

## Keep the faith

by Curtis Fett

**Before his release, Curtis belonged to New Life Prison Church. He participated in Stephen Ministries, on the inside council, and on the praise team as a drummer and vocalist.**

I wanted to give you an update on what has happened to me in the seven months since I got out of prison.

First of all, I want to give God all the glory. I have been living at Kingdom Boundaries, a Christian aftercare house in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. They treat us well here and really do care about us.

Two weeks after moving here, I got a full-time job at a grocery store. I worked there for six weeks until I was let go. Two weeks later, I started another full-time job at Hy-Vee. After a couple of weeks, I was promoted to assistant manager of Aisles Online. I have worked there for almost five months. Last July, my pastor friend helped me find a car. I now own a used Buick Riviera. Thank you, Jesus!

After applying for about a hundred jobs and having multiple interviews, I kept getting rejected. *But I kept the faith and never gave up.* When I told the human resources manager at Hy-Vee about my record, she asked me when I could start. God is so good.

I've gotten involved at a church for returning citizens. I was asked to be on the visionary board and play the drums with a good Christian volunteer who plays the guitar and sings. On January 2, I was baptized at Freedom's Gate Church by Pastor Jason Wiersma. We have become good friends.



I have made some nice friends in Sioux Falls. I even attend other churches here where they make you feel welcome. My brother and sister also come to visit me about every month.

I am halfway through my aftercare treatment group. I hope to be done with it later this summer. Kingdom Boundaries has multiple Bible studies every week. I have also attended Celebrate Recovery.

Jeremiah 29:11 and 2 Corinthians 5:17 are my favorite quotes from the Bible. Take care, and God bless you all.

## Who are my role models?

by Ron Turner

**Ron and his wife, Linda, live in Glidden and attend church in Coon Rapids, Iowa. They never miss New Life's Zoom meetings.**

In my devotional today, *The Upper Room*, I was asked if I had a role model who helped me find Jesus and who helps others find Jesus in their lives. Pastor Rick and Rose came to mind.

When I first came to prison, I had a hard time with what to do. I was reading the Bible and trying to get my life turned around when I heard about the Bible study in the chapel and met the Admirals. Ever since, I have gotten to know Jesus better.

My prayer is that Rick and Rose will soon be able to return to the prison chapel so they can help others find Jesus. I want to thank them both so much for what they did for me! God bless you both. We will keep you in our prayers.

I played Hezekiah Walker's "Every Praise" this morning. It had been a while since I'd heard that song. It brought back good memories.

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"  
(2 Corinthians 5:17)**



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# Prayers & praises

by Rose Admiraal

## We give thanks and praise for:

- Connecting with a few more men who have been released.
- Answered prayers for new jobs and promotions for some men.
- Allowing Rick and Rose to minister in different ways on the outside.

## We ask for prayer for:

- Our volunteer, Connie, who has started chemo and radiation for cancer.
- The health concerns of Brad, Linda, Chris, and others.
- The Iowa Department of Corrections to allow religious groups back inside.

# How long, O Lord?

by Pastor Rick

## Have you ever asked God, “How long?”

At New Life, we ask, “How long until volunteers can go back inside the prison?” Meanwhile, a person in prison asks, “How long until I am free?”

A few weeks ago, I read a Stephen Ministries devotion on Psalm 13. It was an outstanding article, so I decided to email it to our commissioned members. Here is some of their feedback:

- Glenda Vander Leest: “Pastor Rick, I claimed the first part of that chapter for a long time! It is so good that I can trust in His unfailing love and rejoice because He rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because He *is* good to me. Thanks for sharing this article.”
- Dave Gritters: “I appreciate the word *hesed* (translated by the NIV as ‘unfailing love’). The word makes me think of ‘the Hound of Heaven,’ referring to God not stopping until He has us. It makes me think of ‘reckless love’ and the parable of the shepherd leaving the 99 safe sheep to go after the lost one. It makes me think of God tenderly listening to my spoken prayers, my anxious thoughts, and my times when I don’t feel I can pray but just have to sit. It’s a reminder that in our point-and-click society, God’s timing may feel different than ours, or we may feel that our prayers are not heard. But God does hear. God does listen. God’s power and plan are so far beyond my ability to fully understand—but to have the simple understanding that He loves me and lives in me is amazing. Thanks for sharing!”

Email me if you want a copy of the article. In the meantime, read Psalm 13. You won’t regret it!

## New Life Prison Church Outside Council

**Dave Gritters** (Governing Elder)

**Keith Van Gent** (Governing Elder)

**Jim Williams** (Administrative Deacon)

**Tricia De Haan** (Administrative Deacon)

**Pastor Rick Admiraal** (New Life)

**Duane Bruxvoort** (Federated Fellowship)

**Tim Franje** (Peoria CRC, represents the Classis Missions Committee)

**April Nieuwsma** (Treasurer)

# Reaching out to returning citizens

by Rose Admiraal

## Last year, we sent over 20 copies of a devotional to some returning citizens we knew from Newton Correctional Facility.

We decided to do that again this year. I chose *He Holds My Hand* by Carol Kent.

A Christian author and speaker, Carol’s only son is serving a life sentence in prison. After her son started his sentence, she began writing books to help the incarcerated and their families. Twice a month, we have a Zoom meeting to discuss the devotional entry of that day, share concerns, and pray.

Our regular Zoom attendees, Ron and Linda Turner, said, “We received our new devotional and want to thank you *very much* for it!”

