

God's got this!

a letter of encouragement from Steve Palmer

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” (Matthew 6:33, NLT)

Greetings, New Life brothers and sisters!

Oh, how I miss all of you. Not a day passes by without thoughts of you, and I—along with countless others—am in continuous prayer for each and every one of you. I experienced my greatest growth while at Newton Correctional Facility, and you all played important parts in that process, leaving me eternally grateful.

As many of you know, August 4, 2022, was the start of a new chapter in my life. To tell you that the day of my release came with no fear or anxiety would be a lie. I never realized just how “protected” I felt inside those fences until the moment I walked through them and into this big world. But from the very beginning, God made it known that I was not alone, nor would I ever be. I tell you this for one very important reason: Seeking acceptance, approval, and answers from the world yields very little. Mark Batterson once wrote, “We shouldn’t seek answers as much as we should seek God ... If you seek answers you won’t find them, but if you seek God, the answers will find you.” I want you to know that at the end of the day, the only thing that truly matters is your relationship with Jesus Christ. Get right with God and, true to His Word, He will supply ALL your needs.

The enemy is hard at work in the world, sowing seeds of doubt, discouragement, and division. Jesus said, “The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life” (John 10:10). Stop and look



Steve Palmer (center) with his parents, Dick and Connie Palmer.

around. Every day contains unexpected blessings, but how many of them do we miss because we are selfishly looking for our own answered prayers? And let me add this: God is answering me in ways that are far better than what I was searching for, only because His plans for us are far better than our own.

I want you all to know that no matter what the obstacles are in front of you—no matter how tall the mountains appear to be—NOTHING is too big for our God. He chose you, and He loves you in a way the world will never give you. Jesus said, “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Have no fear, brothers and sisters! God's got this!

I love you,
Steve Palmer

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Sunday, April 16, 4:00 p.m.
We will host a worship service at the Calvary CRC Youth House (408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219). A fellowship meal will follow worship. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with New Life!



Pastor Rick Admiraal

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WEBSITE: www.newlife-prison.org

BLOG: newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity

Donate to New Life this Easter!

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:

- Being able to minister INSIDE the prison since December 13!
- The church INSIDE that is strong and growing!
- Answered prayers inside the prison for family members' health concerns.

We ask for prayers for:

- Our volunteers who have lost loved ones in the past few months and are in need of comfort.
- More opportunities for New Life to go inside to worship and study with the men.
- Men who have gotten out of prison, that they will find decent jobs, housing, and church communities.

New Life Prison Church Outside Council

Dave Gritters (Governing Elder)

Keith Van Gent (Governing Elder)

Glenda Vander Leest (Governing Elder)

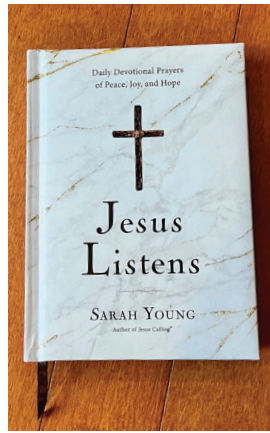
Linda Zuidema (Administrative Deacon)

Jim Williams (Administrative Deacon)

Tricia De Haan (Administrative Deacon)

Pastor Rick Admiraal (New Life)

April Nieuwsma (Treasurer)



Jesus Listens is the third devotional we've sent to returning citizens.

During our Zoom time, we engage in fellowship and discuss the entry for the day. We believe these devotionals and the Zoom meetings are two ways to encourage the men in their walk with God!

Encouragement to returning citizens

by Rose Admiraal

During the pandemic, New Life started meeting twice a month on Zoom with returning citizens located all over Iowa (and even outside the state!).

At the start of each year, we've been choosing a devotional and sending it to the men who have gotten out of prison.

Though we are back inside Newton Correctional Facility, we've decided to continue this program for returning citizens. This year, we sent close to 30 copies of *Jesus Listens* by Sarah Young (author of *Jesus Calling*). Each entry in this devotional is a prayer written out to Jesus.

It's so good to be back!

by Pastor Rick

On Tuesday, December 13, we returned to the prison after 33 long months. It was so good to be back!

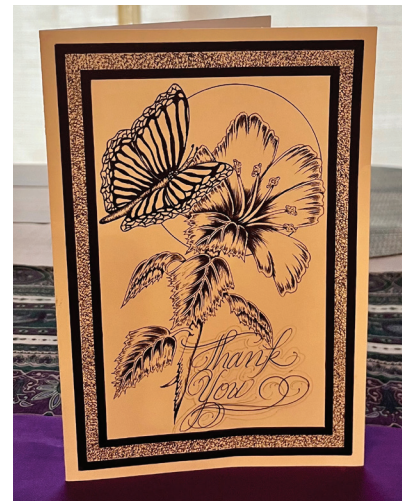
The prison chapel was bursting at the seams, full of men ready to enthusiastically greet us. We were glad to see them, and they were glad to see us.

The worship service was a celebration, with joyful songs, the Word of God, and prayers. I felt emotional when I recognized men in the congregation whom I baptized. There were many new faces too.

It was apparent that God was at work, and that He had raised up leaders in our absence. The Spirit had also inspired men to draw near to Jesus Christ. The church behind the walls is alive and well!

On the second Tuesday of New Life's return, we were recognized by the men. They gave us a handsome certificate and a handmade card with these words: "In appreciation of everything you do." It meant a lot to them that they were not forgotten during the pandemic.

We've now been back for three months. Each Tuesday evening is just as good as the last. It's truly the highlight of the week. We've celebrated communion monthly and are working our way through the Bible—we're already on Ruth! Currently, we are at the prison just once per week with only three volunteers. Pray that the prison officials will permit more volunteers and allow us to worship at the Newton Correctional Release Center too. May God expand His impact behind bars.



The New Life team received an artistic thank-you card from the men of the prison congregation.