

# The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 8  
Issue No. 4a  
July 2005  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

## God Speaking

The man whispered, "God, speak to me," and a meadowlark sang, but the man did not hear. So the man yelled "God, speak to me," and the thunder & lightning rolled across the sky, but the man did not listen. The man looked around and said, "God, let me see you," and a star shined brightly, but the man did not see. And the man shouted, "God, show me a miracle," and a life was born, but the man did not notice. So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me, God, and let me know you are here," whereupon God reached down and touched the man, but the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on. I found this to be a great reminder that God is always around us in the little and simple things that we take for granted, even in our electronic age, so I would like to add one more: The man cried "God, I need your help," and an e-mail arrived reaching out with good news and encouragement, but the man deleted it and continued crying.

The good news is that you are loved. Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way that you expect. Expect the unexpected. Have A Happy Day!

## Glorifying God

Each and every thing that Jesus Christ did, he did so that the Father would be glorified. As with everything else he did, he was giving us a living illustration of how we are to live. Through his every action and word, he showed us what our entire purpose and our entire motivation must be here on earth: to glorify the Father. When we shift our motives, he shifts into high gear. Not only will he answer our prayers, but he will usually send us answers that are much better than what we thought we wanted. Pray that you will have the right motive for your prayers. — Bonnie Ricks

### Inside the Echo!

Page 2 -The Right Time  
Page 2 -Seedtime and Harvest  
Page 2 -An awesome God  
Page 3 -FootPrints, New Version  
Page 3 -Bible Culture  
Page 4 -Resumé  
Page 4 -Bread Crumbs

## Will Work For Food

I sat, with two friends, in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town's square. The food and the company were both especially good that day.

As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying, a well-worn sign that read, "I will work for food." My heart sank. I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief. We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them.

I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car.

Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: "Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square." And so, with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner. I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the storefront church, going through his sack. I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on.

The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

"Looking for the pastor?" I asked.

"Not really," he replied, "just resting."

"Have you eaten today?"

"Oh, I ate something early this morning."

"Would you like to have lunch with me?"

"Do you have some work I could do for you?"

"No work," I replied. "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch."

"Sure," he replied with a smile. As he began to gather his things. I asked some surface questions.

"Where you headed?"

"St. Louis."

"Where you from?"

"Oh, all over; mostly Florida."

"How long you been walking?"

"Fourteen years," came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, "Jesus is The Never Ending Story."

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought. He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God.

"Nothing's been the same since," he said, "I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now."

"Ever think of stopping?" I asked.

"Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads."

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: "What's it like?"

"What?"

"To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?" "Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me."

My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said, "Come, ye blessed of my

Continued on page 2

*Continued From Page One*

Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in."

I felt as if we were on holy ground.

"Could you use another Bible?" I asked. He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite. "I've read through it 14 times," he said.

"I'm not sure we've got one of those, but let's stop by our church and see."

I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful. "Where you headed from here?" "Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon."

"Are you hoping to hire on there for awhile?"

"No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next."

He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town-square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

"Would you sign my autograph book?" he asked. "I like to keep messages from folks I meet."

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future and a hope."

"Thanks, man," he said. "I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you." "I know," I said, "I love you, too."

"The Lord is good."

"Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?" I asked.

"A long time," he replied.

And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, "See you in the New Jerusalem."

"I'll be there!" was my reply. He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, "When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

"You bet," I shouted back, "God bless."

"God bless." And that was the last I saw of him.

Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them... a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and

thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them.

I remembered his words: "If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?" Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. "See you in the New Jerusalem," he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will... "I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again."

—Author unknown



## Seedtime and Harvest

**A**s we sow mercy, we will reap mercy—a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. The things we plant in this field we call life is the crop that we will have in abundance in due season.

When we give mercy, we receive mercy. When we give love we receive love. The devil will try to stop you when you plant good things, but cannot when you remain steadfast and patient for the crop to mature.

When we plant judgment, hate, envy, backbiting, evil-speaking, and whispering, the devil does not stop these things and they will come up in our fields of life unless we repent, plow them under, and replant a good crop and patiently wait for them to multiply. If you plant joy, you will receive joy unspeakable.

