

## My testimony

by Ron Turner

**Note from Pastor Rick:** At the end of July, Ron gave his testimony at Coon Rapids United Methodist Church. I was able to listen to it on the church's Facebook page. Ron wrote his testimony down so I could share it with you. Ron and his wife, Linda, faithfully attend our twice-monthly Zoom meetings for returning citizens.

### Pastor Bobbie (of Coon Rapids UMC) asked me if I wanted to share my testimony.

I grew up going to church with my family, but I never gave a thought about Jesus. While in prison, I started attending New Life Bible study on Tuesday afternoons with Pastor Rick and his wife, Rose, and the volunteers. They encouraged me to start attending New Life church services on Thursday evenings once a month, which I did. I began reading my Bible every morning, with several devotional books. This is when I started to feel Jesus with me!

In the meantime, my wife, Linda, left our former church where we had been members for 50 years for personal reasons. She was encouraged by several friends to attend church in Coon Rapids. She started to attend church there and was very happy.

When I was released, I was really surprised to be accepted and loved by our church, Coon Rapids United Methodist Church. I believe that our church is one big family. I enjoy being a greeter, putting a smile on your faces and telling you to have a blessed day. My favorite part of the service is Pastor Bobbie's children's time. It's good to see the kids learn about Jesus, especially in the world in which we live now. Thank you to Pastor Bobbie for giving me a chance to share my story. After all this, what I know is that Jesus is with me, has always been with me, and will always be with me. I want everyone to know that. Thank you.

*Jesus said, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).*

## New Life baptized 13 men in July

by Pastor Rick

### Every Tuesday night we worship with the men in the prison chapel.

On July 25, we had our first baptism service since returning to the prison post-pandemic. Thirteen men were baptized!

We were actually a little bit disappointed, since 23 men had signed up but not everyone showed up. Still, God was clearly at work bringing forward a baker's dozen. Each person received a handsome baptism certificate to mark the special occasion. I'm very proud of these guys. Most of them faithfully attend New Life worship services. Please pray that they will continue to grow in the love and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## Prayers & praises

by Rose Admiraal

### We give thanks and praise for:

- The 13 men New Life baptized at the end of July!
- The new people who continue to come to worship with New Life every week!
- The church leadership behind the walls.
- April Nieuwsma's three years of service as our treasurer and Keith Van Gent's willingness to become our new treasurer.

### We ask for prayers for:

- Health and strength for men and their families who are experiencing health difficulties.
- Churches to be welcoming and grace-filled to receive former inmates.
- New believers to grow in their faith walk with God.



#### Pastor Rick Admiraal

PHONE: 641-204-1954

EMAIL: [PastorRick@newlife-prison.org](mailto:PastorRick@newlife-prison.org)

WEBSITE: [www.newlife-prison.org](http://www.newlife-prison.org)

BLOG: [newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com](http://newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com)

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity)

### Support New Life this fall!

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>



# Celebrating Ernie and Jeanne De Jong

by Pastor Rick

**Some couples have a big celebration on their fiftieth anniversary. On Labor Day, Ernie and Jeanne De Jong celebrated their seventieth anniversary!**

When I told Ernie that Rose and I have been married for 32 years, he told me we have a long way to go. He's right—we're just barely getting started.

Ernie and Jeanne volunteered in prison for 20 years, even before New Life got started at the Newton Correctional Facility. Although they are no longer able to go into the prison, they're still an important part of New Life. They're currently commissioned members of the prison church and participate on our prayer team. They have fond memories of their years serving men inside prison, as well as those who have been released. What a blessing they've been to New Life!

If you want to send Ernie and Jeanne a note of encouragement, mail it to: Ernie and Jeanne De Jong, Independence Village, Rm. 103, 2602 Fifield Rd., Pella, IA 50219.

## 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)

# RAGBRAI reminds us of the three Hs of New Life

by Pastor Rick

**Our thirteenth Pedal for Prisoners was a tremendous success! What an amazing journey it's been.**

We thank God for safety on two wheels.

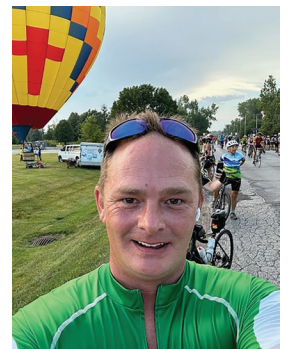
We also thank God for Mike Richmond, the first returning citizen to participate in this fundraiser. Tackling the fourth day of RAGBRAI, Mike rode from Ames to Des Moines and had a great time. Another first-time rider, Erik Kamp, didn't just ride from Des Moines to Tama—he also played the bagpipes with the Turlach Ur Pipe Band in Grinnell's Central Park! Three cyclists completed the 500-mile route from Sioux City to Davenport: Teresa Rens and Scott and Katy Roose.

The fifth day was a great opportunity for Lisa Groenendyk, Keith Van Gent, and Pastor Rick to ride. Lisa reminds us of the three Hs of RAGBRAI: heat, humidity, and hills (Iowa isn't flat!). However, she also tells us not to forget the **three Hs of New Life: help, healing, and hope for people in prison**. In fact, I often give the following blessing at the conclusion of New Life worship services: "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).

Thank you so much for your generous donations. So far, we've raised nearly \$24,000 to support the prison church. It's not too late to give!



Keith Van Gent rode on a tandem bike with his son, Kris.



Mike Richmond rode from Ames to Des Moines on the fourth day of RAGBRAI.



Left to right: Scott and Katy Roose, Pastor Rick, and Teresa Rens together before sunrise on the fifth day.



Erik Kamp rode his bike AND played the bagpipes on RAGBRAI's fifth day.



Lisa Groenendyk rode the fifth day of RAGBRAI.