

# The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

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Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

## Depends Whose Hands

A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19;  
A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is  
worth about \$33 million.

A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6;  
A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is  
worth \$19 million.

A tennis racquet in my hands are useless;  
A tennis racquet in Pete Sampras's hands is  
a Wimbledon Championship.

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild  
animal;

A rod in Moses's hands will part the sea.

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy;

A sling shot in David's hands is a mighty  
weapon.

Two fish and five loaves of bread in my  
hands is a couple of fish sandwiches;

Two fish and five loaves of bread in God's  
hands will feed thousands.

Nails in my hands might produce a bird-  
house;

Nails in Christ's hands made salvation avail-  
able for the entire world.

As you see, it depends whose hands  
things are in. So put your concerns, your  
worries, your fears, your hopes, your  
dreams, your families and your relationships  
in God's hands!

*Forwarded by Jeanne Carpenter*

## He is There

The Lord is always there,  
The Lord is everywhere.  
He is in the wind that blows,  
He is in the falling snow.  
He is there in the morning light,  
He is there in the darkness of the night.  
He is in the beauty of the dove,  
He is always there for us to love.  
He is on the mountain top.  
He is in the sky so blue.  
He dwells in me,  
does He dwell in you?

*Norma Lentsch*

**A** man found a cocoon of a butterfly.  
One day, a small opening appeared.  
He sat and watched the butterfly for  
several hours as it struggled to force its body  
through that little hole.

Then it seemed to stop making any  
progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as  
far as it could and it could go no further.

So the man decided to help the butterfly.  
He took a pair of scissors and snipped off  
the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butter-  
fly then emerged easily, but it had a swollen  
body and small shriveled wings.

The man continued to watch the butter-  
fly because he expected that, at any moment,  
the wings would enlarge and expand to be  
able to support the body, which would con-  
tract in time.

Neither happened! In fact, the butterfly  
spent the rest of its life crawling around with  
a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never  
was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste,  
did not understand was that the restricting  
cocoon and the struggle required for the  
butterfly to get through the tiny opening  
were God's way of forcing fluid from the  
body of the butterfly into the wings so that  
it would be ready for flight once it achieved  
its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we

## The Butterfly

need in our lives. If God allowed us to go  
through our lives without any obstacles, it  
would cripple us. We would not be as strong  
as what we could have been. We could never  
fly!

I asked God for Strength...and God gave me  
Difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for Wisdom...and God gave me Prob-  
lems to solve.

I asked for Prosperity...and God gave me  
Brain and Brawn to work.

I asked for Courage...and God gave me Dan-  
ger to overcome.

I asked for Love...and God gave me  
Troubled people to help.

I asked for Favors...and God gave me Op-  
portunities.

I received nothing I wanted...I receive ev-  
erything I needed!

May your path be bright and full of light  
everywhere you go! And, I pray your feet  
will never stumble out of God's plan. May  
the desires of your heart come true, and may  
you experience peace in everything you do.

May Goodness, Kindness, and Mercy  
come your way. May you gain wisdom and  
grow in the Lord everyday.

## Jesus

He is my Lord and savior,  
Jesus is his name.  
So much He's done for me,  
for you He'll do the same.  
He is God's chosen son,  
many souls He has won.  
He died for you,  
He died for me.  
He chose the cross,  
It was meant to be.  
Upon Himself He took our sins,  
so in your heart invite Him in.

*Norma Lentsch*



## Inside the Echo

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# Blood

One night in a church service a young woman felt the tug of God at her heart. She responded to God's call and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. The young woman had a very rough past, involving alcohol, drugs, and prostitution. But, the change in her was evident.

As time went on she became a faithful member of the church. She eventually became involved in the ministry, teaching young children.

It was not very long until this faithful young woman had caught the eye and heart of the pastor's son. The relationship grew and they began to make wedding plans, this is when the problems began.

You see, about one half of the church did not think that a woman with a past such as hers was suitable for a pastor's son. The church began to argue and fight about the matter. So they decided to have a meeting. As the people made their arguments and tensions increased, the meeting was getting completely out of hand.

