

# The Church of the Damascus Road

# Echo!

Volume 9  
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Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

## Prisoner's Commandments

1. Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
2. Choose your companions with care; you become what they are.
3. Be master of your habits, or they will master you.
4. Treasure your time — don't spend it, invest it.
5. Stand for something, or you'll fall for anything.
6. Select only a date who would make a good mate.
7. See what you can do for others; not what they can do for you.
8. Guard your thoughts; what you think, you are.
9. Don't fill up on this world's crumbs; feed your soul on the Living Bread.
10. Give your all to Christ; He gave His all for you.

—The Tract League

## The Christian Life

Let me love and not be respected;  
Let me serve and not be rewarded;  
Let me labor and not be remembered;  
Let me suffer and not be regarded.  
'Tis the pouring, not the drinking;  
'Tis the breaking, not the keeping —  
A life suffering to seek others' blessing,  
A life loving and true comfort giving;  
Not expecting pity and concern,  
Not accepting solace and applause;  
Even lonely, even forgotten,  
Even wordless, even forsaken.  
Tears and blood my price for the righteous  
crown shall be;  
Losing all, my cost for a faithful pilgrim's life.  
'Tis the life, O Lord, that You chose to live  
In those days when on earth You walked,  
Gladly suffering all injuries and loss  
So that all might draw near and repose.  
I cannot see how much farther I shall go;  
Still I press on knowing there is no return.  
Let me follow Your pattern so perfect and true,  
Bearing ingratitude without complaint.  
In this time of trial, O Lord, I pray  
That You'll wipe all my hidden tears away;  
Let me learn, O Lord, You are my reward,  
Let me be others' blessings all my days.

— Watchman Nee

## Deliberate Happiness

The 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud lady, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coiffed and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy. "Mrs. Jones -- you haven't seen the room; just wait." "That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged...it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it "It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away, just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account: you withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the Bank account of memories. Thank you for your part in filling my Memory bank. I am still depositing. Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

## Listening

To open up and become sensitive to God's own mission could also mean that we begin to recognize strangers as messengers, sent to us with a particular message, and that, therefore, before we dare preach to them we ought to listen to their stories.

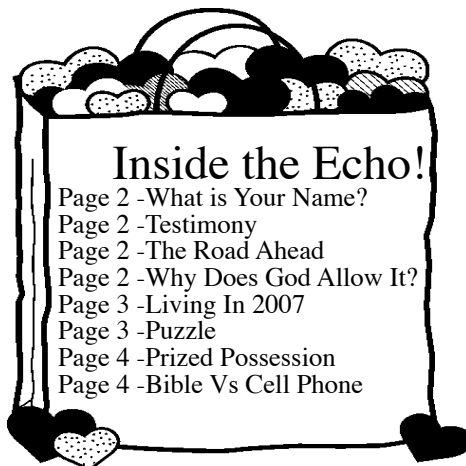
— Gerhard Hoffman

## Around the Rose

Here's a piece of tape  
Not to make no mistake  
I'm assuring you I can relate  
I don't have no clue  
But for you I do  
I had so much pride  
Not just for the ride  
But now we must strive  
With a beautiful heart  
Will make you smart  
So now they'll never  
See us apart  
—Joey Vazquez



February 21, 2007  
Come and Join Us In  
Worship



## What is Your Name?

The Lord called out one bright sunny day, "What is your name?" With my head held high I answered, "My name is Pride. But don't worry Lord, that's OK, I'll do it my way."

Then violent winds blew and before my ship sank He whispered, "What is your name?"

I confessed, "Liar, Deceitful and Thief."

He said, "I forgive you" and gave me peace.

Once again I got lost and faced a river I couldn't cross. He asked, "What is your name?" I said, "I'm addicted to speed, My name is Ashamed."

He stretched out His hand as we crossed over to dry land. Eventually, I was thrown into the furnace. He called out, "What is your name?"

I cried, "My name is Afraid. I've nowhere to turn."

He assured me, "I'll protect you, You will not be burned."

Now I give you the name of the Redeemed, you shall be called *Son of the King*.

—Sheila Ewing



## Testimony

Hello, my names is Donald C. Enright Jr. and I am a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ thanks to CoDR. I was baptized on February 23, 2005 by Pastor Lang. I have been struggling so hard to actually believe in someone who I can't see but since being locked down on A unit has given me time to meditate more on God. I've been so overcome with emotions these last three days from now on He gets my full attention and trust. My favorite scripture is Psalm 69:1-4 "Save me, God for the waters have reached my neck I have sunk into the mire of the deep, where there is no foothold. I have gone down to the watery depths; the flood overwhelms me. I am weary with crying out; my throat is parched. My eyes have failed, looking for my God." Every time I read that I just cry out to Him. Please pray for me to find a place to go when I get out of prison where I am surrounded with God's love.



