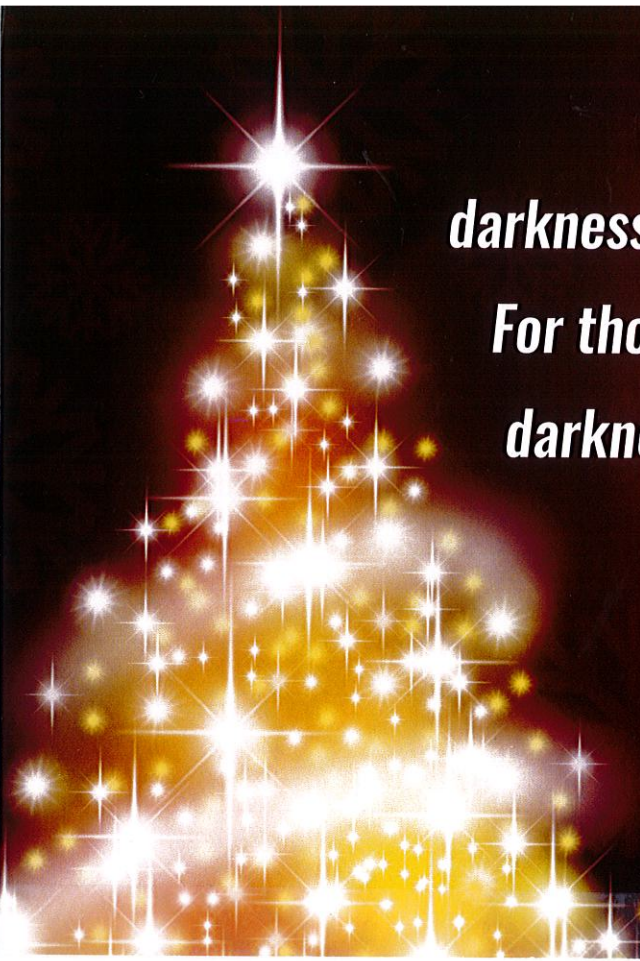


Kayla -
for the money
thank you!
Pls return the
money

Good News Reformed Church,
Thank you so much
for donating to
George McGovern Cares!
Your donation has done
so much to help
make this season
much more joyful
for many of our
families.

Thank you very
much,
The George McGovern
School Community



*“The people who walk in
darkness will see a **great light**.
For those who live in a land of deep
darkness, a **light** will shine.”*

Isaiah 9:2

Dear Friends,

During this season we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Together we have shared the Christmas message with others:

1,167 CAMPERS joined us this summer to hear and experience the love of Jesus

381 groups, retreats, youth events, family reunions, and schools were able to gather in a Christian environment

8,961 PEOPLE WERE SERVED at Inspiration Hills in 2018

These individuals had the opportunity to pause from their daily activities and were invited to experience the presence of God.

Thank you for being part of this ministry.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

The Staff & Board of Inspiration Hills

"The Word and Our Flesh"

Many years ago when I was in grade school, I went with a church group to a live Christmas nativity near Tea, SD. I remember walking by the actors playing Joseph and Mary. I especially remember the baby in the manger scene. I'd seen many a "baby Jesus" made from porcelain or wood, but this was a real baby, which was a powerful visual reminder that Jesus was born as a real baby, skin and all.

John 1:14 puts it this way, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (ESV) The Word (Jesus) was gifted to us from Heaven as the true Messiah that would earn for us the life changing Grace of God, the ultimate gift of Christmas. The fact that Jesus lived and died in the flesh, changes our eternal destiny and also how we live in our flesh.

In my work at the prison, I have the advantage of hearing many stories of lives that have been changed by Grace through faith. Recently we had a baptism service. Before we baptize anyone, some of the leaders of the church get together and talk with them about their beliefs. I ask them some basic questions about the Christian faith and then ask them if there was a time in their life when Jesus broke through and presented Himself as their Savior.

I really wish everyone who is reading this could be there to hear the testimonies that we get to hear at the "baptism meetings". One from the last meeting that stands out was from Eric* who had been running drugs before he came into prison. He described his former life as being desperate and hopeless, to the point that he felt he had nothing to lose. He made up his mind that if the authorities caught up to him, he'd take as many of them out as he could before they gunned him down. One day he saw the blue lights flashing in his rearview mirror and knew it was time, but as he started to plan his next moves, a voice from out of nowhere broke through and said, "pull the car over, I got you." Startled, but unable to ignore the voice, Eric pulled over and cooperated with his arrest. The officer had been visibly shaken during the ordeal because he knew of Eric's warrant and of his potential for violence. He even thanked him for "not making this bad."

That voice was not finished with Eric. After being put into our prison, he attended one of our ministry weekends in our new Upper Room Chapel and Jesus reached out to him in Grace, and Eric accepted the truth about the Savior. In these last months, he has been amazed at how God has led him into a completely different life in which the old cravings of his former self are gone.

