

# Living Stone Prison Church

*Summer 2021*

**Come worship with us  
in Springfield every  
Sunday night from 5-8.**

**New paperwork is  
required for everyone,  
so please call Ruth at  
605.366.3624 and get  
forms sent to you and  
get your group added  
to the worship  
calendar. The guys  
are really excited to  
have guests again!**

## **“Straight up Thankfulness”**

Hello all! Pastor Jason here, to be honest I am having a hard time writing this newsletter. It's not at all that I have nothing to write about, I am struggling what to say because there is far too much, I'd like to tell you. I am excited about the current state of Living Stone Prison Church, as the service and Bible studies have opened up in full capacity. Not long ago, I was very blessed to spend a day inside the Mike Durfee prison with Pastor Dan, as well as some of the Living Stone faithful inmates I have worked with in the past. The joy and hope for the future was evident in everyone I talked to. I left that day very encouraged about the direction of our first Church plant and I thank God He's brought forth the right pastor and inmate leadership, to bring Living Stone into the next leg of the journey, as they look to Jesus for direction.

As many of you know, Ruth and I have moved on to plant a church in Sioux Falls for former inmates and anyone else who would like to attend. We are in full partnership with Living Stone, with the same ministry board overseeing both entities. At this point, I want to tell you about some of the things that is happening with our 2nd Church plant in Sioux Falls, called “Freedom's Gate”. I've decided the best way to give you a glimpse of what is going on with the new ministry, is to simply thank God for what He has done and is doing.

I thank God that Ruth was given the wisdom to provide a meal after the services. Not only does this cater to a real need that many of our attendees have, but it is also an opportunity for some great fellowship between our congregation and the volunteers. I also thank God that so many other churches have jumped on board and provided meals to go with the service on Sunday nights---THANK YOU!!

I thank God for this text message I received from a former inmate, that I bumped into in Sioux Falls and invited to church after we were able to pull some strings (with God's guidance) to help him out when he was in a tough spot; ***“I just want to thank you and Ruth for what you did. Growing up I never saw the Church do something like this and it brings me a huge amount of joy to know there's a church that cares about it's people.”***



# Help Wanted!

We are looking to fill our calendar with groups willing to come worship with us in Sioux Falls at Freedoms Gate.

Would you be willing to make/or help make the meal? Maybe you would be willing to get on a monthly rotation to transport people from the Glory House. Services start at 5 and we would love to have you come worship with us sometime.

***Call or text 605.366.3624***

All contributions can be sent to our treasurer:

**Brad Whitsell, PO Box 415, Yankton, SD 57078**

LivingStonePrisonChurch@gmail.com

www.LivingStonePrisonChurch.org

Pastor Dan— 605.630.1807

Pastor Jason—605.366.3615

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I thank God that he has sent us the necessary servants to come alongside us in this new venture. I think of Brad, a gifted worship leader who drives a long way to come and lead music for us frequently. I also think of the three former inmates from Living Stone, who faithfully set up and run the PowerPoint and sound system, week after week and do a stellar job. I think of the multiple drivers, who have made many trips to the Glory House aftercare units (as well as other places) to pick up men and women there that want to attend our services and drop them off afterwards. I think of multiple couples, who attend together and have served in many ways along with being regular smiling faces in the crowd. I wish I could give you more details, but the important thing is God has added to our team numerous humble servants (of course there is always room for you).

I thank God that I had the opportunity to drive a man around who I've known for 21 years. I met him first when I ran his cell hall as a corrections officer in the year 2000. I met him again when I started doing prison ministry on the Hill (Sioux Falls) in 2010. I met him again after he got transferred to the Mike Durfee State Prison where we had planted Living Stone around 2016. I met him again when he was released early this year and attended Freedom's Gate Church. It's difficult to find housing when you are a felon, so I agreed to drive him around one morning to look at options when it hit me, I used to lock this guy up and now I'm helping him embrace freedom spiritually and physically. Oh, the joy in serving Jesus!!

Well, I have not run out of things to be thankful for, but I have run out of room. But before I close, I would like to thank God for you! So many of you have journeyed with us through the years and have become friends. We would welcome you to attend Living Stone and or Freedom's Gate for yourself as both are open to guests again (FG always was LS just recently was cleared to have guests again).

Be blessed in the journey, brothers and sisters! We hope God is doing so much in your life that you'd have a hard time even knowing where to start telling us about it!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Jason and Ruth Wiersma  
Pastor Dan and Natalie Ebbens