

Positive feedback

by Rose Admiraal

Positive feedback is so encouraging! It lets you know you're making an impact through Jesus Christ.

Colette, wife of an inmate

Dear Pastor Rick and Rose,
Where do I begin to express the gratitude I have for the love and compassion you have shown my husband? Not only have you supported him emotionally, you have nourished his faith. New Life is an amazing, Spirit-led gift. You have faithfully encouraged, loved, and believed my husband, giving him strength to heal and continue to follow the Lord as we walk this journey together.

Steve

New Life is more than just prison ministry—it is an extended family. Two of the praise team members have become brothers to me. The volunteers aren't just visitors, they represent a piece of life that is missing for many inmates. In a world driven by condemnation and unforgiveness, New Life is a constant reminder of God's never-failing presence, a light always shining in the darkness. It's real.

Bryan

I appreciate what New Life and the prayer warriors have done for all of us. I will never forget you! Thank you!

Chris

I simply want to say thank you for encouraging me in my devotional writings. Acknowledging my efforts and giving me positive feedback was very helpful!

Ryan

Rick and Rose,
Thank you for all the love and support. You both are wonderful people. Thank you for all you do to bring men to Christ. Love you lots!

John

New Life is about being present in this place. The Bible studies and worship services have blessed hundreds of people. The CD collection went from 5 to 200 and the books you have purchased have been such a blessing. We couldn't make it without you. God is good.

Linda, wife of an inmate

My husband has told me how special you are to him and all of the other inmates at Newton. I know and believe all lives will be changed. I just wanted to personally thank you for your ministry and all you do at Newton.



Jeff Arrandale (left) and the band at the prison.

Inspirational concert

by Pastor Rick

On Saturday, June 8, the Jeff Arrandale Band came to the Newton Prison for the first time.

"Prior to going, we were hopeful we'd be a blessing," reflected Jeff. "In the end, we received the most blessing."

God's Word informs us: "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed" (Prov. 11:25). Jeff continued, "Our friends in Piercing the Darkness and Breaking Adam told us the inmates would be very welcoming and over-the-top appreciative. That was an understatement."

New Life is very grateful for the Jeff Arrandale Band. The concert was a tremendous blessing for everyone. The music had a powerful message, focusing on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We've received a lot of positive feedback from men at the prison. They loved the concert! The band members also displayed an attitude of humble service toward the prison staff. What more can you ask? We're so thankful. Come back soon!



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Justice That Restores

by Tyler Helpers

Tyler Helpers is a campus minister at Iowa State University, overseeing Areopagus Campus Ministry. He and his wife, Christina, and their daughter, Karina, live in Ames. This summer, Tyler is an intern at New Life Prison Church as part of his ongoing studies at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Like the shards of a broken mirror, the world around us reflects the brokenness of our institutions, communities, and individual lives. This brokenness is readily put on display in our criminal justice system, in the lives of offenders and victims, and reverberating through the communities where these crimes occur. With a system that emphasizes retributive justice, or the punishment of offenders, true justice is often lacking. Victims are left longing for answers, and communities are left unchanged. It's not to say punishment is not necessary, but rather that justice for all—offender, victim, and communities—requires more. Here, restorative justice may play a role. Restorative justice has been used to address systemic abuses through things like truth commissions. Increasingly, it is being implemented more broadly in our criminal justice system through circle sentencing and community corrections.

Restorative justice is an approach to more holistically address the harms and needs—the roles and responsibilities—of all those involved. For victims, restorative justice seeks to give them a voice,

empowering them to get answers to their questions, express their pain and loss to offenders, and find vindication and healing. For offenders, it seeks to hold them accountable, emphasizing their responsibility and power to bring restitution and move them toward positive change. For communities, restorative justice is the starting point for reflecting and taking responsibility to affect action that deals with the underlying problems at the heart of so much of our crime: broken homes, broken neighborhoods, poverty, addiction, and abuse.

In the end, restorative justice is a path toward seeking true justice in our world. It is an approach that takes both the law and the complex nature of justice seriously. Through collaborative efforts that are missing in many of our world's conflicts, restorative justice brings all involved together to affect the righting of wrongs—be it through restitution, retribution, reconciliation, or some combination thereof. As opposed to retributive forms of justice, it is an approach full of hope, healing, and the potential for bringing about tremen-



Tyler and Christina Helpers, with their daughter Karina.

dous good.

In many ways, it mirrors the justice and love of God in Christ, who not only took on Himself our punishment on the cross, but gave us the hope of restoration, reconciliation, and renewal through His resurrection and ongoing reign in heaven. Whereas wrongdoing is a tear in the fabric of community and relationships—an abuse perpetrated against God's intent for His creation—restorative justice points to the cosmic restoration that has already begun, and will be fulfilled, at the return of Christ. It is another small but powerful way we begin to see what will one day be reality: the righting of all wrongs, the healing of all pain, and the renewal of all things shattered by the effects of sin in this present age.

Pedal for Prisoners IX

by Pastor Rick

Pedal for Prisoners is now in its ninth year!

Three riders have participated all nine years: Corrine Verschuure, Bill Schinkel, and me. Bicycling in Iowa is all about RAGBRAI: Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa. The 427-mile route goes from Council Bluffs to Keokuk (see www.ragbrai.com). Two of our riders—Corrine Verschuure and new rider Teresa Rens—plan to trek the entire distance.

We hope you will encourage the riders by giving a donation. The reason we ride is to help New Life Prison Church thrive. Pedal for Prisoners is our number-one fundraiser. Will you sponsor us?



New Life riders wear this bike jersey for RAGBRAI (back view).

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