

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 5
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Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

He Cared for Me

One year ago,
Thats what it was,
When I opened myself,
To the Lord above.

I was hurt
And he was there,
And he took my heart
Into his care.

The things I felt
I can not explain,
I only know
There was no shame.

As I felt the tears
Fall from my eyes,
There was no pain,
Only loves delight.

When I asked him why
I felt this way,
He only told me,
"You've been saved this way."

He touched my heart,
Now I live to know,
What great wonders
He can bestow!

Jeremiah Hemenway

Musings

The closer my relationship is to our Father in heaven, the more I realize how important communication is. Communication consists of a prayer life as well as listening to the Holy Spirit speak to my heart.

Life is so much better when I include the giver of life in all I do. He loves us so very much that he gives us the opportunity to choose which direction to go in life. The impor-



tant thing is to seek what is eternal rather than what is temporal. Sin is temporal as are all things of this world. Eternal is of the spiritual world that we may have by turning from sin and choosing to receive the salvation Jesus gave us by dying in our place that glorious day on Calvary.

I feel it is important to have a prayer list to use in my daily prayer. This not only reminds me what to pray for, but it also allows me to see how and what prayers were answered. And it's the answered prayers that are worthy of praise. It is important to include praising God and thanking him in your prayer life.

As we pray, keep in mind that God is a loving Father and knows what's best. He knows how to distinguish between our wants and our needs. What is most important in our prayers is that we seek God's will.

It says in the gospel of Matthew (21:22) that you can get anything- anything you ask for in prayer- if you believe!

Another scripture to be found among the pearls of wisdom is in the book of Proverbs: "The Lord is far from the wicked but hears the prayers of the righteous."

Remember that prayer is important in all aspects of life.

No longer will you have to face life alone when you have Jesus at your side. Take the time to check out the following scripture passages concerning prayer: John 15:7, Mathew 6:8, Mark 11:24, and Isaiah 58:9. Go in peace, serve the Lord.



Robert L. Johnson II

Faith Is

Faith is knowing that God is who He says He is, has what He says He has, and will do what He says He will do and then putting ourselves in a position where our lives depend on it.

— Pastor Graham Steele

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Sign Up Now

Brothers in Blue

The next Brothers in Blue Weekends are scheduled for October 17-20, 2002 at the Fort Dodge Facility and December 5-8, 2002 at the North Central Facility in Rockwell City. Brothers in Blue is a Christian renewal program that begins Thursday afternoon and continues through all of Friday, Saturday and Sunday. During the weekend we hear talks, discuss them, worship, sing, meditate on God's word and fellowship with other Christians. To find out more stop in the Chapel at FDCF or in Room A of the Treatment Center at NCCF.

In FDCF see Pastor Lang or one of the inmate helpers to get an application to attend.

In Rockwell City, see Pastor Lang or Darwin Van Hauen to get an application.

Some comments from inmates who have attended a Brothers in Blue Weekend:

"The Brothers in Blue experience was very invigorating, Christ potently displayed his spirit in us." —Matt Renaud

"I was in Palanca. It was a new experience for me. It was fun I learned that every one has problem like me. The first day was out the window, but we got into it and we had it down pat." —Josh Bartenhagen

Thoughtful One-liners

(Some shaky theology, but still some fun)

1. Give God what's right — not what's left.
2. Our way leads to a hopeless end — God's way leads to an endless hope.
3. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
4. The one who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
5. In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma—but never let him be the period.
6. Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
7. Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a faith-lift.
8. When praying, don't give God instructions — just report for duty.
9. Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
10. We don't change God's message — God's message changes us.
11. The church is prayer-conditioned.
12. When God ordains, God sustains.
13. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
14. Plan ahead — It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
15. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
16. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.
17. Exercise daily — walk with the Lord.
18. Never give the devil a ride — he will always want to drive.
19. Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
20. Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
21. The one who angers you controls you.
22. Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.
23. Give Satan an inch & he'll be a ruler.
24. Be ye fishers of people — you catch them and Christ will clean them.
25. God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called.
26. Read the Bible — It will scare the hell out of you.

