

Living Stone Prison Church

Mike Durfee State Prison - Springfield, SD

Freedom's Gate Church

4800 S Tomar St, Sioux Falls, SD

I AM SPECIAL

Living Stone Church was an essential part of my prison reform. It was easy to get stuck in the same old grind when you are inside the walls. Lots of guys would play cards, hustle or bully to get the things they wanted or a way to kill time. Time can be your enemy or your friend on the inside. I had found a few good men to hang around and after a while we become friends. These men were church going men. Everything is routine inside, and I made it a point to go to church as part of my routine.

When I first got to Mike Durfee back in 2016, the Living Stone Church service was in the visitation room. I had tried going to other church services to see which one delivered good messages and gave me a feeling of safety and security. Growing up, I had gone to many churches and met many different people, but just because people go to church doesn't mean they will welcome you. I felt welcomed at Living Stone Church. The pastor's name was Jason Wiersma, and it was his calm demeanor and warm welcome that made me feel relaxed. There were a few bad apples in the crowd, but there were many good ones that made for a friendly atmosphere. I didn't feel threatened when I was at Living Stone Church.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR TO COME
WORSHIP WITH US
EVERY SUNDAY
NIGHT AT 5:00**

Please call Lauri at 712.470.4165 to set up a date to come worship with the men at Mike Durfee State Prison!
Visitors are always appreciated!

Would you be willing to make a meal and worship with us at Freedom's Gate? Please call or text Ruth at 605.366.3624 to find a date that works for you.

Check out our updated website for the calendar of open dates.

Save the Date!

10th 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 17, 2022
at 6:30 pm

RSVP: Please let us know by
March 12 if you can come, so we
can plan on how much food to
have. Call or text Ruth at
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.

LivingStonePrisonChurch.org

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

I can't remember the first message or church service that I went to, but I can remember the first moment that Jason made an impact on my life. I can remember sitting on the far right-hand side of the podium in the visit room, when Jason read from the book, 'You are Special' by Max Lucado. At first, I thought it was silly reading a children's book in a room full of societies rejects. The more I listened to the words the more I could relate. As he finished the book, I found it hard to hold back the tears welling up inside of me. When I got back to the barracks, count was finished, and lights were out, I wept silently into my pillow. *If God made me and He thinks I'm special, then maybe I am.*

I've heard and read the stories in the Bible, but nothing has impacted me so much. Maybe I wasn't listening. It took a children's book to wake me up to keep going to church. I kept going to Living Stone and am happy to be a part of Freedom's Gate Church now on the outside. Again, it provides a safe, secure, and a non-judgmental church to go where I feel welcome.

Jason and Ruth Wiersma have done a great deal for men and women, in and out of prison. They are great people who believe in helping others out who need it. I feel thankful to be able to help out in our services. I'm grateful for all the people who help the church with donations and food. It allows the church to help others hear God's message in a safe place.

I know I'm not perfect and I'm still trying every day, to be a little bit better than yesterday. Some days are better than others. I do know that when I go to Freedom's Gate, I can be myself there. I know being a part of Freedom's Gate Church, makes me feel special.

Thank you,

Jamie D.

All contributions can be made payable
to Living Stone Prison Church and 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

