

The Church of the Damascus Road

3rd Annual Meeting



6:00pm, January 22, 2005
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
1001 1st Avenue South
Fort Dodge, Iowa

The Church of the Damascus Road Annual Meeting

Agenda

6:00pm, January 22, 2005

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

1001 1st Avenue South, Fort Dodge, Iowa

Welcome, Prayer

Dinner — Served by the Human Needs Committee of St. Mark's Church

Devotions — Pastor Carroll Lang

The Meeting — Lee Kuhrt, Vice-President

Introductions

- Outside Church Council members and spouses
- Former Outside Church Council members and spouses
- FDCF and NCCF Regular Volunteers and StoryTeller Volunteers
- Former CoDR members and spouses/guests
- Correctional Facility representatives
- Others Present
- Getting to know you
 - Who are you?
 - Where do you reside? How far did you travel to be with us?
 - Are you representing a church? If so, which one are you representing?

Reports

The following reports are included in this packet:

- 4 - A History of The Church of the Damascus Road
- 5 - Minutes of 2003 CoDR Annual Meeting
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- 7 - Outside Council Members
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- 10 - E-mail Messages Regarding Christmas Cards for FDCF
- 11 - FDCF and NCCF Regular Volunteers
- 12 - Governor's Volunteer Service Award & Pastor's Report
- 13 - Presentations/Sermons/Updates by Pastor, OC Members and Volunteers in 2004
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- 19 - FDCF and NCCF Inside Council Reports
- 21 - FDCF and NCCF Donations from Offerings in 2004
- 22 - StoryTeller Program
- 23 - AfterCare Program

Remarks

- Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor, CoDR
- Former CoDR Members
- Rev. Ed Nesselhuf, Prison Congregations of America
- Others

Benediction — Fr. Steve Hall

A History of
The Church of the Damascus Road
by Rev. Carroll Lang

In 1996, the city of Fort Dodge, Iowa made a second bid to the Iowa Department of Corrections (having lost the first bid to Newton) to convince the IDOC to build a new prison in Fort Dodge. This time around the city's bid committee invited the clergy of Fort Dodge to join them. Three clergymen, the Reverends Marvin Jenkins, Allen Hermeier and Carroll Lang attended these meetings. Persons who had been invited to be part of the bid committee were asked to submit a component to the bid, offering the services they would provide. The clergy provided a "Spiritual Component" to the process, offering two major programs. The first was to provide an experienced parish pastor to start a prison congregation, and the second was to implement the Match Two program.

When the Iowa Department of Corrections accepted Fort Dodge's bid, Hermeier and Lang assembled laity and clergy from the area to form a steering committee. During discussion of the nature of the congregation, whether it was to be non-denominational or a part of a denomination, the Steering Committee was unanimous in stating that it should belong to a denomination. The deciding factor was that the ELCA was the only denomination offering to give financial support, so it was decided that the congregation would be part of the ELCA. The steering committee then contacted the Western Iowa Synod and invited Bishop Curtis Miller to join them in guiding the steering committee through the process of forming a mission prison congregation. Bishop Miller told the committee that the Rev. Delwayne Hahn was the Western Iowa Synod's ELCA liaison and he would be the steering committee's primary guide. Since the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City was only 24 miles west, it was decided to include both sites in the plans to start a mission congregation.

The committee met several times at Christ Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge and a couple times at the synod offices in Storm Lake. The ELCA Division for Outreach had indicated an interest in starting more congregations like this, so they agreed to support this mission start-up, paying half of the mission developer pastor's salary and benefits. A call committee was formed, represented by the Bishop, Pastor Hahn, the WIS Outreach Chair, and ecumenical representatives. The call committee chair was Fr Stephen Hall+, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fort Dodge. Several candidates were interviewed. Rev. Carroll Lang was issued the call in June 1997. He was called to begin a word and sacrament ministry at the North Central Correctional Facility on August 1, 1997. Later, when the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility opened in 1998, a word and sacrament ministry was to begin there. Although the call actually comes through the ELCA for a mission developer pastor, the actual letter of call is issued from the synod in which the mission is being developed. Salary is determined by the ELCA Division for Outreach. After the Church of the Damascus Road is self supporting, salary will be set by the Outside Church Council.

The ELCA Mission Investment Fund was instructed by the ELCA Division for Outreach to purchase a parsonage. Rev. Lang was instructed to locate a realtor and locate 3-5 possible homes in the "medium range" (\$40,000 to \$70,000). Del Hahn and Andrew Beal (Region 5 Building Consultant) came to Fort Dodge to view these homes and decided that we would need to set our range higher as the available homes were deemed inadequate by Mr. Beal. Rev. and Mrs. Lang then spent time with the realtor finding homes in the \$60,000 to \$120,000 range. After another visit from Del Hahn to view the 4 possible homes, a home was selected at a cost of \$96,000. As closing time neared, Andrew Beal had an EPA firm conduct an inspection and discovered lead and asbestos in the home. The purchase was canceled, and the Langs and the realtor began another search with a top range of \$130,000. There were none available, but the realtor had some prospects that were on the market for more than that amount, hoping that perhaps the owners would take a lower offer.

The options were narrowed to three, and then two, both for essentially the same price, but one had sewer and water service while the other had its own pump and septic tank. The first one, built in 1992, was purchased for \$153,000. The ELCA Mission Investment Fund paid for the house outright, and the agreement is that when The Church of the Damascus Road is self-supporting the house may be purchased for the same price regardless of what the market may be at the later date.

The Langs moved into the parsonage on October 11, 1997. The rest of the mighty acts of God and the activity of The Church of the Damascus Road, are they not written in the minutes and actions of the secretary and treasurer? And the ministry continues to grow.

The Church of the Damascus Road First Annual Meeting 2003

Pastor Carroll Lang welcomed everyone to the first annual meeting of The Church of the Damascus Road on January 25, 2003, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Father Steve Hall led us in prayer before a wonderful meal was served by the Human Needs Committee of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. There were 58 persons in attendance.

Devotions were led by Pastor Lang. Lee Wilson, Judge Brown, Cleo Swanson, Richard Hersom, Joan Berkland, Kathy Hansel, Jan Graettinger and Art Greve read from the scriptures.

Lee Kuhrt, President of the CoDR Outside Council, opened the business meeting at 7:35 p.m. Introductions of the Outside Council members were made. The ex-officio members, Rev. Danette Johns and Cynthia Hanks, as well as FDCF Religious Coordinator, Ernie Owen were also introduced. Lee led us through the reports of the booklet. Our volunteers stood for recognition. We are allowed ten volunteers at each prison.

The 2003 budget was presented. Cynthia commented on the contributions. She reported that one figure was added incorrectly. Reimbursements were \$1,562.47 which would change the end total to a \$722.00 surplus for the year. Church attendance is the total of attendees, not how many different persons attended.

There will be a fund-raiser on February 22, 2003 at the Asbury Methodist Church in Webster City. Higher Power will be performing. This is being sponsored by Doug Messerly and the members of his congregation.

Pastor Lang explained the giving and donations of each of the prison members. He also told about the StoryTeller program and explained how the AfterCare program works. We are applying for a grant to help us with training people to help in this venture. Pastor Lang thanked everyone for coming. Jerry Burt wasn't able to attend and sent his regrets. He asked us if we would please pray for the staff of both institutions.

Former members attending were Jeff Swearingen, Art Greve and Mark Haase. Ernie Owen, representative of FDCF, thanked us for all that is done for the prisoners. Pastor Lang spoke about PCoA and the sharing of our ministry. He also stated how much we are appreciated by the prisoners. Cynthia spoke about her blessings of working for CoDR. Danette Johns, Assistant to Bishop Last, spoke and thanked us for all that we do. John Everett spoke about how CoDR works. Jim Fevold shared his first visit as a volunteer. We are now three persons short from having a full quorum on the Outside council.