Because Jesus came in the flesh, Eric is now comfortable in his own flesh. The would be cop killer is now a child of God. We thank you for your support in 2018 which has given us the opportunity to be involved in this miracle and many others.

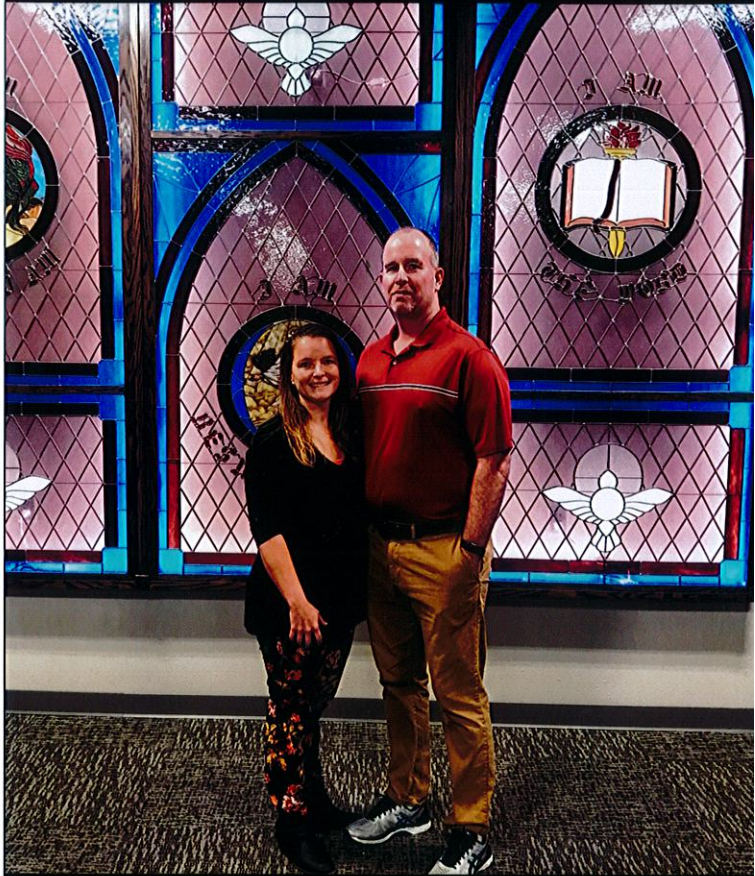
In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jason & Ruth

Pastor Jason and Ruth Wiersma
Living Stone Prison Church

*Name changed

Living Stone Prison Church
Springfield, SD



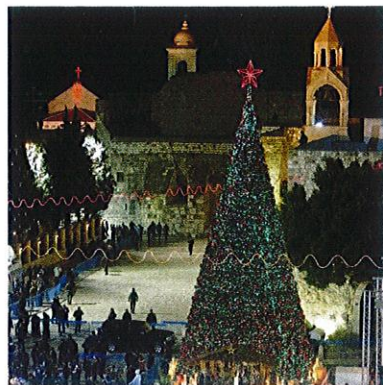
Thank you for your support this past
year and may you have a Merry
Christmas!

Pastor Jason & Ruth Wiersma



Merry Christmas

Joshua, Nicolý, Mahalia and Luciana Vis



*We are grateful for your support of our work in Israel and Palestine
and we send Christmas greetings to all of you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.*

*Joshua, Nicoly, Mahalia and Luciana
(Picture is Christmas in Bethlehem)*

Yours Truly **Shutterfly**
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alpha center

CLEARING THE CONFUSION WITH A MESSAGE OF *Hope*

Pastor Kevin Schneider
Good News Church
1800 S. Valley View Rd.
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-0521

"For God so loved the world..." are the opening words of John 3:16, one of the most famous passages in the Bible. These words are extremely powerful, reminding us that God has a passionate desire to have a relationship with each of us. At Christmas, this is an incredible reminder of why Jesus was born. It all started with God's love for us.

That love is why we exist. **Alpha Center's mission to love every client who comes through our door is characterized by both truth and compassion.** This love is a road sign on life's highway, pointing to better decisions, life-giving choices and of course, eternal life!



Alpha Baby Caroline

Those who come into Alpha Center are often nervous and fearful, even desperate. They quickly realize we can be trusted. We tell the truth and just as important, we choose to love them unconditionally. **When they see that love, they find something they want—and need—so much: Hope in their situation.** That is why we are seeing lives saved and lives changed!



Alpha Baby Kaleb

By any standard, 2018 will go down as a successful year for Alpha Center. The pictures you see in this letter and the stories we have shared in our quarterly newsletters and other mailings are living proof that love does make a difference.

Thank you for your key role as a ministry partner! Your financial support is a major factor in all that we do. Quite honestly, we would not be accomplishing so much without you!! **Enclosed you will find a year-to-date report on your giving.** If you would like to make one final gift **before Monday, December 31**, an envelope is enclosed. You can also give online at www.alphacenterfriends.com.

Your financial partnership makes this ministry stronger every day and I look forward to seeing what we will accomplish together in 2019.

For His Unborn,

Leslee Ugruh, Founder