

Fall 2026

# Living Stone Prison Church

Mike Durfee State Prison - Springfield, SD

# Freedom's Gate Church

4800 S Tomar St, Sioux Falls, SD

## REDEMPTION STORY-HORSE EDITION

**As some of you know, I (Pastor Jason) had to battle through some significant injuries I suffered last fall while training a 2-year-old colt under saddle. Since I was knocked unconscious, I don't remember most of what happened, but what I can tell you is that I had a broken collar bone, some broken ribs, and a punctured lung to go along with my concussion. I was bruised and battered, but thankful for healing as it came, and for the opportunity to get back to most of my normal activities within a 2-month time frame.**

**But for Pete's sake, what would I do about the horse I was training when the wreck happened? By the way… that's his name…Pete. I suppose a wiser man may have simply brought him to a horse sale and waved goodbye as the highest bidder loaded him up on their trailer and took him to a new home, but I'm a bit more stubborn than that. I fully recognized one of my big errors on the night. You see, I'd had Pete stalled up for about a week without exercise, and I pushed him harder in the training pen than I should have, mainly because he'd been so willing and calm to that point. (The mishap occurred about ride #10) Also, the saddle broke at some point which would have contributed to the chaos and my ability to stay on. (I can't remember how it broke) All things considered; I cautiously made the decision to keep the young gelding and try to move forward in his training while using precautions to prevent**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TO COME WORSHIP WITH US EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT AT 6:00

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 or check our MealTrain link on our website.

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

**further injury after the doctors cleared me to ride again. This included a bull riding vest I ordered to protect my ribs, and a helmet as I eased back into the saddle in the winter of 2026.**

**My stubbornness, I've learned, does have a good side to it. By that I mean that I can stubbornly work with a person (or horse) that has burned me in the past out of an overwhelming desire to see them succeed despite their mistakes. In other words, I'm a pastor that loves REDEMPTION. Redemption can be defined as the action that saves a person from sin, error, or evil. I've called the last few months a "Redemption Tour" for Pete and I as we distance ourselves from the errors that were made which led to my ambulance ride. To give you an update, I've put hundreds of miles on the (now) 3-year-old gelding and most of them have been very enjoyable. We've travelled through the mountains of Wyoming.We've crossed bridges and through streams. We've moved a few cows, and have come across many deer, rabbits, squirrels and even a couple of eagles. Our redemption tour is going well. There certainly will be some challenges ahead, but we are writing a better story than if we had given up when things looked bleak.**

**A better story.....at Freedom's Gate and Living Stone Churches, redemption is at the forefront of what we do and what we teach. Jesus is the ultimate Redeemer who literally brings people who are dead in their sin and caught up in all kinds of evil into His wonderful light through the redemptive power of His blood. I like the way Titus 2:11–14 puts it; For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.**

**It is by the Grace of God that we are saved. We are then trained by the presence of the Holy Spirit to marinate in that Grace and write a different story than the one our lawlessness, apart from redemption, would have penned in our life. We at Living Stone and Freedom's Gate are zealous to continue the hard and rewarding work of stubbornly walking with inmates, addicts, and those formerly in those categories. We strive to minister to others who are seeking a new start from the many other things that trip mankind up in our journey here on earth.**

**Brothers and sisters, may we be stubborn and not give up on people and miss out on something beautiful that God is going to do in their life. (Galatians 6:9) For Pete's sake, I'm glad I didn't, and more importantly I'm thankful for the many men and women that have come our way that are on a Redemption Tour of their own!**

**God bless,**

**Pastor Dan Ebbens (Living Stone Prison Church)**
**Pastor Jason and Ruth Wiersma (Freedoms Gate)**

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—605.667.0312