

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 13
Issue No. 4b
August 2010

Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

Bring Them In

Increasing Summer Attendance in Church:

10. Have your preacher preach from a Dunk Tank!
9. Offer free samples of "Hellfire and Brimstone" BBQ sauce to every new visitor.
8. Add a slide to your baptistery and advertise the church as a water park!
7. Offer a free tank of gas for every five sermons heard!
6. Convert your parking lot into an RV Campground!
5. Convert the sanctuary aisles into putting greens!
4. Replace your church sign with one that reads: "Tourist Information"!
3. Have deacons dress up in animal costumes and open a petting zoo!
2. Put up roadblocks and tell people there's a manhunt going on!
And the number one way to boost church attendance during the summer is:
 1. Be there yourself!

Beatitude

Brothers in Blue, Bibles new,
Begin new.

Brothers in Blue, Brothers Beatitude,
Beatitude knew.

Breaking Bread, my Brothers knew,
Body Beatitude.

Bread and wine, my Brothers knew,
Blood Beatitude.

Brothers in Blue, Baptized knew,
Brothers Beatitude.

Brothers in Blue, I became new,
New Beatitude.
Cowboy

Beatitude — a literary form, which consists in proclaiming the happiness of a person or category of persons by using the fixed formula, "Blessed are they who...", followed by the specification of the motive or circumstance which entitled the person to be called "blessed."

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The Perspective of Life

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing we have, especially our friends! This is about refreshing our perspective and appreciation. Learn to accept and appreciate the small things and the small blessings in our lives.

—Shared by José Raul Acosta Abadia



Your Path

There is a point to us being here. So, what is your purpose in life? Many of us pray over and over about our path, the path our Lord wants us to follow. Maybe the Lord hasn't opened a door for your true calling yet, don't worry, he will. You might be sitting here thinking, "The Lord has already told me what he wants me to do, but I just can't do it right now." The Lord might have told you what he wants you to do so that you start preparing now, but he hasn't opened the door because you're not ready.

Now, you might be sitting there thinking, "Well, I'm ready, but the door still isn't open." Let's think about this: okay, you're ready, but maybe the people that are going to be through your door when you walk through it aren't ready, yet. There's more than yourself that has to be ready.

I imagine it this way: your door opens now after you walk through it. Stop and look around and listen. You will see other people and you will hear the things that they had to do to get to that exact moment. It's not a coincidence that the people you meet when you walk through that door are there. The Lord is never early, but he is also never late. He will open the door when everyone that is involved is ready. So be patient. Don't give up if you know what path the Lord wants you to walk down, what your calling is. Just be patient, because maybe the person that needs to be there hasn't arrived, yet. Also, if you don't know your calling, yet, the good Lord hasn't told you or showed you, it's okay, you must be patient also, for the Lord will show you when the time is right and remember that there are people that you might not even have met yet that are waiting patiently for you to get to your door, and when you all go through your doors when the time comes, give the glory to God, 'cause he's the one who deserves it.

—Jon Ellingson, FDCF

Comments from 1955

(That's only 55 years ago!)

- 'I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible To buy a week's groceries for \$20.00.
- 'Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$2,000.00 will only buy a used one.
- 'If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.
- 'Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?
- 'If they raise the minimum wage to \$1.00, Nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.
- 'When I first started driving, Who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon.. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage.
- 'I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying, "damn" in *Gone With the Wind*, it seems every new movie has either "hell" or "damn" in it.
- 'I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century'. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas.
- 'Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President.
- 'I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric'. They are even making electric typewriters now.
- 'It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet'.
- 'It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone To watch their kids so they can both work.
- 'I'm afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.
- 'Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to congress.
- 'The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, But I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.
- 'There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha anymore for a weekend, It costs nearly \$15.00 a night to stay in a hotel.
- 'No one can afford to be sick anymore, At \$35.00 a day in the hospital it's too rich for my blood.'
- 'If they think I'll pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it.'

Were they really the "Good Old Days"?



Psalm 23 Applied

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?'