We all sang the song, "Amazing Grace." Father Steve Hall led us in the benediction. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Kathy Hansel

CoDR Outside Council Secretary

The Church of the Damascus Road Second Annual Meeting

CoDR President, Richard Hersom, welcomed everyone to the second annual meeting of The Church of the Damascus Road on January 24, 2004 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He led us in prayer. A delicious meal was served by the Human Needs Committee of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

President Hersom called the meeting to order by reading Matthew 25 from the scriptures. There were 83 in attendance. Pastor Carroll Lang led us in devotions. Thanks were given to the workers from St. Mark's for all they did for tonight.

The current and past members of the CoDR Outside Council were introduced. Former CoDR members were also introduced. They were Mark Haase (NCCF), Chris Hoover (FDCF), Darwin VanHauen (NCCF), Don Henrikus (NCCF), Victorio DeLance (FDCF), Glenn Wooten (FDCF) and George Fox (NCCF). CoDR volunteers were introduced and then other attendees introduced themselves and told the group where they were from.

President Hersom presented the listings of the annual meeting booklet. Pastor Lang presented the reports from the Inside Councils written by Tom Warner and Victorio DeLance from FDCF and Marc Leonard from NCCF.

AfterCare Program: There will be a fund-raiser on February 28, 2004 at the First Presbyterian Church in Fort Dodge. The Browns from Merrill will perform. There will also be a pie auction and a free will offering benefitting the AfterCare program.

The former CoDR members commented on why they have come to be back with us tonight. Their speeches were very moving.

Ernie Owen spoke to us about the religious programs at the prison. People from the "Come and See program" were here to see what we have done with our program. He thanked everyone for their donations, for coming into the prison to worship and Pastor Lang for all that he does for the inmates.

Rev. Danette Johns, WIS CoDR Outside Church Council liaison and mission director spoke. Pastor Lang told of how the ELCA has helped us get started. John Everts reminded us that we have three things to remember: 1. Make a friend. 2. Be a friend. and 3. Bring that friend to Jesus. Cynthia Hanks thanked everyone for coming and Cleo Swanson told a little history of PCoA. A request was made for Jim Fevold to tell more about the prison AfterCare program.

Father Steve Hall closed the meeting by leading us in the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Hansel

CoDR Outside Council Secretary

The Church of the Damascus Road
Outside Council Members

The Outside Church Council shall be made up of persons from:
Congregations of any Christian denomination in Western Iowa (not more than 13);
Clergy of any Christian denomination in Western Iowa (not more than 2);
Synod Staff (nonvoting); Prison Congregations of America (nonvoting).
Pastor of the congregation, who cannot hold office but who has voice and vote.

CoDR Outside Council Members - 1/2004-12/2004

Mr. Richard Hersom, President	Presbyterian, Fort Dodge
Mrs. Leila Wilson, Vice President	Lutheran, Fort Dodge
Mrs. Kathy Hansel, Secretary	Lutheran, Badger
Mr. Rollin Swanson, Treasurer	Lutheran, Fort Dodge
Mr. Mark Haase	Lutheran, Humboldt
Mr. Lee Kuhrt	Lutheran, Pomeroy
Mr. John Everts	Lutheran, Lytton
Ms. Margaret (Peg) Jackson	Episcopal, Fort Dodge
Rev. Kay Wold	Lutheran, Corwith
Rev. Danette Johns, WIS	Liaison (Ex-officio member)
Rev. Ed Nesselhuf, PCoA	Consultant (Ex-officio Member)
Cynthia Hanks	Office Manager/Financial Secretary (Ex-officio Member)
Rev. Carroll Lang	Pastor

CoDR Outside Council Members - 1/2005 -12/2005

Mr. Richard Hersom, President	Presbyterian, Fort Dodge
Mr. Lee Kuhrt , Vice President	Lutheran, Pomeroy
Rev. Kay Wold, Secretary	Lutheran, Corwith
Mr. Rollin Swanson, Treasurer	Lutheran, Fort Dodge
Mr. Mark Haase	Lutheran, Humboldt
Mrs. Kathy Hansel	Lutheran, Badger
Mrs. Leila Wilson	Lutheran, Fort Dodge
Mr. John Everts	Lutheran, Lytton
Ms. Margaret (Peg) Jackson	Episcopal, Fort Dodge
Paul Peterson	Lutheran, Callender
Rev. Danette Johns, WIS	Liaison (Ex-officio member)
Rev. Ed Nesselhuf, PCoA	Consultant (Ex-officio Member)
Cynthia Hanks	Office Manager/Financial Secretary (Ex-officio Member)
Rev. Carroll Lang	Pastor

Outside Council Meeting Highlights

January - December, 2004

- Pastor Lang reported on his week with Brothers in Blue at the Kolbe Prison in Belize. Included were photos of the prison and a bit of the surrounding area. He and Judy plan to return and participate next year, but will stay a week longer for some sight-seeing of this beautiful area.
- Rollin Swanson reported the AfterCare fund-raiser brought in \$1,586 plus \$793 in matching funds from Thrivent. Mark Haase reported that North Central AfterCare took in \$4,000 at their fund-raiser in Humboldt.
- A letter explaining our need for financial assistance will be sent to every CoDR individual contributor. At present we have enough funds in reserve to carry us through June 2004. The result: \$17,000.00!
- Pastor Lang will observe the 35th anniversary of his ordination into the Christian ministry on June 22, 2004. He will be recognized at the Western Iowa Synod Spring Assembly held in Sioux City this April.
- Rollin reported a second AfterCare fund-raiser in March netted \$860.00.
- Thrivent offers a program called Simply Giving. It allows a person to electronically give money to the church from a checking or savings account. All costs are covered by Thrivent and one doesn't have to be a Thrivent member or a Lutheran to utilize this program. The Outside Church Council authorized Pastor Lang and Cynthia to proceed with becoming involved in the Simply Giving program. This process was completed in May and Simply Giving brochures will be sent out with quarterly financial statements. As of December 31, 2004 we have 14 contributors signed up to donate through this program.
- Ongoing discussion regarding obtaining additional funding by getting more churches and individuals donating on a regular basis. All we need are 100 churches or individuals giving \$100 a month and our needs would be met.
- Pastor Lang has applied to the St. Olaf Foundation, St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge for a grant of \$1,500 for CoDR. We received this grant in May.
- Pastor Lang reported that CoDR will receive 1/3 of the offerings received at the assembly on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. This resulted in a total of \$1,586.00 added to our finances.
- Pastor Lang reported that the folks in Le Mars indicated real interest in the AfterCare program. We need to plan a training session in that area. Ideally we need to hire a coordinator for the AfterCare program, however that is financially impossible at this time.
- We were involved in a booth sponsored by the Eagle Grove EV Lutheran Church for RAGBRAI and received \$734.04 of the proceeds. We will also participate in the Fall Fest here in Fort Dodge in September. Lyle Harris, NCCF CoDR member, is making stationery for us to sell at our booth. Once that event was over, we decided it worked better for us in giving CoDR exposure rather than as a fund-raiser.
- Rollin and Cleo Swanson attended the Prison Congregations of America anniversary. Rollin gave us a very interesting synopsis of this event.
- The Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City is having capital funds drive. A portion of the funds have been designated for outreach. We have applied for \$6,000 from this program. We later learned that CoDR would be receiving \$1,500. This appeal spans a three year period and the earliest we would receive any funds would be 2007. We are not guaranteed the full amount should their appeal fall short.
- Lee and Jean Kuhrt and Pastor and Judy Lang will attend the PCoA "Can-Do" club meeting in Sioux Falls, SD. It is the 30-year anniversary of Brothers in Blue.
- CoDR will allow basic membership fee (up to \$100) for Lutheran Resource Center in our 2005 budget.
- CoDR received the Governor's Volunteer Award. Pastor Lang will represent us at the recognition ceremony at Buena Vista University in September.

