



KINGDOM
Impact Zones
NEWSLETTER

September 2024

A NOTE FROM ELIZA

I just wanted to touch base with you to celebrate all that God is doing in Stonecroft. In the last five months, we have:

- Alongside the Board, focused and fine-tuned our Mission, Vision and Values
- Commissioned our first cohort of Zone Leaders, who have started their two year commitment to support volunteer leaders in their Zone
- New groups and studies that are formed and forming
- Released our second edition of the Invited magazine, as well as the updated Genesis study
- Increased operational support for the ministry and local groups

It has been an incredible few months, and we give God all the glory for what He has done!

We also want to thank you, our incredible volunteers, for the stories of decision and life transformation we are seeing and hearing all over the country. Every time someone hears the Gospel from a Stonecroft woman or at a Stonecroft group, we boldly ask God that that seed falls on good ground. It is exciting to think of women using the skills they learned in Relational Evangelism to ask good questions as they hear someone's story for the first time. Or prayer groups continuously meeting for decades, fervently praying for those in their community and in their families to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. We praise God for planning teams, prayerfully choosing speakers and features that will connect with the women in their areas who will get to hear how much Jesus loves them.

We recognize how much time and effort this work takes. Even though we trust that the Holy Spirit does the “heavy lifting”, we know that planning teams and guides and hosts are laboring hard together to create environments where the Gospel is shared.

That is why our National Staff has also been working hard to support you. We have been spending our summer updating forms, the handbook, and resources like Genesis, to have them ready for the rest of this calendar year and upcoming ministry year. These resources are central to Stonecroft’s operation! Thank you to the volunteers and leaders who have served on committees, participated in focus groups and pilots, and provided input and context to all these updates. We hope these updated forms, processes, and resources reflect the good wisdom, history and hopes from the rich experience and expertise of our staff and volunteers. Truly, thank you!

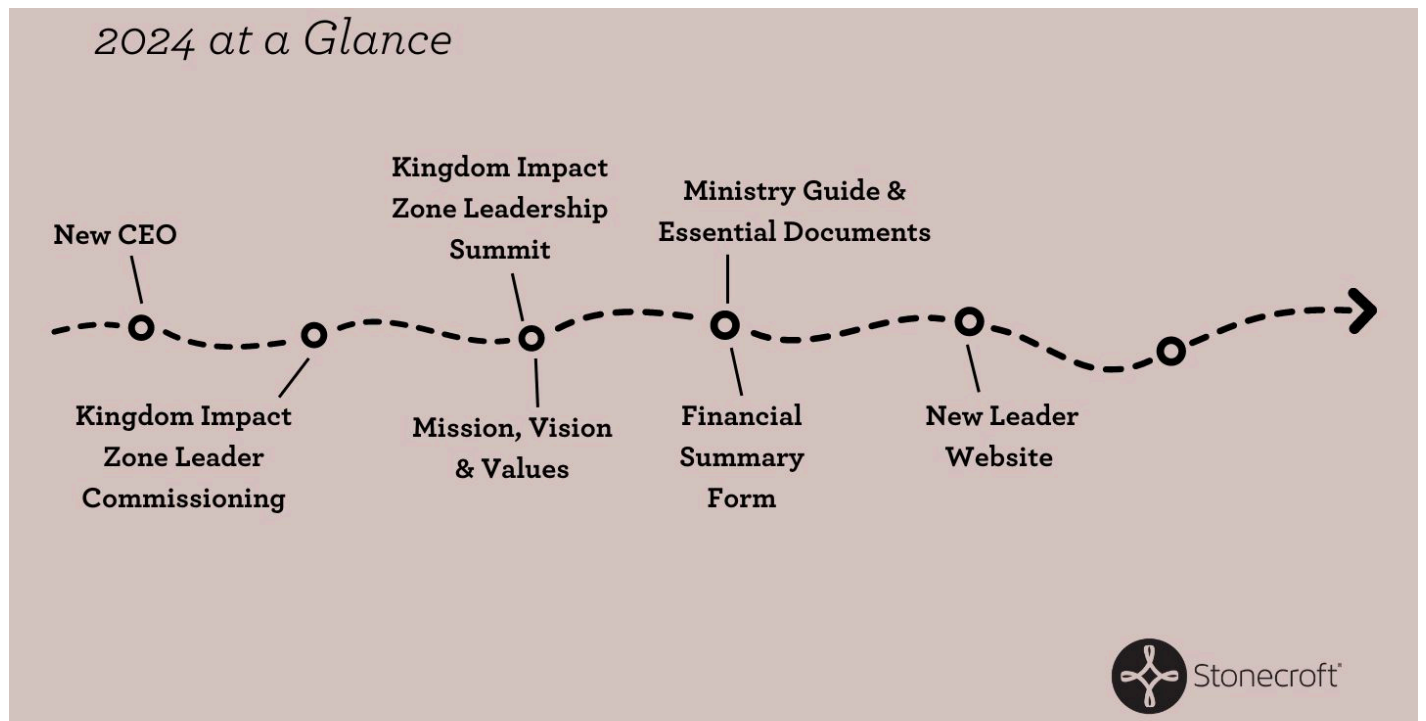
We will roll out these new forms and processes in the month of October. You will see emails and updates from the National Staff, your Zone Leaders and other leaders as we walk this out. Please make sure to check your emails and newsletters so you stay current on information as it comes.

We are also here for you! We will be available to keep you informed, supported, and connected as we continue to make it simpler to start and sustain vibrant, Stonecroft ministry! We want it to be a joy for our current leaders, and the new ones God is bringing to us, to bring the love of Jesus wherever God has called you to serve. We will have FAQs and will host leader calls to help answer questions you may have.

