

# The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

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## Enough Love

One day, a child of mine came home in tears. Another child had been mean to him and hurt his feelings. I want to say now, as I said then, "When a person doesn't like you, or is mean to you, it has more to do with them than it does with you. Dry your tears. You cannot be loved by everyone, because everyone cannot love themselves. You can know that I will always love you. And the greatest gift you can give to others is to love yourself. If you do that, you can love others without worrying whether they love you back. You will have enough love for both of you."

—Dorothy Dupont

## Psalm 23 for Programmers

The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash.  
He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart,  
All of His commands are user friendly,  
His directory moves me to the right choices for His name's sake.  
Even though I scroll through the problems of file,  
I will fear no bugs, for You are my backup;  
Your password protects me;  
You prepare a menu before me in the presence of my enemies;  
Your help is only a key away.  
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life,  
And my file will be merged with His and saved forever.  
—Author Unknown

## Forgiving Ourselves

I think that if God forgives us we must forgive ourselves. Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him.

—C. S. Lewis

## Inside the Echo!

Page 2 -Dear letters to God  
Page 2 - 26 One-liners  
Page 3 - Living in '06  
Page 3 - Puzzle  
Page 4 - The Spirit of Tuck  
Page 4 - Emergency Numbers  
Page 4 - Enough Love  
Page 4 - Why



## Our Savior

At the cross he was taken, while  
Forgiveness of our sins he proclaimed  
Eternally we pray to the Messiah,  
Jesus Christ is his name.  
He watches over us  
Like a Shepard would his sheep,  
We count our blessings and  
Pray every night to him  
before we go to sleep.  
Please, O Lord, save us,  
And show us the way home.  
For we, dear Lord, are humble  
And cannot make it alone.  
Promising with proper guidance  
We'll keep to the right path.  
You say, "Open the Bible and  
Allow this to be your map."  
Reading, learning, and believing  
Has gotten us to the point  
Where we just can't wait  
Until we meet you face to face  
On our judgment day for our  
True test of faith.  
by William (Joe) Schwerdtfeger

## Calling Heaven

Most of us have now learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of our lives. Have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing the following:

Thank you for calling heaven.

For English press 1

For Spanish press 2

For all other languages, press 3

Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for request

Press 2 for thanksgiving

Press 3 for complaints

Press 4 for all others

I am sorry, all our Angels and Saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line.

If you would like to speak to:

God, press 1

Jesus, press 2

Holy spirit, press 3

To find a loved one that has been assigned to heaven press 5, then enter his social security # followed by the pound sign. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and dial area code 666.

For reservations to heaven, please enter JOHN followed by the numbers, 3:16.

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, life and other planets, please wait until you arrive in heaven for the specifics.

Our computers show that you have already been prayed for today, please hang up and call again tomorrow.

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local pastor.

Thank you and have a heavenly day.

## Rising to Perfection

Augustine says that we may, out of our dead sins, make stepping-stones to rise to the heights of perfection. What did he mean by that? He meant that the memory of our falls might breed in us such humility, such a distrust of self, such a constant clinging to Christ, as we could never have had without the experience of our own weakness.

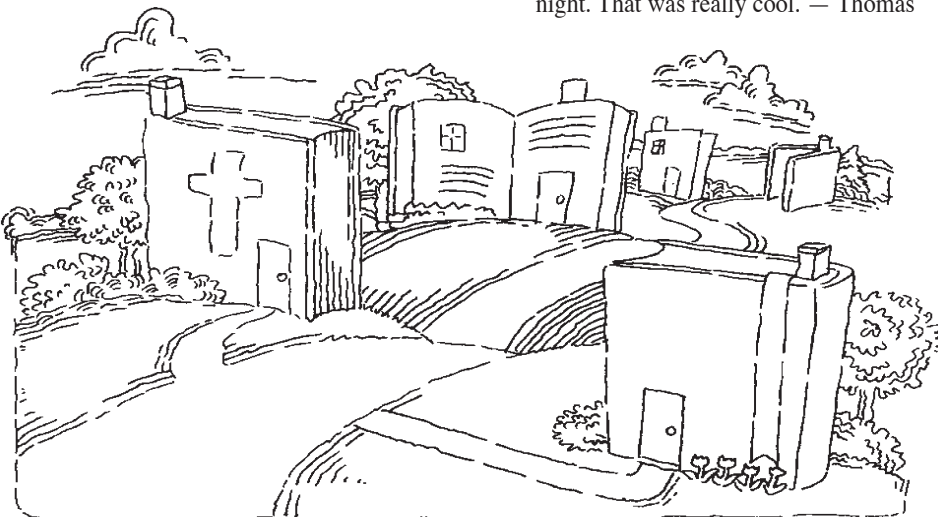
— James Stalker

## 26 Beautiful One-liners

1. Give God what's right -- not what's left.
2. Man's 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. He 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 -- His message changes us.
11. The church is prayer-conditioned.
12. When God ordains, He 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. He 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 men -- you catch them & He'll clean them.
25. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
26. Read the Bible -- It will scare the wrong out of you.

