



Living Stone Prison Church Springfield, SD Fall, 2018

Mark Your Calendar to come Worship with us

8-19-18

First Reformed— Volga & Fusion

8-26-18

St Johns Lutheran

9-9-18

Calvary Reformed— Monroe

9-16-18

Delaware Reformed & Fusion

10-14-18

First Reformed—Sioux Falls

10-21-18

Mitchell Reformed & Fusion

10-28-18

First Reformed—Sioux Center

September 2 & 30 open
November & December lots of open
Sunday Nights

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

“The Difference a Dad Can Make”

I find myself thinking a lot about the role of a dad lately. This past Father’s Day, God asked me to do something unusual. I was prompted to sing a solo for my dad as he sat among the inmates at our Living Stone Service. (Note-the backstory to this is that dad always wanted me to sing in my younger days, but I refused) I sang George Strait’s classic song about fatherhood, “Love Without End, Amen”. I got through the song all right, the congregation was very enthusiastic, and dad was shocked. According to my mother, his face was glowing during the song. After the service, he gave me a note (cancer had impaired dad’s voice for over a year) that said, “I was right, you can sing!”. (Thanks for the encouragement Dad, I’m very sure Simon Cowell would have blasted me.)

This has become a very important memory for me, as we had to say our earthly goodbyes to my dad just a month later. Amid the emotions of the past few days, I have a stark awareness of how blessed I am. I wanted more time with my dad, but for over 40 years I knew the love of a father when so many others have never experienced that. Dad gave me a good example to follow. There are many who have had nothing but a chaotic blueprint for life from the examples they’ve had. I’ve met with countless men who would have had a similar checklist to the one penned by a foster child in Oklahoma (on the backside of this newsletter), which describes what was desired in a family. One man I’ve been counseling, has one good memory from his childhood, it was of a woman who was kind to him at a cabin he was at, giving him a blanket and a cup of hot chocolate. His other memories are strewn with abuse and utter instability. He was given no example of how to be a man. Sadly, he continued the cycle of abuse into adulthood, finding his own victims. He says justice was done when he was sent to prison, but I just can’t help but think it would have been much different for him if he’d had half the dad that I did.

We had the opportunity this past June, to partner with an organization called Proverbs 226 that is attacking the vicious cycle of incarceration. According to their research, 82% of children whose parents are in prison will one day be incarcerated themselves. Not to

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Things I want in my family.

I want food and water.
 Don't hit on me.
 A house with running water and lights. I want love.
 Mom and dad don't fight.
 I want no drugs.
 Don't kill my pets.
 Help with school.
 Nice clean clothes.
 No lice. No bug in house.
 Clean house.
 Clean bed with covers.
 Don't sell my toys. Treated fair.
 Don't get drunk. TV in house.
 Let me keep my games. School stuff.
 Nice shoes. My own comb.
 Soap. Nice house and safe. A card heater. Comb. Toothbrush.

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mention the greater risk of drug use, dropping out of high school, abstract poverty and many other conditions that contribute to a struggling existence. On Saturday, June 23 we took part in an event that Proverbs 226 put on at Mike Durfee, in which the children of the inmates involved, came into the prison and had the opportunity to extend their father forgiveness for their absence in their lives. We also prayed over the families and witnessed reconciliation happening right before our eyes.

We at Living Stone, believe along with Proverbs 226 that the cycle of brokenness and incarceration can be stopped in Jesus Name. Having a dad that you know loves you, even if they are in prison, can make a huge difference.

If you've experienced the love of a father, count yourself blessed. God gave me the great gift of having such a dad. I now choose to use that gift to reach out in love to others who have had a fatherhood void in their life.

We appreciate your prayers and financial support as we follow the Holy Spirit's lead in breaking the cycle.

In Christ's Love,
 Pastor Jason Wiersma
 Living Stone Prison Church



Gerald Wiersma
 May 20, 1951– July 18, 2018

"Proverbs 226, From My Eyes"

Where is there more joy? On the face of a child running to her dad? Or on the face of a dad as his child jumps into his arms? We saw both in the Proverbs 226 event at Mike Durfee State Prison, and it was impossible to tell where the joy was greater. It was such a privilege to stand on the sidelines and watch as child after child ran to their dad. As we walked with the children into the prison and as we helped with hospitality and other aspects of the day, we could see relationships restored and renewed. The work we had to do wasn't work at all because the depth of what was happening around us was so beautiful.

Where was there the most joy? We believe it was in the heart of the one Father of us all as He saw repentance, restoration and renewal among his children.

Tom and Peg Smith, Synod of Heartland Ministry Coordinator



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-

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