- Rev. Danette Johns suggested we work toward establishing a volunteer committee from each of the conferences in the Synod. This committee would have the responsibility of contacting each of their congregations as well as all congregations in their area and presenting the story/needs of CoDR.
- CoDR members and fellow inmates at FDCF and NCCF again participated in the annual CROPWalk for which they donated a total of \$139.97.
- Pastor Lang handed out 3,036 Christmas cards to the inmates at FDCF to send. We will provide the postage for this project. The cards cost us \$60.00 and the postage totaled \$1,136.20. Nineteen cards were sent to Mexico and one was sent to the Philippines. Ernie Owen shared e-mails from the staff about the thanks they and the inmates have sent for the donations of the Christmas cards. (See page 10).
- The Church of the Damascus Road received extensive exposure to the public this year via several resources. The Western Iowa Synod Newsletter featured an article regarding the new members of our Outside Council and an update on the ministry. John Everts' letter and Cynthia Hanks' article in the August issue of *The Lutheran* magazine. Included in this feature was a photo of Pastor Lang and former CoDR members Glenn Wooten and Jeff Swearingen taken during WIS Spring Assembly last April. We were featured again in the WIS Newsletter when we received the Governor's Volunteer Service award which also included an update. The Messenger, Fort Dodge featured CoDR in the Church Spotlight section on Christmas Day.
- Ongoing projects:
 1. We all need to become more involved in some form of fund-raising as that is one of the major responsibilities of an Outside Church Council member.
 2. We also need to encourage all area churches to invite Pastor Lang or any of the Outside Church Council members to make presentations to their congregations.
 3. We must work at recruiting more ecumenical representation for the Outside Church Council. Currently we have not met our guidelines of "5 members from Ecumenical Contributing Congregations."
 4. Again this year, Outside Church Council members were not well represented at the semiannual Inside/Outside Council joint meetings. Come on folks, although each of us is very much involved in a plethora of activities, all Outside Church Council members need to attend these important sessions. The Inside Church Council members appreciate your presence in a variety of ways.
- **2005 Goals: Continue educating the public to attend worship services, especially at FDCF, keep the financial momentum going, establish additional AfterCare centers, enlist CoDR representatives from each of the WIS conferences and recruit OC members.**

E-Mail Messages Regarding Christmas Cards December 2004

I went over to Boone Unit tonight to distribute the Christmas cards donated by The Church of the Damascus Road. The inmate response was overwhelming! I came back to the gym tonight with 537 addressed Christmas cards. The unit correctional officers went out of their way to help me collect the cards and answer questions that the inmates had. The inmates all expressed their appreciation and thanks for being included in this event. I told them that I would pass their thanks along to all of you...and with their thanks I would like to add mine...this was one of those “feel good” opportunities that we all like to have every once in awhile.

...Ellie McBroom

Wow, what a great task! I just had an inmate in my office talking about having the opportunity to send a card to his son. He is stressed about not seeing him this Christmas, but at least was able to send him a special card.

..Nancy McCard

Dear Pastor Lang:

Thank you for your generous donation of Christmas cards and postage for the inmates. As you know, over 3,000 cards were mailed. Staff members issuing the cards said they received lots of positive comments from the inmates. We believe the donation of cards and postage boosted morale and fostered good will among the inmates at our facility.

...Ernie Owen
FDCF Treatment Manager

CoDR note: This is a project we have been doing for several years now. However it is the first time the project involved such a large number of cards and inmates. In the past most of the Christmas cards have been donated by various groups: Sunday school youth, 4-H members, etc. and through purchases we made. Last year we had the good fortune of obtaining a large number of cards for a very small price. However, although this project fostered much goodwill and was rewarding to those on both sides of “the wall,” we plan to scale down the number of cards available to inmates in the future as the cost of postage is prohibitive. Fortunately, some of the postage costs have been underwritten by some of our regulation contributors.

FDCF & NCCF Regular Volunteers Past & Present

The following volunteers have taken a special course, been issued a personal ID badge and, with the exception of NCCF regulations, are able to attend a worship service without having to be on a regular visitor's list."

FDCF- Current Volunteers

Irene Adams, Fort Dodge
Dwanyne Anderson, Webster City
Carol Etzel, Fort Dodge
James Fevold, Humboldt
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Lil Posegate, Fort Dodge
R. Everett Sexton, Fort Dodge
Cleo May Swanson, Fort Dodge
Rollin Swanson, Fort Dodge
Dorothy Zehr, Fort Dodge

NCCF-Current Volunteers

Candace Booth, Lytton
Dennis Booth, Lytton
John Everts, Lytton
Marge Everts, Lytton
James Fevold, Humboldt
Judy Gronbach, Dakota City
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Paul Peterson, Callender
Cleo May Swanson, Fort Dodge
Rollin Swanson, Fort Dodge

The following individuals are regular volunteers for our Storyteller Program:

Isabelle Benjamin, Bradgate, Coordinator
Judy Gronbach, Dakota City
Donna Haack, Pomeroy
Dennis & Candace Booth, Lytton
John & Marge Everts, Lytton
Judy Watne, Galt
Dorothy V. Zehr, Fort Dodge
John & Jody Eppley, Humboldt
Ruth Younie, Pomeroy

Kenneth & Vivian Perin, Humboldt
Jean Peterson, Pomeroy
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Fort Dodge
Joyce Hegna, Urbandale
Dale & Nancy Bruns, Jolley
Lee Wilson, Fort Dodge
Lee & Jean Kuhrt, Pomeroy

The following churches/individuals have contributed books for our Storyteller Program:

Isabelle Benjamin, Bradgate
First Congregational UCC, Webster City
New Covenant Christian Church, Fort Dodge
Nancy Peck, Sioux City
First Lutheran Church, Clarion
Trinity Lutheran Ch WELCA, Spencer
Ullensvang Lutheran Church, Thor

Asbury United Methodist Church
Webster City
Ms. Bev Bremer, Le Mars
AAL Branch 8639, Lehigh
Lutheran Brotherhood Br 8563, Milford
Hardy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hardy
Western Iowa Synod Women's Organization

Many other churches, church organizations and individuals have contributed money for this program.

CoDR Receives Governor's Volunteer Service Award



Pastor Carroll & Judy Lang receive the Governor's Volunteer Service Award from Governor Vilsack on behalf of the many volunteers at The Church of the Damascus Road.

The volunteers of The Church of the Damascus Road received the Governor's Volunteer Service Award at a special ceremony in Schaller Chapel at Buena Vista University on September 29, 2004. There are almost 40 persons who regularly volunteer in the life and ministry of The Church of the Damascus Road. Each of the volunteers will receive a Governor's Volunteer Service pin in appreciation.

Pastor's Report

CoDR's ministry continues to grow. Prayer support is strong and financial support is growing (we are at about 90% level of support). The members of CoDR at both Rockwell City and Fort Dodge participated in the annual CROPWalk, 13 at Rockwell City and 65 in Fort Dodge. The walk is a way for the members to witness to other inmates that they care about people who are hungry and who have to walk miles just to get water. Twice a year in each institution a Brothers in Blue Via de Cristo (Cursillo®) is held in which the participants experience the grace of God in an atmosphere of love and acceptance by the team of around 20 persons. Although our offerings reflect the 28 to 47 cents per hour prison pay, many members give 10 percent or more in their offerings and we are committed to 12.5% to the Western Iowa Synod.

Pastor Carroll Lang goes to each prison two days a week, one day ends in Bible study, the other in worship with Holy Communion. In the afternoons, Pastor Lang visits inmates in maximum lockup, inmates in the 'yard,' and others who come to see him in the chapel. One of the essential parts of our ministry model is that each week outside people visit our worship services. Just by being there they are giving witness that there are people 'out there' who care about people 'in here.'

