



Living Stone Prison Church Springfield, SD Fall, 2019

Mark Your Calendar to come Worship with us

10-27-19

Hope Reformed— George

11-3-19

Aurora Reformed

11-10-19

Lifelight Band

11-17-19

Fusion & Steve Sturdevant & Friends

11-24-19

1st Reformed—Platte

12-1-19

open

12-15-19

Fusion

12-22-19

open

12-29-19

open

Please call 605.366.3624 to set up a date to come worship with us! Visitors are always appreciated!

Internship in Review—by Jason Burhoop

This summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to serve as an intern under Pastor Jason Wiersma at Living Stone Prison Church inside Mike Durfee State Prison. The way I came to find out about this internship is a true testament to God working His will in my life. A friend of mine stumbled upon the application online, and knowing that I study criminal justice at Wayne State, thought it might be something I'd be interested in. I immediately was. However, I was apprehensive to reach out for a couple reasons, one being that I had no idea up to this point that prison ministry even existed, and also the ad was posted in a seminary, so my first thought was that I would never be accepted even if I applied. But, the will of God was not to be denied, and after a couple of weeks, I contacted Jason. It seemed to me that from the very beginning, I was not in control of the situation. Our initial talks went smoother than I could have possibly hoped for, and I was given the opportunity to meet Jason and the Living Stone board at their banquet in Canton, where they ultimately offered me the position and I happily accepted.

Now onto the internship itself. My first day in, I sat in on several meetings that Jason had with inmates after coming back from his sabbatical. It was so encouraging to see how easily he interacted with every inmate that came into that chapel, and I couldn't wait to begin building my own relationships with them, which didn't take long. I was tasked with supervising worship band practice, attending a Bible study, and sitting in on a weekly prayer meeting that is led by the inmates. Through these interactions, I was able to connect with the men in ways that I hadn't previously thought were possible. I could hear the Holy Spirit speaking through our conversations and experience a spiritual growth that I had never experienced before. After a couple weeks inside, I was able to feel confident enough to initiate conversations and allow the Lord to dictate where they went. One thing I wasn't expecting through these conversations was how much encouragement and guidance I would receive from the inmates. Remember, just a few months prior to this I didn't know what prison ministry was, so I didn't know what to expect when I began this internship. I learned very early on that it wasn't just going to be me ministering and encouraging them, but that they would be doing the same things for me.

Pastor Jason was able to find time in his busy schedule to take me out to Pierre to see the women's prison, the Rapid City minimum

unit, The Hill, and Jameson to give me the full experience of South Dakota's correctional system. I was also able to spend a few days in Sioux Falls visiting Kingdom Boundaries Aftercare. It's so encouraging to see how the Lord is working through this organization to help men make the transition from prison to society.

During my internship, I went on a two week-long mission trip to the Dominican Republic with some fellow students from my college. When I returned, I was asked to give a presentation on the trip. This was my first time speaking in front of such a large audience for an extended period of time, but the strength of the Lord was on my side, and He spoke through me to show the congregation what He's doing in the DR. A few weeks later, on the day before my last day, I was able to participate in a program within Mike Durfee called Proverbs 22:6. It is a day where families come in to visit the fathers and work on re-establishing broken relationships. It was such a surreal experience seeing how excited the kids and fathers were to be with each other again. One of the most important parts of the program is when the fathers wash the feet of the children and of their mothers, just as Jesus did for His apostles. Praise God for such a beautiful program! On my last day, after the church service was over, I was presented a card, signed by many of the men that I interacted with regularly. (Even though the prison doesn't allow me to keep it) It was such a surprise and honor to receive, I had no idea that my time with them would garner such a response. It was a wonderful way to end the greatest summer of my life! Thank you so much to Pastor Jason, the Living Stone Prison Church board members, and everyone I met on the inside for the opportunity of a lifetime!

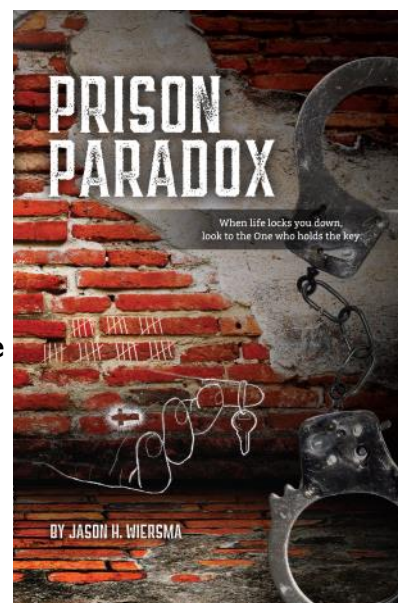
Huge Opportunity for all ages-

Would you be willing to make a batch of fudge? We try to give every inmate 3 pieces of fudge for Christmas. All of the Christian organizations, in the prisons and jails, join together to make gift bags to hand out at Christmas time. That's where we need your help. We need 15,000 pieces of fudge to accomplish this goal. Would you, your Bible study, or Sunday school class help us make this goal? Please call or email Ruth (605.366.3624) for the recipe and drop-off locations.



We are excited about Pastor Jason's new book Available this Fall!!

Join Pastor Jason as he reflects on some of the people he's met (including himself) that felt trapped by life situations. After experiencing and witnessing the power of Jesus to provide an escape for those incarcerated by life, this book was written to help others find a way out. Jason's unique frame of reference is heavily influenced by years of working with inmates both as a corrections officer and as a pastor. Whether your personal prison has physical bars or if it is fashioned out of something like unforgiveness or depression you'll benefit from the scriptural teachings and impactful stories within this book. If you'd like to pre-order the book, visit our website at www.psalms40publishing.com (Initial book sales will go towards the cost of producing the book)



"This page-turner made me think, made me laugh, and made me feel that inner sense of conviction that comes when the Holy Spirit gets under your skin," Author Jennifer Dukes Lee.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help us meet our annual budget.

Please pray-

That we stay faithful to the job God has called us to do.

That God would work in the hearts and lives of the inmates at the Mike Durfee State Prison.

That God would continue working in the lives of the men as they are released from prison.

Please make your **tax deductible checks** payable to Living Stone Prison Church.

All contributions can be sent to our treasurer:

Scott Lee, PO Box 415, Yankton, SD 57078

God bless- Pastor Jason & Ruth Wiersma, 605.366.3615

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www.LivingStonePrisonChurch.org