

# The Church of the Damascus Road

# Damascus Road

# Flash!

Volume 4  
Issue No. 5  
October 2001  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

## Seven Wonders of the World

A group of Geography students studied the Seven Wonders of the World. At the end of that section, the students were asked to list what they considered to be the Seven Wonders of the World.

Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids,
2. Taj Mahal,
3. Grand Canyon,
4. Panama Canal,
5. Empire State Building,
6. St. Peter's Basilica,
7. China's Great Wall.

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student, a quiet girl, hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The quiet girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are

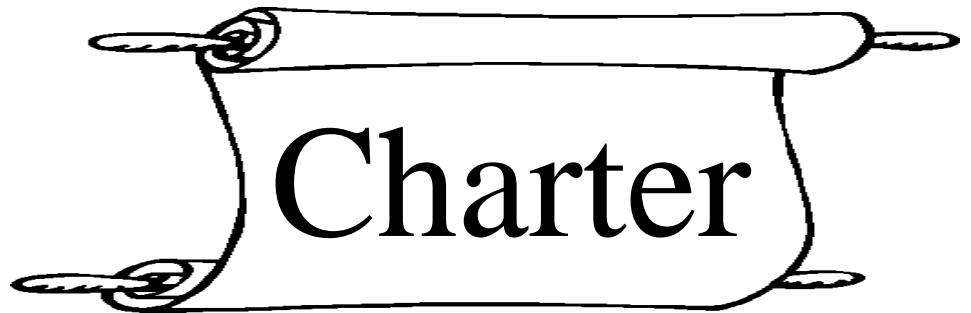
1. to touch
2. to taste
3. to see
4. to hear

She hesitated a little, and then

5. to run
6. to laugh
7. and to love

It is far too easy for us to look at the exploits of man and refer to them as "wonders" while we overlook all God has done, regarding them as merely "ordinary."

May you be reminded today of those things which are truly wondrous.



I am proud to announce that as of September 5th of this fabulous year of our Gracious Lord we became chartered as the Church of the Damascus Road. "A rose sprang from the thorns," as my mother would say.

Now, to those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, we have finally become established as an official congregation as opposed to a mission development, which is about the best way I can explain it.

I'd like to use this space to thank all those who had their hands as well as their hearts in this. Above all, I thank God for seeing it through and watching over us. I thank Pastor Lang for his persistence, patience and knowledge; also the Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod, ELCA, for his efforts; the original steering Committee for seeing the potential and laying the foundation and nurturing us along; the members of the outside council for their leadership and desire to carry out God's will and for seeing the potential in us; the volunteers who come in to worship with us and let us know we are loved; and all of the members of both inside councils at Rockwell City and at Fort Dodge. Thanks for "steppin' up to the plate." If I've forgotten anyone, I apologize, but I do send you my thanks.

On September 5, 2001, all those listed earlier and who signed the charter did something very few can say they've done—built a church from the heart up, and that is the cornerstone God chooses to build on! Again, thanks! And God Bless you all.

— Glenn Wooten

## Faith Doubts

Unbelief does not doubt- faith doubts. If a person never has a doubt, faith is not faith, but knowledge. Yet:

Belief springs still in souls  
That nurture doubt.

And we must go to him  
Who will the harmful weed cast out.

## Inside the Flash

Page 2 - Surrounded II  
Page 3 - Scripture is Life  
Page 4 - Inmate artwork

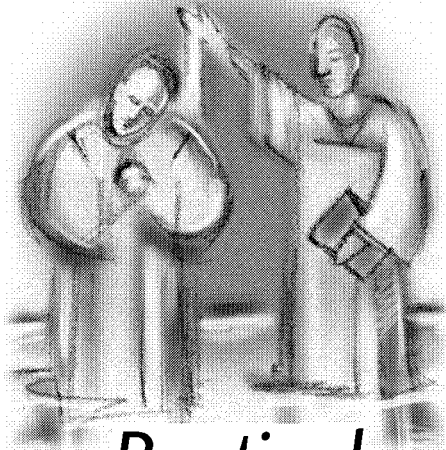
## Grace: Cheap or Costly?

Cheap grace is the mortal enemy of our church. Our struggle today is for costly grace.

Cheap grace is preaching forgiveness without repentance; it is Baptism without the discipline of community; it is the Lord's Supper without confession of sin; it is absolution without personal confession.

Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without the living, incarnate Christ.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer,  
*The Cost of Discipleship*



## Baptized

August 29, 2001 at FDCF  
Jason Allen Carlton

September 19, 2001 at FDCF  
Darren Lyle Nickols  
Adam Lee Gamble  
Matthew Scott Renaud

September 20, 2001 at NCCF  
Joseph Herman Boots

**Congratulations** to these new members of God's family in Christ. The rest of the congregation and our visitors fill the role of sponsor for each newly baptized brother.

## 'Surrounded' II

I'm surrounded, and still I am alone,  
Yet I have Him, the best friend I've ever known.  
I'm surrounded by violence and rage I can't control,  
Yet I feel happiness and joy in my heart and soul.  
I'm surrounded by these walls of concrete and steel,  
Yet I always have someone to tell how I feel.  
I'm surrounded by this place for a whole decade,  
Yet I know I'll make it, 'cause the Lord's love will never fade.