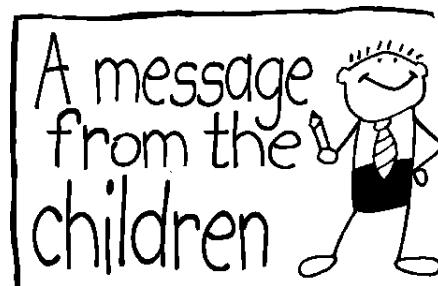
Mark English...serving senior citizens at several sites through Lutheran Homes Society in NW Ohio, and liking alliteration.



Losing One's Self

The basic principle that no one can help anyone without becoming involved, without entering with his whole person into the painful situation, without taking the risk of becoming hurt, wounded or even destroyed in the process. The beginning and the end of all Christian leadership is to give your life for others. Thinking about martyrdom can be an escape unless we realize that real martyrdom means a witness that starts with the willingness to cry with those who cry, laugh with those who laugh, and to make one's own painful and joyful experiences available as sources of clarification and understanding.

— Henri Nouwen



*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. I worked with my brother.
Larry

Dear GOD:
I read the Bible. What does 'beget' mean? Nobody will tell me.
Love, Allison

Dear GOD:
Did you really mean 'do unto others as they do unto you'? Because, if you did, then I'm going to fix my brother.
Darla

Dear GOD:
My brother told me about being born, but it doesn't sound right. They're just kidding, aren't they?
Marsha

Dear GOD:
We read Thomas Edison made light. But in Sunday school they said You did it. So I bet he stole your idea.
Sincerely, Donna

A Prayer:

For Strength & Wisdom

It is me, Lord
now I must pray
for your strength and wisdom
everyday.

I will not give up
as life's trials I must face;
reading my Bible
I continue to have faith.

I know you are with me,
this I am sure;
with your grace and guidance
I know I will endure.

For You will not give me
more then I can stand.
Right there beside me
holding my hand.

It is you, dear Lord,
lighting my way
down the path of righteousness
every single day.

Amen

Robert L. Johnson II

Kindly Refusal

I have had prayers answered—most strangely so sometimes—but I think our heavenly Father's loving kindness has been even more evident in what he has refused me.

—Lewis Carroll

The Church of the
Damascus Road
Echo!

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A Christian Walk

I was asked by a wonderful Christian brother to write this article. I feel it's more than a privilege to do so. It was suggested that I consider a title for the article, hence "A Christian Walk." I asked the Holy Spirit for guidance in what to write. The spirit is guiding me to introduce lessons from our Bible, write of blessings and about "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." *Hebrews 11:1, i.e. faith!* For these works the Holy Spirit has prompted me to simply introduce myself.

I'm a year old baby in Christ. I'm a "born again" Christian! Jesus says, "Verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (*John 3:3*). I believe salvation is of a two-fold nature, Jesus says that "Except ye repent, you shall all likewise perish" (*Luke 13:13*).

My Christian walk is taken very seriously. My bible is taken equally as seriously and at its word. I believe that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (*II Timothy 3:16,17*). I did not always feel that way.

I spent many years fighting God and trying to prove that a person didn't need Jesus to enjoy life. I blurted out, "You can't have any fun when you're a Christian," "The Christian life is boring," "There aint no such thing as heaven or hell!?" I was a fool!!

I was robbing myself. The Christian walk is the greatest experience I've ever known! Salvation is God's perfect gift to a dirty, despicable, selfish, ungrateful sinner! There is a heaven and a hell! I've spent a small share of time in grief over the fact that I did not come to good much, much sooner.

I understand perfectly and am a witness to a sentence written by Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold all things have become new" (*II Corinthians 5:17*). Amen! Glory to God.

