

The Church of the Damascus Road

Echo!

Volume 9
Issue No. 10.3b
June 2007
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA



Moment by Moment

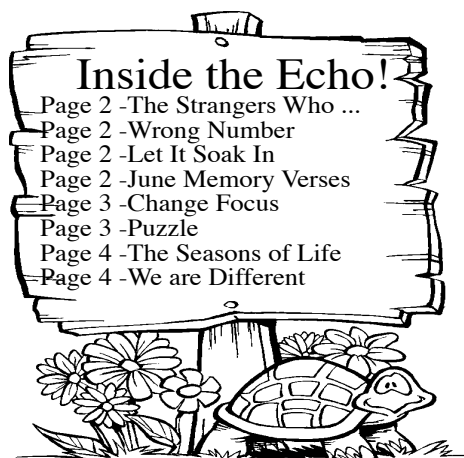
Happy moment.....Praise God
Difficult moment.....Seek God
Quiet moment.....Worship God
Painful moment.....Trust God
Every moment.....Thank God

*James 4:10
*1 Corinthians 2:5



I want to apologize for this issue of the Echo being as late as it is. We at FDCF had a Brothers in Blue weekend and two inmates, Tony Halsrud and I, who were preparing our Rollos. I intend to be back on track with the newsletters by July's issue. Thank you for your patience.

—Kyle McMenamin, Editor
FDCF Inside Church Council



When I Whine

Today, upon a bus,
I saw a girl with golden hair
I looked at her and sighed
And wished I was as fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave,
I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and used a crutch,
But as she passed, she passed a smile.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two legs, the world is mine.
I stopped to buy some candy
The lad who sold it had such charm
I talked with him a while,
He seemed so very glad
If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me,
"I thank you, you've been so kind.
It's nice to talk with folks like you.
You see," he said, "I'm blind."
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two eyes, the world is mine.
Later while walking down the street,
I saw a child with eyes of blue
He stood and watched the others play
He did not know what to do.
I stopped a moment and then I said,
"Why don't you join the others, dear?"
He looked ahead without a word.
And then I knew, he couldn't hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two ears, the world is mine.
With feet to take me where I'd go.
With eyes to see the sunset's glow.
With ears to hear what I would know.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine.
I've been blessed indeed,
The world is mine.

We have so much to be thankful for!
—Unknown

God is:

Eternal (no beginning or end) Ps 90:2
Gracious (measureless love) 1 Jn 4:8
Holy (sinless and opposed to sin) Lv 19:2
Immutable (unchanging) Mal 3:6
Just (fair, intent on making justice) Dt 32:4
Merciful (compassion overflowing) Ps 145:9
Omnipotent (unlimited power) Gen 17:1
Omnipresent (everywhere at once) Jer 23:24
Omniscient (knowing all) Jn 21:17

— Unknown

The Positive Side of Life

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.
If Wal-Mart is lowering prices every day how come nothing is free yet?
You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors....but they all exist very nicely in the same box.
A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

—Unknown

Control Fool

My life is in the hands of any fool who makes me lose my temper.

—Joseph Hunter



The Strangers Who Came to Stay

A few years before I was born, my dad met a stranger who was new to our town. From the beginning, dad was fascinated with this newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted. As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were only complementary instructors; mom taught me the word of God, and dad taught me to obey it. But the stranger? He knew everything. He became a good friend, even took my family to the first Major League baseball game!

The stranger never stopped talking, a real motor-mouth, but dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to her room and read her books. Dad ruled our household with certain moral conditions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home...not from us, our friends, or any visitors. But the stranger could cuss a blue streak. He would burn my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush, but they never tried to correct him. In a moral household like the one where we lived, he talked freely about sex, and his comments were sometimes embarrassing.

Even to this day I don't know why he got away with it. Perhaps it was because he did it slowly over time. In the beginning he just barely crossed the line. It pushed my parents buttons, but he somehow was still under their radar.

I know now that my early concepts about life were influenced by the stranger. Through him I learned how to treat the opposite sex and learned that what he said was "normal behavior." Time after time, our live-in visitor opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave!

