

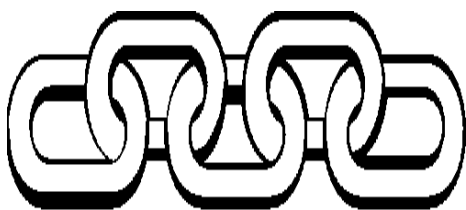
# The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 9  
Issue No. 6a  
November 2006  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

## Spiritual Aid

If you are in a miserable dispute just for a moment put everything on mute. I was in your shoes, lost and wild throughout my young years as a child. I really never once found out what this life was all about, until I came to prison put in a jail cell. Had all the time to think what's up. I noticed my ways were only corrupt. I got sick and tired where my behaviors would lead. I realize it was from pride and greed. Where to turn where to go? My questions were answered when I opened the Bible.

-Nathan D. McLaughlin FDCF



## Broken Chains

Your sin had left its crimson stain  
When you repented I heard you  
And your trespasses I forgave.  
But the chains still bind you  
And the scars remain.

Let it be known, yes, even proclaimed  
That it is I who have broken the chains,  
The chains that have bound you  
Deep within your soul  
And know when I break them  
That you shall be whole.  
No longer shall you walk  
With shackles on your feet.

I now loose them that you shall be free.  
Free to tell the world that if only they believe  
They too shall know this victory found in Me.  
-Sheila Ewing

## Inside the Echo!

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## My Brothers in Blue Experience

Some of us come into different stage of life very frightened and insecure.

We feel weak and alone or just plain mad for no reason. We are uncertain of our direction and don't know where to go for answers. The Brothers in Blue helped me find my faith in a power greater than ourselves. I found security and guidance or maybe it was just some simple direction different than the way I was going. We want that feeling of safety and strength, but what about calm and secure? I found out that faith doesn't come overnight. It takes time and effort to grow along with a lot of practice and work. I learned that in my grief all I could focus on was survival. I had a decision to make. I could become a person requiring constant attention or a person determined to survive reaching out to the source of life, Jesus Christ. I chose to put down deep roots by going to God in prayer, praise, and study. With each passing day I reach deeper for God's living water.

This experience helped me realize that we do not pray for God to eliminate the obstacles in our path. We need to pray for strength to face them, and we do not have to face them alone. God stands with us. When we are tempted to give in to our fears, we can remember that when Jesus was tempted He looked to God's Word for strength. Instead of praying for God to remove the stumbling blocks from my life, I have learned to pray for grace to enable me to walk among them to the glory of God. I learned that the past is not easily forgotten. Nagging sins may seem insignificant, but sin of my kind sticks to us like cobwebs. In my head I knew that I had been forgiven, but I didn't feel forgiven. I told one of the visitors what I was feeling and they told me to read 1 Corinthians 4:7, "What do you have that you do not receive?" By God's grace I realized that I could feel

forgiven, that I could receive what God offers. I accepted God's gift of forgiveness.

As with me on my journey that weekend, life's highway is often full of people and events that we find pleasant, but that do not lead us toward where God wants us to be. We may even be unaware of having missed a turn until we find ourselves thoroughly lost. At such times we can call to God for direction. God will turn us around and guide us to where we need to be. After crying during all the hymns of thanksgiving, I came to understand that God was talking to me. How could I be irritated by others praise? I asked myself, then I prayed that I would also praise the Lord as others have done. I prayed that God would be my whole life, not just part of it. This experience became a sign to me that God loves us unconditionally and that this love will never stop seeking us. It was a sign I needed at just the right time in my life.

As Christians we have been reawakened from our darkness by the light of Christ shining in our lives. Like plants we begin to grow as we spend more time in Christ's light. With this light we are more able to see and understand the truth that brings the abundant life God wants for us. As people of the light we can grow every day or our life and for the rest of our lives. I also learned often God sends others to steer us in the right direction, but even then we must use our strength to choose to move toward God. As we do gain strength for our life's journey, God is the true light and God's Word will always point the way.

I would like to thank everyone for knitting our hearts together with special people who journey with us and hold us gently in God's presence.

