



Living Stone Prison Church Springfield, SD Fall, 2018

Mark Your Calendar to come Worship with us

2-10-19
open

2-17-19
Brothers in Blue

2-24-19
open

3-3-19 & 3-10-19
open

3-17-19
Delaware Reformed & Fusion

3-24-19
Mitchell Reformed & Fusion

3-31-19
Aurora Reformed

4-7-19
Northwestern College

4-14-19 & 4-21-19
Emmanuel Reformed

Please call 605.366.3624 to set up a date to come worship with us! Visitors are always appreciated!

“Are You Gonna Stay Here and Cuss at Your TV?”

Over the years in our Living Stone Bible Studies, the subject of modern-day idolatry has come up rather frequently. In a recent study, we evaluated ourselves by looking at a set of questions that helped us evaluate if something was taking a position in our life that threatened our relationship with God (a modern-day idol). We also noted that to battle our idolatry, it was imperative that we have a Christian brother in our life that is willing to get honest with us about things we may be blinded to.

I admitted to the group that my own infatuation with sports was something I must intentionally keep in check or I run into problems. Perhaps it was my transparency that encouraged Kevin* to speak up at the end of the study about something that had happened a couple days prior. His story got to the heart of what we were discussing.

You see, Kevin is a Chicago Bears fan. He went so far as to get the Chicago Bears symbol tattooed onto his arm in full color, he is passionate about his team. The Sunday before the Bible study the Chicago Bears had a playoff game, the game was close and Kevin was getting into it, he cheered when his team did well, but cursed when things didn't go their way. Aaron* a brother in Christ, who we recently baptized, lived near him and was observing his behavior. Soon, it was time for Living Stone's worship service, but the game wasn't over. The two men normally walk together to church, but Kevin told his friend that he wasn't going. At that point, Aaron got brutally honest with him about his behavior and said, "So you're gonna skip church, to cuss at your TV and make Jesus look bad?" Startled at his friends' words, Kevin packed up his things and headed for the chapel. As he told the story, he expressed thankfulness that his decision to go worship, saved him from watching his Super Bowl dreams get wrecked by a barely missed field goal by Chicago at the end of the game..

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Save the Date-

7th 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 14, 2019 at 6:30 pm

**RSVP: Please let us know by March 7 if
you can come, so we can plan on how
much food to have.**

Call or text 605.366.3624

**Pastor Jason will be giving a ministry
update on Living Stone's activities at the
prison and we will hear from a few
former inmates how God has used the
ministry to encourage and strengthen
their Christian journey.**

Article Continued . . .

I was proud of Kevin, proud that he had the courage to tell that story, proud that he had accepted some tough love and changed his priorities that night. Proverbs 27:6 says "Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy." (NLT) In other words, we are wise to accept correction from those who care about us, than flattery from someone who is just pretending to like us. An honest opinion from a godly friend can indeed keep our idols at bay.

In recent days, I've received some honesty from people who care about me. I've heard things like "you just don't seem like yourself sometimes". I've shrugged such things off, but I've now heard it enough that I know there is something to it. We had a huge year of ministry with the new chapel and all the transition involved, and of course my dad transferring into Heaven is a reality that I'm still transitioning through. God has truly been faithful in it all, but I guess at times the weight of all that has happened is visible in my countenance.

Please don't take this the wrong way, we are fully planning to continue following God's lead in the Mike Durfee State Prison into the

future. But providentially, God has given us the opportunity to take a sabbatical from the end of March through the end of May. As 2019 marks the 8th year since our plant of Living Stone Prison Church, we will be taking a couple of months away from the prison this Spring, with the purpose of celebrating the journey and catching onto God's vision for the future of the ministry. We will not be spending that time cussing at our TV, we will however be inviting the Lord to speak to us in many ways, to get honest with us about any adjustments we can make to prepare for the next step(s) in the journey.

God has already provided multiple individuals who have volunteered to cover the needs of the ministry while we are away. We are thankful for these willing servants, and the opportunity to come out of the process in even better shape to serve than we have been.

Thank you once again for all you do to keep us moving at the pace of God's will, even when that means a break from the normal routine. We hope to see you at our banquet in March.

IN CHRIST'S LOVE, Pastor Jason and Ruth Wiersma

*names changed

Please prayerfully consider how you can help us meet our annual budget.

Please pray-

That we stay faithful to the job God has called us to do.

That God would work in the hearts and lives of the inmates at the Mike Durfee State Prison.

That God would continue working in the lives of the men as they are released from prison.

Please make your **tax deductible checks** payable to Living Stone Prison Church.

All contributions can be sent to our treasurer:

Scott Lee, PO Box 415, Yankton, SD 57078

God bless-

Pastor Jason & Ruth Wiersma, 605.366.3615

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