

Imagine

by Dave Gritters

Imagine ... everyone in your congregation deeply desiring to be there. They haven't come to church just because they have to or feel like they should. At Newton Correctional Facility (NCF), they arrive each Tuesday evening. Men who long to be in Christian community. Men eager to hear the Word of God.

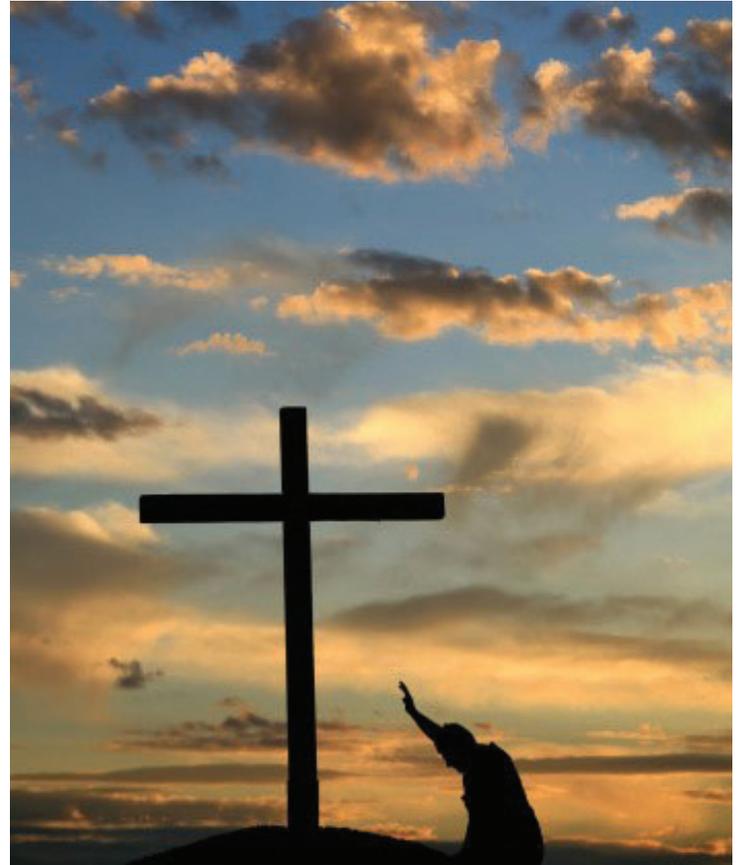
Imagine ... 50 men loudly singing, using every possible version of the notes and rhythm, not caring who hears them. Just singing their hearts out to God!

Imagine ... such beautiful prayer requests and praise from such an unpolished, free-flowing, spontaneous group of men. Men who are sorry for what they have done. Men who long to know and hear about Jesus. Men who want forgiveness from their families and friends. Men seeking life changes.

Imagine ... John (name changed). A tough-looking guy, intimidating. Who a month or so ago just sat, arms crossed, and glared at you. Who a few weeks ago cracked a smile, even moving his mouth to a song. Who now warmly greets you with a smile, a handshake, and says, "I'll be back—I can't wait to see you next week!" This is a testimony of the Holy Spirit's power.

Imagine ... standing room only. Some men stand for the duration of the service because all the seats were taken that night, as everyone was eager to participate in communion.

Imagine ... audible moans and groans when you close the service. Being told the service is the highlight of their week. They want to remain in that fellowship of believers.



Welcome to worship with the New Life prison community!

New Life is a congregation that is not very visible outside the walls of Newton Correctional Facility, and most of you reading this cannot go in and experience the wonderful worship there. But I wanted you to imagine being there to give you a sense of the power that's present each week. It's excellent and life-giving.

There are good things happening each week at NCF, and we covet your continued prayers. Thank you for your spiritual and financial support!



Elder Dave Gritters

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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>



What can you do to support the New Life ministry?

- **Sign up for the weekly prayer chain.** It is a great way to get updates and be involved in prayer for the men. You can sign up by sending an email to cindygritters@gmail.com.
- **Pray regularly for New Life.**
- **Support New Life financially by sending a one-time or monthly contribution.** (See the cutout on the front side of the newsletter.)

New Life Prison Church Outside Council

Dave Gritters
(Governing Elder)

Glenda Vander Leest
(Governing Elder)

Max Killoren
(Governing Elder)

Linda Zuidema
(Administrative Deacon)

Tricia De Haan
(Administrative Deacon)

Keith Van Gent
(Administrative Deacon & Treasurer)

Getting settled:

An update from Pastor Rick and Rose Admiraal

by Pastor Rick

Greetings to all of you! Rose and I are getting settled in Western New York. Here are just a few highlights.

On the first Sunday of March, I was officially installed as the new pastor of Lakeview Community Church. Many Classis members and Lakeview congregants participated in the service. Rose led a prayer and sang a solo. Our daughter, Annaliese, was able to attend, as well as my mom, dad, and other family members! It was a very special service.

At the end of February, we sold our house in Iowa. What a relief! We're grateful to God that it sold so quickly and that we don't need to make more mortgage payments from a thousand miles away.

Rose is completing her program to become a commissioned pastor. Meanwhile, the elders gave her permission to preach at Lakeview. She's scheduled to preach on Palm Sunday and is quite excited about it.

We've made some new friends here, but we miss our friends in Iowa. It's so good to know that New Life continues without us and that God has blessed New Life with a strong outside council and dedicated volunteers. Here is a verse that came to mind: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

May God continue to bless all of you!

My first experience at Newton Correctional Facility

by Dan Vermeer, volunteer

In January, I visited New Life Prison Church in Newton for the first time.

The welcome I received from the men was as warm as any welcome I've experienced in any church I've ever visited. I was greeted with smiles, handshakes, and words of welcome and affirmation.

I sat among the men during the service, and one of the men I sat with shared some lyrics he had been working on. The lyrics he showed me were beautiful expressions of faith that would have worked well with both modern contemporary music and the traditional hymns I remember singing at Faith CRC in Pella.

The worship I experienced was both authentic and enthusiastic. I was told that this is the highlight of the week for those who attend. What I experienced supported what I was told. It is clear to me that the ministry of New Life is a light in a dark place for many. I am grateful for my worship experience there, and I look forward to going again soon.

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)