

What is Stephen Ministry?

by Larry Lubinus

Larry and Cindy Lubinus (right) live in Boone, IA. They are involved with various ministries, including Stephen Ministry and Brothers in Blue in Fort Dodge, Rockwell, and Newton. They enjoy making a difference for Christ in and outside of the prison, including in their interactions with their three children and five grandchildren.



Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

New Life Church is excited to announce that this fall, we will begin a Stephen Ministry at the Newton prison. We will be the second congregation in the nation to offer this unique ministry inside prison walls.

Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

How Stephen Ministry works

The best way to understand how Stephen Ministry works is to learn about the three groups of people involved in this ministry: Stephen Leaders, Stephen Ministers, and care receivers.

Stephen Leaders

Stephen Leaders establish and direct Stephen Ministry in a congregation. They:

- Build awareness of Stephen Ministry within the congregation and community.
- Recruit and train Stephen Ministers.
- Provide Stephen Ministers with ongoing supervision and continuing education.

Most congregations begin with two to four Stephen Leaders, typically including a pastor, possibly another church staff person, and one or more lay leaders. This role will be filled by Larry and Cindy Lubinus at the beginning of our efforts here at New Life.

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers are congregation members, inmates, and volunteers that are connected with the New Life congregation and trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at

a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. Twice a month, Stephen Ministers gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education. The initial training, which will be a total of 50 hours, will be offered twice a month for 2.5 hours per session. Cindy and I ask that two to four volunteers from the outside take the class inside the prison with us. Our hope is that these volunteers will continue in the program as the Stephen Leaders for New Life after the training has been completed in the prison.

Care receivers

Care receivers are people, in this case inmates, who receive care from a Stephen Minister. These men are struggling through difficult times in their lives—experiencing incarceration, grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, and other life crises. As you can imagine, there are plenty of potential care receivers inside a prison.

The blessings of Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church, the community, and the prison.

- New Life Church will receive a practical and powerful way to respond to Christ's commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12 RSV)
- Pastor Rick will have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.

Stephen Ministry is built to last

If you have any further questions, please contact either Pastor Rick or myself, Larry Lubinus (email larrylubinus@icloud.com), for further information, or check out the corporate website at stephenministries.org



Pastor Rick Admiraal

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EMAIL: PastorRick@newlife-prison.org

WEB SITE: www.newlife-prison.org

BLOG: newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com



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: _____



Prayers & praise

by Rose Admiraal

- Praise God for the revival at the prison. God's Spirit is breathing new life, new beginnings, and new hope.
- Praise God for bringing many men to our worship and Bible studies! Our Thursday night group was moved to the gym because we needed more room.
- Praise God for the cooperative staff at the correctional facility and the positive changes taking place.
- Praise God for willing volunteers and inmate-participants who are ready to begin a new program: Stephen Ministry!
- Pray for major health concerns New Life members are facing. Pray for healing and answers.
- Pray for emotional healing and forgiveness for the men of New Life. They struggle with forgiving others who have hurt them and with forgiving themselves.
- Pray for God to provide guidance to the Equipped for Service team inside the prison and the New Life Board members outside the prison.
- Pray for protection against the devil's attacks.

Would you like to pray for New Life's weekly needs as a prayer warrior? Contact Rose at rose@newlife-prison.org.

Rising to the challenge!

by Pastor Rick

In the last newsletter, I challenged you to make a big impact by supporting our 6th Pedal for Prisoners. You certainly rose to the challenge. Overall, your contributions added up to over \$23,000. Thank you so much!

My challenge was tackling Colorado's legendary Triple Bypass. My muscles found out the hard way that this high-elevation bike ride was very difficult. After spending 120 miles in the saddle and climbing three mountain passes, it was extremely gratifying to receive the finishers' medal. Highlights were enjoying scenic vistas, observing a herd of elk in a mountain meadow, and visiting with my daughter, Annaliese, and my wife, Rose, along the route.

More bicyclists accepted the challenge of RAGBRAI: Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa. Corrine Verschuure and Gary Verhoef rode the entire 420-mile route. Their big ride went all the way from the Missouri River to the mighty Mississippi. Bill Schinkel and Lisa Groenendyk also raised funds and participated in day rides. I couldn't resist joining RAGBRAI's final day. On the way home from the Admiraal family reunion, I asked Rose to drop me off in Washington, Iowa. Although I completed the 49 miles into Muscatine, I refrained from dipping my tire in the big river. I didn't feel worthy of the reward, as I had merely eaten the proverbial "frosting on the cake." Overall, we embraced our cycling challenges. Thanks be to God for giving us endurance and safety!



Rick & Rose in the Rockies.

Overall, your contributions added up to over \$23,000. Thank you so much!



(L to R) Gary Verhoef, Rick Admiraal, & Corrine Verschuure during RAGBRAI's final day.



Rick's bike took him to new heights.

New Life Board Members:

Sheryl Hanthorn (Grace Fellowship)
Glenda Vander Leest (Sully CRC)
Marv Goodyk (Sully CRC)
Bill & Judy Strong (Calvary CRC)
Phil Goodyk (Third Reformed)
Ken Stursma (Federated Fellowship)
Pastor Rick Admiraal (New Life).

In Memory of Herman Van Mersbergen, Jr. (1925-2016)

Memorial gifts of \$1,100 were given to New Life in honor of Herman's life. Thank You for your generosity!

Herman's daughter, Nancy, and her husband, Marlow Ten Napel, volunteer with New Life's music ministry.