The young woman became very upset about all the things being brought up about her past. As she began to cry the pastor's son stood to speak. He could not bear the pain it was causing his wife to be. He began to speak and his statement was this: "My fiancée's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin. Today you have put the blood of Jesus on trial. So, does it wash away sin or not?" The whole church began to weep as they realized that they had been slandering the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Too often, even as Christians, we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters. Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely, then we are all in a lot of trouble.

What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus... end of case!

New math?

## An Equation

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4given. That's the whole Christian message, simply stated.

## The Lord's Baseball Game

Bob and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs.

They continued to watch as a batter stepped up to the plate whose name was Love. Love swung at the first and hit a single, because Love never fails. The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love.



The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked, because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws. The bases were loaded.

The Lord then turned to Bob and told him He was going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Bob said, "He sure doesn't look like much!" Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch.

To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen. But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on the ground; then it continued over the fence for a home run!

The Lord's team won. The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Bob answered that he did not know why.

The Lord explained, "If your love, faith, and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, faith, and wisdom will get you on base, but only my Grace can get you home. My Grace is the one thing Satan cannot steal."

By Roy Richardson

*If your life is headed in the wrong direction, God allows you to make a U-turn.*

## Friars

Two cannibals meet one day. The first cannibal says, "you know, I just can't seem to get a tender missionary. I've baked them, I've roasted them, I've stewed them, I've barbecued them, I've tried every sort of marinade. I just cannot seem to get them tender." The second cannibal asks, "what kind of missionary do you use?" The other replied, "you know, the ones that hang out at that place at the bend of the river. They have these brown cloaks with a rope around the waist and they're sort of bald on top with a funny ring of hair on their heads." "Ah ha!" the second cannibal replies. "No wonder, those are friars!"



## Words of Wisdom

"It is when we forget ourselves that we do things which are remembered."

"Grant me the mental fortitude to face the truth willingly and urgently, even when it is unpleasant or unpalatable."

A Christian prayer is not: "Please do for me what I want." It is, "Please do with me what You want." That prayer will always be answered in proportion to its sincerity.

## The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

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The official publication of The Church of the Damascus Road, a Christian Community of Reconciliation, serving the inmate population of the medium security units at Rockwell City and Fort Dodge, Iowa.

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If you are reading a copy of this letter that is not yours, you can subscribe and receive your own copy by writing to:

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## I've Learned...

- that when you're in love, it shows.
- that just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.
- that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- that you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- that sometimes all a person needs is a heart to understand.
- that simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child, did wonders for me as an adult.
- that life is like a roll of *toilet paper*. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- that we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- that under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- that the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?
- that to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
- that when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
- that I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.
- that when your newly born child holds -your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.
- that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

## Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge

7:00pm Wednesdays ..... Holy Communion  
7:00pm Fridays ..... Bible Study

NCCF Rockwell City

6:30pm Tuesdays ..... Bible Study  
6:30pm Thursdays ..... H o

## Contributions invited

The editor of this newsletter is inviting ALL READERS to contribute articles, poetry, art work, and opinions for the newsletter. So don't be bashful.

## The Ant and the Contact Lens

**B**renda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared to death, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took hold of the rope, and started up the face of that rock.

Eventually, she reached a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Well, there she was on a rock ledge with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there. There she was, far from home, her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff. She looked out across range after range of mountains thinking of the Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the

whole earth. She thought, "Lord, you can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and you know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it.

Brenda told me that her father is a cartoonist and when she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But, if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for you." I think it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why You want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if You want me to carry it, I will."

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

*A true story by Josh and Karen Zarandona, from Keryx News*

From a Roman Catholic psychologist.

A Nun asked her class to write a letter to GOD.....

Dear GOD:

Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It worked with my brother.  
Larry

Dear GOD:

I bet it is very hard for You to love everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.  
Nan

Dear GOD:

Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that or was it an accident?

Norma

Dear GOD:

Please send me a pony. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.

Bruce

Dear GOD:

I think about you sometimes, even when I'm not praying.

Elliott



**T**his is our third issue of "The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!" It's published between issues of the Flash, and is for distribution inside the two prisons in Fort Dodge and Rockwell City. Tell us what you think about it by writing letters to the editor and giving them to Pastor Lang or Glenn Wooten or Darrel Pennel. We want the Echo! to be yours.