Last, but not least, we invite you to celebrate with the entire Stonecroft community this November for our Annual Celebration Call. Every November we have the tradition of gathering virtually to wildly celebrate the ministry and what God is doing, as a way of giving praise and also stirring hope in our community. Stay tuned for the date and how to sign up as we head towards this Thanksgiving season.

You are so deeply loved, Stonecroft nation! Thank you for your prayers, your service, and your giving that make this work possible.

Until the Nets are Full,
Eliza Cortés Bast
Stonecroft CEO



FROM RESCUED TO SEARCH AND RESCUE

A note from Lane Henderson

At 30 years old, I did not know I needed to be rescued. But God, who I wanted to please, was drawing me to Himself. He allowed me to get into a position that made me realize I needed something more. At the time, I just did not know what it was.

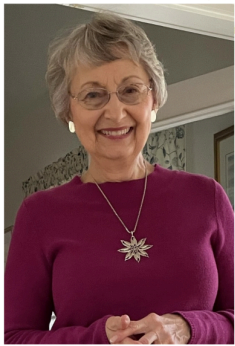
As a young wife and mother of three under five years old, moving every year or two, I was busy trying to keep up with it all. My husband traveled in his job and I was often alone and kept needing to make new friends.

My rescue was gradual and took several faithful Stonecroft volunteers to get me to the place of starting a new life knowing Jesus as my savior.

Ever since then Jesus has been at my side to guide, comfort, discipline, and love me. He has brought my husband and I through some difficult times in our marriage and therefore, I have been able to understand and help other women in those circumstances.

The gift I received when I accepted Jesus was a zeal to reach others who do not know Him- and that zeal has never left me for one day. Over the years, living in many places, I have had the privilege of guiding (part of the rescue) hundreds of women and bringing them to Jesus through the Stonecroft small groups.

Meet Lane



In our culture today, many are raised not knowing anything about God and they, unknowingly, are searching for Him.

If you are part of a Stonecroft outreach group or a Stonecroft small group, you have the opportunity to be trained in a search and rescue mission to reach those who are looking for Jesus who will give them the answers to life.

Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life and no man comes to the father except through me." Do you really believe that?

We are activated by what we really believe.

That is what I was taught many years ago by the author of the studies and I am activated every day to search for and find those who are waiting to be rescued.

As you pray and ask Him, our Father may bring someone right in front of you. He will let you know if He wants you to befriend that person so you can rescue them. Remember, you can only rescue someone who our Father is drawing to Himself so it is important to ask Him, "Who?", then stay close to Jesus, and watch and wait.

It is very important to make sure you leave time in your schedule and are available as you may have an opportunity to meet with someone who is in trouble and calling for help. You do not want to make them wait! When someone is out in the water and you throw them a lifesaver and they grab on to it, you do not holler out to them and say, "a Bible study is starting in three weeks. I will be out to get you then!" So that person has to bob around in the water until you are ready to pull them in with the life saver?? No way!!! You pull them in immediately. You rescue them and then begin a Bible study right away. You love and disciple them with a "Why Believe?" Bible study. You are ready and willing and waiting for them. They will learn who God is, how we they can know the Bible is valid, who this Jesus is, and why Christianity is a relationship and not a religion.

We do have a choice in how we spend our days, and there are a lot of activities to fill up our time, but few of the results last for eternity. Your investment of time in searching and rescuing those headed for an eternity without God has eternal benefits for them.....and you. How blessed we are to know the God who loves us enough to ask us to be part of bringing people to live with Him forever. All praise and glory to Him!

LEADERSHIP TIP WITH LYNNE

Lynne Jordan



PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Jesus was a convincing leader because His character of gentleness, compassion, kindness, and grace drew people towards him and was a catalyst in persuading people to adopt the same character traits that drew them towards Him. Want to be a persuasive leader? Convince people through modeling attractive traits that inspire them to follow your lead.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

There are many opportunities to connect with other leaders throughout the Kingdom Impact Zones. The link below will take you to all upcoming opportunities. Click directly on an item to register if interested.



We have been connecting every other month in 2024 for Kingdom Connection Calls. These calls are a way for us to encourage and engage with our Stonecroft Sisters who are our boots on the ground sharing Jesus relationally. The Relational Evangelism Leadership Team (Jan, Char, and Ann) & our Program Specialists (Sage and Lynne) host these calls. Every call has a new Relational Evangelism training tip and a challenge that will help encourage you to pursue meaningful relationships with the people in your lives as we seek opportunities to share the Gospel relationally.

Our next Kingdom Connection Call is September 19, 2024, at 1PM Central Time (2pm ET/1pm CT/12pm MT/11am PT/10am AK)

Relational Evangelism Bootcamps continue to be popular and we encourage you to register for the full Relational Evangelism course coming in September! Stonecroft volunteers are invited to use a special coupon code when registering, bringing the cost down to only \$20.00.

As a registered attendee, you'll receive a copy of the study guide *Relational Evangelism: Foundations for Sharing Your Faith* and be blessed with Relational Evangelism facilitators to guide you. **The next 4-session course begins Monday, September 9th at 7:30 PM Central Time and meets September 16th, 23rd and 30th at the same time.** Register using the link below and enter coupon code RE24FULL to take advantage of the discount.



Looking ahead to October, mark your calendar and plan to join us for our next Leadership Development Call. We will be diving into Conflict Management Essentials. Prepare to come away from this call with helpful strategies you can incorporate with your local group and teams.

Join us on October 15, 2024, for Conflict Management Essentials: Conflict 101 at 6pm Central (7pm ET/6pm CT/5pm MT/4pm PT/3pm AK)