

## God is on the move

by Pastor Rick

### We have witnessed concrete evidence of the Holy Spirit on the move.

God is on the move at the Newton Correctional Facility. In fact, we have witnessed concrete evidence of the Holy Spirit on the move. A group of nearly 70 men started and finished the Brothers in Blue retreat in early April. Over 200 men enjoyed inspirational Christian music at the Piercing the Darkness concert. Weekly Bible study and prayer groups have experienced record-setting attendance numbers; many of these men are new to New Life.

Perhaps the best indicator of God's movement has been baptism. Previously our high-water mark was 11 men baptized at a single service. However, 20 men took the plunge on May 19! Jasen was one of the baptized men who was very excited about the experience. In reply to why he wanted to be baptized, Jasen answered, "So that I can have a new beginning and a new walk with Jesus. Also because I trust in Jesus and want to be united with other believers." In addition, two service team members (Brian and Mike) made professions of faith. That evening a total of 22 men committed to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. The song "God Is on the Move" by 7eventh Time Down describes what we're experiencing right now at the prison: *God is on the move in many mighty ways...Hallelujah!*



Ken Finch plays guitar for Piercing the Darkness.



Tyler was one of the 20 men baptized in May.

## Pedal for Prisoners challenge

by Pastor Rick



Pedal for Prisoners takes to the streets for the sixth year in a row! This year, New Life is represented by five very determined bicycle riders: Corrine Verschuure, Bill Schinkel, Gary and Corinne Verhoef, and Pastor Rick. They will face the challenge of RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa). We are glad to have Gary and Corinne Verhoef riding back with us again this year. An experienced biker, Corrine Verschuure rides in her 20th RAGBRAI. Bill Schinkel will pedal his bike in daily rides as the route approaches nearby Ottumwa, Iowa. The route for RAGBRAI XLIV looks to be a hilly ride across southern Iowa covering 420 miles in one week. Find out more at [www.ragbrai.com](http://www.ragbrai.com).

In addition, Pastor Rick will travel to Colorado to tackle the intimidating Triple Bypass ride. Visit [www.triplebypass.org](http://www.triplebypass.org) to find out more. It's "only" a one-day ride but requires bikers to climb over three (!) mountain passes in its 120 miles. Pray that each of us will rise to the challenge of these different rides.

We pray that you, too, will rise to the challenge and support us financially. Each of us is riding for a singular purpose: to help New Life Prison Community make a big impact.

**This is our #1 fundraiser of the year. Will you embrace this challenge by sponsoring one of us today?**



**Pastor Rick Admiraal**

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**Please support Pedal for Prisoners 2016**

Contributions may be sent to: **New Life Prison Community, 408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219**

I'd like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Pedal for Prisoners to support

**New Life Prison Community.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Returning Hearts at Angola Prison

by Phil Goodyk

*Phil Goodyk loves New Life Prison Community. He is a faithful volunteer as well as a New Life board member. He and his wife Laurie attend Third Reformed Church in Pella. Phil enjoys taking long walks, but he enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren even more!*

## **Pastor Rick and I witnessed the work God is doing inside prison walls. Some may say that this is a miracle, but I say it's part of God's great revival.**

Recently Pastor Rick and I visited the Angola Prison in Louisiana. We were part of the Returning Hearts Celebration, an event that unites children with their incarcerated fathers for an unforgettable day of games, food, and relationship building. Surrounded on three sides by the great Mississippi River, Angola Prison is set on 18,800 acres. It has six different camps, together housing 6,300 inmates. From 90 to 95 percent of these men are serving life sentences. At one time, Angola was known as the most violent prison in the USA. Warden Burl Cain changed all that by helping to get a Baptist Seminary inside the walls of this prison. Cain believed that if he could rehabilitate the men's souls it would minimize the violence. Soon prison violence decreased by 80 percent.

On May 13–14 we volunteered at Malachi Dads, an event organized by Awana Lifeline. Their theme verse is "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers" (Mal. 4:6). We went to a graduation of 124 on Friday night. Before these men graduated, they dedicated almost a year of their life to studying what it meant to be a Christian dad and raising their children to fear God. What a night of praising and worshipping the Lord!

On May 14 there were 600 children

who reconnected with their fathers for the day (265 dads). As family assistants, Rick and I followed around a family for the day, serving them in whatever way we could. There were games to play where the kids could collect Awana Lifeline money that they could use later to purchase some gifts to take home with them, as well as many other activities that they could do together. There were 474 volunteers from 26 states that helped to make this happen.

The day was an emotional roller-coaster. At the beginning of the day we witnessed fathers reuniting with their kids. At the end of the day we saw tears being shed when they separated for most likely another year. The most gut-wrenching part was when 35 dads were

left sitting in the stands because their children didn't show up. We could only speculate why they weren't there. Nevertheless, we felt the pain cut deep into our own hearts. Pastor Rick and I witnessed the work God is doing inside prison walls. Some may say that this is a miracle, but I say it's part of God's great revival. Please pray for the work that is flourishing in Angola and that it will gain momentum in the lives of inmates, guards, and prison staff. Pray that God will move so that these concepts may be integrated into New Life's ministry at the Newton Correctional Facility.

**These men...dedicated almost a year of their life to studying what it meant to be a Christian dad and raising their children to fear God.**

## Prayers & praise

by Rose Admiraal

- Praise God for being on the move in Newton Correctional Facility!
- Praise God for the 22 men who made a stand to put Christ first in their lives!
- Praise God for doors opening up at Newton Correctional Facility for new ideas and programs!
- Pray for new believers at New Life to grow strong in their faith and be protected from the evil one.
- Pray for the inmates, who are struggling with broken relationships and disconnect from their families.
- Pray for the transitions at Newton of new staff, new leadership, and new inmates.



Phil Goodyk at the Angola Prison Museum.