

Augustana College

Chapel of Reconciliation

Heather Barthelman

17 April 2009

Good Morning! When thinking about what I wanted to do for my senior sermon, it was hard to pinpoint exactly what I wanted to say. Augustana has given me so many opportunities over the last four years; it's hard to pick one to talk about. From the advice of Pastor Paul, he said to focus on a verse that speaks to me. Thankfully, the Psalm for today gave me the exact thing I wanted to talk about. In verse twenty-two, a cornerstone is mentioned. Originally, the builders rejected it, but it has now become the cornerstone. This is a wonderful metaphor for Christ. As the Son of God, on Earth he was rejected by his people, but is now the cornerstone of the Church. This got me thinking about actual, functional cornerstones used in foundations. So, I decided to do some research (as any good historian would do) on the historical use of cornerstones.

I found out that builders or masons would choose a stone to be placed in the north-east corner of a building's foundation and would be the reference point for all other stones. The cornerstone needed to have structural integrity to carry the weight of the building and all stresses associated with that. The cornerstone was one of the first stones chosen and needed to be quite strong. However, now a days the process of laying a cornerstone is more ceremonial. The actual ceremony is surrounding a replica cornerstone set prominently on a building. Often, the stone is hollowed and made into a time capsule of the event. Artifacts placed in the capsule often include objects relating to the building and dated materials, such as newspaper articles. This cornerstone is nothing more than a stone with a façade symbolizing the actual cornerstone. These two examples could also be seen as metaphors for faith. Is faith the actual cornerstone for a good foundation of life or is that cornerstone just hollow with a pretty outside? Is Christ that strong foundation or is that cornerstone just an empty space waiting to be filled?

While at Augustana, I have had the opportunity to strengthen my cornerstone of faith. Through several abroad experiences, I have seen many cornerstones of faith in some of the great

cathedrals of the world, including: St. Paul's and Canterbury in England, Notre Dame in Paris, St. Isaac's and the Cathedral on Spilled Blood in Russia, and I was even given the chance to sing in the Augustana Choir at St. Peter's at the Vatican last summer. These cathedrals are magnificent examples of God's gift to man in the abilities of design and form. Walking in these grand places was a breath-taking experience. The cornerstones of these cathedrals must be strong indeed and most likely were not rejected by the masons. However, one of the other places where my foundation of faith was strengthened was not in a great cathedral in Europe, but in a small building on another continent.

Augustana also provided this humbling experience during the summer of 2006, when I traveled in the Augustana Choir to the East African country of Tanzania. There we spent two weeks traveling and singing in a very different economic environment. We met some of the most wonderful people. I do not think that I have experienced such a wonderful welcome from complete strangers ever in my life. The people there gave us their very best of everything to a bunch of very white, wazungu, Lutheran Americans. While we were very out of place, they made us feel like we were among family. Some people may say that these people do not have anything, but they have everything. They may not be as financially sound as the average American, but they have something more important than money. They may not have every technological device we need to function, but they have what matters: faith, family, and friendship. One of the places we travelled to was a small village called Ilulu. There we experienced a week day church service. The congregation was in this small building that could hold maybe fifty people and simply decorated. It was the exact opposite of a great European cathedral, but the congregation was so joyful and sang and danced with their whole hearts. These people had a rich faith and that was all that mattered to them. They do not need all the material things to clutter their lives, but have a firm foundation in the Lord. These people, like Christ, have often been rejected by others, but provide good examples of strong foundations with a Christ-centered cornerstone of faith. Their wonderful example of a Christ-centered life among the midst of poverty changed my perspective of life and changed me. I saw that I needed a strong cornerstone of faith in order to have a good foundation for life. I am so thankful for the opportunities I have had at Augie. So, now I challenge you to look at your foundations and to have a strong cornerstone, filled with Christ. Amen.

MORNING WORSHIP

Friday, April 17, 2009

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

HYMN

“Lord of the Dance”

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.

At Bethlehem I had my birth

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on the sabbath when I cured the lame,
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;
and they left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain*

They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain

Words: Sydney Carter, 1963 - Tune 19th Cent. Shaker
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SCRIPTURE

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Acts 10:34-43

MESSAGE

Heather Barthleman

Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD

Majors: History and French

SONG

“His Love Endures Forever”

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King, His love endures forever

For He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise

Refrain:

*Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong,
forever God is with us, forever, forever*

From the rising to the setting sun, His love endures forever
And by the grace of God we will carry on, His love endures forever
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise *Refrain...repeat refrain*

Chris Tomlin @ 2001 worship together songs
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PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER
BENEDICTION
DISMISSAL
POSTLUDE

CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

UNITY NIGHT - Saturday, Apr. 18th - 8 pm - Chapel

GUITAR FEST - Wednesday, Apr. 22nd, and Thurs., Apr. 30th, at 7:30 in the chapel. Great way to prepare for camp!

BIBLE STUDY - Commons Lounge, Mondays, 6 pm. Everyone is welcome!!

BREAD FOR THE WORLD After chapel on **Friday, May 1 and Sunday, May 3**, you can write letters to your state representatives concerning world hunger. Don't know what to say? A sample letter will be provided. Contact Miranda Andersen with questions. (mmandersen06@ole.augie.edu)

FOOD TO YOU - The chapel outreach is collecting tuna a tuna helper for distribution 10 100 families on May 7th. Please bring your contributions or money to the chapel office

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Monday (20 th)	Earth Day Worship, 10 am - Fem. Theol. Class
Wednesday (22 nd)	Holy Communion, 10 am, Jay Moon, SF Sem.; Brass Choir
Friday (24 th)	Worship, 10 am - Kelli Meier, Sr. Spkr.