

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

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Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA



A Spiritual Message

My dear brothers in Christ, as we begin to see the days pass us by we begin to understand the importance of time. For I know I have no control over when I'm released from this place, so I must make this a proverb of an experience.

So, my brothers, I tell you this: if you find yourself reading this message it is merely because you were drawn by God's grace. It is indeed no accident that you are where you are and doing what you are doing, for God has given us these successions of moments for significant reasoning.

We are created in the likeness of God so that we may bring pleasure to Him. By all means, we are created uniquely and specially in a way that we can bring this spiritual message of God's eternal life. Unfortunately, it takes hard work and courage to be part of God's family, and so we have to go through some things so far as we listen to God. When you devote your entire life to God, He will allow you to live in safety when you obey His commands (Proverbs 1:33).

I find that when I read God's word, that then am I enabled to live in peace with myself and others.

May the Lord bless and keep you forever, but understand that you can only keep what you have by giving it away. Listen to the Lord and he will lead you always. Learn to love the unloved and understand the misunderstood. We can do all things through Christ who gives us the strength. And hold these things in your heart and never give in to the Devil's schemes (James 4:7-8). May peace and prosperity be with you. Amen

Your brother in Christ,

—Joey Vazquez FDCF 2007

Living a Christian Life

I don't know about you, but before I had accepted Christ into my life I was curious about what it took to be a Christian (if there were certain qualifications or what). So, I asked a minister, that I knew, and he told me "it is very simple that all you need to do is accept Christ into your life and live a Christian lifestyle."

That didn't sound all that simple to me. The first part wasn't too hard to do because all I needed to do (and did) was accept that Christ died on a cross for you, and me so that we can live eternally in Heaven. The only thing that caught me up here was: what if I committed the "unpardonable sin" talked about in Matthew, which was blasphemy (but that was before Jesus died on the cross, now the only "unpardonable sin" is not believing at all). All in all though it was the second part to what the minister told me that intimidated me the most.

The reasons this intimidated me were because: how exactly do I live a Christian lifestyle? Am I to go to church every Sunday? What is the proper way to pray? I decided the Bible would be the best place to find all the answers to my questions.

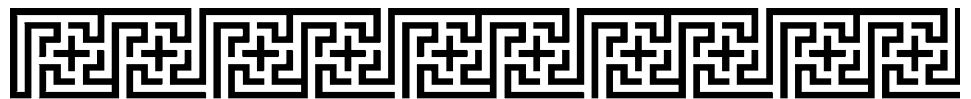
From my studies recently, this is how I feel is the best way to live a Christian life. First off, try to live your life the best you can by the Ten Commandments. This really isn't too hard if you break them down into five basic rules. The Golden Rule is a good start (treat others how you would like to be treated), which takes care of: Not committing murder, or adultery; and not lying or stealing (that's 40% of the Commandments). You should treat your parents with respect, also be thankful for what you have and don't worry about what you don't. You do not have to give up worldly or material things, but do everything in moderation compared to the time you take to indulge in the Lord (prayer and worship). If you spend more

time on any one thing, more than you do with the Lord that becomes a false idol. Also, respect the Sabbath day (that doesn't mean to go to church, but if you don't spend the day in rest and worshiping the Lord). Accept that I am your Lord the Father of Jesus Christ (God), and do not use my son's name or mine in vain.

For the answer to how prayer is to be done, I feel I found the best answer in Matthew chapter 6 and here is what it says: "When you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who can't be seen (He will reward you for what is done in secret).⁷ When you pray, do not keep talking on and on like the ungodly people do, they think they will be heard for talking a lot.⁸ Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask Him.⁹ This is how you should pray; Our Father in Heaven, May your name be honored.¹⁰ May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.¹² Forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who sinned against us.¹³ Keep us from falling into sin when tempted. Save us from the evil one". AMEN.

One last thing to help you become a better Christian; the Bible says if you confess you know Jesus in front of others, that Jesus in return will say in front of His Father that He knows you. But, if you say in front of others you don't know Jesus, he will say in front of His Father in Heaven that He doesn't know you (Matthew 10:32-33). You are to share your knowledge with others (give testimonies of what Jesus has done in your life). That's why I chose to write this, for a believer/ non-believer who is in need of some guidance in their life. I hope this helps some one out there. Especially, if it brings another believer to our team (God's team).

— Jordan Voshell-Farrenkopf



Attention Members:

I encourage all of you to submit articles to the Flash, and Echo for us all to read. It's good to hear personal testimonies of how God has inspired you. Let us know what's on your minds, and in your hearts.

—Tony Halsrud FDCF

Inside the Echo!

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Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?

BARACK OBAMA: The chicken crossed the road because it was time for a change! The chicken wanted change!

JOHN MCCAIN: My friends, that chicken crossed the road because he recognized the need to engage in cooperation and dialogue with all the chickens on the other side of the road.

HILLARY CLINTON: When I was First Lady, I personally helped that little chicken to cross the road. This experience makes me uniquely qualified to ensure right from Day One! that every chicken in this country gets the chance it deserves to cross the road. But then, this really isn't about me.