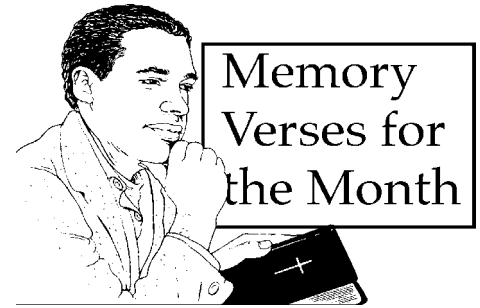
Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.'

The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?' 'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.'

'Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

—Source Unknown



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).



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 Stone, or at our regular worship service, or with any Inside Church Council member.

Just Some Thoughts

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case. You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

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

Issue 13.4b August 2010

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. Paul E. Stone, Pastor
Rev. Carroll Lang, Editor

Don't Do Nothing

Fred Somebody, Thomas Everybody, Peter Anybody and Joe Nobody were neighbors, but they were not like you and me. They were odd people and most difficult to understand. The way they lived was a shame.

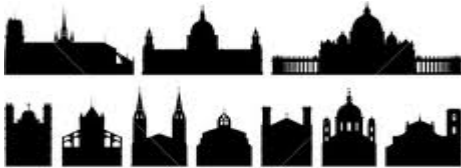
All four belonged to the same church, but you would not have enjoyed worshiping with them. Everybody went fishing on Sunday or stayed home to visit friends. Anybody wanted to worship but was afraid Somebody wouldn't speak to him. So guess who went to church — uh huh, Nobody.

Really, Nobody was the only decent one of the four. Nobody did the visitation. Nobody worked on the church building.

Once they needed a Sunday school teacher. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, and Anybody thought Somebody would do it. And you know who did it? That's exactly right...Nobody!

It happened that a fifth neighbor (an unbeliever) moved into the area. Everybody thought Somebody should try to win him for Christ. Anybody could have made an effort. You probably know who finally won him: Nobody!

—Faith Prayer & Tract League



Wrong Church?

The Top Ten Ways You Know You Visited the Wrong Church on Summer Vacation:

- 10) The sanctuary has only "entrances," no "exits"!
- 9) The offering plate is passed three times and the sermon hasn't even begun yet.
- 8) The ushers look mysteriously like "Men in Black"!
- 7) The people in the pew next to you brought a sack lunch.
- 6) The bulletin had advertisements for **The Guns and Guts Tavern** with the **Sunday Road Kill Buffet!**
- 5) The acolyte is the youngest member of the congregation, and she is 78.
- 4) The pastor's sermon begins: "Let me tell you about my book."
- 3) The pastor announces that the liturgy will be sung to the tune of either: "Wagner's Etude in F sharp minor" and raises his baton; OR "Jesus is a friend just like my pickup and hound dog."
- 2) The pastor announces that the sanctuary is too warm for robes and removes hers, and she is wearing a halter-top and hot pants.
- 1) When the choir sings, the dogs outside begin to howl, and they sound better!

Have a funny rest of the summer.



THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus knew that people would starve without physical bread to eat and water to drink. But he also knew they would die spiritually if they weren't fed by him.

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV) and write the Bible verse on the dashes.

JOHN 6:35

WORD LIST

am and be believes
 bread comes I in
 he hungry go He
 life me me never
 to never the of will
 who will thirsty who

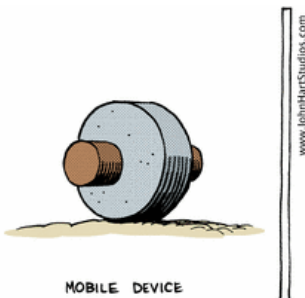
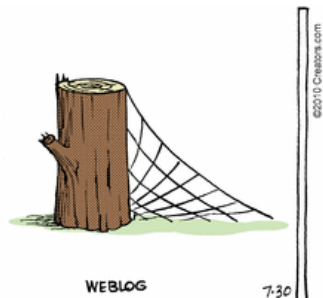
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“ _____ ”

