

# Living Stone Prison Church

*Winter 2021*

## Help Wanted-

We are looking for volunteers for Freedom's Gate Church. We are hoping to develop a weekly rotation of people to help us with the following things;

- Two people to greet people at the front door and direct people to the bathroom during service
  - Individuals willing to pick up and return people to the Glory House (about a 12 minute drive-we do have a van available for this)
  - Offering handlers and counters (We have found that the men want to give to the ministry)
  - Running the Power Point
  - Sound system- Backup person (we do have a former inmate that volunteered but he could use some help at times)
  - Providing a meal after the service- (Ruth will help any group or individual organize this)
- Please let us know if you are interested in trying any of these tasks out.

## “Weathering the Storm”

I want to greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...along with greetings from your Brothers, from Living Stone Prison Church! It has been approximately three months, since I started full time inside the prison, with the men at Mike Durfee State Prison. I am humbled and grateful for the opportunities there, and I greatly appreciate the prayers, as we continue on partnering in this mission.

One of the things I have become aware of since starting at Living Stone, is how difficult this season has been for the brothers inside. Covid-19 has made many of our lives challenging at best, but for many of the full-time residents inside the prison, it has been crushing. The reality of life inside, is a life that relies on few things for comfort and joy. Being able to visit family and loved ones, is one of these comforts that many inmates have relied on for support and healthy stability. During Covid-19 lockdowns, the inmates have not been able to see those they love face to face. The ability to get out of the housing units to work, do recreation, and visit with other inmates, along with the opportunity to worship in a community of faith, or grow in a Bible study with other brothers, was something that was painful to give up during that time. I am in no way criticizing the response of the prison during this time. I understand that it has been a difficult season for everyone, and those in authority had to do what they believed to be right to protect all those under their charge. I am, however, recognizing the painful experiences people endured.

The Bible, thankfully, is full of encouragement for the Believer who is suffering, which is great comfort to the body of Christ. There are many joys in this world that God has provided for us, joys that turn our hearts and minds towards God in gratitude. We also recognize that throughout this life, there are painful moments we hope to never again have to endure.

# Save the Date!

## 9th Annual- Living Stone Banquet

It will be a night filled with yummy food,  
great entertainment and fellowship!

Where: Bethany Reformed Church,  
Canton, SD

When: **Thursday, March 25, 2021**  
at 6:30 pm

RSVP: Please let us know by March 15  
if you can come, so we can plan on  
how much food to have. We will also  
be livestreaming the program on the  
Living Stone Facebook page for those  
who can't make it.

***Call or text 605.366.3624***

Pastor Dan will be giving a ministry  
update on Living Stone's activities at  
the prison and Pastor Jason will give  
an update on Freedom's Gate. We  
will also hear from a few former  
inmates how God has used the ministry  
to encourage and strengthen their  
Christian journey.

Continued from front:

One of the passages that has given me so much comfort in the midst of hardship, is the account of Paul's journey to Rome, in Acts 27. Paul had a calling in his life, and God told him definitively that he would stand before Caesar and give a testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The problem was the ocean that raged between Caesarea and Rome. As the storm raged on, it was normal for the passengers to doubt and question that promise. This is a reality in the Christian life. We embrace the calling God has given us, but feel the difficulty of the waves around us, that at times causes us to struggle and question. But in Acts, God provides a response to the storm. He sends an angel to Paul in the midst of it to:

- 1- Challenge them to stay together.
- 2- Promise Paul they would survive the trip.

The challenge and the promise still ring true for us, today. It was a great encouragement to Paul and his travel companions, to hear from the angel that day. I am reminded all throughout Scripture that an angel's function was to deliver the Word of God. Where do we experience the Word of God? Through His Holy Word contained in the Bible. Likewise, when we are struggling with life's storms, God's Word also encourages us to stay with the people of God and to rely on His promises. We are called to navigate these difficult times together with our siblings in Christ, and we know that God is true to His promises.

We do know the end of the story in Acts 27. The people on the ship made it to their destination with no loss of life, and Paul did present the Gospel before Caesar. In the same way, we know that God's promise of never leaving or forsaking His people are true—regardless of how large the waves. This is an important lesson not just for the brothers inside the prison, but for all of us as well. As you all faithfully follow the course that God has called you to, may you find comfort in these truths, today. ~ Pastor Dan

All contributions can be sent to our treasurer:  
**Scott Lee, PO Box 415, Yankton, SD 57078**

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Pastor Jason—605.366.3615