## Why Does God Allow It?

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving a God who would allow all of these things." The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

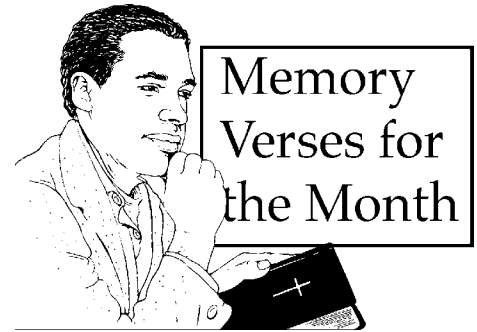
"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him! That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

—Author Unknown



Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. (Psalm 55:22)

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. (Psalm 9:9)

When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:32)

Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. (Psalm 37:3)



## The Road Ahead

Why do you wonder what the future holds

God created you

and then He broke the molds

There is no one like you

God made you very unique

Let's hope we grow old

And become an antique

So if you are curious

What lies before your way

Pick up the word and talk to God

And he'll guide you day by day

— Kyle McMenamin FDCF

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

Issue 10.1b

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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

Kyle W. McMenamin, Editor

## Living in '07

You know you're living in 2007 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.
10. You learn about your redundancy on the 11 o'clock news.
11. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
12. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
13. Every commercial on television has a website at the bottom of the screen.
14. 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.
15. You get up in the morning and go on-line before getting your coffee.
16. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
17. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
18. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
19. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
20. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.



### Now Aware

Through all the troubles and problems I had  
 Oddly to tell you, but I'm glad,  
 Sitting right here with my newfound Dad.  
 He's showing me the ways between good and bad.  
 He picks me up when I fall.  
 Past, present and future sins he forgives them all.  
 The graceful acts that he has shown to us –  
 Why do we sit and continue to fuss?  
 The power of the almighty glorious King,  
 Your name we praise in the songs we sing.  
 – Nathan D. McLaughlin, FDCF 07-06

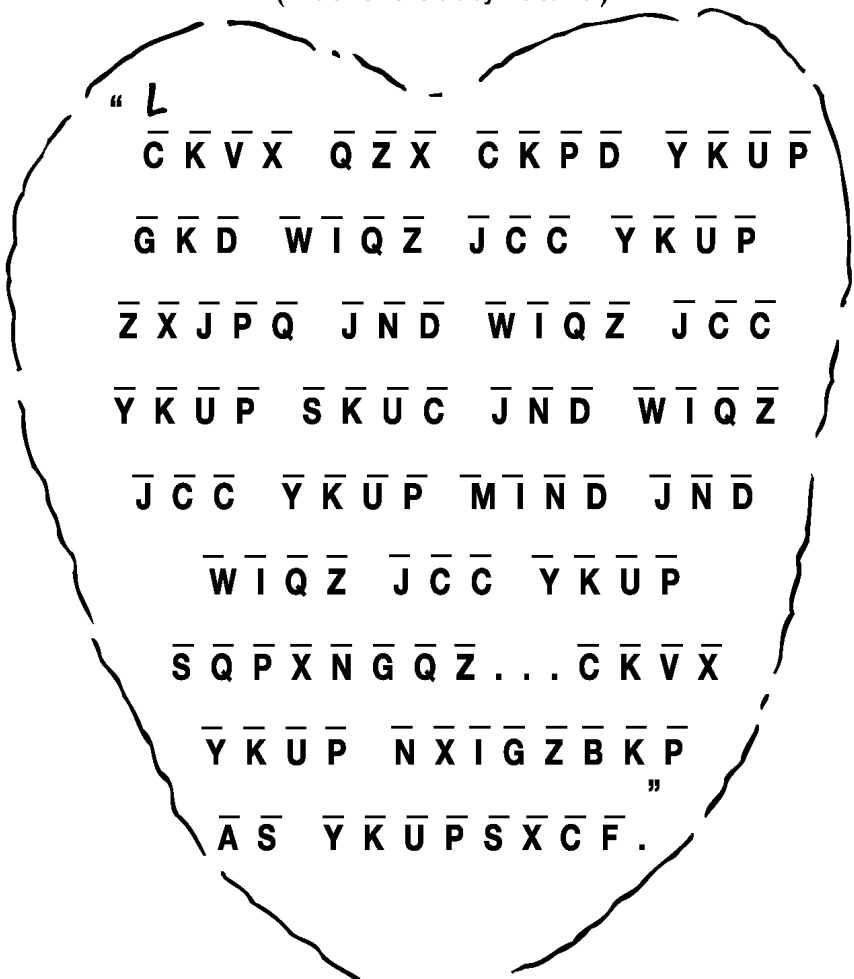


### Mark 12:30-31

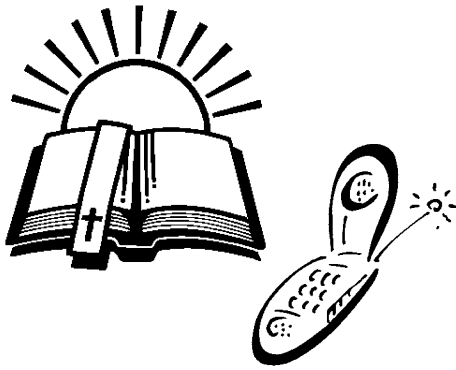
Change some of the letters below to find the words in these important verses.

