

Visiting the Capitol

by Pastor Rick

On February 27, Rose and I went to the Capitol in Des Moines.

I was the guest of Senator Ken Rozenboom (a member of Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Oskaloosa). He asked me to open the day's proceedings in the Senate chambers with a prayer. I remembered to pray for those in prison, as well as crime victims and those in authority.

After the prayer, Senator Rozenboom's assistant, Gina Ten Pass, took us on a tour of the Capitol building. We were also able to attend the sub-committee meeting on restoration of felon voting rights. Rose and I both spoke in favor of this proposed legislation. It would enable released prisoners to vote in elections without having to petition the governor. This legislation is being pushed forward by Governor Kim Reynolds. It was a prominent item mentioned in her State of the State address.

During the sub-committee meeting, the biggest impact was made by a man and a woman who had both committed felonies. Their speeches were quite passionate, because the legislation would affect them directly. Everyone in attendance spoke in favor of the change.



Pastor Rick, Rose, and Sen. Ken Rozenboom (left to right).



Rose and Rick enjoyed a tour of the State Capitol.

I am always with you

by Curtis F.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will lift you up with my victorious right hand.” Isaiah 41:10 (NRSV)

I remember thinking of this Scripture when I was in court for my sentencing. It really calmed me to know God was with me. After I was put in county jail, I surrendered my life to Jesus. I carried this message with me to prison.

I could feel God's love right away. I was able to find a job as a mentor shortly after arriving. I was also allowed to attend several Bible studies and get into New Life Prison Church. Now I am able to share God's love with others in my daily walk with Him. I have been able to get much closer to God in the past 13 months. I know God allowed me to go to prison to start over and become a new creation.

Dear Lord, thank you for all your blessings. God bless everyone whose hope is in the Lord. Amen.

Matching gifts challenge

by Pastor Rick

Spring is here with a new giving challenge! Several businessmen and women in Pella have pledged gifts of over **\$10,000** to New Life. We thank God for their generosity. At the same time, they are challenging you to respond with matching gifts so the amount can be *doubled*.

Will you be part of this charitable giving challenge? Your gifts will enable New Life to move forward in faith. May the Spirit inspire you to respond with a generous heart!



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www.facebook.com/NewLifePrisonCommunity

Give your gifts to New Life

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

I'd like to donate \$ _____ to New Life to support

New Life Prison Community.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____



R.I.P. Old Honda

by Pastor Rick

On a bitter cold February day, my 1998 Honda Accord died near the cemetery north of Galesburg. Even though this old black car had traveled over 200,000 miles, it was still sad to say good-bye. My daughter told me we are called to love people and use things. Nevertheless, I had grown quite attached to this car over time. It was my ministry machine. The Old Honda had taken me back and forth to Calvin Seminary, when we lived in Michigan. It had also made numerous trips from my home in Pella to New Life Prison Church in Newton.

A few weeks later, Rose and I found a replacement. It's a newer, sleeker, faster version. I'll call this new Accord my Silver Steed. May it continue to provide reliable transportation as my new Kingdom car.



The Old Honda Accord.

New Life Board Members

Sheryl Hanthorn (Grace Fellowship)

Don Rouwenhorst (First Reformed)

Fran De Haan (Calvary CRC)

Marcus Van Zee (Trinity Reformed)

Marv Goodyk (Sully CRC)

Duane Bruxvoort (Federated Fellowship)

Pastor Rick Admiraal (New Life)

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

Volunteer spotlight: Dale Albright

How did you get started at New Life Prison Church?

For a number of years, I would stop and visit my uncle and aunt, Ernest and Jean De Jong. Those visits always included their prison ministry. After I quit working full-time, I started volunteering with New Life.

What did it mean to receive the Flame Fund Reward?

The Flame Fund is an endowment from a very small country church near Conroy, Iowa. The by-laws of the endowment require that a percentage of the yearly income be given to local causes, regional causes, and national and international causes. I am not a member of this church, but an acquaintance recommended I apply. New Life was given the award as a local cause. It was an honor to be a tool in applying for and receiving a portion of the endowment for the benefit of New Life Prison Church.



New Life volunteer Dale Albright lives in Williamsburg, Iowa.

Why do you feel inspired to help men in prison?

First, I was inspired by what this ministry meant to my uncle and aunt. In addition, so much of Biblical history revolves around prisons and prisoners, in both the Old and New Testaments. Jesus instructs us to take his Gospel to all corners and to all peoples. I felt this was a way I could serve outside "normal channels."

Why do you drive over 60 miles each way every Thursday?

For me, I feel it is necessary for the prisoners to know we are committed to them and care for them—that they know they are part of God's family. By being as regular as I can, I hope they feel and understand this. I hope they keep it as a part of their current prison lives, as well as their future lives when they are released from prison.

It is important to note that this is just my personal feeling and not an expectation I believe needs to apply to other volunteers.

How has New Life Prison Church impacted your life?

New Life has impacted me in ways I never anticipated. My original intent was to use this ministry as a way to give of myself, but the reality is that I also receive. Being part of Brothers-in-Blue was impactful and a unique way to witness how Christ changes lives. Being a tool in the ministry of Christ is a privilege.

The third week of each month, when a regular service is conducted, is as meaningful as any Sunday service. The communion we receive with the prisoners, which is served by the inside council members, is very impactful for me. It gives a special feeling of Jesus' command of doing this in remembrance of Him and sharing it with prisoners.