



**THANK YOU to all who donated to the Pedal for Prisoners fundraiser!**  
**It was a great success, and we thank you so much for**  
**your prayers and financial support!**

## God can fit into the tiniest of spaces

by Dave Gritters

**I keep a list of quotes. One that has really stuck with me is this: “God can fit into the tiniest of spaces.”**

Earlier this year, before a Tuesday worship service, Cindy and I were having a conversation with Chaplain Whitfield at the Newton Correctional Facility. We asked him, “Is it hard to be a Christian chaplain and have to serve all the different religions present here?” He just smiled and said, “Not at all. A wise man taught me long ago that God can fit into the tiniest of spaces, so I just bring Him into those tiny spaces and let the Holy Spirit do His work.” Chaplain Whitfield continued, saying how amazing it is to see God work in those spaces where we don’t think He will.

His words have stuck with me. Of course I believe every square inch of creation belongs to God, but do I act like it? How often do I write off an event in my mind as being a waste of time? How often do I just look the other way? How often do I view a person as unredeemable? Then I am reminded that God says, “Mine.”

With New Life, we pray for more. We pray for a larger space to worship in. We pray for more men to be able to attend. We pray to have more time together. Yet at the end of each prayer time, at the end of each service, we are constantly reminded of how God is at work and how His Spirit is moving at the Newton Correctional Facility. We hear stories of faithfulness, of walking through life together, of concern

for family and friends. We hear stories of brokenness and of being built back up. We get to experience how God is at work in that “tiny” space!

So while we sometimes get discouraged and want to do more, I am again reminded that God can fit into the tiniest of spaces. How about you? Is there an area in your circle of life that you view as unredeemable? An event, a ministry, your church, your family member, an incarcerated person? I invite you to keep holding it in prayer and be reminded, like I was, that our God certainly does fit into the tiniest of spaces!

**“Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from  
your presence?”**

**Psalms 139:7  
(New International Version)**



**Elder Dave Gritters**

PHONE: 641-780-2148

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

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

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>



# The story of Jim and Sue

**The following is a testimony told to Linda Zuidema by a family whose life was impacted by the New Life community. It is a story of how God fits into the tiniest of spaces—this time in a bumper sticker! Names have been changed.**

Jim and Sue were traveling to a larger city. It was not a happy day for them—Jim was scheduled to appear for his arrest and trial, determined to plead guilty and face his punishment. While Jim and Sue both faithfully attended church and Bible study, their personal walk with the Lord was not as deep as they knew it should be. On that day, the traffic was heavy and moving slowly; they found themselves following a truck with a bumper sticker that read: “‘I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord.” This quote from Jeremiah 29 opened their hearts again, so Jim and Sue made a commitment to really dig into Scripture and learn what God was telling them!

After the arrest and trial, Jim and Sue lost contact with their children and their church, but the Lord spoke to them deeply, and their faith bloomed. New life was forming, and Jim faced his sentence with a renewed faith in Jesus. Jim witnessed to his fellow inmates by showing love and speaking the soft words, “I have Jesus in my heart.” This phrase is often on his lips.

During Jim’s incarceration, Sue faithfully visited him and reenforced the fact that she loved him and would be waiting for him. She found a new church home with a pastor who knew their story.

At the completion of his sentence, Jim returned home. They had four great years, yet those years were also filled with difficulty. They were still unable to see their children, and many in their new church were angry when they learned about Jim’s history and left. But the most difficult thing was when Jim suffered a stroke. He became volatile and angry, and he refused any care. He actually became aggressive to the person he loves the most: Sue. As time moved along, medication started to work and mental stability followed, yet Jim’s history followed him. No place would take him in for much-needed long-term care, so Sue took him home again—but she remembered that God had a plan for them. He would never leave them alone. He would faithfully hold their hands along the way.

Today, Jim is in a long-term care home where he is well taken care of. Jim and Sue are so grateful for Christian community. Please pray for continued strength and peace for them as they journey on this road.

# Perspective from a new volunteer

*by Kevin Bolt*

**I was able to visit New Life Prison Church on September 10 with Dave Gritters and Max Killoren.**

Dave had explained to me how much different it is than what I experienced many years ago, when we were able to worship in the gymnasium with many more men. He was correct in that, but the one thing that was constant was how authentic and enthusiastic the worship was. These men truly love God, love each other, and do a great job of showing that in that packed chapel! We will continue to pray for a larger room to accommodate more men who would love to be there to share in that worship.

It was also very easy to tell how much they appreciate the volunteers and the message brought that night about pride in our lives. Multiple men told me how much they appreciated me being there to worship with them as I walked through the crowd before the service. You could tell that this night had to be one of the highlights of their week.

I am already looking forward to the next time I am able to attend a service. Please continue to support New Life Prison Church financially and in your prayers.

## New Life Prison Church Outside Council

**Dave Gritters**  
(Governing Elder)

**Linda Zuidema**  
(Administrative Deacon)

**Glenda Vander Leest**  
(Governing Elder)

**Tricia De Haan**  
(Administrative Deacon)

**Max Killoren**  
(Governing Elder)

**Keith Van Gent**  
(Administrative Deacon  
& Treasurer)