TERM TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

ZAMBIA
Dec
5-18

Cornerstone partners with the African church through the Hope Children’s Center in Serenje, Zambia. We will send a small team of community members to the Hope Center for the purpose of community development, and focus on agricultural development. Members with experience in agronomy, horticulture, or have gardening experience are especially desirable for the team.

S.E. ASIA
Dec
19-29

Christmas is an incredible time to share the Gospel in Southeast Asia. They love Christmas, but don’t really know its meaning. Students and professionals can make an incredible impact for the Gospel by coming alongside long-term workers and hosting Christmas parties for university students.

S. AFRICA
Feb
1-12

Restoring Hope Village is a group of homes in South Africa for orphaned, neglected or abused children, to give them a place where they feel loved. The goal is to break the cycle of sickness and death, and to meet physical, spiritual and emotional needs. This trip is great for anyone who would like to experience life in another culture while impacting the lives of children in an orphanage.

TORONTO
Mar
13-17

Experience a melting pot of culture on this Spring Break trip to Toronto. Engage with college students in the city by spending a week focused on sharing the gospel with international students from countries with low access to the Gospel. This trip is designed for anyone 16 years or older who are excited to interact with people in a diverse city with few Christians.

PINE RIDGE
Jun
17-24

The Čhaŋkú Wašté Ranch is located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. This is the ministry of the Pine Ridge local church and is the perfect trip for families. There are opportunities to meet medical needs, build houses, and run a kids camp for Lakota kids on the reservation. This is an amazing opportunity to have cross-cultural exposure here in the U.S.

ALBANIA
SUMMER
2023


Cornerstone sent their first overseas team to Albania 30 years ago, and we have continued to maintain this special partnership. This trip is now for any high schooler to get a picture of what overseas missions looks like and to give them an opportunity to share the Gospel with other high school students they meet.

GUATEMALA
Jul
23-29

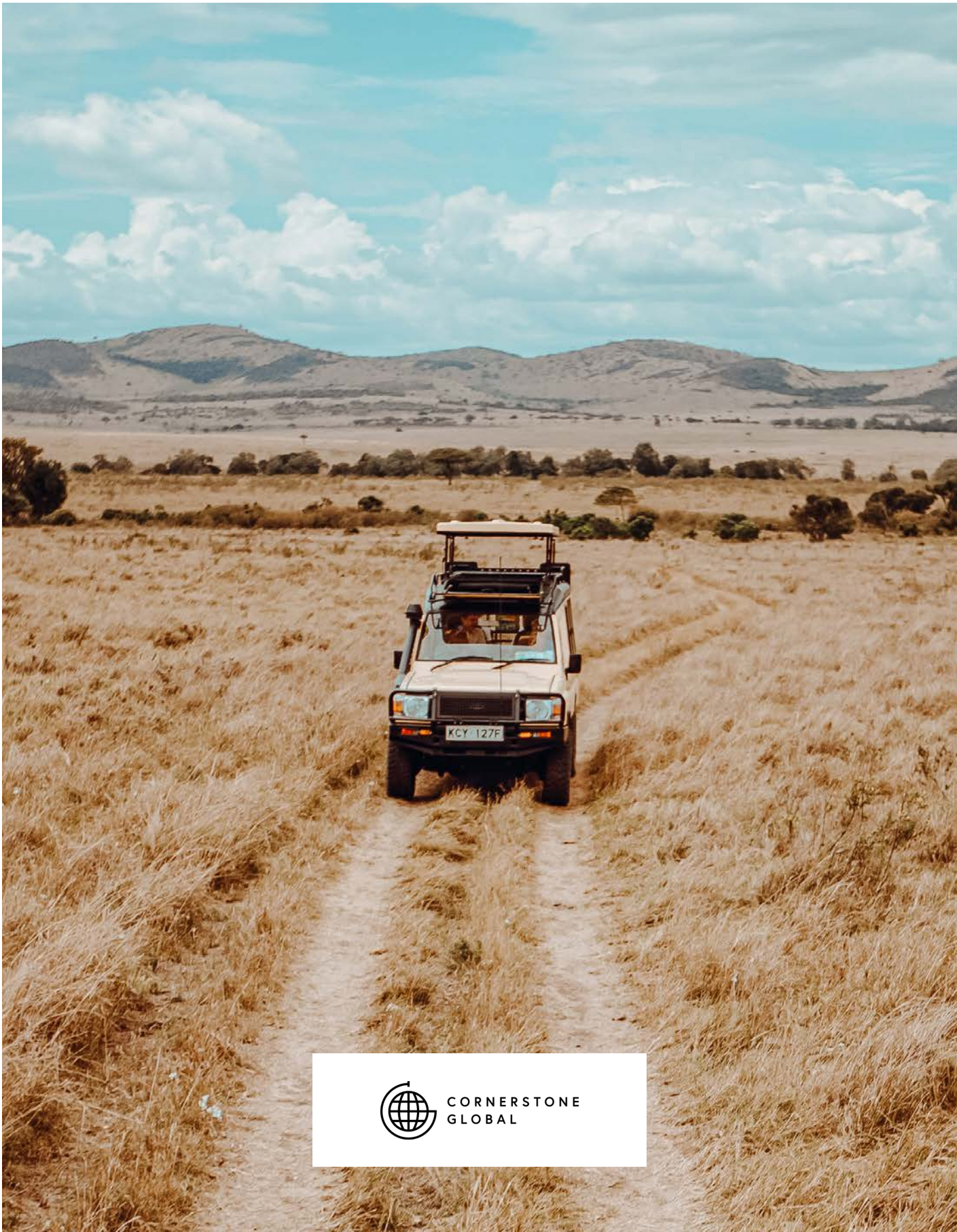
The House of Hope is a home in Guatemala for children who have been abandoned or abused. The vision has expanded to include discipleship day camps for children from the House of Hope, as well as other orphanages in the area. This trip is great for anyone, kids included!

INTERESTED IN
GOING ON A
SHORT-TERM TRIP?

LET’S
CONNECT!



What is God inviting you to?



CORNERSTONE
GLOBAL