



C O R A C L E

SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR KINGDOM ACTION

An Overview
&
Report on 2015
&
Looking Forward to 2016

Executive Summary

The year 2015 continued to surprise us with the amount of ministry of Coracle and opportunities at Corhaven and beyond, undergirded by strong financial support. In the early summer we discerned it was right to increase the staff and capacity of Coracle in light of this growth. In late summer it seemed clear that we were being led to grow our ministry presence in Northern Virginia to complement the work at Corhaven in the Shenandoah Valley and make the ministry of Coracle more accessible to more people. We had the opportunity to re-evaluate our staff structure, and God began leading people to us to volunteer as well as come on staff. Things continue to keep emerging strongly in these directions, and our budget for 2016 reflects this with a substantial increase that will require much faith and greater fundraising. We will continue with our current core ministry offerings, nurture the new ones that have emerged, and pay much attention to cultivating a strong staff team and more corporate sense of ministry.

An Overview

What is Coracle?

Coracle is a non-profit organization (501c3) that exists **to inspire and enable people to be the presence of God in the world by offering spiritual formation and Kingdom action.** We do this through spiritual direction, retreats, sacramental ministry, pilgrimage, communication, ministries of mercy and justice, mission trips, and creation care. Some of this happens at Corhaven, a 17 acre 'retreat home' in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Our motto is "*Spiritual Formation for Kingdom Action*".

Why?

In love, God made this world and put people on it so that everyone and everything could become what God intended it all to be. The world is both beautiful and broken. As are we. Our hope is to help each person who finds their way to us to become the full person who God made them to be, flourishing in a real relationship with God, people, and planet, and to be those who participate with Jesus in the redemption of the world. Coracle aims to help people fully realize their unique giftedness and identity in Christ (spiritual formation) and and through that to find their way to bring the Kingdom of God more into the world (Kingdom action).

What do we actually do?

Since our beginnings in 2012, we've come to see that through our various ministries this is what we are deeply providing....

- Spiritual direction for those who don't know where to get it, particularly from the evangelical community, and spiritual direction for clergy and other leaders...
- Places to encounter God, including Corhaven, for those who wouldn't otherwise know where to go, or for those for whom some guidance on retreat is needful...
- An introduction to classic Christian spiritual practices to those with interest but without easy access or much exposure; and celebrating, exploring, and living the unity within the Great Tradition...
- Connection between contemplation and action and holding them inextricably together, and offering spiritual formation for 'activists' and for Christian ministries of justice and mercy...
- Efforts towards peace-making, reconciliation, justice, and creation care...
- A way for a great number of individuals to more freely and broadly offer their gifts in the world

Why does it matter?

Spiritual formation is "becoming like Jesus for the sake of others" - creating space for Jesus to take fuller residence within us, so that we take on his character and nature and then are able to minister his presence powerfully in the world. The aim is to be the body of Christ in the world and that's what Coracle is about most fundamentally: helping each other say a loud "Yes!" to the invitation to share in the life of Jesus while we're in the world—to incarnate the Incarnation—to share the love of Jesus to this beautiful and broken world, for the glory of God empowered by the Holy Spirit. A painfully broken world needs more of this, and each of us do too.



Looking Back–2015

Some Highlights

	People at a Group Retreats/ Events	Group Retreats and Events	Over-Night Stays for Retreatants and Guests	Days with Day Retreatants	People in Spiritual Direction	Spiritual Directors & Associates	Soundings Seminars attendees	Corhaven Kids Club
2013	325	20	85	60	40	7	0	0
2014	400**	24	300	85	60	11	105	20
2015	541***	30	420*	76	81	17	175	25

*includes 40 nights of intern staying with us
 **includes 100 folks for one-off Field to Fork meal
 ***includes slave cemetery events

Coracle saw significant growth almost across the board in 2015. We had 40% more overnight stays in and 35% more attendees at our group retreats and events than in 2014. The number of people in spiritual direction increased 33% and we added 6 new spiritual directors and associates in response. Our newsletter now reaches almost 1200 subscribers, up 12% from the beginning of the year.

