

Dear Friends of Kingdom Boundaries,

## **One of the greatest blessings as a believer is that we are a new creation!**

The old has passed away, and a new life begins. For any believer, this is easier said than done. How do you leave a life of sin and start living a Godly life? It is the same and even more so for those who have been incarcerated. They often find themselves asking, "Is there life after prison, or is my sentence/sin a life sentence?" They walk a life of fear, confusion, shame and worry about life on the "outside." Who can they trust, turn to, confide in? The options are usually not very good and lead to these men and women going back to prison. Kingdom Boundaries Prison Aftercare (KB) seeks to change the world, one former inmate at a time, by breaking the cycle of recidivism\* by introducing them to the Gospel of Christ.

*\*Recidivism is the tendency of a convicted criminal to repeat or reoffend a crime after already receiving punishment or serving their sentence.*

As an approved halfway house, Kingdom Boundaries Prison Aftercare (KB), which was established in 2013, seeks to improve our resident's sociological health, mental health, physical safety, and most importantly, their faith development. KB does this by personal discipleship focused on being Christ-like, personal responsibility, integrity, employment stability, financial stewardship, time management, and restoring relationships with family, friends, and the community. Residents at KB pay a reduced rate for rent, maintain employment in the community and attend church and regular Bible studies. Our vision has remained the same through the years, but now we need to increase our capacity, in order to be able to help more men than we do currently. We also see the very real need to expand what we do by adding housing for women now, too.

## **God's faithfulness has been evident throughout this new endeavor.**

In the spring of 2023, our board purchased two apartment buildings just a few blocks from our current location in the downtown area of Sioux Falls. We have three of our former residents, and one of our current residents, working full time to get these old buildings up to code and livable again. Once they are done with all the repairs, cleaning, painting, and more, and men are able to start moving in. This will be another option we can suggest to our guys as they begin preparing to move out of Kingdom Boundaries. At this point, these two new buildings have taken priority in our fundraising efforts, as we now need to pay off the debt of purchasing them, and fund all of the much-needed repairs to make them fully operational.

Due to zoning issues with the city and the neighborhood, we will not be able to expand our ministry operations into these new apartments, which means limited accountability and no structured programming will be available to the tenants. However, these apartments will aid in finding long-term, affordable housing for men who have made commitments for being good, solid residents and neighbors.

What does this mean in practical terms?

Well, on one hand, it means we will be very selective about who we recommend moving into these apartments. They will be men who are doing well, succeeding at work and treatment, staying clean, sober, and out of trouble, etc... On the other hand, this also means we still have not addressed our limited capacity issue for men coming directly out of prison. And finally, it means we still do not have a place to provide

shelter and support for the many women who are coming out of prison in increasing numbers and are asking for our help.

According to the most recent official Statistical Report done by the South Dakota Department of Corrections in June 2023 (*see note at end of this letter*), there were a total of 3,518 adults incarcerated by our state, along with 80 Federal inmates also incarcerated in South Dakota. As of the time of this report, there are also a total of 3,064 inmates out on parole. The Department of Corrections (DOC) also reports the current recidivism rate available for inmates that have been out of prison for 3 years is 40%. In contrast, KB has experienced a recidivism rate of only 17% for its residents who have been out for 3 years. However, the most important statistic is that:

***100% of our residents will be personally introduced to the Gospel of Christ!***

They will experience the message of God's forgiveness, grace and love, and the ability to live a renewed and changed life. With this expansion project, KB will continue to use its already proven model of walking alongside former inmates to help them transition back into the world outside of the prison walls, to become functioning members of society, and not just another statistic of recidivism.

In addition to everything we have been doing for men over the past decade, we also hope to be able to finally do something which has been in our hearts for years: Add a new dimension to the ministry of Kingdom Boundaries, by serving women residents, too! In February 2024, we were able to purchase an apartment facility just two blocks away from our ministry, which we plan to fixup and convert into a new home for women coming out of incarceration!

Since 1980, women's incarceration in South Dakota's prisons and jails has increased 4,757%!!! Think about that...for every individual woman incarcerated prior to 1980, there are approximately 476 women in jails and prisons today! That is heartbreaking. And what is even more frustrating is that there is little ministry being offered to these women here in South Dakota! However, with the addition of this new building, KB will be equipped to begin providing the very much-needed ministry to the many women who also deserve both a safe, caring environment to live and to hear of the love and grace of our Lord Jesus!

***Ultimately, our goal at KB is to use the message of the gospel, along with the resources we have been given, to lower the current reincarceration rate being seen all over this country.***

One former resident said: "*When you take someone who has made poor decisions, put them in a place where they make NO decisions, and then when they get out expect them to make great decisions...it doesn't work.*" Most often, unfortunately, they end up making return trips to prison. Yes, that's return trips...plural. Our experience shows those being released need one-on-one accountability and an excellent atmosphere to change the cycle of recidivism. With the type of help KB has been able to provide so far, many of our residents have learned how to make better decisions.

**Testimonials from our residents**

Here are some examples of things some of our former residents have said:

*“At KB we get to take what we have learned in scripture and put it to practice in a dying world...My goal is to continue to follow Jesus and to become the man that He designed me to be...for those whom the Lord blesses me to encounter.” – **Ryan***

*“Kingdom Boundaries has been a good help in resources and to help me transition back into society.” - **Bernie***

*“I have felt welcomed and cared about by staff and others.” - **Mark***

*“I was a self-serving person before I went to prison...Kingdom Boundaries accepted me and helped me achieve a level of awareness of my place in life and in His Kingdom...I give thanks to God for everything I have.” – **Leo***

*“There are good opportunities to help others here at Kingdom Boundaries.” - **Nick***

*“There is much more here than I expected...being around like-minded people who trust in the Word. The staff have been very helpful and kind.” - **Len***

*“Before Kingdom Boundaries my life had not really started yet.” - **Kaleb***

*“I did not know what the inside of a jail looked like until I was 22 years old. Prison life was not good. Being at KB made me realize I really needed to change...or I would be spending the rest of my life in prison.” – **Christian***

*“If it were not for Kingdom Boundaries, the transition from prison would have been very difficult at best” - **anonymous***

*“Even though one makes a few mistakes, you still feel welcomed.” - **anonymous***

As you can see, God has been doing wonderful things through Kingdom Boundaries over the last 10 years. However, the time has now come for us to take the next step of faith, trusting Him to an even greater degree, in order to grow and expand our ministry's reach. We ask that you would prayerfully consider joining us in our effort to heal, strengthen, encourage and restore the men and women coming out of prison who may have no other support system, yet are expected to succeed in a society that typically mocks and ostracizes them, and then punishes them all over again when they feel overwhelmed and wind up reverting back to the poor choices which put them in this position in the first place. For some people, it doesn't work to simply TELL them what to do, or what not to do, without SHOWING them HOW to do so, and/or WHY to do so.

### **We believe there is a better way.**

And we would like to partner with others who believe the same. Are you one of them? Would you be willing to financially support our new building project, or even possibly our ongoing ministry beyond this initial building campaign?

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact us!

We would love to meet you in person and begin building a friendship!

You can also visit our website: [www.KingdomBoundaries.org](http://www.KingdomBoundaries.org)

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter!

We pray God blesses you, no matter what your decision is regarding our ministry!

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**2023 Statistical Report of the South Dakota Department of Corrections**

[https://doc.sd.gov/documents/SDDOC\\_2023\\_Statistical\\_Report.pdf](https://doc.sd.gov/documents/SDDOC_2023_Statistical_Report.pdf)