Your brother in God,

-Jeremiah Thurman FDCF 9/29/06

# There is More

I'm not the brightest star in the sky, and probably grumble more than I should, but I do know what I've learned from experience and what the LORD has revealed to me. As a Christian I believe that a believer should never, ever be content in their walk with Christ. I believe that when we, as born-again believers in our Savior, Jesus Christ, become content, we are letting our guard down and opening a door for Satan and his buddies to come into our lives and knock us off the road God has prepared for us. When we become content we are in a sense shutting the door on God and the great things He wishes to do in our lives. We are saying "I don't need any more of you, God," or, "I don't want any more, I'm content right where I am." There is so much of God, more than we can imagine. When we become content we hinder God from blessing us with more. So many Christians today are content with being saved and going to heaven. That in itself is a great blessing that God has given us, but there is more.

John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son. That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish..." but that is where they stop. Turn or Burn, Believe or Perish, and that is true. There is only one way to heaven that I can find in the Bible, believe in Jesus and confess Him as Lord (Romans 10:9-10) But verse 17 in John goes on to say, "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

If you take the time to look up the word that was interpreted as "saved" in your concordance you will find something very interesting. The original Greek word means; health, wholeness, healing, victory, prosperity, saved.

"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be healed, made whole, prosper, have victory over our adversaries, be saved." Has anyone ever put it quite like that to you before? Sheds a little light on the subject doesn't it?

If you believe that Jesus saved you and stopped there, don't worry, there is still time to get the Word in your heart and believe that He wants you whole, in good health and prospering. He didn't force you to get saved and He won't force you to do anything else. If you're content being poor, if you're content with being sick and defeated then that is right where you can stay. If not, take time for yourself in the Word and find out what more there is of God you may be missing. Let's look at some more of what God has said:

In John 3:34 John the Baptist said, "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God: for He gives the Spirit without measure." The One who God sent (Jesus) gives the Spirit without measure. If you remember John the Baptist also said there would be One who comes after him that would, "baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

In Acts 11:6 Peter quotes Jesus saying, "John baptizes with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence." This verse shows that there is not only a water baptism, but that there is also the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Again there is more of the Spirit to be had.

So who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God that lives on the inside of each and everyone who believes. He has many functions, some of which are our teacher, comforter, and helper. Jesus of Nazareth was anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power. The word Christ means the "anointed one," and as Christians we are little anointed ones, anointed by God to carry out His will on earth.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." What is this power the Lord has given us?

Isaiah 10:27 says, "So it will be in that day, that his burden will be removed from your shoulders and his yoke removed from your neck." That is what Satan tries to do, make us struggle, and be depressed so we are idle and ineffective Christians. But with the power of the Holy Spirit we can overcome and help others.

In Acts 10:38 Peter was preaching the Gospel to the gentiles. He said, "You know Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed of the devil."

The same Greek word for power is used in Acts 1:8. It is *δυνάμις* (*dunamis*), which means miraculous power, ability, abundance, might, strength. This shows that the Holy Spirit gives us the same power that Jesus had. Jesus Himself said that we would do even greater works than He did because He was going to the Father, and leaving us with the Holy Ghost!

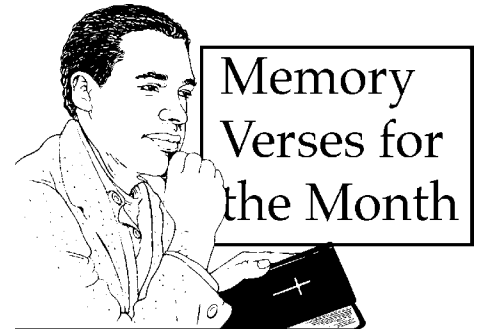
In Mark 16:17-18 Jesus says, "And these are the signs that will follow those who believe: In My Name they shall cast out demons, they shall speak with new tongues; ...they will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover..."

Notice that this verse says, "...these signs shall follow those who believe..." not any specific group over another. This is yet another function of the Holy Spirit. God has anointed us to fulfill the Great Commission, preach the Gospel, heal the sick, and to deliver all those who are oppressed of the devil. Those are Jesus' instructions to us, and He has anointed us with the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out those orders.

John the Baptist said that Jesus gives the Spirit without measure.