- **Providing opportunities for spiritual formation** in a growing variety of settings for individuals and groups, the heart of Coracle’s mission, grew in leaps and bounds over the past two years and forms the foundation of expansion into new areas like Northern Virginia and Baltimore.
- **Corhaven Kids Club** provides a place local kids can deepen their friendships, develop strong character, continue to learn from Jesus, and enjoy God’s good gift of creation. It continues going strong in the 2015-2016 academic year.
- **Israel/Palestine:** As an act of Kingdom Action, we’ve continued to partner with The Telos Group and co-led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and offered a very robust and well attended Soundings Seminar at Restoration Anglican Church.
- **The Repentance Project** also started, in partnership with The Haddock Family Foundation, as an element of Kingdom Action. This will provide the opportunity for Christians to express their sorrow and grief for the institutions and effects of racial oppression in our country’s history, and drew participants from across the country for the first gathering at Corhaven.
- The “**Corhaven Graveyard**”, the slave cemetery project, began in earnest with great local support.



- Our **ministry in NoVA** has thrived, with groups meeting each week for Silence and Spiritual Practice or Spiritual Deepening on Tuesdays, and then adding a Wednesday group
- **Internships**– Coracle had its first intern in Summer 2015, and it was profoundly good on every level, and led to great learning all the way around.
- **The “Jesus the Man” Retreats** for men (three retreats over the year for the same group of 15 men) went extremely well. This was our first multi-retreat format for the same group, and was very worthwhile.
- **“Common Good Things”** is a new ministry of Coracle, an income generating business, that will offer products that carry the love of God for all things, and a sense of God’s vision for all things, that is, shalom, and will enable the creative productivity of many, including taking advantage of the natural resources of Corhaven. (See the draft description below)

Recent Quotes from Retreatants in 2015

“The Veil Between heaven and Earth seems quite thin here at Corhaven.”

“So thankful to God that he led me here...and met me here”

“I felt like the room was anointed with his presence the whole time I was there. I feel richly blessed to have had the opportunity to drink deeply from his presence and to have the truths of God renewed in my heart.”

“I leave Corhaven with God at my side, having experienced the joy of wordless prayer & having learned his invitation just to be in each other's presence.”

“So grateful for this moment of rest and a renewed sense of God’s loving, abiding presence—in this loveliest of places.”

“Having had this quiet, uncomplicated, caring place to join God in what he wants to do in my life will be marked as a life-turning event in my story, I am sensing. I am more rested and have a better understanding that seeing people the way God sees people and loving them the way God loves is the hardest, best thing I will ever hope, with his instruction, to do. I am leaving here with more specifics on how to do that. It is not what I expected really, but, he is a good, good Father and I want to more fully trust his ways of growing me up in him.”



Looking Forward–2016

Over the summer, it became clear to us that we were being led to make what we offer at Corhaven—unique ways to deeply encounter God— more accessible in Northern Virginia (NoVA), and that we would need a more robust and dedicated presence there. Following this leading, “Coracle in NoVA” will provide space for creativity and ministry in the Washington DC area, while Corhaven in the Shenandoah Valley will keep on doing the same things we’ve always done, and become something of an essence-maker and essence-protector. Together Coracle in NoVA and Corhaven will become mutually supportive and generatively co-creative. With that clarity about turning our attention in this direction and our assent to it, things began happening, and God began providing the people quickly, with little effort on our part.

Alongside our current staff, we have now added a part-time Communications Manager, another Coracle Associate in NoVA to lead new groups, a Business Developer to shepherd our new ‘ministry line’ emphasizing vocation and good business as ministry, a Financial Manager, some wonderful volunteers, and a new spiritual director in Baltimore, who, after further training, will become our “Community Minister for Baltimore” similar to what has grown in NoVA with the leadership of our “Community Minister of NoVA” this past year.

So in the coming year, we will focus on...

