

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 4
Issue No. 3a
May 2001
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

When I Say...

When I say..."I am a Christian,"
I'm not shouting, "I am saved!"
I'm whispering, "I was lost!"
That is why I chose this way.

When I say..."I am a Christian,"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and
Need someone to be my guide.

When I say..."I am a Christian,"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak and
Pray for strength to carry on.

When I say..."I am a Christian,"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I've failed and
Cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say..."I am a Christian,"
I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are too visible,
But God Believes I'm worth it.

When I say..."I am a Christian,"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches,
Which is why I seek his name.

When I say..."I am a Christian,"
I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority.
I only know I am loved!

*From The Grace Visitor Newsletter
Grace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge*

Inside the Echo

Page 2 - 20 Things that took 50 years..
Page 2 - Do I pray?
Page 3 - Right Now, Somebody
Page 3 - Just for Fun!
Page 4 - Adages
Page 4 - My Answers
Page 4 - Memorial and Mother's Day



A Meaningful Prayer

When Mister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your word says, "Woe to those who call evil good" but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We confess that:
We have ridiculed the absolute truth of your Word and called it pluralism;
We have worshiped other gods and called it multiculturalism;
We have endorsed perversion and called it alternative lifestyle;
We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery;
We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare;
We have killed our unborn and called it choice,
We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable-,
We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem;
We have abused power and called it politics;

We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it ambition,
We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression;
We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment;
Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.
Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will, to openly ask it in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen."

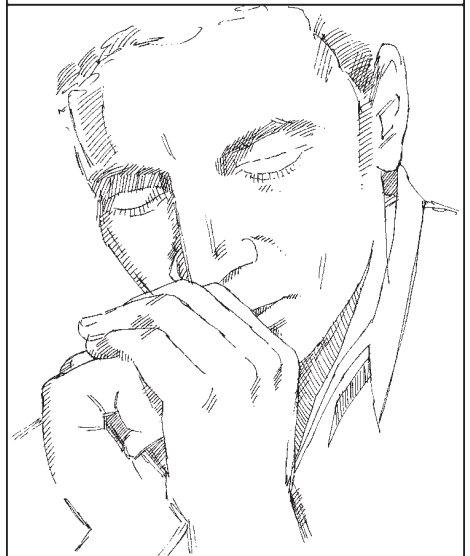
The response was immediate. A number of legislators (all Democrats) walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea. Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on "The Rest of the Story" during his radio show and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.
From the Internet, Chuck Gates, Weekend #25, Table of Matthew

20 Things that Took Me 50 Years to Learn:

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve, its full potential, that word would be "meetings."
3. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
4. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
5. And when God, who created the entire universe with all its glories, decides to deliver a message to humanity, he *will not* use as his messenger a person on cable TV with a bad hairstyle exhorting you to send money.
6. You should not confuse your career with your life.
7. No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it too seriously.
8. When trouble arises and things look bad, there is always one individual who perceives a solution and is willing to take command. Very often, that person is crazy.
9. Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
10. Never lick a steak knife.
11. Take out the fortune before you eat the cookie.
12. The most powerful force in the universe is gossip.
13. You will never find anybody who can give a clear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
14. You should never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.
15. There comes a time when you should stop expecting other people to make a big deal about your birthday. That time is age 11.
16. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that, deep down inside, we *all* believe that we are above average drivers.
17. The main accomplishment of almost all organized protests is to annoy people who are not in them.
18. A person who is nice to you, but rude to the waiter, is not a nice person.
19. Your friends love you anyway.
20. If aliens are smart enough to travel through space, why do they keep abducting the dumbest people on Earth?



National Day of Prayer



MAY 3, 2001

Do I Pray?

*I often say my prayers, but do I ever pray?
And do the wishes of my heart go with the words I say?*

I may as well kneel down and worship gods of stone

As to offer the living God a prayer of words alone.

Roger Andrews

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 4.3a

May 2001

The official publication of The Church of the Damascus Road, a Christian Community of Reconciliation, serving the inmate population of the medium security units at Rockwell City and Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Jeremy Halverson, Editor
Glenn Wooten, Regular Contributor

If you are reading a copy of this letter that is not yours, you can subscribe and receive your own copy by writing to:

The Church of the Damascus Road
PO Box 834
Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834
Office at St. Olaf Lutheran Church
239 North 11th Street, Fort Dodge
515-955-3579

Right Now, Somebody

- * Is very proud of you.
- * Is thinking of you.
- * Is caring about you.
- * Misses you
- * Wants to talk to you.
- * Wants to be with you.
- * Hopes you aren't in trouble.
- * Is thankful for the support you have provided.
- * Wants to hold your hand.
- * Hopes everything turns out all right.
- * Wants you to be happy.
- * Wants you to find him/her.
- * Is celebrating your successes.
- * Wants to give you a gift.
- * Thinks that you ARE a gift.
- * Hopes you're not too cold, or too hot
- * Wants to hug you.
- * Loves you.
- * Admires your strength.
- * Is thinking of you and smiling.
- * Wants to be your shoulder to cry on.
- * Wants to go out with you and have a lot of fun.
- * Thinks the world of you.
- * Wants to protect you.
- * Would do anything for you.
- * Wants to be forgiven.
- * Is grateful for your forgiveness.
- * Wants to laugh with you.
- * Remembers you and wishes that you were there.
- * Is praising God for you.
- * Needs to know that your love is unconditional.
- * Wants to tell you how much they care.
- * Wants to share their dreams with you.
- * Wants to hold you in their arms.
- * Wants YOU to hold them in your arms.
- * Treasures your spirit.
- * Wishes they could STOP time because of you.
- * Praises God for your friendship and love.
- * Can't wait to see you.
- * Loves you for who you are.
- * Loves the ways you make them feel.
- * Wants to be with you.
- * Wants you to know they are there for you.
- * Is glad that you're his/her friend.
- * Wants to be your friend.
- * Stayed up all night thinking about you.
- * Is wishing that you noticed him/her.
- * Wants to get to know you better.
- * Wants to be near you.
- * Misses your advice/guidance.
- * Has faith in you.
- * Trusts you.
- * Needs you to send them a letter
- * Needs your support.
- * Needs you to have faith in them.
- * Will cry when they read this.
- * Needs you to let them be your friend.
- * Hears a song that reminds them of you.



