

Cornerstone Youth  
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12 October 2014

Dear Cornerstone Members,

Thank you for your continued interest, prayer and support of the ministry of Cornerstone Youth. We are writing this letter to you to inform you of what God has been doing at CY, and where He is leading us in the future.

For the past thirteen years God has blessed our church youth ministry in ways we could not have imagined when Cornerstone was first planted 20 years ago. CY has grown from a small bible study group of high school students to what is now a vibrant community with nearly 100 young people under its span of care.

CY has always held the gospel at the centre of everything we do. We seek to make and grow mature disciples of Christ through the teaching and application of God's word to Cornerstone's high schoolers. Over the years that CY has been active, numerous youth have come to know Christ in a more personal way. We have been privileged to see God do the miraculous work of bringing young people from death to life as they come to hear the saving power of the gospel for the very first time. Furthermore, many youth have decided to own their faith for themselves after having grown up in their Christian families.

Graduates of CY have gone on to become leaders both at home here at Cornerstone and away in other churches. Some have gone on to ministry apprenticeships or theological study, and many continue to be active, serving members of the churches they attend. The ministry of CY has not only been a blessing to Cornerstone, but also to the whole body of Christ.

At CY, we love the young people that God has put into our care, and we love to see God's word renew and change their hearts so that they would submit their whole lives to Christ. Furthermore, it is Cornerstone and CY's vision to see God's kingdom and people grow in our gospel-shaped communities.

As you are our partners in the gospel, we want to share with you the burden and vision God has placed on our hearts to reach more young people with the good news of Jesus. This is truly a joyful time as we step out in faith by going on mission together, seeking to spread the gospel and to see its transforming power at work in the lives of the youth that we come into contact with.

And so it is with great joy that we formally announce CY's growth strategy for the future. In 2015, CY will move from a combined youth group model to a regional campus model. CY will continue to be one youth group, however we will plant another 'campus' in the northern region of Sydney. The *CY Northern Campus* will meet at the Cornerstone Ministry Centre, and the group that currently meets at Concord Public School will continue as the *CY Inner West Campus*.

Although we will have two regional campuses, we will continue to be one youth group. Practically, this means each campus will be following the same curriculum and the leaders will continue to meet together for vision, planning and training as one team. We will also strive to have combined events to enable the youth to build friendships across congregations and locations.

When we say that this is a joyful time, we really mean it. It is an amazing opportunity and exciting journey to be a part of God's mission together. However, going on mission to plant a church or youth group is never without cost, and we know the godly sorrow and sense of loss that will follow from stepping out in faith in this way. As we look forward, we are reminded of the unity and strengthening of relationship that happens when God's people partner together in ministry.

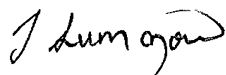
Paul says in Philippians 1:3-5, *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."* In the same way, while there is a sense of loss and separation, there is a stronger sense of unity and joy from being on mission together in gospel partnership.

This was not an easy decision to make, and it is not an easy announcement to give. However we believe that God is calling us to be faithful stewards of the gifts, resources and people we have so as to multiply the blessings he has so richly poured upon us. God calls us not to a life of comfort, but to a life of obedience and faith.

We ask that you would continue to partner with us as we step out in faith together. We covet and value your prayers, words of encouragement, and time, both in raising children to know the Lord Jesus Christ, and in support of the ministry we do at CY. Please continue to pray earnestly for CY and the leaders as we champion the planting process in 2015.

If you would like to talk more to us about the new strategy and vision of CY, feel free to call or email us.

In humble service of the Lord Jesus Christ,



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With the support and blessing of,

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