

Peacemakers Conference by Pastor Rick

Jesus said, “**Blessed are the peacemakers** for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9.) On September 13-16, I plan to visit Denver for Life Together, the annual Peacemakers conference. The first day of the conference will emphasize conflict coaching. The rest of the conference will feature various workshops leading me to consider

practical strategies of making peace based on God’s Word.

Peacemaking has been a passion of mine for a long time. Peacemaking principles will help to preserve the unity of New Life’s fellowship. We’ve already used some of the Peacemaker materials in our small groups at the prison. Earlier this year we completed the

“Resolving Everyday Conflict” series in our Thursday night group: New Life in the Word. Overall I see a hunger for peacemaking in the life of men in prison. They desperately need peace with God, peace with their families, and peace within.

To find out more, visit www.peacemaker.net.

Prayers & Praise

by Rose Admiraal

We give thanks for:

- The opportunity to have monthly worship services.
- The variety of churches that have been willing to come in with a praise team (Faith CRC, Federated Fellowship, and Lynnville Friends).
- A safe RAGBRAI for Pastor Rick and the other New Life riders and a successful fundraiser.
- Our many dedicated volunteers who give their time to help make this prison congregation succeed.

We request prayer for:

- Rick and I to continue to follow God’s leading and stay strong in the Lord.
- Safety and growing time for Rick at the Peacemakers conference in Denver.
- Brothers in the Lord who have been released. May God keep them strong in the faith and give them resources to be successful on the outside.
- Brothers who are in solitary confinement. Pray for strength, peace, and faith.
- New believers. May the Lord make them stronger in their Christian walk.

Race for a New Life

by Steven (a baptized member of New Life Prison Community)

Newton is the home of the Iowa Speedway, which brings fast-paced excitement with a race for the finish line and a victory for the day. Newton is also the home of a medium-security prison. Like the Iowa Speedway there is a race toward the finish line, but the victory is to be set free in mind, body, and spirit. Each racecar driver has an important group of people called a pit crew. The pit crew makes all the proper adjustments to keep going to the end. Jesus also has a pit crew to help us in the race to change our lives and reach a true victory in Heaven.

New Life Community is part of Team #1: Team Savior! New Life is a blessing to many men here at the prison. New Life brings praise and worship to the Lord

in a place where we thought joy could never exist. Worship services include live music, the Lord’s Supper, inmate testimonies, and even baptism by immersion! Dedicated volunteers who show us love and fellowship. One inmate said, “After one of the services **I have never felt more alive!**” Another person said, “I never thought I could have so much fun worshipping the Lord in prison!”

On behalf of all inmates, thank you for your time and dedication to us. You have helped us become free in spirit through our Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40.)



Pastor Rick Admiraal

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Volunteer Spotlight ~ Jean Goemaat



Jean Goemaat outside her home in Monroe, Iowa.

Jean Goemaat has been volunteering with New Life since May of 2011. Jean lives in Monroe and attends Living Word Fellowship in Knoxville, Iowa.

Tell us about yourself.

I enjoy my family—I have two daughters and five grandchildren. I was a teacher for 32 years in the United States and 14 years in Belize. I like to really garden: corn, beans, and tomatoes. I also love music. At church I had a number of choirs and handball choirs.

How did God help you overcome health challenges this year?

I had to deal with some broken bones and pneumonia. God helped me overcome through prayer and the Word. I cling to the promises in the Word. By his stripes I was healed. (Isaiah 53:5, I Peter 2:24.) I love Psalm 91; there are so many promises in that chapter. Under his wings I will take refuge. (Ps. 91:4.)

Sum up your background in prison ministry.

In 1993, I began working with women at the Mitchellville prison. After visiting a missionary friend in Belize, I started a school in the prison there. When I returned to Iowa, I got involved in Innerchange Freedom Initiative (IFI) in Newton. Later I started the IFI program in Belize. My time in Belize was probably the most rewarding time in my life. I leave for Belize again on September 26 to tweak the program and advise the leadership.

Why do you feel inspired to help men in prison?

I get to see the men grow and that gives me motivation. I see growth—they're no longer afraid to pray. Also, they have a thirst for God's Word. Without the Word, they couldn't make it. **For the first time, they've found hope.**

What do you enjoy most about your time as a volunteer?

God has a purpose for every one of us. **He put it in my heart to serve in prison ministry.** It has to do with ministry fulfillment. That's why we're here: to be a tool for the Lord and spread the Good News.

What positives do you see at New Life?

The men are ready to help out at worship services. They also want to share the Good News with their families. It's a domino effect. The ministry has also helped raise their self-esteem. Their body language indicates that they begin to think more of themselves. They're ready to change and open to God's Word.

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

Pedal for Prisoners Rides Again

By Pastor Rick



Pastor Rick dips his bike tire in the Mississippi River.

Pedal for Prisoners took a second successful spin through Iowa as over 200 people gave financial gifts. Many supporters live in Iowa but others mailed checks from New York, California, and places in between. The total exceeded our goal of \$20,000! Your gifts provide encouragement for us. Your gifts also provide good financial standing for New Life. We praise God for each person who gave or prayed. Rose Admiraal did a great job organizing the fundraising letters.

The ride itself was incredible. Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) covers a total of 471 miles. In his second year as a New Life rider, Bill Schinkel reflected, "It was HOT, especially in the campground." The thermometer topped 100°F for the first four days of RAGBRAI before cooling off slightly at the end of the week. I enjoyed my second RAGBRAI. Some of my highlights were completing a tough century day (over 100 miles), meeting my family in Marshalltown, and enjoying a hamburger for breakfast. The last day presented a different obstacle: we had three flat tires. After a long week of bike riding, God gave us the strength to overcome these obstacles and make it to the Mississippi River.

Corrine Verschuure shared these comments: "My two days of RAGBRAI were warm but also enjoyable. I enjoyed the camaraderie of our group and God's creation. It was good to ride in support of the work of New Life. **Thank you to all those who sponsored our team!**"

We appreciated your prayers for safety on the ride as well as your generous financial gifts. It was fun to roll across Iowa while raising support to continue the important Gospel work at the prison in Newton.

If you are interested in riding next year, please contact Pastor Rick at 641-204-1954.



Corrine's son Kevin makes breakfast for his mom and friends in Orange City.