**There is more.** There is an unlimited supply. So let's not be idle, but be obedient. If you get on fire for God, people will come and watch you burn!! Let's use the Holy Spirit God has given us and fulfill the Great Commission.

by William Bell, 08-29-06



Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32  
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

Set your minds on things above, not on the things that are on earth. Colossians 3:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1



## A Debt to Sorrow

No words can express how much the world owes to sorrow. Most of the Psalms were born in a wilderness. Most of the Epistles were written in a prison. The greatest thoughts of the greatest thinkers have all passed through fire. The greatest poets have "learned in suffering what they taught in song." In bonds Bunyan lived the allegory that he afterwards wrote, and we may thank Bedford Jail for the Pilgrim's Progress. Take comfort, afflicted Christian! When God is about to make pre-eminent use of a person, He puts them in the fire.

— George MacDonald

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

Issue 9.6a November 2006

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

## A Brother's Letter


Good morning Lord  
 Such a beautiful day  
 I love this moment  
 As I get on my knees to pray.  
 So what are your plans  
 For me today?  
 Just strengthen my mind  
 And lead the way.  
 My dear son  
 Where do we start  
 Just follow your mind  
 And lead with your heart.  
 Write a letter talk to your sis  
 Tell her about my love  
 And how much she's missed.  
 I wrote that letter a few days ago  
 Telling her about your love  
 I just knew she had to know  
 She's been my angel  
 All of these years  
 No matter what  
 No matter where!  
 I wrote and told her  
 A second time  
 How much she's missed  
 By your love and mind.  
 I'm waiting for a letter  
 A response from her  
 Telling me about her new happiness  
 As she heard your word.  
 Vinnie, listen as she wrote  
 After I read your letter  
 I got on my knees  
 And thanked the Lord for your note.  
 O dear God  
 She told me she said  
 I just had to get on my knees  
 After the letter I read.  
 Where do I start  
 What do I do  
 Please tell me Lord  
 Because I've heard all about you.  
 It's very simple  
 The Lord said  
 Just stay on your knees  
 And do what Vinnie's letter reads  
 So as she stayed on her knees  
 Next to the bed  
 She started to cry  
 And began to beg  
 She begged for his forgiveness  
 Was all she said  
 Her voice was heard  
 Loud and clear  
 And a voice spoke out  
 What took you so long my dear?  
 I watched you from the heavens  
 For your whole 36 years  
 Waiting for your voice  
 That I've been so desperately  
 Waiting to hear  
 Now it's done  
 My dear one.  
 You've been forgiven  
 Now listen to my word  
 And continue living  
 And soon I'll see you  
 With me in heaven!



*"Thank You, God"*

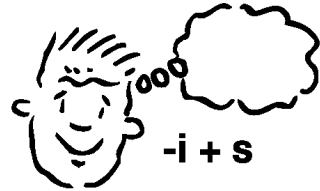
Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for all the good things in our lives. God is pleased when we are thankful because He knows that we remember the wonderful things He does for us every day.

**Directions:** Use the picture clues below to figure out the verse about being thankful. The minus (-) sign means take out the letter(s). The plus sign (+) means to add the letter(s).



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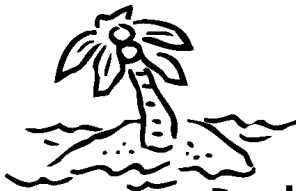


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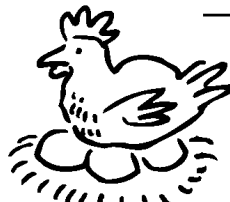
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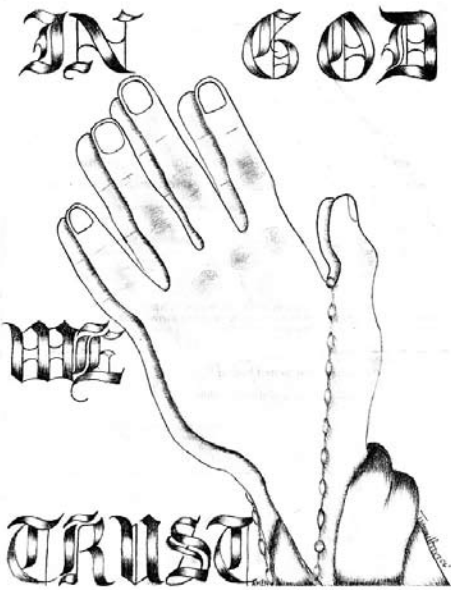