## Dear Letters to God

1. Dear God, please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. — Amanda
2. Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up. — Joyce
3. Dear Mr. God, I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart I had to have 3 stitches and a shot. — Janet
4. God, I read the bible. What does beget mean? Nobody will tell me. Love, Alison
5. Dear God, How did you know you were God? Who told you? — Charlene
6. Dear God, Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house? — Anita
7. Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it. — Nancy
8. Dear God, I like the story about Noah the best of all of them. You really made up some good ones. I like walking on water, too. — Glenn
9. Dear God, My Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? Love, Dennis
10. Dear God, Do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does? — Nathan
11. Dear God, Did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident? — Norma
12. Dear God, In bible times, did they really talk that fancy? — Jennifer
13. Dear God, How come you did all those miracles in the old days and don't do any now? — Billy
14. Dear God, Please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year. — Peter
15. Dear God, Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out OK with me and my brother. — Larry
16. Dear God, I keep waiting for spring, but it never did come yet. What's up? Don't forget. — Mark
17. Dear God, My brother told me about how we are born but it just doesn't sound right. What do you say? — Marsha
18. Dear God, If you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes. — Barbara
19. Dear God, Is Reverend Coe a friend of yours, or do you just know him through the business? — Donny
20. Dear God, I do not think anybody could be a better God than you. Well, I just want you to know that. I am not just saying that because you are already God. — Charles
21. Dear God, It is great the way you always get the stars in the right place. Why can't you do that with the moon? — Jeff
22. Dear God, I am doing the best I can. Really!!!! — Frank  
And, saving the best for last:
23. Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really cool. — Thomas



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

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Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor  
W. Joe Schwerdtfeger, Editor  
Rev. Tim Zingale, website manager

## Living in '06

You know you're living in 2006 when...

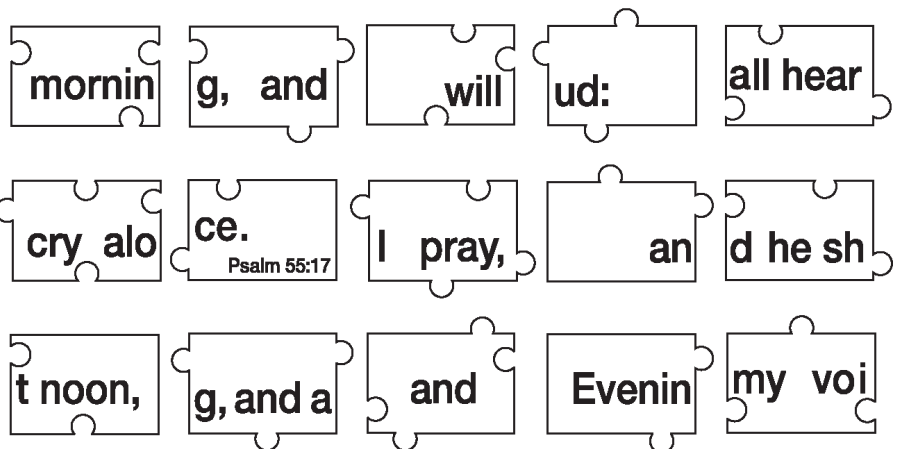
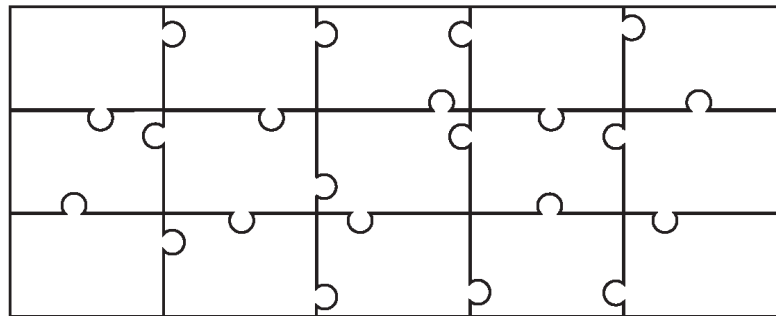
1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.
7. You make phone calls from home, you accidentally dial "9" to get an outside line.
8. You've sat at the same desk for four years and worked for three different companies.
9. You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
10. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
11. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
12. Every commercial on television has a website at the bottom of the screen.
13. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
14. You get up in the morning and go on-line before getting your coffee.
15. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
16. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.