Change: C's to L    J's to A    K's to O    Z's to H  
 Q's to T    P's to R    X's to E

(The other letters stay the same.)



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength ... Love your neighbor as yourself.”



## Bible vs Cell Phone

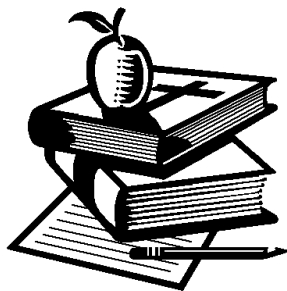
I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phones.

What if we —

- carried it around in our pockets?
- turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- flipped through it several times a day?
- used it to receive “text” messages?
- treated it like we couldn’t live without it?
- gave it to kids as gifts?
- used it as we traveled?
- used it in case of an emergency?
- upgraded it to get the latest version?

This is something to make you say, hmmm...where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don’t ever have to worry about our bible being disconnected, because Jesus already paid the bill!



## 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, tapes and compact discs 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

### FDCF Chapel Hours

2:30pm-4:00pm Wednesday  
1:00pm-2:00pm Friday  
2:30pm-4:00pm Friday

## Prized Possession

Paul said, “...whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...”

In the 1950’s, a man named Bill Rittinghouse was driving through Kansas. He was passed by a station wagon with a suitcase strapped to the roof. Suddenly, the suitcase fell off the car, and onto the shoulder of the road. Rittinghouse tried to catch the station wagon, but couldn’t.

He went back to retrieve the suitcase, and opened it, hoping to find some identification. He didn’t. But he did find amongst the clothing a small white box secured with a rubber band. In the box was a wad of cotton that cushioned a \$20 gold piece. On one side of the coin it said, “Twenty years of loyal and faithful service.” On the other was printed, “Presented to Otis Sampson by the Northwestern Portland Cement Company.

Sampson shouldn’t be too hard to find, Rittinghouse thought. But Rittinghouse was wrong. He contacted 75 different cities in the Pacific Northwest. Finally, he located the right company, and got Sampson’s phone number, and called him. Sampson was ecstatic, and said that he wanted only the gold piece. “It’s my most prized possession,” Sampson said. Rittinghouse sent the gold piece, along with a letter that told Sampson about Christ. “Jesus is my most prized possession,” Rittinghouse wrote. He was simply saying, “Jesus is my Lord.”

Would you have written a similar letter? Who is your Lord?

The apostle Paul was a man who was raised in Judaism, and had a superb education. He was considered a leader of the Jews, and was prominent among the Pharisees. As a Jew, his life couldn’t have been better. At the time, Paul thought of that lifestyle as being to his profit.

But then he wrote this: “whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish...” “Rubbish” is a very kind and gentle translation of the Greek word. The Greek literally means “dung.” Paul gave up everything for Christ because when he compared his life in Christ to his former life – well, there was no comparison. It was a no-brainer. Paul changed Lords. Before his life was his Lord, now, Jesus was his Lord. That’s why he talks about “the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus MY LORD.”

Oh, and remember the \$20 gold piece that Mr. Rittinghouse returned to Mr. Sampson? About a year later, Rittinghouse received a small box at Christmas. Inside was the same \$20 gold piece with a note. The note said this: “Last Sunday, my wife and I were baptized in a little church in Colorado. We are both old. I’m 74 and she’s 72. We want you to have the gold piece to carry with you. You were the first one to tell us about Jesus. Now He is our most prized possession, too.”

## In Shock

I was shocked, confused, bewildered  
as I entered Heaven’s door,  
Not by the beauty of it all,  
nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven  
who made me sputter and gasp-  
the thieves, the liars, the sinners,  
the alcoholics, the trash.  
There stood the kid from seventh grade  
who swiped my lunch money twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor  
who never said anything nice.  
Herb, who I always thought  
was rotting away in hell,  
was sitting pretty  
on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.  
I nudged Jesus, “What’s the deal?  
I would love to hear Your take.  
How’d all these sinners get up here?  
God must’ve made a mistake.  
“And why’s everyone so quiet,  
so somber? Give me a clue.”  
“Hush, child,” said He,  
“they’re all in shock.

No one thought they’d be seeing you.”

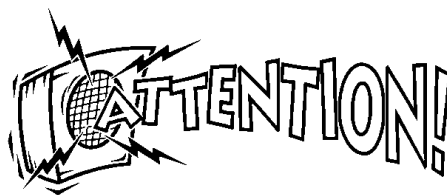
Judge NOT.

— Unknown

## Evidence and Proof

The dying Jesus is the evidence of God’s anger toward sin; but the living Jesus is the proof of God’s love and forgiveness.

— Lorenz Eifert



## 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.