

Appreciating the Iowa sunrise

by Corrine Verschuure

“From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!” Psalm 113:3

We’ve had absolutely beautiful sunrises this year! Each day, we praise God for His goodness. I’m thankful for the health and safety He blessed me with in completing the virtual RAGBRAI 2020.

What was virtual RAGBRAI? After the annual bike event was cancelled this year due to COVID-19, the race’s organizers came up with a virtual option open to people from all over the country. Anyone who wanted to participate could pick their own routes and ride close to home. We were given the mileage for each day, matching what it would have been on the regular RAGBRAI route, as well as the suggested feet of climb.

Each morning the week of July 19–25, I got up early to ride my bicycle and appreciate the sunrises. My mileage that week was 451 miles. On three of the days, I started and finished at home, riding with friends from the Pella Cycling Club. The other four mornings I drove to Altoona to meet friends and ride with them. Our goal was to choose a variety of routes to give us different scenery and experiences, just like RAGBRAI. Each night was spent at home, which helped with getting good sleep.

God’s earth is so beautiful. It’s enjoyable when we slow down our everyday pace to really take it in. We take everything for

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Summer worship service in Pella

by Pastor Rick

On Sunday, August 30, New Life Prison Church hosted a worship service at Caldwell Park in Pella.

We gathered to glorify God and enjoy fellowship with commissioned members, volunteers, mentors, and friends. The theme of the service was Rejoice in Hope, based on Romans 12:12. It was wonderful, and the weather certainly cooperated.

Now that we are an organized congregation, New Life has installed office bearers for the very first time. Dave Gritters is our first governing elder, and Jim Williams is our first administrative deacon. Jim also recorded the service, so we could send a DVD to the prison chapel.

Rose Admiraal led the praise team and organized an offering for Discover Hope 517’s Bread of Life ministry. The director of Discover Hope, Robbie Robinson, spoke about opportunities in Newton during a very challenging year. What a blessing it was to worship with those who keep on praying for the men in prison!



Our new elder, Dave Gritters, also drums for New Life.



Our new treasurer, April Nieuwsma, attended the outdoor service with her husband, Levi.



Our new deacon, Jim Williams, recorded a video of the service.



Pastor Rick Admiraal

PHONE: 641-204-1954

EMAIL: PastorRick@newlife-prison.org

WEBSITE: www.newlife-prison.org

BLOG: newlifeprisonchurch.blogspot.com

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Contributions may be sent to: **New Life Prison Community, 408 Maple St., Pella, IA 50219**

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Prayers & praises

by Rose Admiraal

We ask prayer for:

- Our brothers who have gotten out of prison. Their struggles are great at times. We think of Geoff, Mike, Ron, Rodney, Derek, Ryan, Joel, Luther, Brad, and so many more.
- Geoff Roberts and his family. They lost a lot of their crops in the windstorm. We also pray for Geoff's grandpa, who is in hospice care; for Geoff's mother-in-law, who recently tested positive for COVID-19; for the well-being of Geoff's kids; and for the fractured relationship with his wife.
- Ryan, who needs some clear direction in his life.
- Our volunteer, Jim Williams, who has been struggling with severe back pain.
- The safety and well-being of all our New Life members, both inside the walls and out.

We give thanks and praise for:

- Our outdoor worship service on August 30!
- The health of the men and staff at Newton. So far, they have kept the COVID-19 virus contained.
- The group who went to help the Roberts family!
- Governor Reynolds' executive order for most ex-offenders to have their voting rights restored!
- All the New Life bicycle riders and donors who helped Pedal for Prisoners achieve its fundraising goal!

Recovery from the August derecho

by Rose Admiraal

Without warning, a destructive wind referred to as a "derecho" whipped through Iowa with a vengeance on August 10.

One of our commissioned members, Justin Turner, informed us that trees had crashed through the roof of his house in Newton. Justin and his family just moved into this house about a month ago. He is grateful for good insurance to cover the damage.

Recently released from Newton Correctional Facility, Geoff Roberts texted Pastor Rick: "Could New Life help me and my family with some of the devastation on our family farm?" A few days later, seven of us met in Rippey, IA, to spend the day cleaning up fallen trees. Rick and I made the trek with Tim and Kathy Franje, Ryan Porath, Mike Richmond, and John Admiraal. We are grateful to God that we could help. Geoff and the rest of the Roberts family were very thankful for the help they received that day.



New Life commissioned member Ryan Porath helped clean up the Roberts property after the derecho.

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granted, and this year nature has spoken to me much more than in the past. Bicycling allows me to enjoy the outdoors and marvel at creation, in addition to being an excellent way to share time with friends. Joining Pastor Rick and others in supporting the New Life Prison Church through the Pedal for Prisoners fundraiser also reminds me of how blessed I am to be free to move about at my choosing.

This was the tenth year for Pedal for Prisoners. Thank you to Pastor Rick and Rose for their dedicated work in the prison community—and thank YOU for your support and prayers!



New Life biker Corrine Verschuure has ridden in 10 Pedal for Prisoners!

New Life Outside Council

Dave Gritters
(Governing Elder)

Jim Williams
(Administrative Deacon)

Don Rouwenhorst
(First Reformed)

Marv Goodyk
(Sully CRC)

Duane Bruxvoort
(Federated Fellowship)

Pastor Rick Admiraal
(New Life)

Tim Franje
(Peoria CRC, represents the Classis Missions Committee)

April Nieuwsma
(Treasurer)