

Pulpit exchange by Pastor Rick

Recently Pastor Brad Bierma and I organized a pulpit exchange. The new minister of Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Pella, Pastor Brad became a New Life volunteer in November of 2014. Pastor Brad prayed and helped serve the Lord's Supper at our January worship service in prison. At our request, Pastor Brad preached the sermon for New Life's February worship service. He referred to the fall into sin of Adam and Eve written in Genesis 3. His message was entitled "Where are you?" His inspired words definitely made a big impact on his audience.

"Thank you, Pastor Brad!"

-Rose Admiraal

He also connected well with our incarcerated military veterans. Before he became a minister, Pastor Brad served his country for four years in the Marine Corp.



Pastor Rick and Pastor Brad

Pastor Brad noticed more similarities than differences between his congregation and mine. Here are a few of his words: "I'd say the similarities between our congregations were a wonderful surprise. Both have broken people who want to love the Lord."

continued on back

Mark Willson visits the Board by Pastor Rick

On February 24, Mark Willson made a visit to our New Life Board meeting. Mark plans to lead the Brothers-in-Blue spiritual retreat scheduled for April 23-26 at the Newton Prison. In addition, Mark is dedicated to reentry ministry. He's part of a four-person reentry team in the Des Moines area. He also

continued on back



Mark and the New Life Board. (L to R) Judy Strong, Bill Strong, Glenda Vander Leest, Phil Goodyk, Ken Stursma, Mark Willson, Sheryl Hanthorn, Marv Goodyk.

Prayers & praise

by Rose Admiraal

*"Always be joyful. Never stop praying."
(1 Thes. 5:16-17, NLT)*

- Praise God for the start of our fifth year at New Life Prison Community and for blessing New Life with financial, prayer, and volunteer support in 2015!
- Praise God that Classis Central Plains recently approved financial support for New Life to 2021 and beyond.
- Praise God for the men who have taken forgiveness and faith to another level.
- Praise God for the salvation and grace he has given us, and pray that the men at Newton will be able to accept this grace.
- Praise God for the many men who are signing up to attend Brothers-in-Blue (a spiritual retreat) at the prison on April 23-26.
- Pray for Chaplain Larry Walker who recently left Newton Prison to take a new position serving men in the Colorado Prison System.
- Pray for inmates and their families who are struggling with serious health issues. Many men at Newton are also deeply concerned about the spiritual health of their loved ones.
- Pray for the inmates who are struggling with temptation to sin and their faith.
- Pray for our volunteers; some have been struggling with health issues and loss of family members.

Would you like to pray for New Life's weekly needs as a prayer warrior? Send an email to rose@newlife-prison.org



Pastor Rick Admiraal

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www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity

Give your gifts to New Life

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

I'd like to donate \$ _____ to New Life to support

New Life Prison Community.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____



Card Ministry expands *by Pastor Rick*

Once per month, New Life has the opportunity to distribute greeting cards to the men at the Newton Prison. Each man receives up to four greeting cards. We acquire the cards from American Rehabilitation Ministries (ARM) of Joplin, Missouri. They provide the cards at a very low cost in order to function as an, "ARM of the church to bring the good news of salvation to those in prison." These Dayspring cards often contain Bible verses and inspirational words.

This has been an extremely effective ministry for New Life. Last month over 200 men came to receive their cards in the prison chapel. As you can imagine, most of the cards distributed in February were for Valentine's Day. However, we also provide Happy Birthday cards, friendship cards, and sympathy cards. In addition, we emphasize important holidays like Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, and Christmas. We believe the card ministry is crucial because it allows men in prison to communicate with their loved ones on the outside. It's a great way for them to express their love and concern. Recently I was approached by prison officials about expanding the card ministry to the minimum-security prison. I gladly accepted this challenge, and the new expansion will begin soon.



Cards help men share God's love.

Forgiveness *by Pastor Rick*

Bishop Desmond Tutu wrote a book entitled *No Future Without Forgiveness*. How true! God's gift of forgiveness liberates us from our painful past so that we can walk boldly into the future.

Men at the prison are realizing the grace in forgiveness. Recently in our Tuesday prayer group, we finished a study called Giving Forgiveness. The study guides were provided at a discount rate by Ascending Leaders. Rose Admiraal faithfully volunteers on Tuesday afternoons. She shared these thoughts: "We discovered that forgiveness is one of the hardest things to do even for Christians. Forgiveness is essential in order for growth to occur in our Christian life."

Many of the men found the study to be extremely helpful and practical in their daily lives. After being baptized at our Thanksgiving worship service, Brandon continued to attend the New Life prayer group. He faithfully attended the Giving Forgiveness study. Needless to say, he took it seriously. In God's power, he was able to forgive the very same man who had reported his crime to the police. In the Holy Spirit, he was also able to ask forgiveness from another person he had harassed while in county jail. God has given Brandon the blessing of forgiveness so that he can joyfully live the life of grace.

We praise God for the start of our fifth year at New Life Prison Community! Thank you for your prayers and support!

Pulpit exchange *continued from front*

Rose Admiraal expressed her gratitude to Pastor Brad: "It was a joy to have him lead worship for us at New Life Prison Community. We appreciate the effort and time he has taken to get involved with New Life. Thank you, Pastor Brad!"

**"It was wonderful for me to fill Calvary's pulpit."
-Pastor Rick**

On the first Sunday of March, I returned the favor and preached at Calvary CRC. Many New Life volunteers, faithful supporters, and friends were in the congregation. I preached a message from the final verses of Mark 8 called "The Way of the Cross," and emphasized that following Jesus isn't always easy, but it's always good. God gives us the strength to follow Jesus. It was wonderful for me to fill Calvary's pulpit and serve my calling congregation. It was also good to sing praise songs selected by Rose, who was the worship team leader on March 1.

Mark Willson visits the Board *continued from front*

has a stake in the Freedom House, which provides housing for men leaving prison. Mark knows his work with former inmates is a challenge, but it also is rewarding if the person being assisted is motivated to succeed.

**"I was impressed by Mark's passion"
-Glenda Vander Leest**

Board member Glenda Vander Leest shared: "I was impressed by Mark's passion and dedication to helping with reentry. He had a lot of advice on team formation with tips on working with ex-mates. They need to be encouraged and supported but not coddled. Since we talk to men every week who are concerned about making it on the outside, we are very aware of the need for reentry teams in this area. He will be an awesome resource in getting a reentry program started in the Pella area."