

## Pedal for Prisoners X

by Pastor Rick

### We can still hold Pedal for Prisoners X this summer!

Maybe you've heard that both RAGBRAI and the new Iowa's Ride have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we can still hold Pedal for Prisoners X—an important fundraiser for New Life Prison Church!

How will it work? The fundraiser will be virtual, with all of us doing rides on our own. We'll keep track of all the miles we ride in the month of July and collect sponsors. If conditions improve, riders might gather at the bike trail in mid-July for a group ride.

It's disappointing that our organized bike rides have been canceled or postponed. But we can still ride our bicycles, and for the tenth year in a row we can raise crucial funds for a valuable ministry to men in prison!

Is God inspiring you to donate? Will you sponsor us?



## Ministry during the COVID-19 crisis

by Pastor Rick

### On March 10, we were notified by the Iowa Department of Corrections that all volunteer activities were suspended indefinitely due to the threat of COVID-19.

It was early in the pandemic response, as the first case of the virus was discovered in Iowa on March 8.

For the last few months, we haven't been able to be physically present with our incarcerated brothers in Christ. So how do we continue ministering during this time of separation?

- We've sent two worship DVDs for the men to view in the prison chapel.
- We've also sent two newsletters (similar to this one) to encourage the men.
- We've sent them a case of Easy-to-Read Bibles and a big box of Christian music CDs to lift the men's spirits.
- And of course we continue to pray for them daily. We pray especially for men experiencing loss. It's painful for anyone when a family member passes away. Imagine how difficult it must be during a pandemic, while locked up in prison!

Overall, ministry during this global health crisis has been a huge challenge. Pray for the Spirit to open doors so the Light of Christ may shine inside the prison.

## Taking an opportunity to serve in NYC

by Dave Gritters

### A commissioned member of the New Life congregation, Dave often plays the drums at our services. He saw the pandemic as an opportunity to serve.

At the end of March, I flew to New York City on short notice to serve for three weeks with Samaritan's Purse. We assisted overwhelmed hospitals by building a field hospital and taking in COVID-19 patients.

As I traveled into Manhattan, I found out the 68-bed field hospital would be set up right in Central Park! I thought, *No way, not Central Park...*but I was wrong. On Sunday morning, we began with a meeting. An hour later,

*Continued on back*



**Pastor Rick Admiraal**

PHONE: 641-204-1954

EMAIL: [PastorRick@newlife-prison.org](mailto:PastorRick@newlife-prison.org)

WEB SITE: [www.newlife-prison.org](http://www.newlife-prison.org)

BLOG: [newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com](http://newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com)



[www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity)

### Please support Pedal for Prisoners X

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 & praises

by Rose Admiraal

## We ask prayer for:

- Bill, who lost his 20-year-old daughter last month, and Randy, whose mom passed a week ago.
- The friends and family of Ben Hennessee, a guitar player for the Jeff Arrandale Band. (They gave a concert at the prison.) Ben went to be with the Lord at the end of April.
- Volunteers Bryan and Becky Bandstra, after the loss of Becky's dad.
- The men at Newton Correctional Facility as they face new fears of COVID-19 for themselves and their loved ones. Lord, we cry out for protection and health for the men in Newton and for their families, as well as our families.

## We give thanks and praise for:

- The two DVD worship services and two newsletters Pastor Rick and Rose have been able to send to the men in Newton.
- The health of our New Life members. None have contracted coronavirus!
- God for being with us during these uncertain times. He is our only true hope!

## Serving in NYC *Continued from front*

we were on site and setting up the tents. The next few days flew by in a rush of activity. We worked 15- to 18-hour days to get the hospital up and running. By Wednesday, I'd put together the last air conditioner and rushed out the back as the first patient came in the front door. The site was now a hot zone.

Coming from relatively untouched Iowa, I did not understand the levels of fear, anxiety, and hurt in New York City. My perspective soon changed, and I experienced Christ in action. Jesus was present in a city ravaged by this new calamity. Samaritan's Purse brought the compassion, caring, and healing hand of Jesus. One could see the change firsthand. People of different races, religions, incomes, beliefs, and values united to help their neighbors.

God was at work, speaking to me. One of my life verses is Isaiah 41:10. One morning, the field hospital leader stood to read. God told me in advance he was going to read my verse. He started: *"Do not fear, for I am with you..."*

I needed God's strength, and He knew what we needed to continue on. One night, we were so exhausted, then suddenly we heard a chorus of applause and cowbells. We saw a crowd surrounding our site in Central Park, showing us their thanks. The next night, a man played "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes. There was much donated food, several thank-you notes, and many pictures drawn by grateful children. Once, after a day of flooding, God provided a beautiful rainbow.

The patients we served were so appreciative. When one man was released, he locked eyes with me and said, "I will never forget you." We prayed with patients and staff, and every time a patient was released cowbells would ring loudly. We celebrated both Good Friday and Easter outside in the cold (six feet apart, with masks).

God is still teaching me many things from this experience, as I continue to process how He used me as a small part of this team.

Find out more about Samaritan's Purse at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>.



Dave Gritters at the One World Trade Center Tower.



In full gear, Dave is ready to enter the medical tents.

**So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**

Isaiah 41:10

## New Life Board Members

**Sheryl Hanthorn**  
(Grace Fellowship)

**Don Rouwenhorst**  
(First Reformed)

**Fran De Haan**  
(Calvary CRC)

**Marcus Van Zee**  
(Trinity Reformed)

**Marv Goodyk**  
(Sully CRC)

**Duane Bruxvoort**  
(Federated Fellowship)

**Pastor Rick Admiraal**  
(New Life)

**Tim Franje**  
(Peoria CRC, represents the Classis Missions Committee)

**Over the next two years, the New Life Board will gradually be replaced by an outside council. As Board members retire, newly elected elders and deacons will take their place. Thank you for your service to the prison congregation!**