

Riders bike for a cause

by Lisa Groenendyk

I had a FANTASTIC time riding three days of the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI)! I rode two-thirds of two days and one whole day in between. God provided beautiful weather for the ride. One highlight for me was seeing and meeting so many interesting people. What a colorful event it is! The hospitality and enthusiasm at all of the main stops and many roadside stops along with Iowa's beautiful countryside scenery made me feel truly blessed to be an Iowan.

Having not trained for long distance biking, I wasn't sure what my legs and bicycle could handle, but I decided to get some sponsors and do Pedal for

Prisoners anyway just on sheer determination. Well, it ended up being sheer joy! My legs and bike went beyond my expectations, and it's made me want to do more of RAGBRAI in the future.

Sometimes, when I faced some big upcoming hills, I thought of the uphill challenges faced by those in the Newton Prison and also of the amazing work God is doing in the New Life Prison Community. In the same way, God gave me grace and strength for the journey. I am so grateful to be a part of New Life through Pedal for Prisoners and by participating in services there as the accompanist for the Gospel Singers Male Chorus. May God continue to bless New Life.

Inmate mentoring program starting soon

by Rose Admiraal

New Life will be starting a mentoring program at the Newton Prison this fall. We are looking for Christian men in the surrounding community who are willing to be a friend to an inmate at Newton. Following the inmates release, the friendship will continue as the mentor helps the former inmate adjust within his community.

New Life will try to match men with some similar experiences and/or personalities. For approximately a year the mentor will visit his friend in the Newton Prison at least twice a month. Upon the friend's release, the mentor will help him integrate into the community. We look forward to this new step in our ministry—assisting men to become productive and upstanding citizens within their communities. Please pray for the Lord's guidance and leading in this program. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact Pastor Rick today.

Pedal for Prisoners news update

This year we had five New Life riders who participated in two different events. Julie Jones, Lisa Groenendyk, Bill Schinkel, and Corrine Verschuure rode RAGBRAI through central Iowa in July. Pastor Rick participated in Colorado's Ride the Rockies in early June, checking one more item off his bucket list. Thank you so much to all who have contributed to Pedal for Prisoners so far. We are currently tantalizingly close to our goal of \$20,000!

Will you consider a gift today? (use form below)



Lisa Groenendyk rests by a shady spot near Beacon, Iowa.



Three for three: These riders have participated in all three Pedal for Prisoners (L to R): Corrine Verschuure, Pastor Rick, and Bill Schinkel.



Pastor Rick Admiraal

PHONE: 641-204-1954

EMAIL: PastorRick@newlife-prison.org

WEB SITE: www.newlife-prison.org

BLOG: newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com



www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity

Please support New Life with your prayers and financial gifts.
Send your donations to: **New Life, 408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219**

Gift Amount _____ Name _____

Address _____





Piercing the Darkness returns

by Pastor Rick

On one incredible Saturday night in the middle of September, Piercing the Darkness returned to the Newton Prison. The Christian rock group from southeastern Iowa brought their music with a message to the men behind prison walls. The gym was packed with a great big enthusiastic crowd that enjoyed a variety of music. In a word, it was AWESOME! The gym was rocking and at times it felt like the powerful tunes would blow the roof off. As always, lead singer Steve Shettler's voice was tremendous. In addition, the band strummed their electric guitars backed by a driving beat from the drummer. The music was God-glorifying and Christ-centered.

The music was God-glorifying and Christ-centered.

Joining the fun was Jim Dreyer, our special guest from the state of Michigan. Jim is an endurance athlete of epic proportions. He tackles tremendous challenges like swimming 65 miles across Lake Michigan. His latest challenge was a 22-mile swim across Lake St. Clair. But that was not enough for Jim—during the swim, he towed a ton of bricks in two inflatable rafts. His swim raised funds for Habitat for Humanity. Jim's theme verse is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Jim gave a tremendously inspirational speech, encouraging the inmates to overcome their obstacles through Christ.



Jim Dreyer, endurance athlete and inspirational speaker.



Piercing the Darkness rocks the prison.

Words of Thanksgiving From Men in Prison

"I want to offer a prayer of thanks for the prayer team." – Philip

"Thankful for you guys. You make a difference in my life and I'm sure for many more. Thank you in Jesus' name." – John

God's hand at work *by Rose Admiraal*

On August 24, Pastor Rick and Phil Goodyk drove over to the Quad Cities to pick up former inmate Purvis Miles. Miles, who spent a year at Newton Prison, had just finished work release and was on parole in Davenport, Iowa. With clearance from his parole officer, he was able to come to Pella for a visit.

On Sunday morning, Pastor Rick and Rose led an outdoor worship service at Lake Red Rock. Miles participated on the praise team, gave an inspired testimony of faith, and sang acapella his mother's favorite song. Following the service, volunteers gathered for a picnic to have fellowship with Miles. In the evening, Miles again shared his testimony and song at Calvary Christian Reformed Church in Pella. (You may view this online

at calvarypella.org. Go to media, archives, 8/25/13: 6pm). Miles shared, "I thank God for the direction my life is going."

The following Monday, volunteer Ken Stursma took Miles to an interview at Vermeer Corp., then drove him back to



Purvis Miles (left) and his friend Howard Vroom.

Davenport. Miles was offered the job at Vermeer. As of this printing, Miles has moved to Pella and started his new job! We praise God for working in Miles' life and the testimony he has to share. We pray for God to continue working in Miles' life using him to spread God's love.

Prison update

- Mike Sereg and Now Serving 7 did a great job leading New Life worship on August 15.
- Tuesday afternoon's New Life in Prayer group recently completed a Rick Warren DVD series entitled "What on Earth Am I Here For?"
- Thursday night's New Life in the Word is studying I Peter using a study guide written by Rev. Steve Moerman, pastor of Cornerstone Prison Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- Responding to numerous baptism requests, Pastor Rick decided to lead a baptism and profession of faith class in October to prepare for a baptism service in November.
- New volunteers have joined existing volunteers in making a big impact at the prison.