



Cornerstone Prison Church Newsletter

As you come to him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious **cornerstone**,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame."

1 Peter 2:4-6

September 2024

EXPANDING THE KINGDOM FROM THE INSIDE-OUT

“Living the Good Life”

Last weekend we held a special service in the visit room. It was a smaller gathering. Really just a handful of volunteers, a few guys and about a dozen of their family members. But as that group of about 25 people with no instruments and no sound system sang in the basement of a prison the praises rose and relationships were reinforced. Some of our guys don't see their families much, many of them have only sang with their spouses or the kids in their life a few times this decade. The opportunity to praise the Lord and hear his Word together is truly a gift to experience, even in the basement room of a prison set up for visits nearly 50 years ago without many real updates to the setting.

That evening we reflected on Titus three. There Paul had charged a young church leader working in a harsh environment to continue to guide people in fruitful living. There is a strong reminder that what really kept us locked down and enslaved was our pursuit of various vices, but that the loving kindness of Jesus has freed us to live a good life. We remembered together that our good works do not save us, but that they are a natural outcome of a life that has truly been made new in Jesus. This was a great opportunity to share with family members how a handful of our guys had led talks on being a New Creation at the Faith Fellowship Weekend the month before. We heard multiple testimonies of guys inside the prison who had an old life stuck in sin, an old life stuck in
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a prison cell, but then found a new life in Christ that has more joy, freedom, and wholeness than either of the earlier seasons of their lives. It is a beautiful thing when people devote themselves to doing good in a harsh place and put the transformative power of the Holy Spirit on display. Renewed individuals show the power of the resurrection and the possibility of a fruitful, good life even in a place where it would seem no spiritual fruit could grow. A couple of the amazing expressions of fruit growing in the prison have been times of prayer as we pray out individuals who are completing their time with us. Twice this summer we got to take time in our worship service to have our leaders and mature Christians pray over guys they had encouraged, mentored, and disciplined. Individuals who may never leave the prison prayed boldly for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and sustain their brothers through the transition to life on the outside. It is a wonderful thing when we get to say goodbye to brothers knowing they have a new life marked by good works and God's strength as they go into a new chapter of life after their incarceration.

If you would like to come and experience a Cornerstone Prison Church worship service we can still accommodate groups and have many Friday afternoons available for groups to visit us in the fall. Whether in person, or through prayer be encouraged to join us in celebrating the good life God gives, by devotion to good works and intentionally distancing ourselves from that which kept us enslaved to worldly passions.

Pastor Scott

Cornerstone Prison Church

www.cornerstonepcsd.org

scott@cornerstonepcsd.org

Outside Office:

PO Box 88708

Sioux Falls, SD 57109

Ph 605.496.8152

office@cornerstonepcsd.org

Inside:

1600 North Drive

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Ph 605.367.5749



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