Sustaining our Core Ministries

- offering spiritual direction and assisting our spiritual directors,
- providing individual and group retreats (public and private) at Corhaven as well as NoVA
- we expect more opportunities for spiritual growth to be offered in NoVA in a variety of forms
- offering Soundings Seminars in NoVA

New Things and Events

- Hopeful of hosting another intern in Summer 2016
- Looking to further clarify and develop the partnership church relationships Coracle currently enjoys as well as seek to build new ones



- “The Repentance Project” will likely grow in scope and impact in ways that are yet unseen. There’s lots to do to prepare the slave cemetery for the dedication. We will be dedicating the “Corhaven Graveyard” on April 30 with a very significant service that includes a lot of community involvement.
- We are discerning how to continue the “Jesus the Man” retreat experience into 2016.
- Further development of the Common Good Things “ministry line” and business
- We will continue to discern when to begin a 12 month spiritual formation program.
- Small groups for Coracle will begin in September 2016 in Baltimore. This will be preceded by some sort of Coracle Baltimore launch event.
- Our new staff personnel and structure will enable all this more, God-willing! We will of course need substantially increased financial support to keep up with this great growth.

Executive Director-at Corhaven
 Director of Creative Care-at Corhaven
 Finance & Admin Manager-at Corhaven
 Groundskeeper-at Corhaven
 Summer Intern-at Corhaven

Community Minister for NoVA
 Community Curator in NoVA
 Communication Manager-NoVA
 Small Group Leaders in NoVA
 Business Developer-NoVA
 Development Contractor-in NoVA

Community Minister for Baltimore

2016 will be great, thanks be to God!

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think,
 according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church
 and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen!”
 (Ephesians 3.20-21)



COMMON GOOD THINGS

from Corhaven

COMMON GOOD THINGS

It's a simple name, but takes us into the deepest truths and most gorgeous invitations. These products are **common** and simple, the stuff of everyday life.

And they are **good**, each one thoughtfully conceived and crafted with love. And they are, well, **things...** products, items that are made and created and brought forth using human hands working with the stuff of creation.

And they are for the **"common good."** There's a whole worldview in our products!



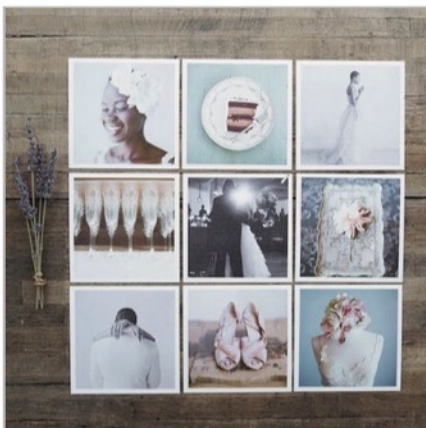
In the very beginning, God created all things for the good of all things, both people and planet. God gave us the gift of all creation and set men and women loose to steward it well, to develop it, to make something of it that would benefit both in a way that all of it together would flourish, and live into all of its beauty in harmony. The divine design is that the the planet would provide things that would be good for people, and people would create things that would be good for others in way that was also good for the planet, so that all would be the perfection that God envisioned. It was all made for shalom, for peace, for fullness and richness and the mutual flourishing of all things.

From the beginning God's vision has been for the common good. Through this all things would know the goodness and wisdom and presence of God. We would all know that God is a God of Shalom, a God of lavish abundance.

Most of all, we would all know that God is Love, and we could know God.

All the vocations of humankind are meant for making this Shalom and cultivating this common good—lawyers, folks in business, farmers, builders, mothers and fathers, engineers, priests, doctors and nurses, politicians, teachers, creators, artists...the list is long. When people in any vocation apply their best skill and knowledge and effort to do things of the benefit of others, God's purposes march forward. Work done with excellence for the common good is indeed worship. A good business honors God as much as a good sermon.

Creating things that benefit all—the Makers, the consumers, the planet—honors The Maker.



COMMON GOOD THINGS

As a business and ministry of Coracle, we offer products that carry the love of God for all things, and a sense of God's vision for all things. We hope that by eating them, seeing them, sharing them, and holding them in our hands, we are reminded of the goodness and reality of God and the near presence of Jesus who came to get God's beautiful vision for all of creation back on track towards the design that's been there since the very beginning.

commongoodthings.com
inthecoracle.org