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**Psalm 107:1**

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Jeffery Trammell FDCF 2006

### In Him I Trust

In all the miraculous events through time to come I believe Jesus is where they come from. We're given the keys to unlock the kingdom of heaven. The mercy to forgive as many times as seventy times seven that's the love of the Lord. How can that be ignored? We're reconciled to our father above because Jesus gave his life out of love. In the blood of the lamb, we are cleansed from sin. If we're with Christ, victory is ours and we will win. It took me to come to the hole to take a look at my living soul.

Many things to change on the inside. How will you get anywhere if you don't try? You can be sure that the Lord is there. The judgment of his is honest and fair. We are not worthy of this gift. Being forgiven suddenly causes my spirits to lift. Let me understand, let me become wise. The Lord demands for his will to be exercised. Sinners tease and laugh at you. Lord, please, I'm asking you to give me strength in time of need. To these destructive ways, let me not heed.

Our glorious, one and only majesty. You gave me eyes so let me see the things that can get in between you and me. The power to rebuke the devil and watch him flee sets my soul soaring free. Let me stand tall as I trust in you; let me stand forever in the light of truth. Let me be a tree that bears good fruit. Let me have the power to recruit.

-Nathan D. McLaughlin 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 in our library! There are many genres of books to choose from! We hope to see you there!

### My Testimony

As I lay in my cell  
Grasping for straws,  
I turned to the Lord  
Wondering if he would hear my call!  
I begged and I plead  
I need to redeem!  
I've been living this life  
For so many years  
Deep in my soul  
Full of fear!  
I can no longer live  
This sinful life  
Full of misery  
And plenty of strife.  
What will it take  
For you to answer my call?  
I'll get on my knees  
I'll even crawl!!  
O Lord, O Lord  
The misery of these walls  
I'll beg and I'll plead  
Just answer my call.  
I hit my knees  
Screaming please  
Take this life, away from me.  
I scream that I'm at  
The end of my rope,  
Ready to fall  
With no more hope!  
It's okay, I hear a voice say,  
It was you that needed  
To turn away,  
From that sinful life  
That you lived everyday.  
I've been here for long  
Waiting for you  
To tell me you've been wrong.  
Yes, yes  
I have been wrong,  
I just wish  
I would of never

Waited so long.  
Tell me is it true O Lord  
that you will forgive me  
Because all your children  
You love and adore!  
Yes my son,  
It is true,  
I love all my children  
Especially you!  
Okay, I said,  
What do I need to do?  
You've already done it son  
You got on your knees  
And told me you're wrong!  
So all along,  
All I needed to do  
Was to get on my knees  
And beg of you,  
O Lord I want nothing more to do  
With this terrible life  
That I have led away from you.  
My Lord I have a question to ask,  
Now that I've given up  
The life of my past  
What is next for me?  
Have I been given a task?  
Yes you have,  
I heard his voice say  
Just live to be kind  
And loving everyday.  
I also need you to do  
What you promised me to  
That way when  
Your time is through  
You will come home  
And I will have made room for you.  
Your soul will live  
For eternity,  
Up here in heaven  
Up here with me!  
*Vinnie Marcolini, 8-28-06*

### Jesus is Freedom

John 8:36 "Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." Freedom given by Christ is the only true freedom. Delivered from the shackles and the bondage of sin, a Christian can do what he ought, and is no longer bound to his evil desires as this woman had been in this story of life.

The unsaved man indulges in sin and has no power over it. Sin is in control. Sin binds him. Christ's offer is freedom from such bondage, and a life that wills to please God and does.

Romans 6:11 "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

### 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.

What **ARE** You Thankful for?

### Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge  
7:00pm Wednesdays ..... Holy Communion  
6:30pm Fridays ..... Prayer & Bible Study  
NCCF Rockwell City  
6:30pm Tuesdays .... Prayer & Bible Study  
6:30pm Thursdays..... Holy Communion