Sowing and reaping, seedtime and harvest. This is a spiritual law that was set by God. We live under this rule, and so does God. If we do not do this, he is bound by his word and will not interrupt the order of things, and the devil has his way.

If we sow love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, we will reap the same.

By Willam Bell

## An Awesome God

**I**t all started when I walked into the gym on October 17th and saw all the new faces. I haven't been to anything like this before, and at the time I was very unsure about what would be going on, but I prayed to God and said "Lord, if it is your will for me to be here, please help open my heart and mind so I can get something out of this special weekend." The first day went on and I thought it was really slow and I was like, I know God has something he wants me to get out of this. Well, before I knew it the night was over and the sun was shining the next day. Sad to say, but the whole weekend went by before I knew it.

I do feel that the Lord blessed me during that special weekend, it allowed me to renew my faith with the good Lord we all have. I remember the last day, after I received my cross, I was sitting at a special service before we all wished each other farewell. We were given the opportunity to stand and say how this weekend helped us, without saying thank you, and I stood up and said, "We sure have an awesome God, don't we?"

I feel this weekend was the best weekend I've ever had and even though I'm here at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility going through the RIVERS program I feel I am free from the inside. I am on fire for you, O Lord, and as hard as it is to say, it's hard to see all you special people go, you all have made a great impact on my life. You all are my family and there is a time and place we will meet again."

I do thank you for reading this, and if you're able to attend a Brothers in Blue weekend I recommend it totally, and if you don't know God personally I ask that you would ask him into your life today. Thank God and bless you —Cody Bingham

## The Right Time

**Y**our Father knows your gifts, your hindrances, and the condition you're in at every moment. And he also knows something you can't possibly know—every single person who's in desperate need of receiving his touch through you. God will bring you to that person at exactly the right time and in the right circumstances. — Dr. Bruce Wilkinson

**The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!**

Volume 8.4a July 2005

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.  
Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor  
Albert Cooper, Editor

## Footprints, New Version

Imagine you and the Lord Jesus are walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying the pace.

But your footprints are a disorganized stream of zigzags, starts, stops, turnarounds, circles, departures, and returns.

For much of the way, it seems to go like this, but gradually your footprints come more in line with the Lord's, soon paralleling his consistently.

You and Jesus are walking as true friends!

This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: Your footprints that once etched the sand next to Jesus' are now walking precisely in his steps. Inside his larger footprints are your smaller ones, you and Jesus are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles, but gradually you notice another change. The footprints inside the large footprints seem to grow larger. Eventually they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints — they have become one. This goes on for a long time, but suddenly the second set of footprints is back. This time it seems even worse! Zigzags all over the place: stops, starts, gashes in the sand. A veritable mess of prints.

You are amazed and shocked. Your dream ends. Now you pray: "Lord, I understand the first scene, with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But you walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with you."

"That is correct."

"And when the smaller footprints were inside of yours, I was actually learning to walk in your steps, following you very closely."

"Very good. You have understood everything so far."

"When the smaller footprints grew and filled in yours, I suppose that I was becoming like you in every way."

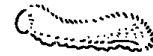
"Precisely."

"So, Lord, was there a regression or something? The footprints separated, and this time it was worse than at first."

There is a pause as the Lord answers, with a smile in his voice. "You didn't know? It was then that we danced!"



### Changes



Everyone experiences changes in life. Sometimes they make us happy – sometimes not! What does the Bible say about this?

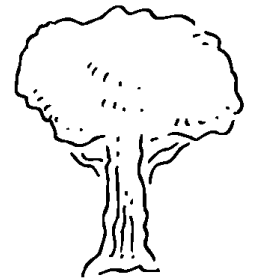


Find Ecclesiastes 3:1 below. Change some letters – then read the verse.



**Change:**  
L's to T's  
J's to E's  
Q's to I's  
K's to S's

W's to N's  
Z's to O's  
P's to H's  
X's to R's  
B's to A's



"  
L P J X J Q S B  
L Q M J F Z X  
J V J X Y L P Q W G' B W D  
B K J B K Z W F Z X  
J V J X Y B C L Q V Q L Y  
U W D J X P J B V J W"

## Bible Culture

The Scriptures contain, independently of a divine origin, more true sublimity, more exquisite beauty, purer morality, more important history, and finer strains of both poetry and eloquence than could be collected, within the same compass, from all other books that were ever composed in any age or in any language.

