

God's men on a mission

by Pastor Rick

This issue is all about God and God's men at the Newton prison. We've included three inspirational articles from men at the prison, but they are just the tip of the iceberg. Read more at www.prisoncongregations.org, where you'll find the 2017 Lenten Devotional Booklet. We're grateful that Mrs. Mary Mortenson and Prison Congregations of America encourage men and women to write these devotional entries for our journey to the cross.

God's men are on a mission at the prison, planting seeds of the Gospel in a place where many do not yet know Jesus Christ. One way God's men participate in God's mission is by inviting others to attend Brothers-in-Blue. The event (held March 30–April 2 and May 18–21) has had an incredible response. Nearly 100 men have signed up for the first four-day spiritual retreat. Please pray for God's blessing on all those who attend. Pray for Mr. Marv Goodyk (leader), Mr. Larry Lubinus (assistant), Pastor Rick (spiritual director), and all the volunteers to be led by the Holy Spirit.

God saved my life

by Steve C.

In 2000, I moved to Iowa from California to get out of the meth game. I was 33 years old. After a couple of years, it caught up to me and I gave in to temptation. I met a lady at work, and we began dating. Almost immediately, she got pregnant. We made a commitment to stay together to raise our son. I came into a large sum of money, and the doping

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Pastor Rick baptized Steve last May.

God builds trust in Africa

by Ryan P.

During Holy Week 2010, while on a water-focused mission trip in Tanzania, God showed me how to trust in Him and be filled with confidence in His promises. Through the locals I went to help, God showed me how to trust Him and accept His son, Jesus Christ. I knew I had to have the joy in my life these people were showing me. I had

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God is with me in prison

by Mickey M.

On the day I was to be incarcerated, I was at home with my wife reading a book. When the police knocked on the door and arrested me, I was scared to death because I didn't know what was going on. It was something I had done a long time ago, and I thought nothing would come of it. I was wrong. I didn't think to ask God for help until I got to the jail. I

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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: _____



Prayers & praise

by Rose Admiraal

- We praise God for the many men who signed up for Brothers-in-Blue! We also thank the Lord for the opportunity to hold Brothers-in-Blue events at the release center this spring. Please pray for these weekends, held March 30–April 2 and May 18–21.
- We give praise to God for the four new volunteers that were trained in February.
- We praise God for the Stephen Ministry program. We are about halfway through our training.
- Please pray for Myrna and Marv Goodyk and Rose and Rick Admiraal as they travel to St. Louis for the Stephen Ministry Leadership training held at the end of April.
- Please pray for wisdom and guidance in speaking to inmates who are confused about Christian principles and are disrupting the community of believers.
- Please keep Pastor Rick and Rose in your prayers as they encounter various challenges at the prison, including difficult personalities among the men. Pray there will be unity within the New Life Community.

New Life now has 145 men and women on its prayer team! Would you like to join this growing team of prayer warriors? Contact Rose at rose@newlife-prison.org.

God saved my life *continued from front*

got worse and worse again. She moved out, and I kept the kids and the apartment. After three years of daily drug use, twenty hours a day, my family turned me in for child endangerment. While in county jail, my bones were so brittle from the daily drug use that I fell and broke my back. I was convicted on more severe charges, as was my girlfriend. We both got 20 years in prison. I pray that she gets God, because I know without God I would be dead right now. Now I am almost 50 years old. My sister has our children, and I know now that God has more in store for me, for my life. I was baptized at a New Life worship service and try to always walk with the Holy Spirit, even though it is hard here in prison. God never leaves us.

I know without God I would be dead right now.

God builds trust in Africa *continued from front*

many earthly treasures in life, but I didn't share the freedom I was seeing in them. These children of God had hope in every situation because they trusted God to provide for them. Today, I am in prison, yet I am living free in God's love and grace. We can show others from inside these walls that our heavenly Father is waiting to share His love and forgiveness with them. We can all run to God's open arms and have freedom and be filled with love, joy, and hope in every situation. Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to show and tell others around you what our God has done for you. Use this time in prison as a mission, not an intermission, in your life.

Use this time in prison as a mission, not an intermission, in your life.

God is with me in prison *continued from front*

was such a hypocrite, appearing to be Christian and still doing things on my own, leaving God out of my life. When I got to where they were going to keep me in jail, I cried for over an hour. Just before they put me in with other inmates, God told me to stop crying, that He would be with me during my time of incarceration. God has been with me ever since. I read and study my Bible every day and pray for my family, friends, and the other inmates.

God told me... He would be with me during my time of incarceration.

Bike riders wanted!



If you love riding your bicycle and you love New Life, join Pedal for Prisoners this year. Contact Pastor Rick at 641-204-1954 if you want to participate in this fun fundraiser.

New Life Board Members

We welcome **Don Rouwenhorst** (First Reformed) and **Fran De Haan** (Calvary CRC) as Board Members. They join:

Sheryl Hanthorn (Grace Fellowship)

Phil Goodyk (Third Reformed)

Marcus Van Zee (Sully CRC)

Ken Stursma (Federated Fellowship)

Marv Goodyk (Sully CRC)

Pastor Rick Admiraal (New Life)