This unique ministry is an extension of your congregation's and you can be a part of it by calling 515-955-3579 and talking to Cynthia Hanks who will help you find a time to visit. You can also contact the office by e-mail at damascusch@aol.com. To visit you will need to give your name, Social Security number, birth date and phone number. This information is sent to the institution for clearance prior to your visit. See you there!

Presentations/Sermons/Updates 2004

- 01-19-04 Assist Zion, Gowrie Stephen Ministry Class
- 01-25-04 St .Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge 8am & 10:30am & presentation between. Glenn Wooten was there
- 02-01-04 First Lutheran Church, Clarion 9am Worship, Presentation during coffee hour afterwards
- 02-29-04 Zion-St John LC, Sheffield, Presentation
- 03-28-04 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cherokee, 9am Worship, 10am Presentation, 11am Contemp Worship
- 04-03-04 Spring Cluster Meeting, St. John Lutheran, Palmer, 9am with Jeremy Swanson
- 04-17-04 Emanuel Lutheran Church, Dayton Men's breakfast 7:30am Presentation
- 04-17-04 St Mark Lutheran Church, Storm Lake 5:30pm Worship
- 04-18-04 St Mark Lutheran Church, Storm Lake 8am Worship, 9:15 Presentation, 10:30 Worship
- 04-18-04 Knutson-Goldfield Conference, Thor 3pm Presentation
- 04-25-04 Grace LC, Fort Dodge 8 & 10:30am SS, Sermon & Presentation
- 05-05-04 Cleo Swanson invited to American Baptist Women retreat at Dayton Oaks Camp, Dayton
- 05-05-04 Fulton Lutheran and Church WELCA, Moorland, Presentation by Donna Moe
- 05-16-04 St John Lutheran, Le Mars 8:15 Sermon/KidSerm; 9:30am Present, 10:45 Comtemp Worship/KidSerm
- 06-20-04 Emanuel St. John Luth Ch, Lytton conducted worship as at CoDR. Jeremy Swanson
- 06-27-04 Grace UMC, Story City 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Presentation, 10:30am Contemp Worship
- 07-11-04 Salem Lutheran Church, rural Correctionville, 9am Presentation, 10am Worship
- 07-18-04 First Presbyterian Church, Glidden 9am Worship-Sermon/Temple talk,; 10am SS present, Tom Warner was there
- 08-08-04 St Paul Lutheran, Renwick 9am Communion, presentation
- 08-14-04 Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5:30pm worship, display & temple talk
- 08-15-04 Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran worship, 9am Worship, 10am coffee presentation
- 08-22-04 Underwood Lutheran, Underwood, IA 9:15am - Tom Warner and Don Henrikus
- 09-01-04 PEO Chapter IM, Fort Dodge Presentation by Dorothy Zehr
- 09-19-04 Trinity LC, Belmond, 9:15am SS Presentation, 10:30am Worship — Rally Day
- 09-26-04 Trinity Lutheran, Akron, 8:45am Adult Forum, 10am Worship
- 10-03-04 Holmes LC, Holmes 9am worship 10am SS Presentation
- 10-10-04 Silver Creek UMC 9:15am, Galva UMC 10:30am Worship, Presentation
- 10-24-04 Global Mission Event, Trinity Lutheran, Webster City
- 11-06-04 Display booth at 152nd Episcopal Convention, Hotel Fort Des Moines
- 11-07-04 Plymouth Presbyterian, Le Mars - Jeff Swearingen was there
- 11-14-04 Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Center, 9:15am Adult SS, 10:15am Worship Dinner after
- 11-14-04 WIS Stewardship presentation at Bethlehem, Cherokee
- 11-21-04 1st Presbyterian, Sac City 9am SS Presentation; 10:30am Worship/Supply
- 11-21-04 WIS Stewardship presentation at Grace Lutheran, Fort Dodge
- 12-08-04 St. Olaf LC, Fort Dodge SOS (seniors group), 11:30am lunch, 12:15 presentation

Memorials and Honoraria

Memorials and Honoraria received by The Church of The Damascus Road in 2004

Total amount of memorials/honoraria received in 2004 = \$1,192.50

All memorial/honoraria monies are placed in a special account, and then used to purchase items that will enhance our worship services or improve our religious education programs when the need arises.

Bruce & Kathleen Hansel, Badger - Gary Lund memorial
Bruce & Kathleen Hansel, Badger - Otto "Jr." Dencklau memorial
Cynthia Hanks, Manson - Gary Reynolds memorial
Trinity Lutheran Church, Webster City - Pastor Carroll Lang honorarium
Elinor Hinders, Eldora - Guy Olson memorial
Margaret A. Whitcome, Fort Dodge - Robert Anderson memorial
Virginia Anderson, Webster City - Warren Paige memorial
Marie & Fred Nesheim, Goldfield - William G. Smith memorial
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of mother, Ruth Schmalenberger
William & Anjanette Goetz, Hartland WI - Guy Olson memorial (Stewardship letter 4-8-04)
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of mother, Ruth Schmalenberger
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Merle A. Thompson memorial
Bruce & Kathy Hansel, Badger - Gary Sherman memorial
Bruce & Kathy Hansel, Badger - Helen Peterson memorial
Margaret A. Whitcome, Fort Dodge - Bill Welde memorial
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of mother, Ruth Schmalenberger
Alvin & Gloria Anderson, Eagle Grove - Earl Fevold memorial
Fred & Marie Nesheim, Goldfield - Callen Stansbury memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Henry Vinnece memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Brian Willard memorial
John & Mary Sersland, Rockwell City - Lucille Willmann memorial
Mel & Marian Renken, Manson - Ellen Henn memorial
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of mother
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge - Ellen Henn memorial
Alvin & Gloria Anderson, Eagle Grove - Callen Stansbury memorial
Margaret Stansbury, Eagle Grove - Callen Stansbury memorial
June S. Pries, Muscatine - Pastor Lang in honor of his 35th anniversary of ordination
M. Sue Culbertson, Webster City - Pastor Lang in honor of his 35th anniversary of ordination
Bruce & Kathleen Hansel, Badger - Pearl Whyte memorial
Bruce & Kathleen Hansel, Badger - Dale Daniels memorial
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of mother
Steve Licata, Dakota City - Beverly Licata memorial
Kurt & Teresa Van Hulzen, Sac City - John Everts honorarium
Fred & Marie Nesheim, Goldfield - Lester H. Hansel memorial
Richard & Lois Christopher, Thor - Beverly Bowen memorial
Dorothy Torkelson, Buffalo City - Beverly Bowen memorial
Sadie Gostovich, Ladysmith WI - Beverly Bowen memorial
Leola Brock-Reese, Detroit MI - In honor of Lyle Harris' birthday (Leola's son)
Mark & Pat Thompson, Fort Dodge - Robert Thompson memorial
Elaine Nauss, Emmetsburg - Alta Gjerde memorial
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of his mother
Bruce & Kathleen Hansel, Badger - Lucille Kvale memorial
H. Q. & Mary Larson, Stratford - In honor of Pr. Lang's 40th wedding anniversary
Vincent & Leila Wilson, Fort Dodge - In honor of Pr. Lang's 40th wedding anniversary

**The Church of the Damascus Road
Budget 2004**

**The Church of the Damascus Road
Expenses 2004**

Human Resources

Pastor Salary	40,276.00
Housing Allowance	13,200.00
Utilities	5,000.00
Social Security Offset	4,072.00
Pension & Benefits	15,512.00
Continuing Ed.	500.00
Total	78,560.00

