

## Remember the prisoner

by Pastor Rick

**In the United States, we have a national fixation on incarceration.**

Although the U.S. is home to only 5% of the world's population, our nation holds more than 20% of the world's prison population—that makes us the world's largest jailer.

Men and women in prison cry out for help: "Don't forget about us!" In fact, God's Word instructs us: "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison" (Hebrews 13:3a). When I entered Calvin Seminary in 2006, I met with my friend, Jack Wyrick, for breakfast. I remember his words: "Don't forget the prisoner!" Those words inspired me to pursue becoming a prison pastor.

Eventually, a prison congregation was planted in central Iowa—New Life Prison Church. How does New Life remember those in prison? We encourage the outside church to become actively involved by volunteering, mentoring, or becoming a prayer warrior. How will you remember the ones doing time in prison?



## New Life is now an organized church

by Rose Admiraal

**We give thanks to God for the final stamp of approval for New Life to become an organized church!**

At the February 8 meeting of Classis Central Plains of the Christian Reformed Church, delegates voted decisively in favor of the status change. On Sunday, March 1, we gathered with the outside members for a meal and discussed forming a council on the outside to replace the New Life Board. We currently have 36 commissioned members for New Life. A commissioned member will have a dual membership at their outside church and New Life. We also have a council on the inside made up of incarcerated men who are strong believers. The outside council will primarily be administrative, while the inside council will focus on serving and shepherding. Please keep New Life Prison Church in your prayers.

What does New Life becoming an organized church mean for the men in the Newton Correctional Facility? The chapel clerk, Steve, reflects, "New Life is more than just a ministry; it's an extended family. The volunteers aren't just visitors—they represent a piece of life that is missing for many inmates. In a world driven by condemnation and unforgiveness, New Life is a constant reminder of God's never-failing presence. It's definitely a light that always shines in the darkness."

## Prayers & praises

by Rose Admiraal

**We give thanks and praise for:**

- New Life becoming an organized church.
- Over 230 prayer warriors.
- Four new volunteers.

**We ask for prayer for:**

- Several of our inside members who have recently lost their grandmothers.
- Steve, who is struggling with God over his mom's dementia and losing her memory of him.
- Four commissioned member-couples who are enjoying Arizona.
- **The men of Newton Correctional Facility. As of March 10, New Life volunteers—who are a lifeline to many of the men—will not be allowed into the prison as a precaution due to the spread of coronavirus. This policy includes Pastor Rick and is indefinite until the virus settles down.**



**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)

**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

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# Volunteer spotlight: Max and Donna Killoren

## How did you get started at New Life Prison Church?

**Max and Donna:** We first heard about New Life when Pastor Rick visited our home church, Trinity Reformed Church. In 2013, we began volunteering with New Life. We also serve with Brothers in Blue prison ministries.

## What does it mean for you to belong to New Life Prison Church?

**Donna:** As believers, we all belong to one family—the family of God.

**Max:** As a family, we work together to serve the men in the prison.

## Who are the men we serve?

**Max and Donna:** They are our brothers in Christ. We love to share God’s love and God’s Word with them.

## What do you enjoy the most in your volunteering for New Life?

**Max:** I love building relationships.

**Donna:** I love to hear their stories, to tell my story, and most importantly to share God’s story.

## Why do you feel inspired to help men in prison?

**Max:** I believe it is my calling from God to share His Word with our brothers in prison.

**Donna:** I have a passion for bringing the Gospel to them. I want everyone to hear about salvation. In Jesus’ own words, “I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Matthew 25:36b).

## How has New Life Prison Church made a big impact?

**Donna:** The men are hungry for the Word, which New Life is bringing to them through praise, prayer, and the study of God’s Word.

**Max:** New Life is bringing in new hope for these men. It’s the hope and joy they can have through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Describe how being involved has been a blessing to you.

**Max:** I see the hunger they have for the Word of God.

**Donna:** I am blessed by the knowledge they have of God’s Word. The men bless me by thanking me for coming every week.



*Max and Donna Killoren are commissioned members. They belong to both Trinity Reformed Church in Pella, IA, and New Life Prison Church. Not only do they participate in the Tuesday afternoon prayer group at the correctional facility, they also attend the Thursday night Bible study at the release center.*

## New Life Board Members

**Sheryl Hanthorn**  
(Grace Fellowship)

**Marv Goodyk**  
(Sully CRC)

**Don Rouwenhorst**  
(First Reformed)

**Duane Bruxvoort**  
(Federated Fellowship)

**Fran De Haan**  
(Calvary CRC)

**Pastor Rick Admiraal**  
(New Life)

**Marcus Van Zee**  
(Trinity Reformed)

**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!**