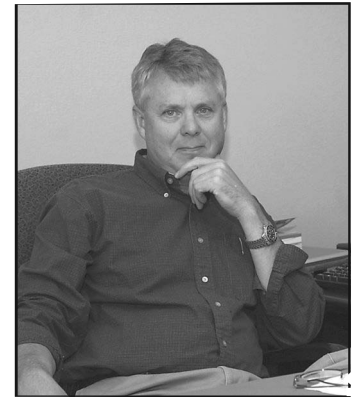


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December 2008

Open Doors of Hope

As Cornerstone Rescue Mission plans for the holidays, we talk about who will decorate the dining hall Christmas tree...if we can include ham in the holiday menu...how many gifts we'll need for residents at the Mission, Veteran's wing, Women and Children's Home and Cornerstone Apartments and where we'll get enough blankets and coats to distribute to the homeless who come shivering to our door. These conversations often turn to what the season really means and how we will convey that meaning to those we serve.



Executive Director Jim Castleberry

Christmas is truly a celebration of God's Gift of Hope, Jesus Christ. Jesus' birth more than 2,000 years ago is the reason we can tell a woman in our recovery program, "With God's help you can make it this time." It's the reason a man can say, "I'm going to be a real father to my children from now on." It's the reason we feel compelled to spread His Good News to every man, woman and child who enter our doors.

Christmastime is in the air at Cornerstone Rescue Mission! Your partnership blesses us all year round, but during the holidays we say an extra prayer for you, thanking God for your faithfulness.

May you and yours celebrate His Gift of Hope, too. Christmas blessings to all!



A Simple Gift... That Gives Year After Year After Year

Each Christmas, folks exchange gifts that bring pleasure for a day, a year or even a lifetime. Some are simple, like the macaroni-covered paper plate given by a grandchild; others, like a wedding ring, a new car or a puppy have life-changing implications.

You can make a simple gift to the Cornerstone Rescue Mission this Christmas that will bring countless years of hope to the people we serve. How? One gift of \$5,000 or more endowed to the Cornerstone Rescue Mission Foundation will create a continual stream of income for our ministry *in perpetuity*.

In other words, your gift made now will continue to give year after year after year. Contact Jim Castleberry at 605-718-8713 or email jcastleberry@cornerstonemission.org to discuss this wonderful opportunity to give a lasting gift of hope.



Bringing Light to the World . . .

For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

- 2 Corinthians 4:6

Can you imagine the unspeakable joy that Mary must have felt as she first held Jesus in her arms and their eyes met. She was holding a baby entrusted to her by God Almighty! This tiny child was the promised light of the world, the Savior, the one who would share His light with people across the ages so they could also help spread light into the darkness!

The primary purpose of the Cornerstone ministry is to share the light of Christ with people who are lost in a darkened world. This is a special gift that we give throughout the year... to show compassion, to ease human suffering, and to encourage a sense of hope.

We accomplish this mission in multiple ways every day. Sometimes, it is through small acts of kindness such as sharing a welcoming smile when they first walk through our door, taking time to care about each one's needs or serving a warm meal to over 300 hungry people 365 days each year.

Our guests often tell us that they feel God's presence as we respond to them. Our staff members are humbled by the immense blessing of seeing a mother cry after we give her warm hats and gloves for her six children when she asks nothing for herself. What could surpass the honor of embracing a crying homeless man who feels so alone in this world after he is told that his mother has passed on?

We also help in life changing ways such as: guiding someone to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, helping homeless families find safe and affordable housing, or assisting parolees in

the process of overcoming barriers in their search for stable employment.

You also have an incredible opportunity to share the light of Christ with the weary and discouraged. Monetary gifts help us reach out to people in multiple ways. Food donations provide for a basic human need for hundreds of people each day. Donations to our thrift store enable us to clothe those with little more than the shirt on their backs and also provides financial support for our Women and Children's Home. Volunteers share their gifts and expand our ability to reach out to more people than we ever could by ourselves.

We know that each gift you give is heartfelt. Rest assured that your support is appreciated more than you will ever know! On behalf of the thousands of lives we touch throughout the year, we offer our sincere gratitude and wish you the most joyous of holiday seasons. **Thank you** for helping us shed the Light of the Lord into this little corner of the world!