More than fifty years has passed since the stranger moved in with our family. Through the years, dad stopped exercising and reading in favor of spending time with our friend. Even as he ages, our newest family member blends in with all of our friends and we have come to depend on him. He is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first, and on the same level, he knows this so he gets louder and louder, hoping to recapture our attention. Everyone complains, but our family and friends still feel compelled to sit with him. You know, if you were to walk into my parents den today, you would find him sitting there, waiting to talk and for someone to listen. I don't think he'll ever leave. His name? We just call him "TV." Now he has a sister; we call her "Internet."

—Unknown Author

Let It Soak In

Read each sentence slowly and think about it.

Love starts with a smile, grows with a kiss, and ends with a tear.

Don't cry over anyone who won't cry over you.

Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget.

Don't let the past hold you back, you're missing the good stuff.

Best Friends are the siblings God forgot to give us.

When it hurts to look back, and you're scared to look ahead, you can look beside you and your Best Friend will be there.

Nobody is perfect until you fall in love with them.

Remember, every minute spent angry is sixty seconds of happiness wasted.

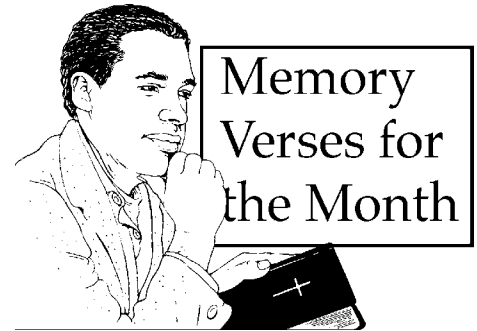
Wrong Number

On a Saturday night several weeks ago, this pastor was working late, and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10:00 PM, but his wife didn't answer the phone. The pastor let the phone ring many times. He thought it was odd that she didn't answer, but decided to wrap up a few things and try again in a few minutes. When he tried again she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that it hadn't rung at their house. They brushed it off as a fluke and went on their merry ways.

The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the phone that he'd used that Saturday night. The man that he spoke with wanted to know why he'd called on Saturday night. The pastor couldn't figure out what the man was talking about. Then the man said, "It rang and rang, but I didn't answer."

The pastor remembered the mishap and apologized for disturbing him, explaining that he'd intended to call his wife. The man said, "That's, OK. Let me tell you my story. You see, I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, 'God if you're there, and you don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.' At that point my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID, and it said, 'Almighty God'. I was afraid to answer!"

The reason why it showed on the man's caller ID that the call came from "Almighty God" is because the church that the pastor attends is called Almighty God Tabernacle!!



Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture (Psalm 37:3). And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins (Mark 11:25).

Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you (Proverbs 20:22).

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and in depth of insight (Philippians 1:9).



JUNE 17, 2007

What Does It Take To Get Into Heaven?

A person may go to heaven without wealth, without beauty, without learning, without fame, without culture, without friends; but no one can go to heaven without Christ.

—The Tract League

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Issue 10.3b June 2007

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

Change Focus

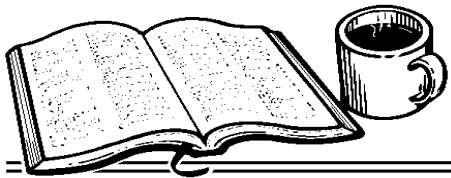
Don't always focus on the things in life that are certain. Look at the world of possibilities and the opportunities of changing your ways to become a better person for society.

—John Bell FDCF 2007

A Little Wisdom

We are all spiritual beings having a human experience.

—Dr. Vernon Barksdale



New Translation

Some people in Tennessee have trouble with all those "shalts" and "shalt nots" in the in the Ten commandments. Folks just aren't used to talking in those terms, so some folks in middle Tennessee got together and translated the "King James" into "Jackson County" language.

The Hillbilly's Ten Commandments

(posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Gainesboro, TN.)

