

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

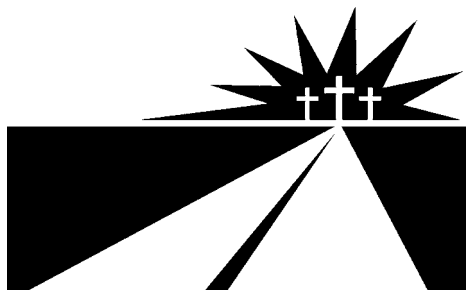
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We Are Different

As a sinner we think different than God and do things different than God. But if we just accept God we too can think like God and walk in his ways. Just like he wants us sinners to do. It is a difficult road for many, but the Lord promises that if we truly follow him we can enjoy heaven with him.

Brothers and sisters, I pray that since we are sinners let us repent of our sins and truly accept Christ's everlasting love that he has for us. Let's ask for forgiveness of our sins and ask for salvation. AMEN

-Aaron Bury FDCF



Where to Go

It's your choice, what to do, what you want, where to go, who to be. If your old self you know where that will lead. A learning experience with many opportunities to try new things. Navigate and explore a life with purpose with many things in store. Where to start with your heart? The circumstances will be there Jesus supplies I declare. The choice is yours for you to make, please be smart for God's sake. Everyday is a new beginning when you awake there's two different paths that you can take.

-Nathan D. McLaughlin FDCF

Inside the Echo!

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Listen Hear Understand Grow

Hear from God

"I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly" (Psalm 85:8).

God is constantly speaking to us through our spirits. Our spirits are where he lives. He is speaking to your spirit right now. The spirit of a man is the candle of the Lord, searching out the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. It is where the light resides. It is where we find the mind of Christ. He speaks to our spirit and our spirit speaks to us. Are you sensitive to the voice of your spirit, or are you listening to your sense-driven mind?

Your mind is where the voice of the world resides. The mind processes information coming to it through your senses. It hears the world. It touches the world. It smells, tastes, and sees the world. This is the realm where the evil one resides. This is where he manipulates you.

Your mind says it feels good, or it tastes good. Your flesh has driven it that way. The evil one has seen to it that your flesh is fed by your senses. Your mind is in the camp of the flesh. We need to transform our minds to the camp of our spirits. To the camp of the most high, God.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

We need to put our flesh in check. If you are having trouble with desires coming from your flesh, then fast! Fasting weakens your flesh. But for the results we all desire on one level or another it will do little good pulling away from our flesh (and it's natural desires) unless we draw near to God in his word, and in prayer, and in the quiet times of meditating on him, listen for his voice.

Romans 12:1 exhorts us *"brethren, by the mercies of God... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye*

may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

When we hear God's voice in our spirits we have proof of the perfect will of God in any situation not covered in his word.

What job should I take?

Who should I marry?

What should I pray?

Where should I go to church?

We have lived X amount of years being conformed to this world through our flesh. We have been conditioned to believe in the natural. It is instant. I can see it. I can touch it. I can feel it. So we should not be surprised if it takes some time to draw near the supernatural. It will take a fasted life to draw near to him. But there is good news. As we draw near to him, he will draw near to us.

"Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you.... Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up" (James 4: 7-8, 10)

That's good news! God wants to draw near and he will, to the degree that we submit. God is Holy. His glory is a consuming fire to sinful flesh. We need to prepare ourselves. As I said, God lives in our hearts. We need to draw near, to listen for his voice, the still small voice of the Holy Ghost. Proverb 20:5 says, *"Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out."*

God, the Most High God, lives in our hearts. His counsel is in our hearts and we must draw it out. Be a "man of understanding" and draw on God's counsel. Our own ways seem right to us but unless the Lord directs our steps we are not in his perfect will.

"Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights, and there is no shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

— William Bell NCCF



Brothers in Blue

This past Brothers in Blue weekend has meant a lot to me. I was at a place in my spiritual life where I was stuck in a rut. This past Brothers in Blue really opened my eyes to what I couldn't, or wouldn't, see on my own. It got me motivated to go out and fight the good fight of faith and prepared me with the knowledge and tools to do so. I am forever grateful for this past Brothers in Blue. Thank you, and God bless you all.

Kyle McMennamin

Brothers in Blue was a blast for me this weekend. It was a time where all of my Christian brothers would come together and find out the true meaning of a real Christian. It taught me a lot of things. It taught me that the bible is something everybody should use, because it works. You can learn a lot from God's word. One thing that really hit me was that when you are down and depressed and you feel like nobody is there, don't try to end your life like I tried, because there is somebody that will be there always and forever and he will do many miracles for you and that someone is our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit, God. So, when you need something and you are afraid to ask for help because you don't think anybody will listen, just get on your knees and pray to him. I thank all the people who put this program together. I love you all. May peace be with you all.

