

Pastor Rick and Rose Admiraal have accepted the call from Lakeview Community Church in Greece, New York.

A season of transitions

by Dave Gritters

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." - Ecclesiastes 3:1

On a recent Tuesday evening worship service, Pastor Rick and Rose announced to the men of New Life that they have accepted a call to serve a church in New York.

The men had known about this possibility and were eagerly awaiting the answer. They showed their support with applause. It was a special moment of deep appreciation. I was able to follow that up with a few words to the men, which I will share with you here.

In any organization, when change happens, the people affected need affirmation that things will be okay. New Life has great leadership that cares for and loves the men deeply. We have a great body of outside supporters that care about the ministry. We also have the backing of several churches that hold each other accountable and support each other in times of need. I shared with the men that New Life is not going anywhere.

Our world is full of inconsistency, and New Life wants to maintain consistency in our weekly services. To that effect, my wife, Cindy, and I will be regularly attending, coordinating, and leading worship. It is important for the men to see regular faces with whom they can keep building relationships. It's also important for the chaplains and other NCF staff to know whom to contact. We look forward to providing that support.

I reminded the men that for years they have poured into Rick and Rose. They have helped shape Rick and Rose into who they are today. This is the same for all of you who support New Life. It's a two-way street. Not only have Rick and Rose shaped all of us—we have helped shape them. Now they get to take what they have learned and



Pastor Rick and Rose Admiraal



Elder Dave and Cindy Gritters

experienced in Central Iowa—including the stories of changed lives, redemption, joys, and laments—and pour that into another body of believers. What an amazing example of God's kingdom work: A prison congregation in Iowa will be connected with a small church in New York, and God will use every experience and time in our lives to shape us for further work in His Kingdom.

Always shaping, always pruning, always growing. God is always providing New Life to His people, and we go in faith that this will continue in both Newton, Iowa, and Greece, New York.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 10, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We will host an open house at the Calvary CRC Youth House (408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219). Take time to say goodbye to Rick and Rose!



Pastor Rick Admiraal

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BLOG: newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity

Donate to New Life during our transition!

I'd like to donate \$ _____ to support New Life Prison Church.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

Contributions may be sent to: **New Life Prison Church, 408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219**

You can also make an online gift: <http://www.newlife-prison.org/donate>



Prayers & praises

by Rose Admiraal

We give thanks and praise for...

...almost 13 years of ministry with New Life Prison Church! We also give thanks for a strong congregation within prison walls, as well as the solid council on the outside.

As we move to Rochester, New York, to serve Lakeview Community Church, we pray for good transitions. Please pray for our home in Pella to sell quickly and for the move to New York to go smoothly and safely. Pray for New Life as its ministry continues in God's strength!

Some encouraging words

by Pastor Rick & Rose Admiraal

In the past few weeks, we've told people that we're leaving New Life Prison Church.

We've accepted the call from Lakeview Community Church and will be moving to New York later in December. Many friends have offered encouragement:

- "I'm excited for you as you look forward to this new opportunity! We will miss you!" – **Tricia De Haan, New Life deacon**
- "Congratulations to both of you. Lakeview Church is being blessed with a wonderful addition to their congregation. Thank you for all you've done for prison ministries. You have answered the call to help countless men when they needed it most. Good luck with your new venture. You will always remain in my prayers and in my heart. I love you both." – **Steve Palmer, former prison chapel clerk and friend of New Life**
- "Thanks for everything you have done. You've touched many lives. May God continue to bless you. I will always remember you. Thanks again from your brother in Christ." – **John Chavez, former prison chapel clerk and friend of New Life**
- "Exciting news for you both! I hope things go well for you two and your ministry together. Thank you for all your service and love to so many people, including myself, over the years. I know that MANY people were blessed by your faithful service to the men at Newton Correctional Facility and all the volunteers as well. Blessings to you!" – **Joel Waltz, commissioned member of New Life**
- "Blessings in your call. I'm very happy for your whole family." – **Erik Kamp, New Life commissioned member and associate pastor of First CRC in Oskaloosa**

Packing memories

by Pastor Rick

It's been a blessing to be the pastor of New Life. Along with packing boxes for the big move to New York, we'll also pack memories. Here are just a few:

- Baptizing new converts under the "No Dunking" sign in the prison gym
- Receiving generous gifts from churches and individual donors
- Partaking in communion with our incarcerated brothers
- Talking with New Life supporters after church services
- Visiting with volunteers on the drive from Pella to Newton (and back)
- Teaching Stephen Ministers about caring for each other
- Celebrating five years of ministry at the PCHS auditorium and ten years of ministry on Zoom during the pandemic
- Enjoying revival at Brothers in Blue weekends
- Meeting with returning citizens at local coffee shops or restaurants
- Attending funerals of beloved volunteers
- Worshipping in the prison chapel after a long pandemic absence

New Life Prison Church Outside Council

Dave Gritters (Governing Elder)

Keith Van Gent (Governing Elder & Treasurer)

Glenda Vander Leest (Governing Elder)

Linda Zuidema (Administrative Deacon)

Tricia De Haan (Administrative Deacon)

Pastor Rick Admiraal (New Life)