

God hears our prayers

a letter of encouragement from Steven Stumbo

Greetings, brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I would like to write to you about something dear to my heart: faith and belief in what you pray for. It is so vitally important that you not only pray, but that you believe what you are praying for will come to fruition.

I was put in the prison system in 2012 and set to be released in 2021. In August 2021, I was taken before a committee to see if I should be civilly committed.* The committee decided I should be taken to court to be civilly committed. I was devastated.

I prayed to God, "What should I do?" He said, "PRAY and BELIEVE." I immediately went to the Scriptures that the Lord laid on my heart: Mark 11:22-24, Jeremiah 29:11-14, and Matthew 7:7-8. I prayed over these Scriptures every day. I asked my family, friends, and fellow Christians to pray over them too.

I was scheduled to go to court on November 18, 2021. On November 15, the corrections officer (C.O.) came to me and said, "Your counselor wants to know if you have a ride to the halfway house." I asked the C.O. what he was talking about. He said, "Come with me."

When we called my counselor, he said the charges against me had been dropped and I was going to the halfway house in Iowa City on November 17. I immediately broke down in tears. God had heard our prayers.

Brothers and sisters, I can't stress how important it is for you to believe that what you pray for will come to fruition. God does fulfill his promises.

May God bless all of you!
Steven Stumbo

**The Civil Commitment Unit (Cherokee, IA) is designed to provide indefinite inpatient treatment for those who are believed to be at high risk for reoffending.*

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 25,
9:30 a.m.

We will host an outdoor worship service at South Overlook Recreation Area, 1105 North Highway T15, Knoxville, IA 50138. Please note that the highway over the Red Rock Dam is closed. Use T15 from the south instead. Rose Admiraal will give the message, and there will be music by the New Life Praise Team. After the service, enjoy a fellowship meal. Praise God this summer with New Life!

Pedal for Prisoners XIII

by Pastor Rick

I can't believe it's already our thirteenth Pedal for Prisoners! How time flies, especially on two wheels.

We thank God for two new riders this summer: Mike Richmond and Erik Kamp. We're also grateful for veteran cyclists who've returned for another spin: Teresa Rens, Lisa Groenendyk, Keith Van Gent, Scott and Katy Roose, and me.

This is one of the biggest groups of riders we've ever had! Pedal for Prisoners is also our biggest fundraiser. Will you help by giving a financial gift to New Life?



Left to right: New rider Erik Kamp and Pastor Rick before a practice ride.



Left to right: New rider Mike Richmond and volunteer Dwight Vander Leest.



Pastor Rick Admiraal

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Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity

Support Pedal for Prisoners this summer!

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:

- Our weekly worship with the brothers inside the prison. We pray this worship will continue and grow.
- The enthusiasm behind the walls to learn and worship God.
- The opportunities returning citizens have had at work, at church, and in family life.

We ask for prayers for:

- Those who have been given hard diagnoses: Paul, Orville, Roger's wife, and Chad's dad.
- Men who are waiting to be released and the many unknowns that lie before them.
- New converts to the faith. We pray that their faith will grow.

Pastor Rick and Rose attend correctional ministries summit

by Rose Admiraal

On the third weekend in May, Rick and I attended the Correctional Ministries and Chaplains Association (CMCA) Summit at the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College.

Sarah Estes, the executive director of Prison Congregations of America (PCA), also attended. Rick is a member of the PCA Board of Directors.

Although Rick had attended the summit prior to the pandemic, this was the first time I had attended. It did not disappoint! The theme this year was HOPE from Paul's benediction in Romans: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13). The praise and worship were excellent! The first speaker talked about Jeremiah 38 and the role of Ebed-Melech in rescuing Jeremiah from the cistern. Those of us who are reaching out to the incarcerated and returning citizens are the Ebed-Melechs of this generation, bringing hope.

Here are some other snippets from the summit that struck me. Please ponder the thoughts below:

- "We say as a church/society that we will welcome you back, but we don't really do this."
- "God uses everybody."
- "Discouragement is the tool of the devil."
- "Righteous indignation and unforgiveness will trip us up."
- "Rehabilitation is intentionally creating an environment where they BELONG."
- "How does the Gospel impact our worldview?"



PCA Executive Director Sarah Estes (left) with Rick and Rose Admiraal at the CMCA Summit.

New Life Prison Church Outside Council

Dave Gritters (Governing Elder)

Keith Van Gent (Governing Elder)

Glenda Vander Leest (Governing Elder)

Linda Zuidema (Administrative Deacon)

Tricia De Haan (Administrative Deacon)

Pastor Rick Admiraal (New Life)

April Nieuwsma (Treasurer)

New Life holds first council retreat

by Pastor Rick

New Life's first outside council retreat was held on the morning of the first Saturday of June. We had a beautiful setting: Stony Point in Reasoner, IA.

After a delicious breakfast, Pastor Rick read two Bible verses that are meaningful to New Life's history: Isaiah 11:1 and John 10:10. Following our prayer time together, we began a discussion that focused on strategic planning. We discovered ways that our ministry at the prison could be more effective, even with the current limitations.

Overall, this retreat was a very beneficial time for our leadership. We plan to make it an annual event.



Left to right: Glenda Vander Leest, Dave Gritters, Pastor Rick, Tricia De Haan, and Keith Van Gent at the council retreat.