— Sir William Jones

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."

## Resumé

Jesus Christ  
 Address: Ephesians 1:20  
 Phone: Romans 10:13  
 Website: The Bible.

Keywords: Christ, Lord, Savior and Jesus

Hello. My name is Jesus -The Christ. Many call me Lord! I've sent you my resumé because I'm seeking the top management position in your heart. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth in my resume.

### Qualifications

- a. I founded the earth and established the heavens (see Proverbs 3:19)
- b. I formed man from the dust of the ground (see Genesis 2:7)
- c. I breathed into man the breath of life (see Genesis 2:7)
- d. I redeemed man from the curse of the law (see Galatians 3:13)
- e. The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant Galatians 3:14)

### Occupational Background

- a. I've only had one employer (see Luke 2:49).
- b. I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful.
- c. My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me (see Matthew 3:15-17)

### Skills Work Experiences

- a. Some of my skills and work experiences include: empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised (see Luke 4:18).
- b. I am a Wonderful Counselor (see Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil (see Proverbs 1:33).
- c. Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins (see I John 1:7-9)

### Educational Background

- a. I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding (see Proverbs 2:6).
- b. In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (see Colossians 2:3).
- c. My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a lamp unto your path (see Psalms 119:105).
- d. I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart (see Psalms 44:21).

### Major Accomplishments

- a. I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times (see Genesis 1:26).
- b. I laid down my life so that you may live (see II Corinthians 5:15).
- c. I defeated the archenemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly (see Colossians 2:15).
- d. I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead!
- e. There are many more major accomplishments, too many to mention here. You can read them on my website, which is located at: [www dot - the BIBLE](http://www.dot-theBIBLE.com). You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website.

### References

Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healings, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance.

### In Summation

Now that you've read my resumé, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart. In summation, I will properly direct your paths (see Proverbs 3:5-6), and lead you into everlasting life (see John 6:47). When can I start? Time is of the essence (see Hebrews 3:15).

May God bless you!

## Bread Crumbs

**O**n Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), there is a ceremony called Tashlich (literally, to send away). Jews traditionally go to the ocean (or a stream or river — it must be flowing), pray, and then throw bread crumbs onto the water, so the fish can symbolically eat and carry away their sins. Some people have been known to ask what kind of bread crumbs should they throw for different types of sins. For ordinary sins, use White Bread  
 For exotic sins French Bread  
 For particularly dark sins, Pumpernickel  
 For complex sins, Multigrain  
 For twisted sins, Pretzel  
 For sins of indecision, Waffles  
 For sins of chutzpah, Fresh Bread  
 For substance abuse/marijuana, Stoned Wheat  
 For substance abuse/heavy drugs, Poppy Seed  
 For committing auto theft, Caraway  
 For petty larceny, Stollen  
 For committing arson, Toast  
 For timidity, Milk Toast  
 For being ill tempered/sulky, Sourdough  
 For silliness, Nut Bread  
 For not giving full value, Shortbread  
 For risking one's life, Hero Bread  
 For excessive use of irony, Rye Bread  
 For telling bad jokes, Corn Bread  
 For hardening our hearts, Jelly Doughnuts  
 For warmongering, Kaiser Rolls  
 For immodest dressing, Tarts  
 For causing injury to others, Tortes  
 For sophisticated racism, Ritz Crackers  
 For singing off tune, Flat Bread  
 For trashing the environment, Dumplings  
 For sins of laziness, Any Very Long Loaf  
 For being hypercritical, Pan Cakes  
 For gluttony, Stuffing Bread  
 For gambling, Fortune Cookies  
 For abrasiveness, Grits  
 For sins of pride, Puff Pastry  
 For impetuosity, Quick Bread  
 For incompetent child rearing, Raisin Bread  
 For negligent slip ups, Banana Bread  
 For dropping in without warning, Popovers  
 For sycophancy, Brownies

—unknown

## Artwork & Articles invited

**T**he 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  
 6:30pm Fridays ..... Prayer Team  
 7:00pm Fridays ..... Bible Study

NCCF Rockwell City

6:30pm Tuesdays .... Prayer & Bible Study  
 6:30pm Thursdays ..... Holy Communion