By now, most of us are scurrying through the stores searching for the perfect gift for people on our lists. This part of the Christmas season is very different for the children, women and men who spend Christmas within our programs simply because they do not have the money to buy gifts. We created a way for our guests to volunteer their time and earn "Christmas Cash" to purchase items at our Thrift Store to give to their families. You can help by donating new items listed on our Christmas Wish Lists on the next page of this newsletter. Bring the items to the Cornerstone Thrift Store located at: 401 11th Street. Thanks for brightening their holidays!

Christmas Wish Lists



Over 200 people will be living within the walls of the Cornerstone ministry this Christmas. If you would like to spread some holiday cheer among the people we serve, we would greatly appreciate your donations! Call Mary at 718-8712 to obtain delivery locations.

Women & Children's Home

- Bibles for women, children & teens
- Pajamas, slippers & socks (all sizes)
- Backpacks for children
- Phone cards
- Bus passes and gas cards
- Travel alarm clocks
- Hair cut certificates
- Sewing travel kits
- Calendars & appointment books
- Stamps & envelopes
- Stationary & greeting cards
- Bath gels and lotions

Cornerstone Apartments

- Pajamas, slippers & socks (all sizes)
- Simple calculators for budgeting
- Healthy cookbooks
- Phone cards, gas cards, stamps
- Children's books and bibles
- Auto maintenance gift certificates
- Grocery gift certificates
- Sewing and tool kits
- Planner organizers & calendars
- Crock pots and toasters
- Pots and pans
- Bath gels and lotion

Men's Mission & Vets' Wing

- Socks and underwear
- Jeans and shirts
- Bus passes and phone cards
- Stocking caps and gloves
- Work boots
- Backpacks
- Small handheld memo pads / pens

Christmas Meal

- Hams
- Relish trays
- Potatoes and canned sweet potatoes
- Cinnamon, sugar & brown sugar
- Flour, salt and pepper
- Pies, cakes and cookies
- Butter and whipped topping

Other needs in our ministry

- Wrapping paper, gift bags and tags
- Sewing machine for the Cornerstone Apartments
- Car seats for the Child Care Program
- Snow blower for the Cornerstone Apartments
- Commercial dishwasher for the Rescue Mission
- Meat grinder for the Cornerstone Rescue Mission
- Towels and pillows

Elves Wanted!

We need the help of many elves to wrap gifts. This could be a great experience to share with family or friends! If you have a little time to share, please call Mary at 718-8712 or send an email to: volunteer@cornerstonemission.org

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Dr. C. Richard Wells
Senior Pastor, South Canyon Baptist Church

Dr. Joseph Kieffer
Kieffer Family Dental P.C.

*Executive Board member

Cowboy Country Christmas

It's not too late! You still have time to join a good old fashioned country style Christmas celebration. The High Country Guest Ranch in Hill City is hosting the 3rd annual "Cowboy Christmas" fundraising event to benefit the Cornerstone Rescue Mission and Young Life ministries.

Friday, December 12 benefit night for Young Life

Saturday, December 13 benefit for Cornerstone

Tickets \$10 for Adults
\$5 for children
(age 5 & under are FREE)

A free will offering will be received.

For ticket information call the
High Country Guest Ranch
(605) 574-9003.



Chili Cook-Off & Homeless Simulation

Last year, we held a Chili Cook-Off in celebration of the opening of our new Veterans' Wing. We had so much fun, and great-tasting chili, that we decided to do it again and you are invited to join us:



Saturday, January 10th, 2009

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bethel Assembly Church on North Maple

Call Mary at 718-8712 if you are interested in cooking, serving and /or eating a delicious variety of chili.

Everyone will have the opportunity to participate in an interactive experience that will provide personal insight to the challenges faced each day by people who are homeless.

The Homeless Simulation will be held in collaboration with the Rapid City Community Development Office.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CORNERSTONE RESCUE MISSION

(The enclosed envelope is for your convenience. We are serving more people every day. Your help is appreciated!)