Office Mgr.'s Salary	9,720.00
Soc. Sec & Med.	744.00
Total	10,464.00

Pulpit Supply	1,300.00
Accompanist & Supply	2,600.00
Mileage	4,800.00
Total	8,700.00

Administrative

Telephone	1,650.00
Printing	1,400.00
Postal Expense	1,400.00
Subscriptions	200.00
Office Sup & Equip	1,800.00
Copier Mtnc. Agrmt.	1,300.00
Annual Meeting	300.00
Miscellaneous	600.00
Total	8,650.00

Mission

PCoA*	5,950.00
Newsletter	3,800.00
Worship & Gen. Sup.	550.00
Conference Exp.	1,000.00
Bibles-Education	600.00
AfterCare	550.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Total	12,550.00

2004 Budget	
Subtotal	118,924.00

Office Rent**	6,000.00
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Grand Total	124,924.00
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*Prison Congregations of America
**Our thanks to St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, for their 'in kind' donation of office space valued at \$6,000.00

Human Resources

Pastor's Base Salary	32,775.96
ELCA Optional Pension Plan***	3,600.00
Thrivent TSA ***	3,600.00
Pastor's CE Contribution	300.00
Utilities	4,999.92
Social Security Offset	4,071.96
Housing Allowance	13,200.00
Subtotal-Pastor's Salary	62,547.84

Pastor's Pension & Benefits Pkg.	15,045.84
CoDR CE Contribution	500.00
Total Pastor's Salary	78,093.68

Secretary's Salary	9,720.00
Employer Payrol Tax Expense	744.00
Total	10,464.00

Pulpit Supply	961.85
Regular & Sub. Accompanist	2,525.00
Mileage	5,528.65
Total	9,015.50

Administrative

Telephone	1,790.62
Printing	1,057.88
Postal Expense	1,668.00
Subscriptions	184.60
Office Supply & Equipment	1,923.21
Copier Maintenance Agreement	1,282.16
Annual Meeting	232.20
Miscellaneous	908.47
Total	9,047.14

Mission

PCoA	6,351.26
Newsletter	4,114.94
Worship & General Supplies	842.77
Conference Fees	598.72
Bibles & Education	426.78
AfterCare	0.00
Miscellaneous	124.00
Total	12,458.47

Grand Total	119,078.79
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***Pastor's contributions to his own retirement plans

CoDR Budget and Needs for 2005 and Contributions for 2004

<u>Budget - 2005</u>	<u>Needed Income-2005</u>	<u>Contributions -2004</u>
Human Resources	January 10,488.25	January 14,144.88
Pastor Salary 42,490.00	February 10,488.25	February 6,598.29
Housing Allowance 13,200.00	March 10,488.25	March 10,830.83
Utilities 6,000.00	April 10,488.25	April 20,426.35
Social Security Offset 4,206.00	May 10,488.25	May 15,145.49
Pension & Benefits 16,230.00	June 10,488.25	June 9,517.22
Continuing Ed. 500.00	July 10,488.25	July 5,718.82
Professional Exp. 500.00	August 10,488.25	August 8,773.85
Total 83,126.00	September 10,488.25	September 11,020.76
Office Mgr.'s Salary 9,960.00	October 10,488.25	October 9,301.21
Soc. Sec & Med. 762.00	November 10,488.25	November 11,205.83
Total 10,722.00	December 10,488.25	December 20,184.87
	Total 125,859.00	Total 142,868.40
Pulpit Supply 1,300.00		2004 Total Income 142,868.40
Accompanist & Supply 2,600.00		2004 Expenses 119,078.79
Mileage 5,000.00		2004-Total Surplus 23,789.61
Total 8,900.00		
Administrative		
Telephone 1,800.00		
Printing 1,400.00		
Postal Expense 1,900.00		
Subscriptions 200.00		
Office Sup & Equip 2,000.00		
Copier Mtnc. Agrmt. 1,450.00		
Annual Meeting 300.00		
Miscellaneous 600.00		
Total 9,650.00		
Mission		
PCoA* 5,965.00		
Western Iowa Synod 596.00		
Newsletter 3,800.00		
Congregation General 500.00		
Congregation Worship 500.00		
Congregation Education 600.00		
Conference Expenses 750.00		
AfterCare Training 550.00		
Miscellaneous & Lutheran Lutheran Resource Ctr 200.00		
Total 13,461.00		
2005 Budget Subtotal 125,859.00		
Office Rent** 6,000.00		
Grand Total 131,859.00		
*Prison Congregations of America		
**Our thanks to St. Olaf Lutheran Church, fort Dodge, for their "in kind" donation of office space valued at \$6,000.00		
	<u>\$100 a Month Club Churches & Individuals</u>	
	Grace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge	
	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Callender	
	New Covenant Christian Church, Fort Dodge	
	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Palmer	
	Hardy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hardy	
	Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church, Lytton	
	Faith Lutheran Church, Marcus	
	First Lutheran Church, Algona	
	First Presbyterian Church, Fort Dodge	
	Zion Lutheran Church, Clear Lake	
	Morningside Lutheran Church, Sioux City	
	St. John Lutheran Church, Pomeroy	
	Patricia Gohman, Monrovia, CA	
	Noel & Linda Singer, Webster City	
	Adam & Inga Sanford, Frisco, TX	
	Fr. Stepen & Roxanne Hall, Fort Dodge	
	Warren & Melba Shelby, Fort Dodge	
	Troy & Karyn Leininger, Spencer	
	Jim & Marilyn Fevold, Humboldt	
	Darrel & Norma Pennel, Verona, MO	
	Pastor Carroll & Judy Lang, Fort Dodge	
	Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Fort Dodge	
	American Lutheran Church, Melvin	
		Trans from MissionPlus 5,660.00
		In July and August we had to transfer a total of \$5,660.00 from our Mission-Plus account to supplement our in-home expenses for those months.
		Transfer from Savings 10,764.83
		Included allotted funds for the following: StoryTellers, Payroll tax expense, FDCF & NCCF donations from their offerings, AfterCare, Fund-raising events, Bible funds, Pastor & CoDR continuing education funds, IKON***, Discretionary funds, Grant funds, Special offerings, Outside Council funds, Clerical error & Bank error when needed to pay for these specific expenses.
		Year-End Balances:
		Checking: 12,927.92
		Reg. Share Acct. 9,872.62
		MissionPlus 28,060.95
		Total: 50,861.49
		***Copier Maintenance Agreement funds

Church Records 1997 to 2004

Baptisms, Renewal of Baptisms & Affirmations				Marriages			
		FDCF	NCCF			FDCF	NCCF
1999 to	2003	51	28	1998 to	2003	12	6
	2004	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>		2004	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
		52	32			14	8

1999 to 2003 - 3 Baptism Renewals & 2 Affirmations at FDCF, 2 Affirmations at NCCF
 2004 - No Affirmations at FDCF or NCCF

Monthly Contributions (Pledges) 1997-2004

Pledges-Churches*			Pledges-Organizations***			Pledges-Individuals**	
Under \$50	16		Under \$50	0		Under \$50	22
\$50 to \$100	8		\$50 to \$100	1		\$50 to \$100	9
\$100 or more	12		\$100 or more	1		\$100 or more	9
Fallen short	8		Fallen short	1		Fallen short	10
No longer giving	<u>2</u>		No longer giving	<u>0</u>		No longer giving	<u>9</u>
# Total:	46		#Total:	3		##Total:	59

#Of 46 churches & 3 org. pledged, 44 churches are giving; 31 churches & 2 org. are fulfilling their commitment.
 ##Of 50 individuals pledged, 50 are giving; 35 are fulfilling their commitment.