From your Christian brother, Justin Penrod

To me, Brothers in Blue meant fellowship in here. It's hard to fellowship with other Christian brothers it felt like a breath of fresh air to sit and listen and sing about God. One of my favorite things was participating in a shared sermon. I felt nervous at first, but God was pushing me to speak and when I started talking, I felt comfortable and I felt like I was closer to God than I've ever been. The talks the speakers gave were very inspiring and their positive and energetic attitudes brought the group closer together. When it was over, I didn't want to leave, and I'm definitely going to sign up on the Palanca team when the next Brothers in Blue starts in December.

Durand McGowan

I would just like to say that it was a big wake-up call for me, and I needed it more than ever. I thought the weekend was just amazing! I learned a lot about God's love for us. God is now my higher power. I think it is great that these people volunteer their time to speak the word to us. Powerful! And I'm with Him.

Matthew Miller

This powerful Brothers in Blue was the best weekend I have had in life. I was able to become close to everyone. Through listening to the speakers I was able to make a commitment to God and to change my life, and by doing so, I have now found a peace within like no other before. I was always holding on to things I had done in the past and it always pulled me back down. I have now nailed all my past sins on the cross and left them there. This past weekend meant I was able to live and enjoy life as a free man inside the fences. I am eternally grateful to all the people who were involved, and to God for being there to let me know I am loved.

Dustin Lear

I felt that this weekend was a spiritual retreat that renewed the heart/soul of every person who attended, brought the walk of faith closer with the Lord Jesus Christ, so that we obey our father in heaven. My walk of faith before the weekend was weak, and now my strength has been renewed in my heart/soul and my relationship has grown with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Brothers in Blue and our Lord Jesus Christ have helped me dedicate my life to, and have shown me how I can help change other lives. I now have a purpose in my life to work for our father, God. I thank God our father daily for the opportunity to meet so many loving volunteers and inmates who have shared so many personal thoughts and stories. Thank you for the huge impact this weekend has had to change my life in our Lord Jesus Christ/God our father/Holy Spirit. God bless, and grace be with you forever.

Love, Raymond Lee Murray III

Ministries You Can Write

Most ministries will send "books and tapes". And some will send monthly magazines if they have them.

Kenneth Hagin Ministries
PO Box 50126, Tulsa, OK 74150-0126
1-800-543-2484

Andrew Wommack ministries
PO Box 3333, CO Sprgs, CO 80934-3333
1-719-635-1111

Kenneth Copeland Ministries
PO Box 0001, Ft. Worth, TX 76192-0001

E. W. Kenyon Ministry
PO Box 973, Lynnwood, WA. 98046-0973

Derek Prince Ministries
PO Box 19501, Charlotte, NC 28219-9501

John Bevere Ministries
PO Box 888, Palmer Lake, CO 80133

Joyce Myer Ministries
PO Box 655, Fenton Mo. 63026

World Challenge
PO Box 260, Lindale, TX 75771

Bible Schools

Shalom Bible College & Seminary
4007 High St, West Des Moines IA 50265

Living Faith Bible School
PO Box 16226, Duluth MN 55816-0226

Rhema Bible School Ministry
PO Box 50126, Tulsa OK 74150-0126
1-888-283-2484

Chalis Bible School
PO Box 3333, CO Sprgs CO 80934-3333

Your favorite verse here:

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, selfcontrol, against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

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

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An official publication of The Church of the Damascus Road, a Christian Community of Reconciliation, serving the inmate population of the correctional facilities at Rockwell City and Fort Dodge, Iowa.
Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor
Gene Cook, Jr., Editor