"We Remember Parents"

In spring and summer, we remember mothers and fathers with special days. Find the parents of these Biblical children. Check the verses given for help.

Joash (2 Kings 11:2)	A	_____
Obed (Matthew 1:5)	B	_____
Joseph (Genesis 35:22-24)	C	_____
John-the disciple (Matthew 4:21).....	D	_____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	E	_____
	F	_____
Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:6)	G	_____
Jezreel (Hosea 1:4)	H	_____
Esau (Genesis 25:28)	I	_____
David (1 Samuel 16:19)	J	_____
Jacob (Genesis 25:28)	K	_____
Samuel (1Samuel 1:19-20)	L	_____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	M	_____
Samuel (1Samuel 1:19-20).....	N	_____
Jesse (Matthew 1:5).....	O	_____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	P	_____
	Q	_____
Joseph (Genesis 35:23-24).....	R	_____
Isaac (Genesis 21:3).....	S	_____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13) ...	T	_____
Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1)	U	_____
Solomon (1Kings 2:1)	V	_____
	W	_____
	X	_____
Jesus (Matthew 1:18)	Y	_____
James (Matthew 4:21).....	Z	_____



Mary, Zebedeo
 Ahaziah, Boaz, Jacob, Zebedeo, Zechariah, Gomer, Hosea, Isaac, Jesse, Rebekah,
 Elkannah, Moses, Hammah, Obed, Zipporah, Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth, Saul, David,

Adages:

Be Fishers of Men.... You catch 'em, He'll Clean 'em.
~~~~~  
A clean conscience makes a soft pillow.  
~~~~~  
A family altar can alter a family.
~~~~~  
A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.  
~~~~~  
Are you wrinkled with burden? Come on into Church for a faith lift!
~~~~~  
Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.  
~~~~~  
Do your best and then sleep in peace. God is Awake.
~~~~~  
Don't put a question mark where God put a period.  
~~~~~  
Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.
~~~~~  
Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord!  
~~~~~  
For all you do, His blood's for you!
~~~~~  
Forbidden fruits create many jams.  
~~~~~  
Give God what's right, not what's left!
~~~~~  
God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.  
~~~~~  
God doesn't want shares of your life; He wants controlling interest!
~~~~~  
God grades on the cross, not the curve.  
~~~~~  
God loves everyone, but probably prefers fruits of the spirit over religious nuts!
~~~~~  
God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage  
~~~~~  
Having truth decay? Brush up on your Bible!
~~~~~  
He who angers you, controls you!  
~~~~~  
He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.
~~~~~  
He who kneels before God can stand before anyone!  
~~~~~  
If God is your Co-pilot - Swap seats!
~~~~~  
Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.  
~~~~~  
Man's way leads to a hopeless end! God's way leads to an endless hope!
~~~~~

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

~~~~~  
Never give the devil a ride! He will always want to drive!
~~~~~

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.  
~~~~~

Remember To Always Love Everyone. Sincerely and with friendship.

My Answer

By Billy Graham

Q: Everyone seems to be afraid of the future these days. Does the Gospel of Christ really have the answers for our problems?-E.R.

A: I doubt if the worlds has ever known such fear and despair as millions are experiencing today. It is more than a "nuclear" fear. It is a feeling that the race has somehow lost its way. I believe there has never been such a time to preach the Gospel of Christ. Christianity has always shone brightest when skies were darkest. It tells us that God is concerned with our plight, and that He is trying desperately to make contact with us. Not only does the Gospel of Christ have an answer for these times-it is the only answer.

My Answer

by Billy Graham

Q: I heard of a theologian who wrote a book on the subject, The Death of God. I have heard a lot about God being dead lately. Have you heard about it?-B.R.

A: Some of the advocates have as their premise the fact that our modern culture presupposes the "death of God." In other words, to the average individual God is dead. At least he behaves as though God were dead. True, we go to church, but as the doubting Thomas said, "I will not believe unless I see..." so say we. But even as they do this, they have a haunting suspicion that they are wrong. This is their dilemma. They both doubt and believe, and are incapable of doing either completely. Many are the fence straddlers, the half-committed. They come close to coming under that warning of Christ who said in Revelation: "Because thou are neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of My mouth."

Memorial Day



Remember...Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13!!!!!!



We'd like to hear from you!

This is our third issue of "The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!" It's published between issues of the Flash, and is for distribution inside the two prisons in Fort Dodge and Rockwell City. Tell us what you think about it by writing letters to the editor and giving them to Pastor Lang or Glenn Wooten or Darrel Pennel. We want the Echo! to be yours.

Contributions 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 WednesdaysHoly Communion
7:00pm FridaysBible Study

NCCF Rockwell City
6:30pm TuesdaysBible Study
6:30pm ThursdaysHoly Communion