 _____ ”

Answer: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35, NIV

B. C. BY HART



Moses and Computers

Moses: "Excuse me, Sir."
 God: "Is that you again, Moses?"
 M: "I'm afraid it is, sir."
 G: "What is it this time, Moses, more computer problems?"
 M: "How did you guess?"
 G: "I don't have to guess, Moses, remember?"
 M: "Oh, yeah, I forgot."
 G: "Tell me what you want, Moses."
 M: "But you already know. Remember?"
 G: "Moses!"
 M: "Sorry, sir."
 G: "Well, go ahead, Moses. Spit it out."
 M: "Well, I have a question, sir. You know those 'ten things' you sent me?"
 G: "You mean the Commandments, Moses?"
 M: "That's it. I was wondering if they were important."
 G: "What do you mean 'were important', Moses? Of course, they're important. Otherwise I wouldn't have sent them to you."
 M: "Well, sorry, but I lost them. I could say the dog ate them, but of course you would see right through that."
 G: "What do you mean 'you lost them'? Are you trying to tell me you didn't save them, Moses?"
 M: "No, sir, I forgot."
 G: "You should always save, Moses."
 M: "Yeah, I know. You told me that before. I was going to, but I forgot. I did send them to some people before I lost them though."
 G: "And did you hear back from any of them?"
 M: "You already know I did. What about the one guy who said he never uses 'shalt not'? Can he change the words a little bit?"
 G: "Yes, Moses. As long as he doesn't change the meaning."
 M: "And what about the guy who thought your stance was a little harsh, and recommended calling them the 'Ten Suggestions,' or letting people pick one or two to try for a while?"
 G: "Moses, I'll act like I didn't hear that."
 M: "I think that means 'no.' Well, what about the guy who said I was scamming him?"
 G: "I think the term is 'spamming,' Moses."
 M: "Oh, yeah. I e-mailed him back and told him I don't even eat that stuff, and I have

no idea how you can send it to someone through a computer."
 G: "And what did he say?"
 M: "You know what he said. He used your name in vain. You don't think he might have sent me one of those - er- plagues and that's the reason I lost those ten things, do you?"
 G: "They're called 'viruses,' Moses."
 M: "Whatever! This computer stuff is just too much for me. Can we just go back to those stone tablets? It was hard on my back taking them out and reading them each day, but least I never lost them."
 G: "We'll do it the new way, Moses."
 M: "I was afraid you would say that, sir."
 G: "Moses, what did I tell you to do if you messed up?"
 M: "You told me to hold up this rat and stretch it out toward the computer."
 G: "It's a mouse, Moses, Mouse! Mouse! And did you do that?"
 M: "No, I decided to try the technical support first. After all, who knows more about this stuff than you, and I really like your hours. By the way, sir, did Noah have two of these mice on the ark?"
 G: "No, Moses."
 M: "One other thing. Why didn't you name them 'frogs' instead of 'mice,' because didn't you tell me the thing they sit on is a pad?"
 G: "I didn't name them, Moses. Man did, and you can call yours a frog if you want to."
 M: "Oh, that explains it. Kind of like Adam, huh, sir? Bet some woman told him to call it a mouse. After all, wasn't it a woman who named one of the computers Apple?"
 G: "Say good night, Moses."
 M: "Wait a minute, sir. I am stretching out the mouse, and it seems to be working. Yes, a couple of the 'ten things' have come back."
 G: "Which ones are they, Moses?"
 M: "Let's see. 'Thou shalt not steal from any grave an image' and 'Thou shalt not uncover thy neighbor's wife.'"
 G: "Turn the computer off, Moses."



Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge
 6:30pm WednesdaysHoly Communion
 6:30pm Fridays Prayer & Bible Study

Pastor Contact Hours
 2:00pm - Count Wednesday
 2:00pm - Count Friday

NCCF Rockwell City
 6:30pm Tuesdays Prayer & Bible Study
 6:30pm ThursdaysHoly Communion

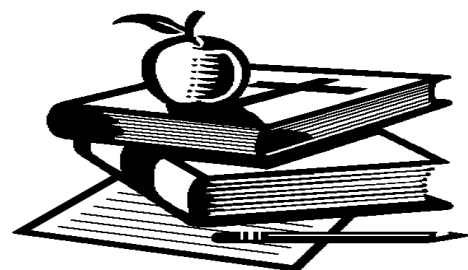
Pastor Contact Hours
 2:00pm - Count Tuesday
 2:00pm - Count Thursday

Just Some Thoughts

God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?
 We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or Judges.
 God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.



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 Stone.



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!