## Pray Today!

The first Friday in March is World Day of Prayer. God wants us to pray to Him everyday. So start today and never stop!

Write the words from the scrambled jigsaw pieces onto the blank puzzle to discover when Psalm 55:17 (KJV) says we should pray.



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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Answer: Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.



# The Spirit of Tuck

by Kay Lee

Several years ago, I asked the prisoners that I corresponded with to send me some examples of random acts of kindness. One inmate wrote back, "Random acts of kindness . . . in prison? If you think you see an act of kindness in here, you better look behind you, 'cause somebody's setting you up!"

About three months later, I received a letter from the same disillusioned young man stating, "Remember when you asked me about those acts of kindness? Well, at Christmas, a man they call Tuck gave me a box with all these little partly filled bottles of shampoo, deodorant and nearly a whole bar of soap. These items are precious to us in here. I felt feelings I've never felt before!"

In my first letter from Tuck, he wrote, "I'm trying to change for the better." Tuck was a huge man, only 38 years old, but partially disabled because of medical problems—mostly his heart. It's kind of strange, though, because his heart was huge, kind and loving. Tuck and I wrote for nearly two years steadily, and I grew to love this big man's spirit.

Letters from Tuck invariably included notes from three or four other prisoners from the same facility. The letters often started out with, "Dear Kay, I never could have sent this letter if it weren't for Tuck giving me a stamp."

Tuck's heart was as great as his physical presence. Every prisoner heard Tuck say at least a million times, "If I'd won the lottery, I'd make sure every inmate here would have \$45 a month in his account."

Larry Tucker, an inmate who tried to rise above his past, worked hard to make the present more tolerable. Even with a life sentence, he tried to make the future in prison better for everyone he touched.

Suddenly, in the middle of a dark and lonely night, isolated from help, Larry took his last breath. The entire prison community, including the staff, went into mourning, knowing that Larry didn't have a mean bone in his body. His mother wrote expressing her pain. She and I both saw the best in Larry. The prisoners wrote about their loss, "There was never a better friend than Tuck."

*The Spirit of Tuck. Reprinted by permission of Kay Lee. ©2003 Kay Lee from "Serving Time, Serving Others: Acts of Kindness by Inmates, Prison Staff, Victims, and Volunteers." Co-authors: Tom Lagana and Laura Lagana.*



## Why

For the ills of the world I sigh and cry and try to fathom why so many must die. Why should so many go without supper when others couldn't care less who may suffer? Sometimes it's hard to understand God's plan and know it includes the suffering of man. By learning to understand a trouble or fault we gain wisdom and strength to withstand assault. Only through learning to act as we should can we begin to love what is truly good. When we see the plan and beauty of life, we begin to understand the purpose of life.



## Emergency Numbers

*Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary.*

- When in sorrow,.....call John 14
- When men fail you,.....call Psalm 27
- If you want to be fruitful,.....call John 15
- When you have sinned,.....call Psalm 51
- When you worry,.....call Matthew 6:19-34
- When you are in danger, .....call Psalm 91
- When God seems far away,.....call Psalm 139
- When your faith needs stirring,.....call Hebrews 11
- When you are lonely and fearful,.....call Psalm 23
- When you grow bitter and critical, .....call I Cor 13
- For Paul's secret to happiness, .....call Col 3:12-17
- For understanding of Christianity, .....call II Cor 5:15-19
- When you feel down and out, .....call Romans 8:31
- When you want peace and rest,.....call Matthew 11:25-30
- When the world seems bigger than God,.....call Psalm 90
- When you want Christian assurance, .....call Romans 8:1-30
- When you leave home for labor or travel, .....call Psalm 121
- When your prayers grow narrow or selfish,.....call Psalm 67
- For a great invention/opportunity, .....call Isaiah 55
- When you want courage for a task,.....call Joshua 1
- For how to get along with fellow men, .....call Romans 12
- When you think of investments and returns, .....call Mark 10
- If you are depressed, .....call Psalm 27
- If your pocketbook is empty, .....call Psalm 37

## Articles 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.

## Check Them Out!

The Church of the Damascus Road Librarians are inviting you to come to the chapel (MPR 23), and "check out" the books in our library! There are many genres of books to choose from! We hope to see you there!

## 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