Annual Contributions (Gifts) 1997-2004

Gifts-Churches*			Gifts-Organizations*** / **			Gifts-Individuals**	
Under \$100	11		Under \$100	5		Under \$100	170
\$100 to \$500	30		\$100 to \$250	5		\$100 to \$300	72
\$500 to \$1,000	7		\$250 to \$500	1		\$300 to \$500	10
\$1,000 or more	11		\$500 or more	1		\$500 to \$1,000	10
No longer giving	<u>134</u>		No longer giving	<u>38</u>		No longer giving	<u>284</u>
Total:	193		Total:	50		Total:	546

*Includes Church Women, WELCA, Sunday Schools & Western Iowa Synod
 **Includes Memorials & Fund-raiser Gifts (The majority of individual gifts are 'one time' only.)
 ***Includes AAL, Lutheran Brotherhood, Women's Clubs, American Legion Auxiliary, etc.

Categorized - Contributions 1997-2003 [^]	2004 [^]	Total-'97-'04 [^]
All Lutheran chs., org. & WELCA	289,444.37	360,801.70
Methodist churches	11,628.92	15,150.53
Episcopal churches	12,769.00	15,069.00
Presbyterian churches	11,604.69	16,556.21
Other churches	8,630.67	11,200.67
Western Iowa Synod	3,720.33	3,737.00
Clubs, Secular org., Busns's & Schools	4,612.97	7,858.97
Individuals	<u>141,543.45</u>	<u>196,448.72</u>
Total:	483,954.40	626,822.80

[^]All figures are from our Quicken records on our computer

		1997 to 2004			
Database Entries - '97-'03 / '04		No. Pledged - '97-'03 / '04		No. Giving Gifts - '97-'03 / '04##	
Churches	647 659	41	46	76	59
Organizations	44 68	1	3	13	12
Individuals	#1,046 #1,239	28	43	197	262

#Of these, 79 are former CoDR members who have been released and 14 who have been sent to other facilities.
 ##The figures in this column equals the total of each category (church, etc.) less the number of those no longer giving.
 e.g., Gifts-Churches — 193 churches are listed in our DB as giving gifts. Of those, 134 no longer give, hence 193-134=59.
 Only 59 churches donate to CoDR — all gifts are donated on an occasional basis.

Church Attendance

Fort Dodge Correctional Facility Fort Dodge, Iowa

Worship services 5/22/98 to 12/26/03

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers*</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>
(295)	14,888	295	708	1,881	17,769

Worship Services 1/7/04 to 12/29/04

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers*</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>
(53)	3,399	53	162	279	3,893 **

Total communed in 2004: 3,279 (84% of total attending worship services)

These statistics include many inmates, volunteers and visitors who have repeatedly attended services.

North Central Correctional Facility Rockwell City, Iowa

Worship Services 8/28/97 to 12/27/03

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers*</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>
(325)	7,128	325	706	1,970	10,129

Worship Services 1/1/04 to 12/30/04

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers*</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>
(50)***	1,015	50	235	163	1,463

Total communed in 2004: 1,354 (93% of total attending worship services)

<u>Average Total Attendance/Service</u>		<u>Average Total Attendance/Service</u>	
<u>NCCF</u>		<u>FDCF</u>	
8/27/97 - 12/27/0	214	5/22/98 - 12/26/03	352
1/1/04 - 12/30/04	29	1/7/04 - 12/29/04	73

Legend

*Our Volunteers began serving in 1999 after applying for the position and then being trained to be an official volunteer. Upon completion they were issued official badges which allow them to attend a worship service without being on the regular Visitor's List. In 2001 NCCF changed their regulations allowing only ten visitors thus requiring our regular volunteers to be listed on the Visitor's List if they wish to attend a service. Judy Lang must always be on the list thus limiting our NCCF visitors to 9.

()Number of services each year at each facility

**Includes 220 Federal inmates housed at FDCF. Pastor Lang has a communion service for them during count before the evening worship service. Although they cannot worship at the regular service, they are included in the attendance and communed count.

***One service was canceled due to inclement weather. Two services were not held due to Brothers in Blue weekend events at NCCF.

This report does not reflect an accurate attendance for the worship services at each facility throughout the years of our existence, due to lack of reporting during Pastor Lang's absences.

FDCF Inside Council Reports

FDCF CoDR President's Report

I have been blessed with the awesome opportunity to serve our gracious Lord through 2004 by being the President of the FDCF Inside Church Council. It has been a pleasure and great honor just to serve on the Council and then to be trusted with a leadership position is overwhelming. I was proud to be part of the things we decided to do this year, such as the Souper Bowl of Giving in January, the sponsorship of Stefani A. Reinald Hernandez (our adopted child through Children International). When we get the pleasure of deciding where our offering donations go, it is a great feeling. When a disaster happens we pull together and give what we have to the cause, such as our response of \$150.00 to Tsunami victims through the ELCA Disaster Fund.

Our Council members helped with Brothers in Blue and the CROP Walk. Council members were also involved in the Christmas Card Project in which we gave up to four cards and envelopes to each inmate, postage paid. We gave away over 3,000 cards! The inmates and staff were very appreciative of that project. We've tried to put together a choir, which isn't always music to the ears, but people try and are blessed and pleased to sing to our God.

I think that the idea of an Inside Church Council in prison is an awesome thing. Every prison should do it. I know that being part of something so important has been a life changing experience for me. I wish the Peace of the Lord to everyone who reads this report. God Speed!!

Sincerely, Terry Schoon

Newsletter Editor

My name is Albert Cooper and I am the Editor for The Church of the Damascus Road Flash and Echo. I am proud and very happy to be involved and I believe that it has been a Godsend that I was able to take on this venture. Jeffrey Roberts' last issue was the Flash of August 2004 and I did do a little bit on that issue. I have been doing them ever since and I have learned that doing these papers is good because I do them for many people, and Pastor Lang has taught me that it is better to do for others than to just do it for myself. The Flash and Echo have taught me that, also. So, thanks for all drawings and poems and may the Lord be with you all.

— Albert Cooper

FDCF CoDR Librarian's Report

My name is Dave Freeman, Librarian for The Church of the Damascus Road at FDCF. I organize the books and I enter into the computer database all the new books that Pastor Lang brings in for our library here at the facility. We appreciate all the books that are donated. They help us out a lot. I personally would like to thank all the people who have donated books.

— David Freeman

NCCF Inside Council Reports

NCCF CoDR Inside Council President's Report

During this past year we have experienced the usual comings and goings of many members of our congregation as well as our president, vice president and secretary. Our current president is Marc Leonard and Seth Vredenburg is doing double duty as vice president and secretary. We have six Council members on board which leaves six seats open. I guess we are either half full or half empty, however you would choose to view it.

The Worship Committee has the prayer team that continues to pray each Tuesday before our Bible study begins. Prayer requests are made available on each unit. There is a prayer box to place them in. We pray for each individual request until God answers our prayer. Often times, because the men here are aware of our prayer team, they may not always take the time to fill out a prayer request form but will ask one of us to pray for them or a loved one.

The education committee's goal in 2003 was to update the library on our book cart with books that would contain not only good Christian reading but also study help material for those who want to do more in-depth studies. Our cart runneth over, as we have been blessed with the donations of many books for our library. Pastor Lang has conceived a plan and blueprints for a smaller cart to hold our worship service necessities. This would allow space for other materials.

We also had a ten week marriage class called "Growing Together" that was held on Tuesday before our Bible study. The group would view a portion of the video, go over the discussion questions, and then have a writing assignment for the next week. We may do this class again in the future plus we are looking into some books by Dr. Edwin Louis Cole on how manhood and Christlikeness are synonymous.

The Stewardship Committee has done a good job with our offerings. We met and selected two organizations to receive our offerings. They included Prison Congregations of America, Western Iowa Synod ELCA, and the family of Chad Halterman. The Halterman's experienced a fire in their home and lost their son as well as some property. We are currently looking into other organizations with which to share our offerings as our balance has grown to slightly over \$500.00. We did a good job in soliciting pledges for our annual CROP Walk. The walkers may have been few, but the donations were generous.