GEORGE W. BUSH: We don't really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on our side of the road, or not. The chicken is either against us, or for us. There is no middle ground here.

DICK CHENEY: Where's my gun?

COLIN POWELL: Now to the left of the screen, you can clearly see the satellite image of the chicken crossing the road.

BILL CLINTON: I did not cross the road with that chicken. What is your definition of chicken?

AL GORE: I invented the chicken.

JOHN KERRY: Although I voted to let the chicken cross the road, I am now against it! It was the wrong road to cross, and I was misled about the chicken's intentions. I am not for it now, and will remain against it.

AL SHARPTON: Why are all the chickens white? We need some black chickens.

DR. PHIL: The problem we have here is that this chicken won't realize that he must first deal with the problem on this side of the road before it goes after the problem on the other side of the road. What we need to do is help him realize how stupid he's acting by not taking on his current problems before adding new problems.

OPRAH: Well, I understand that the chicken is having problems, which is why he wants to cross this road so bad. So instead of having the chicken learn from his mistakes and take falls, which is a part of life, I'm going to give this chicken a car so that he can just drive across the road and not live his life like the rest of the chickens.

ANDERSON COOPER, CNN: We have reason to believe there is a chicken, but we have not yet been allowed to have access to the other side of the road.

NANCY GRACE: That chicken crossed the road because he's guilty! You can see it in his eyes and the way he walks.

PAT BUCHANAN: To steal the job of a decent, hardworking American.

MARTHA STEWART: No one called me to warn me which way that chicken was going. I had a standing order at the Farmer's Market to sell my eggs when the price dropped to a certain level. No little bird gave me any insider information.

DR SEUSS: Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes, the chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed I've not been told.

ERNEST HEMINGWAY: To die in the rain, alone.

JERRY FALWELL: Because the chicken was gay! Can't you people see the plain truth? That's why they call it the other side. Yes, my friends, that chicken is gay. And if you eat that chicken, you will become gay, too. I say we boycott all chickens until we sort out this abomination that the liberal media whitewashes with seemingly harmless phrases like the other side. That chicken should not be crossing the road. It's as plain and as simple as that.

GRANDPA: In my day we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Somebody told us the chicken crossed the road, and that was good enough.

BARBARA WALTERS: Isn't that interesting? In a few moments, we will be listening to the chicken tell, for the first time, the heart warming story of how it experienced a serious case of molting, and went on to accomplish its lifelong dream of crossing the road.

ARISTOTLE: It is the nature of chickens to cross the road.

JOHN LENNON: Imagine all the chickens in the world crossing roads together, in peace.

BILL GATES: I have just released eChicken 2008, which will not only cross roads, but will lay eggs, file your important documents, and balance your check-book. Internet Explorer is an integral part of eChicken 2008. This new platform is much more stable and will never crash or need to be rebooted.

ALBERT EINSTEIN: Did the chicken really cross the road, or did the road move beneath the chicken?

COLONEL SANDERS: Did I miss one?

Dare to Be Faithful

Dare to be faithful to your children,
Faithful in all that you do;
Think how they watch your efforts,
Loving and caring for you.

You have been over the pathway,
So you'll know their struggles and fears;
Dare to be faithful to your children,
They keep account of your tears.

Dare to be faithful to yourself,
Faithful when pleasures surround;
Bravely displaying your colors,
Never deserting your ground.
Faithfulness shines in your eyes,
Bright as the fairest success;
Dare to be faithful to yourself,
Trusting that you will be blessed.

Dare to be faithful to your family,
Tho' darkness shadow your way;
Fear not, for your family is with you,
Faithfully serve them each day.
Dare to say "No!" to temptations,
Dare to withstand every foe;
Clad in your family honor,
Forth into victory go.

—Robert Ciaravino FDCF 2007



Praise

Play the Music
Read the Hymns
And tell God
In your own way
Singing is for Him
Enjoy the glory of the Lord!
— Kyle McMenamin

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.
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Chad Bechtel, Editor
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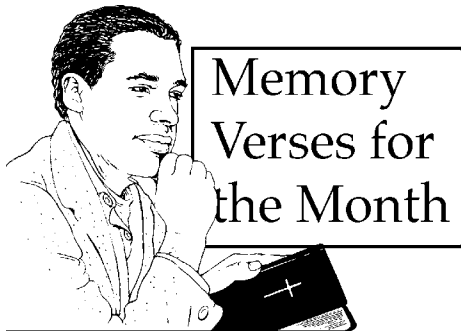
Your Favorite Scripture

Do you have a favorite scripture verse or verses in the Bible? Tell us what the Word of God means to you and where it is in the Bible. We will publish it in our newsletter each month. We all need encouragement every single day of our lives. We may never know how one single word from someone can affect us until we meet Jesus Christ and all is revealed. Is your daily goal to please Him? We need to abide in His word so that He will abide in us. And we will see God through our actions.

