

JUNE 2025

Living Stone Prison Church

Mike Durfee State Prison - Springfield, SD

Freedom's Gate Church

4800 S Tomar St, Sioux Falls, SD

'UNDER CONSTRUCTION'

My family and I recently moved into a new (new to us) house in the city of Yankton, SD where we have lived for approximately five years. Our previous home was bought by a business looking to expand to the Yankton area, and we once again found ourselves in the market for a home. We found a home we liked and started moving in about two months ago. We enjoy the home very much, but as is normal with homes, the place needs a little work.If any of you reading today own a home, you realize there is always a little more work needed than you thought there was before you bought it.

The most recent project I have undertaken is replacing the deck in the back corner of the home. It is a covered deck and needed a complete remodel, including the decking, railing, ceiling, and lighting. This project sheds some light on a question that I sometimes get while out and about. From time to time I get asked the question, "Where did Living Stone Prison Church get its name?" The passage of Scripture that it was taken from is found in I Peter 2:4-5. It says, "As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

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.

The project on the home has brought my mind to reflecting on the passage in I Peter 2 and I would like to share with you some of the similarities between the two. Firstly, I am reminded that any project worth working on takes time. There have been many days where I had hoped to be further along than I really was, but I am reminded by other home owners that these projects cannot be rushed. The passage specifically says that we are living stones (building material) being built. The implication in the passage is that it is simultaneously already true of God's people as well. It is an ongoing process. We are already existing in this spiritual house that is being built but also recognizing that God is not done refining us. Sanctification takes time where God continues to nurture and shape His people.

Secondly, I am reminded that the building of this spiritual house is not able to be done apart from the great builder doing His work. There were moments where I knew what needed to be done on the house project but found myself saying, "the house won't fix itself. "Truly, anything that is built needs to have a builder who sees it through. Likewise, this spiritual house God is building needs to be done by the master builder who is Jesus Christ. So often we fall into the trap of believing that this life and faith is something I can accomplish. In the Scriptures we are called "Living Stones." Let us turn to God through Jesus Christ to accomplish the work needed to be free.

Thirdly, I am reminded that it is vital to stay connected. If I were to show you a piece of wood I used, you would probably not think too much about it. But If I were to show you all of the wood put together there is that chance you could find it beautiful. It is the same way with us as Living Stones. Notice it doesn't say you are living stones being put out in the field to look pretty. It says we are called as Living Stones to be built into something strong and beautiful like the church. Each of us spiritually make up a living stone which when put together captures what God designed for the church.

May God bless you as you experience the joy of being a part of this beautiful, spiritual house.

IN CHRIST'S LOVE,
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

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www.LivingStonePrisonChurch.org
Pastor Dan— 605.630.1807
Pastor Jason—605.667.0312