Continued next page

As for the Evangelism committee we really miss our chairperson, Willie Curry, who evangelized to everyone everywhere. We always look for new arrivals to invite to our service. We post the date, sermon theme and text as well as the time and place we are meeting on each unit. I feel we did a good job in recruiting for the last two Brothers in Blue Via de Cristo weekends that resulted in a good turnout for each weekend. Hopefully we are all evangelizing in the best way possible, that is, we are continuing to grow in Christ, striving to be more like Him each day and that others see this in us not only at church, but more importantly when we are away from church. Our actions will always speak louder than our words.

Our StoryTellers program continues to be a success, thanks to Pastor Lang and the outside volunteers that come in to make this very good program available to those dads who want to spend time with their children by recording a book or two that they read and then mail to their children

We are looking forward to the new year, praying that God will continue to work here and raise up Spirit-filled, Godly men who will want to serve Him and His body as Inside Council members.

We are thankful to the Outside Council members and those churches and individuals who continue to support us so we have the opportunity to worship and serve God. God Bless.

—Marc Leonard, President, Inside Council

CoDR NCCF Evangelism Committee

I'm starting out this new year leaning on the old one as I step into the challenge of putting together, with the help of the Lord, a committee that will achieve its primary goal, which is Evangelism, or, spreading the Good News (Gospel) of our Lord Jesus, the Christ of God.

As God gives me the ability I will continue to invite men on board and train them in the functions of telling the Gospel and reaching out to the unchurched and non believers. I have selected a new Inside Church Council member, Jasper Young, as my co-chair. The Spirit has led me to believe that he has the gift of ministry and he's told me that he enjoys the opportunity of telling others about the Lord.

For a curriculum I am looking into a study course called "Discipleship Essentials." It is centered around the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20. It is just one of several studies I am looking into and I ask your prayers for wisdom in this matter.

I have also used these God-given Evangelism skills in other areas of ministry in The Church of the Damascus Road. I wrote a testimony in the July issue of the Echo (given to inmates) to encourage inmates and ex offenders to be faithful in the word and worship. I also wrote an article, "My Story," in the CoDR newsletter, the December 2004 Flash! which is sent to over 2000 inmates, ex offenders, congregations and individuals who help support CoDR's ministry. These testimonies are another way to do Evangelism, as spoken of in Revelation 12:11. This is my opportunity to tell about my misfortunes and my transformation to help encourage, exhort, and build up my brothers and sisters in Christ, because if they are down and feel there's no hope, all they have to do is reflect on my situation and testimony. If you missed the December 2004 issue, just call the CoDR office and another will be sent to you.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve in this ministry you all have helped establish in NCCF and FDCF, and I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at a worship service at The church of the Damascus Road. Philippians 1:6

— David L. Porter, Chair of Evangelism Committee NCCF

NCCF CoDR Story Tellers

As the new and first coordinator of the Story Teller program of the Church of the Damascus Road at NCCF, I am happy to report that we are making great strides in restructuring the program. Up to November 2004 the staff oversaw the soliciting and scheduling of dads to read books to their children. This was not working well because of work schedules, so the staff asked Pastor Lang if CoDR could handle the whole thing. Pastor Lang agreed, since that is how the program works at FDCF. Pastor Lang asked me to coordinate the program and I accepted the challenge.

Our new method of scheduling dads to read has been more effective than before and I am pleased to report that we now actually have a "waiting list." We can schedule ten readers each session, and more than that have signed up, so they will wait until next month. For this success I thank and praise God for the favor he is showing us in this program.

As active chair of the Evangelism Committee, I have used this God-given gift and tied it into the Story Teller program and I ask God to teach me new ways and give me new ideas how to encourage reconciliation between the dads and their children and families through this gift of audio correspondence. God has been faithful and I praise him for it. Special thanks to the NCCF staff, the warden, deputy warden and his executive staff. We are grateful, too for Misty Sweet, NCCF Counselor, for her years of administering the Story Teller program for CoDR. Most of all I would like to thank all the outside volunteers who give up their Saturdays to come in and help with the program. Their efforts are very much appreciated. Praise the Lord!

—David L. Porter, Story Teller Coordinator

CoDR NCCF Education Committee and Library Report

We have an extensive church library of almost 600 books. This includes a large reference section. Every Tuesday and Thursday these books are available for checking out. We have programs available to all interested inmates, such as "Basic Training for a Few Good Men" and "Growing Together" marriage enrichment course and an Evangelism curriculum. We are always looking for more programs we can use to bring the Word of God to all inmates. We have a Bible Study every Tuesday. The course, Basic Training for a Few Good Men will begin soon on Tuesdays at 5:15pm.

—David Hintz

The Church of the Damascus Road Inmate Donations

During 2004 the Inside Council members of FDCF & NCCF voted to disperse their accumulated offerings in the following ways:

Fort Dodge Correctional Facility

August 23, 2004

Prison Congregations of America	\$ 82.50
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	82.50
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	66.00
RBC Ministries	66.00
Children International (annual dues)	108.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA - Well Digging Rig Project	51.00
ELCA Domestic Disaster Response (Hurricane Charlie)	51.00
Teen Challenge of the Midlands, Colfax, IA	51.00
Ronald McDonald House	51.00
EGELC - Afghanistan School Supplies	<u>51.00</u>
Total:	\$660.00

December 2, 2004

Children International (Stefani's Christmas Gift)	\$ 30.00
Church World Service (CROPWalk Donations 2004)	<u>69.67</u>
Total:	\$ 99.67
Grand Total-FDCF:	\$759.67

North Central Correctional Facility

March 12, 2004

Prison Congregations of America	\$
75.00	
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	75.00
American Cancer Society	75.00
Leukemia Lymphoma Society	75.00
Facing Forward	150.00
North Central AfterCare	<u>150.00</u>
Total:	\$600.00

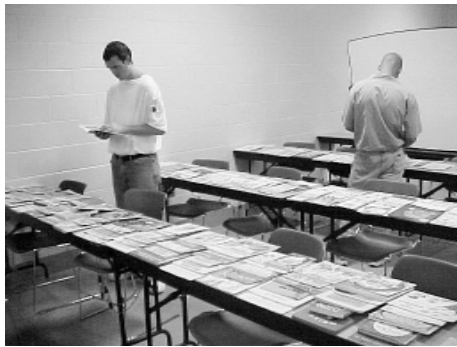
October 22, 2004

Prison Congregations of America	\$
37.50	
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	37.50
ELCA/Division for Global Missions	75.00
Southern Diocese Tanzania Well Project	75.00
International Orthodox Christian Charities	<u>75.00</u>
Total:	\$300.00
Grand Total-NCCF:	\$900.00

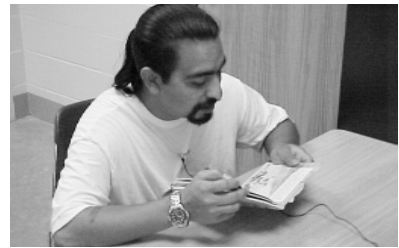
Story Tellers Story



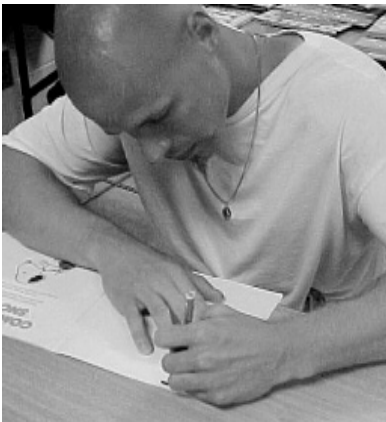
1. Volunteer "engineers" set up recorders before fathers arrive.



