

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 10
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August 2007
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

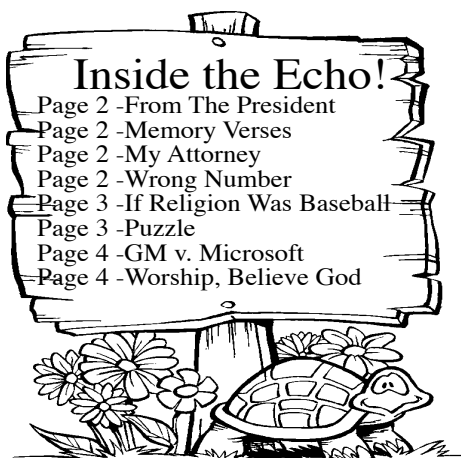
Everyday

Everyday I sit and pray
And thank the Lord
For blessing me with one more day
I thank the Lord for giving me a new start
Since I've accepted him into my heart
When I call upon the Lord
I ask him to help me use his sword
So that I can tell others about my life
And how you change through Jesus Christ.
—Paul Wagner, FDCF 2007

Bible Character Songs

Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"
Adam and Eve: "Strangers in Paradise"
Lazarus: "The Second Time Around"
Esther: "I Feel Pretty"
Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"
Moses: "The Wanderer"
Jezebel: "The Lady is a Tramp"
Samson: "Hair"
Salome: "I Could Have Danced All Night"
Daniel: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"
Joshua: "Good Vibrations"
Peter: "I'm Sorry"
Esau: "Born To Be Wild"
Jeremiah: "Take This Job and Shove It"
Meshach, Shadrach, & Abednego: "Great Balls of Fire!"
The Three Kings: "When You Wish Upon a Star"
Jonah: "Got a Whale of a Tale"
Elijah: "Up, Up, and Away"
Methuselah: "Stayin' Alive"
Nebuchadnezzar: "Crazy"

— Ray Kerley



Heaven's Door

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
By 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 the angel, "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 see you."
— Ray Kerley



Totally Complete

The love and courage to create.
By far is truly great.
But even more so when,
I consider my own fate.
Like a statue of beauty,
Your image will be.
Because no one comes
close in comparison,
In the way you are made.
And your image and beauty,
Forever will stand.
So the world may see
As I stand proud and grateful,
That God made you,
Beautiful just for me.
And through the course
of divine creative labor,
God has made you totally complete.
Written by: T. Rada, FDCF

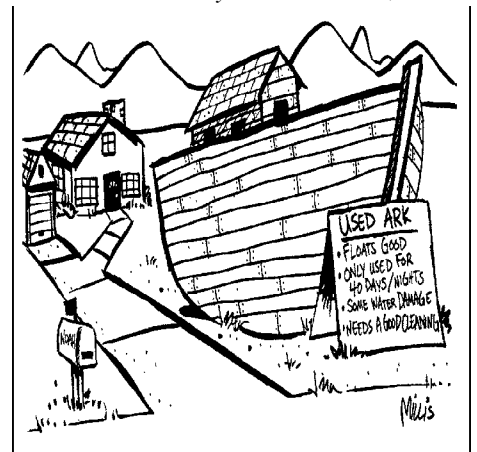
As We Mature

Once you have faith and believe
That's when you develop a mustard seed
Lets the roots continue to grow
Beneath the surface deep below
There will be weeds all around
Contemplating to drag you down
Let the weeds wither away
As the sun shines throughout the day
Stand tall and sprout on out
Don't fall or have a doubt
You may stumble but that's ok
You will be humble if you pray
The grace to forgive sets me free
This life I live, a gift given to me
If you let the Lord come on in
A new life will begin
—Nathan D. McLaughlin FDCF



The Editor of this publication would like to invite any and all people to submit personal testimonies and other original works for publication in this newsletter. Items should be original and unpublished, or if published before, have the source named. Original artwork is also welcome from anyone. Thank you for your contributions in advance.

— Kyle McMenamin, Editor



My Attorney

After living what I felt was a “decent” life, my time on earth came to the end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a courthouse. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table.

The corner door flew open and there appeared the Judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room. I couldn’t take my eyes off of Him. As He took His seat behind the bench, He said, “Let us begin.”

The prosecutor rose and said, “My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell.” He proceeded to tell of lies I told, things I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed, I couldn’t look at anyone, even my own Attorney, as the Devil told of sins even I completely forgotten about. As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at My Attorney who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all. I know I was guilty of those things, but I did some good in my life - couldn’t that at least equal out part of the harm I’d done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, “This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise.”

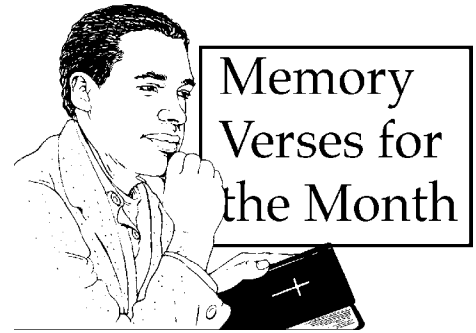
When it was His turn, My Attorney first asked if He might approach the bench. The Judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned Him to come forward. As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him in His full splendor and majesty. I realized why He seemed so familiar; this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior.

He stopped at the bench and softly said to the Judge, “Hello Father,” then He turned to address the court. “Satan was correct in saying this man sinned, I won’t deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wage of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished.”

Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, “However, I died on the cross so this person might have eternal life and he accepted Me as his Savior, so he is Mine.” My Lord continued with, “His name is written in the Book of Life and no one can snatch him from Me. Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy.”

