

Beyond Ourselves... with Dr. Beaver (Written by William Sillings)



Dr. Eddie Beaver is the chairman and president of Cornerstone Foundation, located in Easley, SC. Dr. Beaver is an elder within IFBC, and the Cornerstone Foundation Board has several other IFBC elders in its ranks. The Foundation partners with IFBC to raise support funds for Christian schools in West Africa.

While Cornerstone is not exceptionally large, its impact in the lives it touches is large. The Cornerstone Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, parachurch organization which exists to support, develop, and encourage the work of worldwide Christian Ministry.

One of the ministries Cornerstone has underwritten in recent years provides funds for Christmas giving to Staff and Families of West Africa Theological Seminary (Lagos, Nigeria). Several members of the Cornerstone Board have visited and taught at WATS. Cornerstone's Christmas giving is used to provide essential life necessities and even Christmas gifts for the families and children of staff members of the Seminary. Cornerstone's support is the only Christmas some of these families will receive. These are people of great value in the Kingdom, and they are always excited and deeply grateful for the support.

A second Cornerstone ministry involves shipping books and resources for libraries in other West African seminaries of meager means. Already, several thousands of volumes have been sent to help establish a good library for students in Liberia, where former WATS student, Wallace Sawah has established a seminary for training Christian pastors and leaders. Several thousand other volumes are ready to be sent to other schools where the need for books is very great.

In addition, for 2020, Cornerstone has budgeted several thousand dollars toward the establishment of Cedrela College. In Nigeria, the word college refers to what Americans would call a High School. Cedrela College is located in the city of Ajegunle, Nigeria, which contains the largest and most crime ridden inner-city slum in Nigeria. Cedrela is an openly Christian school, founded in September 2019, and led by Mrs. Victoria Udotong. Victoria has a Master of Arts in Education from Asbury Seminary. She is a former instructor at WATS and the wife of Dr. William Udotong, an ordained elder member of IFBC and Cornerstone's liaison for the seminary library ministry for West Africa.

The Ajegunle area has a high percentage of out of school children. According to Unesco, 1 of every 5 unschooled children in the world are from Nigeria. Ajegunle has an extremely high number of them. But parents seem very willing to allow their children to attend classes at the openly Christian school. Victoria's teaching enables her to proclaim the Gospel to students and their families. Her evangelistic efforts among students and families have already begun to yield a harvest of souls for Jesus. Very frequently, Victoria will say to her husband, "so and so came to the Lord today," or "I prayed with a student's parent today. A goodly number of her charges have already come to faith in Christ.



Students come to the college with various levels of previous education, most with little to none. In most cases, students need sponsors from outside the area. Currently, teachers volunteer their time and energy to educate the young people, but Victoria is raising funds to pay them at least a minimal amount for their work.

This is the proverbial “tip of the iceberg” of the ministry and impact of Cornerstone Foundation. You will want to learn about more of Cornerstone’s initiatives – such as the Africa Study Bible Program and African Leadership Initiatives at www.cstonefoundation.org. May God’s blessing rest upon the men and women engaged in this great ministry.



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