We must be able to "talk the talk" if we are trying to "walk the walk."

Give your scripture references to Pastor Lang or any Inside Church Council member.

—Tony Halsrud FDCF



But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life (John 4:14).

The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously (Psalm 37:21).

Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the Lord your God (Leviticus 25:17).

Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice (Proverbs 16:8).



Story Tellers

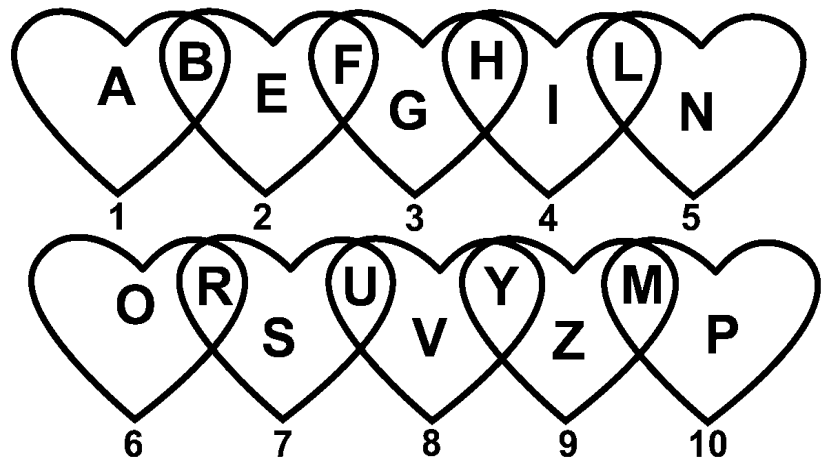
Story Tellers is the third Friday of every month at FDCF and the third Saturday at NCCF unless a scheduling problem arises. You can read a book to your child on tape, and then send the book and audio cassette tape home for your child to listen to you read to them, and read along with you. The tape, and book are free to you. You just pay regular mail home to your child, or, at FDCF, you can send them out on a visit like regular property through R&D. Sign up with Pastor Lang, or at our regular worship service, or with any Inside Church Council member.



THE SECOND GREAT Commandment

In the Gospels, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37, NIV).

Do you remember what the second great commandment is? Use the code below to discover it.



“L
 4,5 6 8 2 8,9 6 7,8 6,7
 5 2 4 3 3,4 1,2 6 6,7
 1 7
 8,9 6 7,8 6,7 7 2 4,5 2,3
 ”

Matthew 22:39, NIV

Answer: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The Mouse Trap

A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. The mouse wondered - what food might this contain? He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow and said, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house -- like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The



snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember -- when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. Justice will only be achieved when those who are not injured by crime or injustice are as indignant as those who are.

We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another. Remember, each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry; our lives are woven together for a reason. The best things to hold onto in this world are family and friends.

— Source Unknown

My Lord

Sacrificed His Son
And lives forever more
Valiant is He

In my heart He lives
On my mind He stays
Redeemer, my Lord

— Kyle McMenamin FDCF 2006

Excuses

Why did only one cleansed leper return to thank Jesus? (Luke 17:12-19) The following are nine suggested reasons why the nine did not return:

- One waited to see if the cure was real.
- One waited to see if it would last.
- One said he would see Jesus later.
- One decided that he had never had leprosy.
- One said I'd have gotten well anyway.
- One gave the glory to the priests.
- One said, "O, well, Jesus didn't really do anything."
- One said, "Any rabbi could have done it."
- One said, "I was already much improved."

—The NEWSLETTER Newsletter, June, 1990.

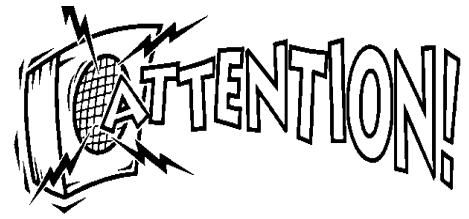
CONTROL?

No Matter Who Wins

Top 10 predictions no matter who wins the election:

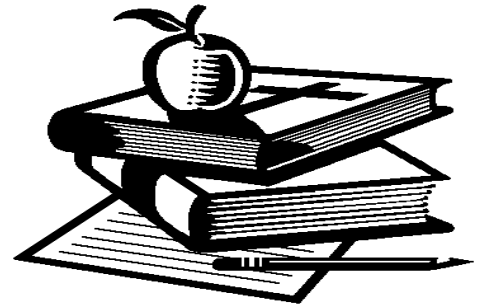
1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to know who is really in control?



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. Give all your newsletter submissions to Pastor Lang.



Check Them Out!

The Church of the Damascus Road Librarians are inviting you to come to the chapel (MPR 23 in FDCF H Building; Treatment Center Room A in NCCF), 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 WednesdaysHoly Communion
6:30pm Fridays Prayer & Bible Study

FDCF Chapel Hours

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

NCCF Rockwell City

6:30pm Tuesdays Prayer & Bible Study
6:30pm ThursdaysHoly Communion