2. Fathers select books to read to their children. Books, cassettes and envelopes are donated by outside congregations and individuals.



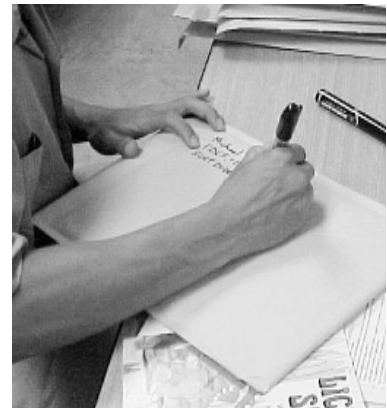
3. The father reads the book, recording it on cassette tape. A brief greeting may be given at the beginning and the end of the recording.



4. A brief message may be written in the front of the book.



5. A store order is filled out, except for the amount of postage, and signed.

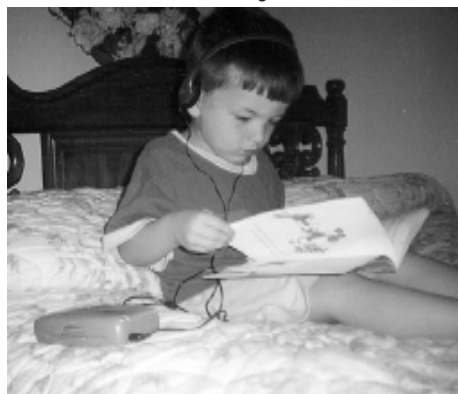


6. The envelope is addressed to the child or in care of parent of guard-

Another Story



7. Book, tape and store order are stuffed in envelope and taken to mailroom.



Phillip Mericle, FDCF, shared this photo of his son, Adam, listening to a tape of Phil's voice reading the book he is holding. Phil has read books and sent them home several times and wanted to share how much his son enjoyed it.

Inmates at the Fort Dodge Correctional

Facility and the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City have monthly opportunities to select books to read to their children, recording their voices on cassette tape, and sending the book and tape to their children. The child then puts the tape in a player and opens the book and turns the pages as his Dad reads to him.

Inmates who wish to participate in this project of the Church of the Damascus Road need to sign up ahead of time. At FDCF they can do this in the chapel on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. At NCCF they need to contact David Porter or Pastor Lang to be scheduled to read.

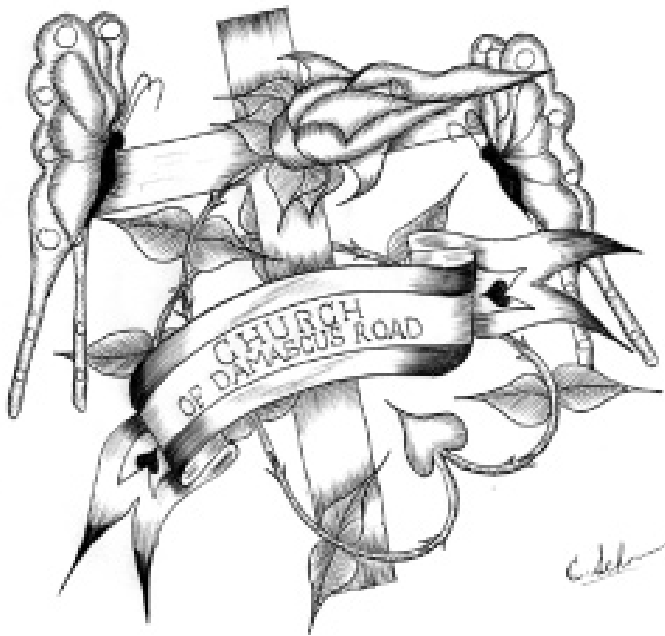
Recording sessions are on 3rd Fridays at FDCF and on 3rd Saturdays at NCCF.

North Central AfterCare (NCA)

Judy Gronbach

North Central AfterCare is a group of concerned Christians in the Humboldt area that have formed a ministry to help those persons released from prison and to assist in their transition back into society. We were approved to become incorporated and have a nonprofit status as of 2004. We have a board of directors consisting of nine members and our officers are as follows: President Al Schmidke (515-332-1289); Vice-President Mary Fevold (515-332-2498); Secretary Judy Gronbach (515-332-1076) and Treasurer Sheri Peterson (515-332-1472). We continually look for new members to share in this unique ministry.

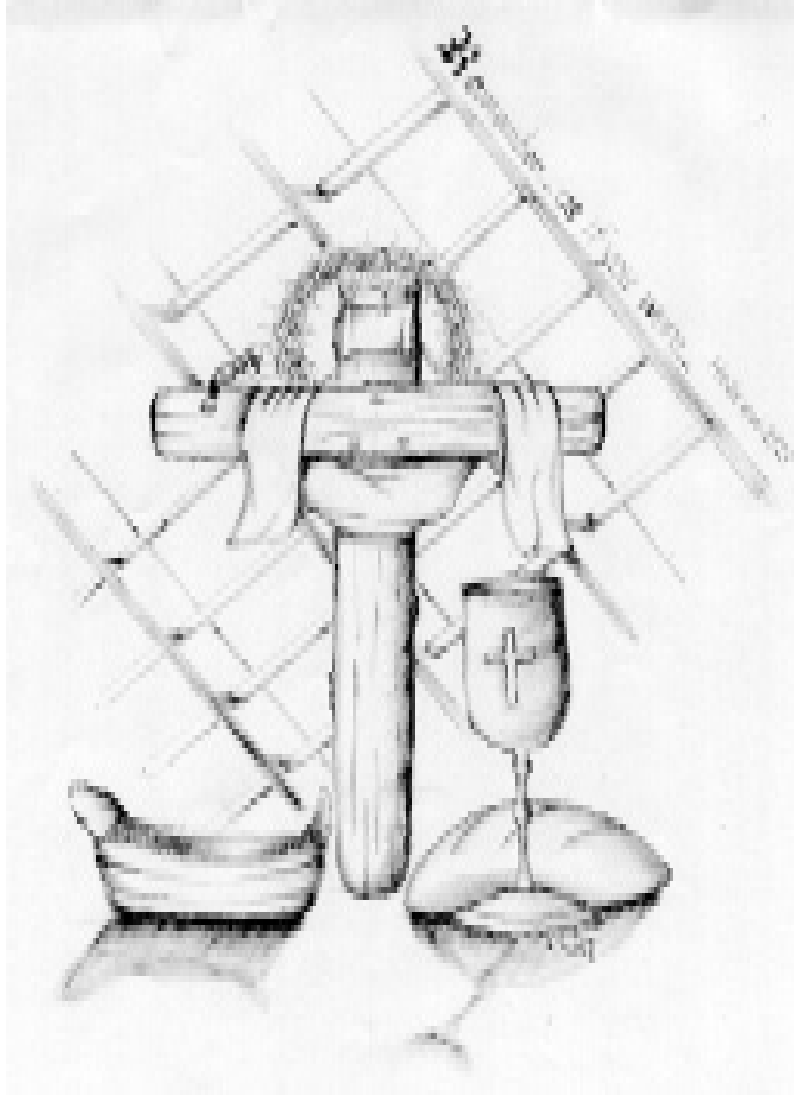
We were involved in many different activities this year with a fund-raiser in March; visits from Rod Brouwer from IFI in Newton, a work-release officer from Fort Dodge and members attended meetings involving AfterCare of Iowa. We received a grant from a local business, sold the Harbour House and put money in CDs until a new project is started. We were able to help several individuals coming out of jail or prison and have two men coming to our area soon to begin a covenant relationship. We are again so grateful for the opportunity to serve our gracious and loving Father in this ministry!



C. Schon, NCCF



M. A. Linsenbigler, NCCF



Waymond Tenny, FDCF