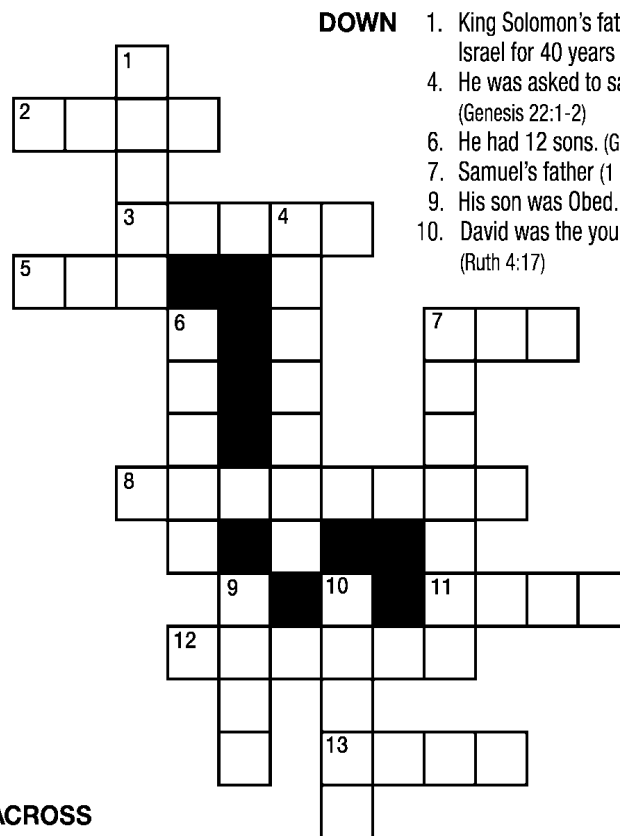
10 Commandments for Being Human

- 1) You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it but it will be yours for the entire period this time around.
- 2) You will learn lessons. You will be enrolled in a Full-time informal school called life. Each day in this school you will have the opportunity to learn lessons. You may like the lessons or think their irrelevant and stupid.
- 3) There are no mistakes, only lessons. Growth is a process of trial, error, and experimentation. The failed experiments are as much apart of the process as the experiment that ultimately works.
- 4) A lesson is repeated until learned. A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it, you can go on to the next lesson.
- 5) Learning lessons does not end. There is no part of life that does not contain its lessons. If you are alive, there are lessons to be learned.
- 6) There is no better than here. When your "there" has become "here" you will simply obtain another "there" that will again look better than "here."
- 7) Others are merely mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects to you something you love or hate about yourself.
- 8) What you make of your life is up to you. You have all the tools and resources you need. What you do with them is up to you. The choice is yours.
- 9) Your answers lie with in you. The answer to life's questions lie inside you. All you need to do is look, listen, and trust.
- 10) You will forget everything you just read. On being human, you will get into the habit of saying: "That's not important enough to remember."



FATHERS IN THE BIBLE

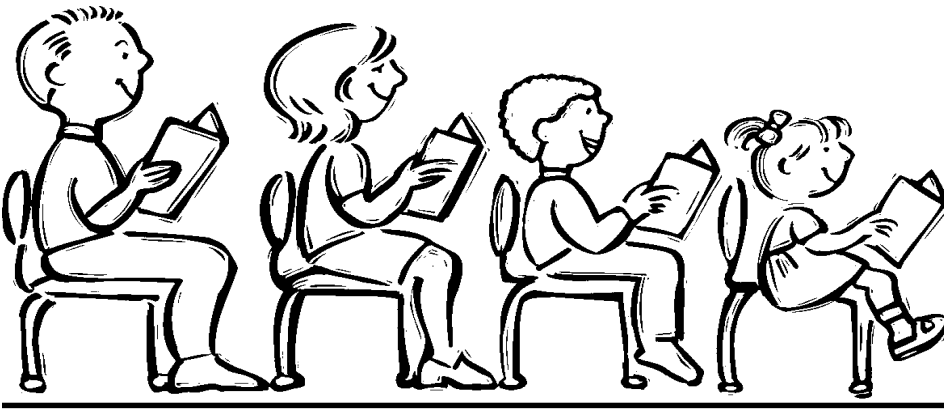
God plans for our fathers to play important parts in our lives. Fill in the puzzle squares with names of important fathers from the Bible. Use the clues and verse references below to help.



- DOWN**
1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
 4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac. (Genesis 22:1-2)
 6. He had 12 sons. (Genesis 35:22)
 7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
 9. His son was Obed. (Ruth 4:21)
 10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons. (Ruth 4:17)

ACROSS

2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark. (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away the birthright of his older son Esau. (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel. They were wicked. (1 Samuel 2:12).
8. David's best friend and father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus. (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan, he was chosen by the people as the first king of Israel. (2 Samuel 9:6)



Explain God

The following was turned in by Danny Dutton for his third-grade homework assignment. The assignment was to "Explain God".

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any here. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and people finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his Father, and he told his Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said "ok."

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know he's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.

-Ray Kerley

This Way or that Way

The Lord can mold you in his image he gave his final touch so the work can be finished. He can shape you in any form of way. He already has since the first day. The destination is there, there are two to choose from here or there, Heaven or Hell as it is. There's an opportunity I wouldn't miss. Heaven is the place I'd choose to be so we can reign in his glory.

-Nathan D. McLaughlin FDCF



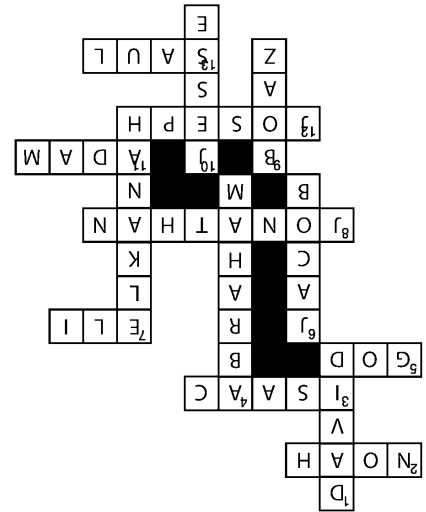
Lord of Many

Lord it is your name that we exalt.
 Our love for you will not halt.
 Risen, The King, you are on high.
 Divine you are by and by.
 Omnipresent day by day.
 Forever yours we will stay.
 Much we know of our past.
 Always waiting to meet you at last.
 Never ending is your prowess.
 You're always willing to forgive,
 though no man is sinless!

-Gene D. Cook, Jr. (FDCF)

A Little Wisdom

We are all spiritual beings having a human experience. —Dr. Vernon Barksdale



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 & Bible Study

NCCF Rockwell City

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