

theStone Church

Manchester, IA

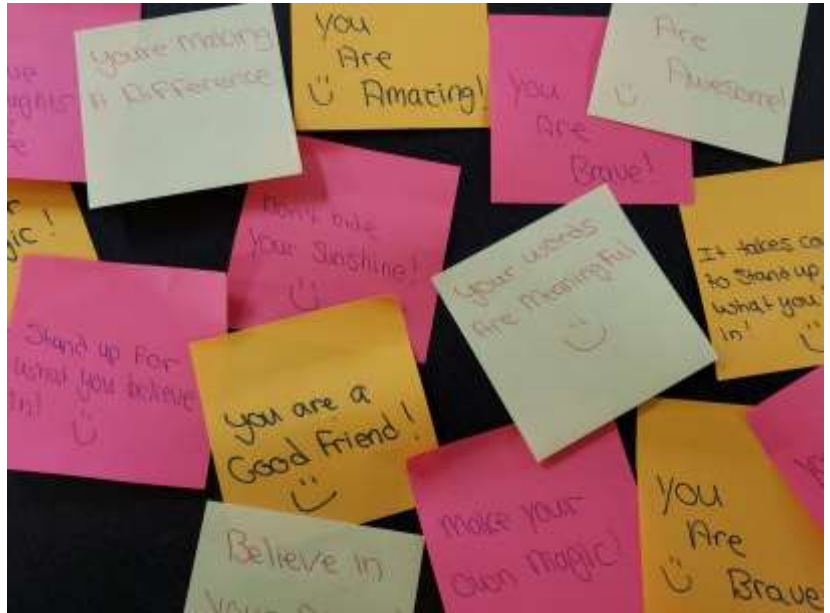
In a small town not more than 50 miles west of the Mississippi River sits a church. A church that is filled with folks, young and old, who love the Lord. In just a short amount of time, theStone Church has not only gone through a name change, lead pastor change, as well as a management restructuring, but they have increased in attendees by over 150 people, and that number is growing.

In May, Pastor Joe Camp, who originates from Ohio, laid out a five year vision plan. First things first, Cornerstone Community Church changed its name to theStone Church. The name came from Mark 16:4 - "But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away." We believe God is calling us to help hundreds, even thousands to remove their stone(s).

theStone Church is growing. We are enjoying all that the Lord has provided and all that He will provide. We have plans to expand our church locations into three more towns within five years and to have lead pastors at each location as well as a lead worship director and those are in addition to the support staff.

We have implemented several new outreach programs, with our main outreach being from our ARK - Acts of Random Kindness program. We started out with leaving sticky notes of encouragement and uplifting phrases on the lockers of our local middle school. There are plans to reach our local communities and implementing ARK groups within those communities, within the next couple of years.

We have increased our adult class options, added a new high school young adults class on Saturday nights and Sundays during 2nd service. We are revamping our missions program so that church members can serve through missions if they feel that is on their heart. We also have plans to implement stateside missions for our youth, both within our local communities and across state lines.



We increased our presence on social media because, as we all know, not everyone has access to transportation. Some people work during service and are unable to physically be at church, so we now live stream both of our Sunday morning services. We post all of our class options online, we have a social media page for our ARK program, our young adults program, our youth program as well as our kids' program. If people cannot make it to service, we are delighted to make it possible for them to bring God into their homes via the technology we use.

By taking God out into the community, we will be reaching more people who need to hear His word and experience His love through us. We will be helping to remove their stones by giving them the love of Christ. For He sacrificed His life for us so that we may live and spread His love.

Helping others know and grow in the love of Christ is our mission. The best way for us to do that is by expanding how we are reaching those in our communities and the surrounding communities. Changing communities for

Christ, one life at a time is our vision. For each life we can help change, there are unlimited lives eventually impacted, saving them for Him.



For many people, going to church is just a routine, but for those that go to theStone Church it is their home away from home. You can walk in any door and see hugs being exchanged, in depth conversations happening, as well as hundreds of smiles and the ringing of laughter. At our Encounter booth you will be greeted by smiling faces. You can visit the Explore booth to find out about classes available and to hear a good joke. You'll see the younger children excitedly waiting for their classes and the older kids going up to their groups to learn more about the sermon that was shared that morning.

At theStone, we like to keep people guessing, when it comes to what we are doing. For Mother's Day we had a photo booth and a photographer set up in the lobby and for Father's Day we had cornhole bag sets set out by the parking lot. We love celebrating! We have taken to celebrating our baptisms with taking photographs from right at the side of the baptismal. You can feel the energy just from looking at the photographs. There is no greater joy than feeling the energy from the baptism of a newly saved Christian.

We have several events coming up for the summer and one of our big events is "Church in the Park". This event is in coordination with other local churches. We will have a potluck in a local park with evening service to follow. There will be all kinds of fun things to be enjoyed that day but none better than fellowship and enjoying the presence of the Lord through those in our community.

God is doing amazing things here and we are so excited to be His tools. Who knows what else He has for us, but we are certainly up for carrying out His mission.



It's not about us - it's about what God wants to do THROUGH us.

Pastor Joe Camp
theStone Church, Manchester, IA