- A Christian Brother, Darrin Plantz

MEN IN MISSION

Be Available

If we examined the roots of the great leaders of today, they would probably be just as common- or ordinary- or dirty- as those in scripture. The point is, God can and does use anyone for his work and to his glory. And God can and will use you- no matter who you are, no matter what your position in life. All you do is be available.

Bonnie Ricks



Psalm 46:10

Sometimes our lives are so busy that we cannot seem to fit another thing into the day! But there is something very important that we need to do each day.

Find the answer using the code below.

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R	U	V
D	1	H	2	M	N	S	4	W	5
E		I				T		Y	

W

5	1	3	5	4	4
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4	1	3	3	4	4	2	4	1
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2	4	4	2	4	1
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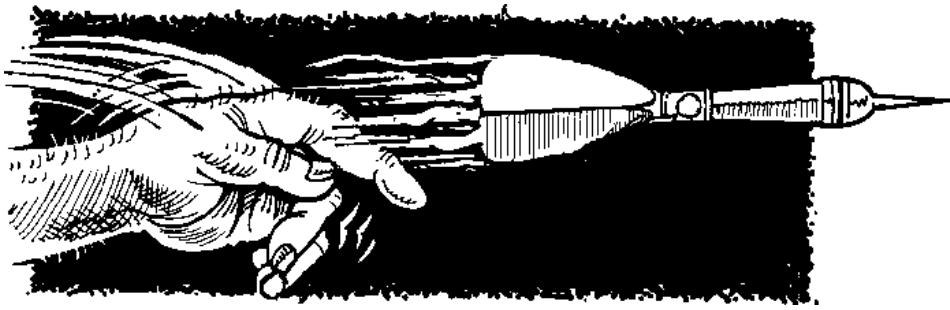
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We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God."



The Dart Test

A young lady named Sally, relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons. One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day. On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts.

Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's girlfriend drew a picture of a girl who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats.

As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target, Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall. Underneath the Target was a picture of Jesus. A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered his face and his eyes were pierced.

Dr. Smith said only these words: "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40. No other words were necessary; the tear-filled eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ.

Jesus

Jesus the savior,
The comforter, the friend,
Love everlasting
When we seek Him.

For it is always good
To dwell in the house of the Lord,
Spreading the gospel,
Hearing the word.

The ground is always level
At the base of the cross,
Equally sinful,
Equally lost.

To one and all
There is salvation by grace.
The precious love of Jesus
Nothing can replace.

So glorify Him
In all that you do,
For He gave His life
For me and for you.

-Robert L. Johnson II

All You Give

Your joyful feelings
Will forever flow
And in your hearts
They will always glow

Your love to all
Is for eternity
Never holding back
Your amazing generosity!

We love you, God
And all that you bring,
So we give to you
All our heart's offerings!

With your Holy Spirit
We'll always be true,
And in your church
We'll all sing to you!

- Jeremiah Hemenway

True Christianity

True Christianity is love in action.

David McKay

Too Busy

Too busy to laugh, too busy to play,
Too busy to loaf, for even a day.
Too busy to smile or walk a mile
Too busy to see that beautiful tree
Or gaze awhile at the open sea.
From friend to foe, all they know -
"I'm too busy!"

Too much hurry, too much rush
No time to listen to the song of a thrush
Too busy to live, too busy to love
Too busy to ever look above:
At last at the gate I can hear Peter say:
"You're too busy, please go away.
If I let you in you wouldn't stay!
You're too busy!"

-Anonymous

God Is More

That God is more near, more real and
mighty, more full of love, and more
ready to help every one of us than any
one of us realizes, is the undying message
of the Gospels.

— David Cairns



Power in Prayer

The CoDR prayer team welcomes your requests for prayer. They meet at 6:30pm every Friday night in the chapel. We would also enjoy having you join us in prayer as well as our Bible study immediately following our prayer team at 7pm. We have a prayer box located in the back at our Wednesday night services.

Robert L. Johnson II, Editor

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.

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 Holy Communion