As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His Father and said, “There is nothing else that needs to be done. I’ve done it all.” The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips... “This man is free. The penalty for him was already paid in full. Case dismissed” As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and raving, “I won’t give up, I will win the next one.”

I asked Jesus as He gave me my instructions where to go next, “Have you ever lost a case?” Christ lovingly smiled and said, “Everyone that comes to Me and asked Me to represent them, received the same verdict as you, “PAID IN FULL.”



Memory Verses for the Month

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight
(Proverbs 3:6).

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us
(Psalm 103:12).

I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me
(Jeremiah 33:8).

From six calamities he will rescue you; in seven no harm will befall you
(Job 5:19).

FROM THE PRESIDENT FOC Inside Church Council President

Encouragement-

Remember these scriptures:

Philippians 4:13- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

John 15:5- “....Apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 16:33- “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Proverbs 27:17- “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

Jeremiah 33:3- “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”

As fellow Christians it is our job to help to keep each other uplifted and encouraged. Let us remember this in the month of August and try to keep our brothers and sisters in Christ encouraged.

—Tony Halsrud



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!!

The Church of the Damascus Road
Echo!

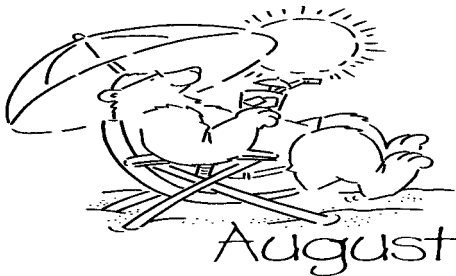
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An official publication of The Church of the Damascus Road, a Christian Community of Reconciliation, serving the inmate population of the correctional facilities at Rockwell City and Fort Dodge, Iowa.
Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor
Kyle W. McMenamin, Editor

If Religion Was Baseball

Calvinists would believe the game is fixed.
 Lutherans believe they can't win, but trust the Scorekeeper.
 Quakers wouldn't swing.
 Unitarians can catch anything that is pitched.
 Amish would walk a lot.
 Jews would only walk on the sabbath.
 Pagans would sacrifice.
 Jehovah's Witnesses would be thrown out often.
 Televangelists would get caught stealing.
 Episcopalians would pass the plate.
 Evangelicals would make wild pitches.
 Fundamentalists would balk.
 Mormons would keep all the records.
 Dunkers are down by three.
 Adventists would have a seventh-inning stretch.
 Atheists would reject any umpire's decision.
 Baptists would like to play hardball.
 Premillennialists expect the game to be called soon on account of darkness.
 Catholics would claim never to have committed an error.
 While their priests were sent down to the minors.
 Scientologists would clear the bases.
 Buddhists will blame it on bad Karma.
 Muslims would be on a long losing streak.
 And, Agnostics would refuse to play by any rules.

—Ray Kerley



This Month's Thought

Never to judge rashly; never to interpret the actions of others in an ill-sense, but have compassion for their infirmities, bear their burdens, excuse their weaknesses, and make up for their defects — to hate their imperfections, but love themselves, this is the true spirit of charity.

—Nicolas Caussin

This Month's Verse

Lord, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke. Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:15-16 KJV



“Take a Vacation”

Use your imagination to plan a great “Bible Lands” vacation. Use the code to find the names of these Biblical places. Look up the verses to find out about each place.

CODE:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
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(Matthew 26:36)

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(Genesis 2:15)

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(Matthew 4:18)

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(Matthew 3:13)

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(Exodus 19:20)

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(John 4:6)

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(Acts 18:2)

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(Genesis 11:5-9)

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(Daniel 6:16)

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(Exodus 16:1)

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Garden of Gethsemane, Garden of Eden, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Mount Sinai, Jacobs Well, Rome, Tower of Babel, Lions' Den, Wilderness

GM v. Microsoft

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on. At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon".

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating:

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive, - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed an Illegal Operation" warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced, car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

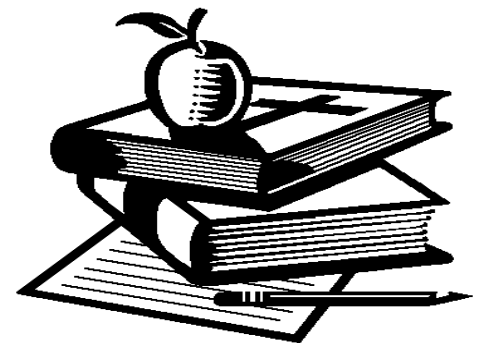
—Sema Virrueta



Worship, Believe God

Fellow brothers of Rockwell and FDCF, who serve on the council, and attend the Church of Damascus Road services. Have you found what you came for, the love of our Lord? The faith to believe in Him? Pray always before you go to bed, ask for forgiveness. Love Him always as He has loved you. A brother like you in Christ has something that many people on the outside wish they had more of – time. Everything seems to go slower and slower. The clock has stopped. That is serving time the hard way. But a person can use time a better way. I, a former church council member of the inside council, use my time to know Jesus Christ better. I thought my life was coming to an end, but it is just only beginning. Jesus my Lord brought me to my knees, and finally, I look at Him and declared my life to Him. I ask for His help, His strength, His forgiveness, and His will. He gave me a lot and so much more. I also thank Pastor Lang and Judy Lang for helping to stay on the path to His light. It is a blessing that they taught me so much. Thank you and may Jesus love you always.

—Ryan A Lingford, FDCF 2004



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!



"Glad to hear you enjoyed your vacation. Here's a list of the problems that came up while you were gone two weeks."

IF ONE SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMER DROWNS, DO THEY ALL DROWN?



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



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.