



As Waters Gone By, a must-read

by Rose Admiraal

Last spring, a friend introduced me to Cynthia Ruchti's novel *As Waters Gone By*. It is about a wife's struggle with her faith during her husband's incarceration. After reading the gripping story, I donated a copy to the library in the prison chapel. One of our inside council members started reading it and suggested it to his wife. She bought a copy, and they went through the book together during their visits.

"This book has been a blessing to us," she reflected. "We shared so many thoughts and tears as we read it together."

Since that time, she has shared her copy with other moms and wives she has met in the visiting room. I have placed several other Christian novels by the same author in the prison chapel library. This book has truly been a blessing. It's definitely a must-read!



Teresa Rens and Pastor Rick proudly display patches awarded for riding the 100-mile day.



Scott Roose and his daughter, Katy, rode together.



Lisa Groenendyk enjoyed her bike ride.

Celebrating a successful Pedal for Prisoners

by Pastor Rick

Pedal for Prisoners 2019 was a tremendous success!

Participating this year were Corrine Verschuure; Bill Schinkel; Lisa Groenendyk; Keith Van Gent; Scott, Katy, and Kristi Roose; Teresa Rens; and Annaliese and Rick Admiraal. Corrine and Teresa rode all the way across Iowa this year. Others, like myself, opted for day rides.

Lisa rode two days of RAGBRAI. Her first day was quite easy, but the second was much longer and quite hilly. Of her challenging 84-mile day, she said, "I thought of the hills the prisoners need to climb day after day."

Overall, we were able to meet our fundraising goal of \$25,000! We're grateful to our generous donors. God continues to provide for the prison church. Let's ride our bicycles again next summer!

Thanking our summer intern

by Pastor Rick

This summer, Tyler Helfers was an intern for New Life. This service fulfilled the requirement for a cross-cultural internship for his Master of Divinity at Calvin Theological Seminary. Tyler reflected, "More than anything else, I have learned two important things this summer with New Life Prison Church at Newton Correctional Facility: 1) The great extent to which the Spirit is at work in numerous ways in a diverse group of men; 2) The loving care and unity of the church."

What a blessing it was to minister with Tyler. Thank you for serving the church behind bars!



Pastor Rick Admiraal

PHONE: 641-204-1954

EMAIL: PastorRick@newlife-prison.org

WEB SITE: 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**

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

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Becoming an established church

by Pastor Rick

Currently, New Life is an emerging congregation. However, we are seeking to become organized as an established church. Two other Christian Reformed prison congregations have made this step: Cornerstone (Sioux Falls, SD) and Celebration Fellowship (Ionia, MI).

At the fall meeting of Classis Central Plains, delegates gave preliminary

approval for New Life to begin this process. They also gave permission for New Life to ask people to become commissioned members. This step would involve having dual membership, so members can belong to both the outside (sending) church and the prison church.

Thanks be to God for blessing His church inside and outside prison walls!

Overview of Calgary conference

by Pastor Rick

In mid-September, I traveled to Calgary, Alberta, to attend Refreshed for the Call, a conference for Christian Reformed ministers. An invitation was given: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters" (Isaiah 55:1a).

We heard God's invitation to flourish in life and ministry from Chris Adams, the keynote speaker. We also enjoyed fellowship with other ministers from the United States and Canada. Since I was the only prison pastor, I was asked repeatedly what men in prison need.



Reverend Cliff Hoekstra (Sioux Center) and Pastor Rick at Moraine Lake.

I answered that mostly they need forgiveness and hope. A highlight of the conference was an outing to Banff, Lake Louise, and Moraine Lake. Observing the breathtaking vistas, we marveled at the beauty of God's spectacular creation. It was definitely a time of refreshment, renewing my energy to serve the Lord and New Life Prison Church.

**Do you want to join the prayer team?
Join over 200 others and receive
weekly prayer updates.**

Email rose@newlife-prison.org.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers commissioned

by Pastor Rick

On September 19, eight new Stephen Ministers were commissioned at New Life Prison Church. We had a special service at the prison, where each man was awarded a certificate of completion. Because they have completed the 50-hour training program, they are eligible to minister as caregivers for those who carry painful emotional scars. Thank you to Marv and Myrna Goodyk, the Stephen Leaders who trained the men for Christian service.

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.