- (1) Put nothin' before God.
- (2) Just one God.
- (3) Watch yer mouth.
- (4) Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
- (5) Honor yer Ma & Pa.
- (6) No killin'.
- (7) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal.
- (8) Don't take what ain't yers.
- (9) No tellin' tales or gossipin'.
- (10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff.

Now that's kinda plain an' simple, don't ya think? Y'all have a nice day, now, y'hear?

—Ray Kerley



Psalm 98



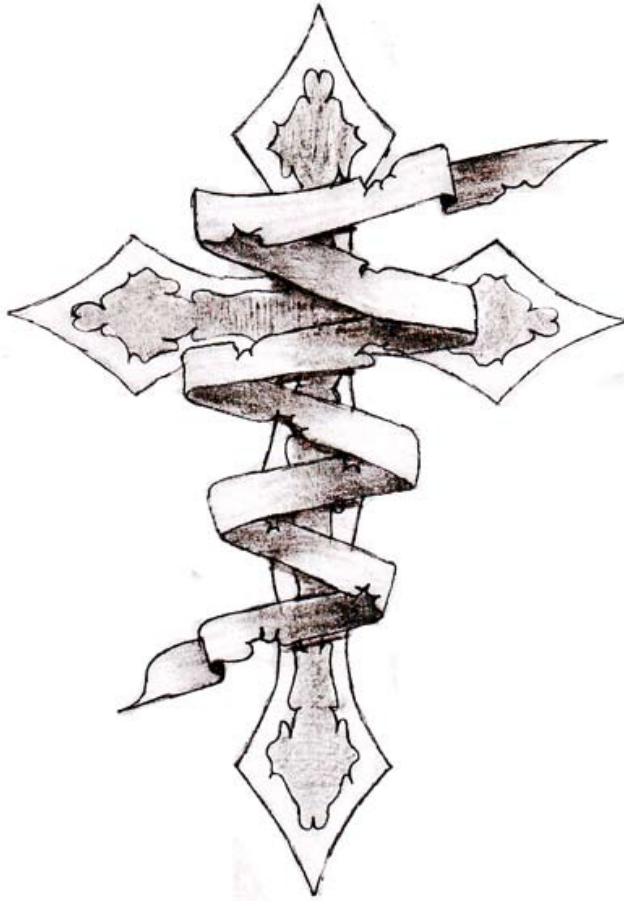
It's summertime: The earth is blooming, school's out, vacations are here, time to enjoy the world around you!

Find these happy verses from Psalm 98. Use the code to fill the blanks.

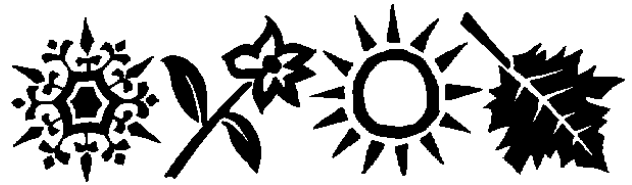
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" _____ to the _____
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"Sing to the Lord a new song! Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth! Burst into jubilant song with music! Make music to the Lord with the harp! Shout for joy before the Lord the King! Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy!"



Richard Deubel FDCF 2007



The Seasons of Life

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly, so he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away. The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall. When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen. The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted. The second son said no, it was covered with green buds and full of promise. The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen. The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment. The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life. He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up. If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfillment of your fall.

Moral: Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest. Don't judge life by one difficult season. Persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come some time or later.

In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9

Just a thought

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.



Thank you to all who helped with the setup and tear down of the gym during Brothers in Blue. It was greatly appreciated by all.

— Tony Halsrud, President
— Kyle McMenamin, Vice President
FDCF Inside Church Council



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.



Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge

7:00pm Wednesdays Holy Communion
6:30pm Fridays Prayer & Bible Study

FDCF Chapel Hours

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

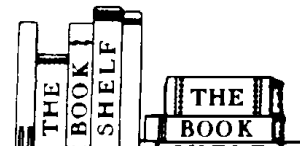
NCCF Rockwell City

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

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, 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)



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!