

Inspired

by Pastor Rick

Inspired by God, His men respond in faith. In this newsletter, you'll find three inspirational articles from men at the prison. Go to www.prisoncongregations.org to find the 2018 Lenten Devotional Booklet, which features the theme "Bloom Where You Are Planted." We're grateful Mrs. Mary Mortenson and Prison Congregations of America encourage men and women to write these devotional entries for our journey to the cross.

One way God's men respond in faith is by participating in Brothers-in-Blue. The next four-day spiritual retreat is scheduled for March 22–25. Pray for God's blessing on all those who attend. May the Holy Spirit inspire Mr. Paul Abbott (leader) and all the volunteers.

Pray for God's blessing on all those who attend the Brothers-in-Blue spiritual retreat March 22–25.

Family

by Kyle L.

As a kid, I had an abusive father. We ended up moving a lot. As an older male, I thought I was supposed to be the man in the family. I learned that families are going to struggle, and that there are going to be times when you find yourself wishing you were with your friend's family "because they have it made."

There was this one lady who took time out of her week to drive to our house and

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Not just church

by Ron T.

When I got in trouble with the law, I never really thought about God. I went to church and Sunday School when I was at home. Then I got married and went to church with my wife and kids and took my kids to Sunday School. This was my life. I went to church and that was it—until next Sunday. I never gave a thought about God during the week.

I was sent to prison, and I picked up

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Rescued

by Fred S.

In 1979, I was in a trailer fire. Three months later, just before I woke up from a coma, I saw a bright light. My home had burned down to the frame. Firemen said they found me in the closet—the one and only place that didn't burn.

Years passed, and I found God in 2003. I remember back to that fire; it was like Daniel, when he was in the blazing pit with his friends, walking in the fire with

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Matching gifts challenge

by Pastor Rick

Spring is here with a new giving challenge! Several businesspeople in Pella have pledged gifts totaling **\$17,000** to New Life! We thank God for their generosity. At the same time, they are challenging you to respond with matching gifts so the amount can be doubled.

Will you be a part of this charitable giving challenge? Your gifts will enable New Life to move forward while also considering ministry expansion in prisoner re-entry. God inspires us to assist those who return to society after being locked up. May the Spirit inspire you to respond with a generous heart!



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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: _____



Volunteer spotlight: Robbie Robinson

How has Discover Hope 517 made a big impact?

God is using DH517 to set apart the unhealthy community and begin to focus on creating a place where lives and families can be healed by the power of the Spirit. Many are coming to DH517 to seek something new. What they discover is that Jesus can redefine your life and truly transform you. Out with the old and in with the new, 2 Corinthians 5:17.

What did it mean to you to receive the key to the city of Newton?

Words can't explain how it felt to receive such a reward. Not only was God glorified, but God allows the ministry to lead the charge. I'm truly honored that God has allowed the ministry to be known in our community and that it is making a difference in many lives. We believe God is breaking the bondage of addiction. Jesus will become the face of recovery!

Why do you feel inspired to help men in prison?

What truly inspires me about going into the prison is the HOPE that it brings to the men. Ministering to their hearts allows them to see that in Christ all things are possible. My heart is with the men because I once was a prisoner. Getting out and living a NEW LIFE in Christ is so amazing.

To read the complete interview, visit www.newlifepriisonchurch.blogspot.com



Tricia Groves, Aaron Groves, Robbie Robinson, and Emily Robinson. Aaron & Robbie are the founders of DH517.

Family *continued from front*

take us to church. As a little kid, I was always glad to get out of the house and see other kids. My mother was going to college and working a lot. She wanted the best for us. She had five kids to look after, and she did it all for us. As I became an adult just like her, I realized I have a responsibility to do. When I think of blooming where you are planted, I think of family. You may start with one seed, grandma and grandpa. Then they start their family and you get mom and dad, and so on.

That leaves my family. I have been planted, and just like my family before me I need to put God first and give Him the praise, just like what Romans 15:13 says.



Not just church *continued from front*

the Bible and started to read it more carefully to understand it. I realize God put me here to punish me and help me to be forgiven for my sins. The Bible studies and pastors have really helped me. I was baptized. I now get up early every morning to study the Bible and do my daily devotion, and I feel that Christ is really with me. I believe in Him and trust Him, and He will keep His promises. I feel so good every day that I know Jesus is with me. I have experiences in prison that help me know He is with me. I know this has really turned my life around for the better, thanks to Jesus.



Rescued *continued from front*

Jesus. That was me and how He saved me from that day forward. Praise Jesus. Because I saw the light before I woke up, I think it was Him saying, "Not yet, it's time to bloom."

I am a mentor for special needs. I pray that all those with special needs and myself come or keep coming to you, Lord, to stay on your path. Amen.



New Life Board Members

Sheryl Hanthorn (Grace Fellowship)

Phil Goodyk (Third Reformed)

Don Rouwenhorst (First Reformed)

Pastor Rick Admiraal (New Life)

Fran De Haan (Calvary CRC)

Marcus Van Zee (Sully CRC)

Thank you to **Ken Stursma** (Federated Fellowship) for six years (two consecutive terms) of service!

Marv Goodyk (Sully CRC)