

## New Life riders cross Iowa

by Pastor Rick

Pedal for Prisoners had a tremendous seventh year! Corrine Verschuure and Pastor Rick completed RAGBRAI, the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa. The ride started in Orange City and ended in Lansing, Iowa, just one week later. The ride covered over 400 miles and became quite challenging as the route approached the hills by the Mississippi River. Bill Schinkel rode Bike Van Buren XXXI, a hilly two-day ride in southern Iowa. We enjoyed riding while wearing our New Life bike jerseys. The jerseys brought some positive comments from other riders. One rider spoke passionately with Pastor Rick about restorative justice. Another rider from a Lutheran church in Dubuque gave words of encouragement.

You have been encouraging to us, too! Through your faithful giving, we've raised over \$21,000 to support the work at the prison. Thanks be to God for His gracious gifts to us!



Pastor Rick and Corrine Verschuure before the day's ride began.



Pastor Rick with Darla and Dick Davidson in Decorah (left to right).

## Praying for New Life

by Pastor Rick

Do you already pray for New Life? We'd like to provide a way for your prayer life to be enhanced with greater intentionality and intensity.

Will you add your name to the New Life Prayer Team? Currently, we have 168 prayer warriors who pray weekly for the specific needs of New Life. Rose would love to increase our numbers to 200 by the end of the calendar year. Help us reach our goal by contacting us today. You'll receive the prayer list in your email inbox weekly. If you'd like to join the team, email [rose@newlife-prison.org](mailto:rose@newlife-prison.org) or [PastorRick@newlife-prison.org](mailto:PastorRick@newlife-prison.org).

## The final concert

by Pastor Rick and Steve Shettler

What a tremendous blessing Piercing the Darkness has been to New Life Prison Community! The band has already blessed us with eight incredible concerts. At the end of 2017, the band will disband. So, Lord willing, October 7 will be the date of their ninth and final concert in the prison gym. It's certainly been an incredible run. Lead singer Steve Shettler shared his thoughts:

*We've always loved playing at the Newton prison. After getting over the initial nerves and intimidation factor of playing in a prison, we settled right in. The guys*

*continued on page 2*

**Piercing the Darkness will play their ninth and final concert in the prison gym on October 7.**



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**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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# Stephen Ministry commissioning

by Pastor Rick

On Thursday, September 21, we had a special worship service at the prison for Stephen Ministry. The occasion was the commissioning of 12 new Stephen Ministers. We're quite proud of these 12 men for the 50 hours of training they completed to develop into skilled Christian caregivers. We also appreciate our Stephen Leaders, Larry and Cindy Lubinus, for training us in the 10-month course. Sheryl Hanthorn, Marv and Myrna Goodyk, and Rick and Rose Admiraal were also actively involved in the new program.

At the commissioning service, the 12 new Stephen Ministers were encouraged

**Arnold and Christopher shared personal testimony of what Stephen Ministry means to them.**

to be centered on Christ as they care for others. Arnold and Christopher shared personal testimony of what Stephen Ministry means to them. Other men read meaningful Scripture passages. Each man received a handsome certificate to mark the important occasion. Soon, these 12 caregivers will be matched with care receivers. They will minister to those who are hurting emotionally or experiencing a difficult life crisis, such as the loss of a loved one. Please pray that Stephen Ministry will benefit the men in prison and the institution as a whole as a visible demonstration of the compassion of Jesus Christ.

# The final concert

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*are so appreciative of us coming, and we get so much love from them. It's just a great thing! We wouldn't trade it for anything. God is using New Life Prison Community in an awesome way. Lives are being changed!*

We thank God for each member of Piercing the Darkness. They've been an inspiration, giving us so much joy. We'll close this brief article with a few lyrics from one of their hit songs: "All glory to the Father. All glory to the Son. Come on, Holy Spirit, until Your kingdom comes!"

**We thank God for each member of Piercing the Darkness. They've been an inspiration, giving us so much joy.**

# Prison Congregations of America

by Pastor Rick

Since February 2011, New Life has been part of Prison Congregations of America (PCA). There are currently over 30 prison congregations scattered across the United States! In August, Pastor Rick drove to southern Indiana to participate in the second annual Prison Pastors' Retreat. It was a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship. Also in attendance were pastors from Iowa, Maryland, Montana, Kentucky, South Dakota, and Tennessee. These pastors all serve men and women in prison. The organizers of the weekend were PCA Executive Director Mary Mortenson and her assistant, Julie Thomas.

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In early September, Mary Mortenson visited our New Life prayer group. We opened the group with prayer and worship music. Next, we prayed for Jessie, who was leaving prison that week. Jessie expressed his desire to participate as a volunteer as soon as he is eligible. Mary led us in a writers' workshop to help the men prepare entries for a 40-day Lenten devotional. The men were excited to write about this year's theme: Bloom where you are planted. Look for the latest edition of the devotional to arrive hot off the press just before Ash Wednesday (February 14, 2018).



Steve Shettler sings with passion.



Brian Root and Tammy Finch at the July concert.

## New Life Board Members

- Sheryl Hanthorn** (Grace Fellowship)
- Don Rouwenhorst** (First Reformed)
- Fran De Haan** (Calvary CRC)
- Marcus Van Zee** (Sully CRC)

- Marv Goodyk** (Sully CRC)
- Phil Goodyk** (Third Reformed)
- Ken Stursma** (Federated Fellowship)
- Pastor Rick Admiraal** (New Life)