-- Nealy Gibson

## Prayer Key

"Prayer must be our key to open the day,  
and be our bolt to lock up the night."



## Job and My Revelation

Everybody should know the story of Job. If not, here is a summary. Job was a very rich and prosperous man. Satan caused Job to be afflicted twice and then Job dropped down on his knees and praised God. Job's wife told Job to "Curse God and die" (Job 2:9). Job replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" (Job 2:10).

Then Job's three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar, all tell Job that he must have done *something* wrong. Job argues that he has done *nothing* wrong and they continue to argue back and forth. After much debate and many words, Elihu, who has been listening to all this, tells Job that he should not justify himself, but should justify God.

After all this, God has something to say. (Read Job 38-41, especially 38:1-31, before you proceed with the rest of this article.)

This is where I had my revelation, where the Lord revealed himself to me!!! I've prayed time and time again and asked the Lord to reveal himself to me. I know that this was very selfish, but I had to try.

I was given a chronological bible by a friend of mine, and started reading it. On page 22 is a commentary that says, "Although there is no scriptural reference to Job during those periods of time, there is compelling evidence to believe that an important historical figure named Job should be included here among the ancients. His home is the land of Uz, which is probably in the Arabian Desert in a territory which will come to be known as Edom, or Idumea." Also, in the chronological Bible on page 1155, another commentary says, "There is

still another reason why Job is an appropriate choice. At this time when people are in search of a personal God, the writer takes them back before their own prophets, before the teaching of the law. He is just a lone human being who finds himself in terrible suffering for no apparent reason. **That's it! If God was talking to Job this early in history and he called the two star constellations by name-then this is God talking to ME. God called these two constellations by name before man even had a chance to!**

This really jumped out at me, so I did some investigating and found in the World Book Encyclopedia 1992 (Astronomy-History): "People have always been fascinated by the sky. As early as the 1300s BC, Chinese astronomers charted the positions of the stars and recorded eclipses of the sun and the moon." This would be at least 3000 years after God talked to Job. So, here it is, God revealed himself to me! How great it is to be answered by God. I hope the Lord will reveal himself to each of you, also. It's truly a great feeling! If he has revealed himself, I am glad, and know how you feel. If he hasn't, I pray he will soon!

After I did this devotion, I found these scriptures to confirm my revelation:

Psalm 147:7 — He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

Isaiah 40:26 Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

-- Nicholas J. Clark

## Volunteers Needed

A new Bible study is being started at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. It is produced by CFS, whose staff trains the volunteers. It is to be part of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) program at the Newton Correctional Facility sponsored by Prison Fellowship. These studies are part of the preparation for inmate participation in IFI. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this bible study, please see Pastor Lang or use any method on page four of this issue to contact the office. Both outside volunteers and inmate volunteers will be needed.

## The Church of the Damascus Road Flash!

Volume 4.5

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The 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.

Eric Conerd, Editor.

Glenn Wooten, 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



## Flag of Freedom

It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves under the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

A protest raged on a courthouse lawn,  
Round a makeshift stage they charged on,  
Fifteen hundred or more they say,  
Had come to burn a flag that day.

A boy held up the folded Flag,  
Cursed it, and called it a dirty rag.  
An old man pushed through the angry crowd,  
With a rusty shotgun shouldered proud.

His uniform jacket was old and tight,  
He had polished each button, shiny and bright.  
He crossed that stage with a soldier's grace,  
Until he and the boy stood face to face.

"Freedom of speech," the old man said,  
"is worth dying for, good men are dead,  
So you can stand on this courthouse lawn,  
And talk us down from dusk to dawn,

But before any flag gets burned today,  
This old man is going to have his say!  
My father died on a foreign shore,  
In a war they said would end all war.

But Tommy and I wasn't even full grown  
Before we fought in a war of our own.  
And Tommy died on Iwo Jima's beach  
In the shadow of a hill he couldn't quite reach.

Where five good men raised this Flag so high  
That the whole damned world could see it fly.  
I got this bum leg that I still drag,  
Fighting for this same old Flag.

Now there's but one shot in this old gun,  
So now it's time to decide which one,  
Which one of you will follow our lead,  
To stand and die for what you believe?

For as sure as there is a rising sun,  
You'll burn in Hell 'fore this flag burns, son.  
Now this riot never came to pass,  
The crowd got quiet and that can of gas  
Got set aside as they walked away  
To talk about what they had heard this day.  
And the boy who had called it a "dirty rag,"  
Handed the old soldier the folded flag.

So the battle of the Flag this day was won  
By a tired old soldier with a rusty gun,  
Who for one last time had to show to some,  
This flag may fade, yet these colors won't run.

## One More Thing

O Lord, if you should take my eyes, for you I'll continue to seek,  
And if you take my words from me, in my heart I know you'll speak.

I fear not death within this life, for Christ is the life in me,  
Should it be taken I know I live, for you have set me free.

Everything I have O Lord, is nothing compared to you,

All I ask is for your strength to do as you want me to do.

For all I know and have in life, Lord, you've given to me,

And I will only praise you, Lord, for who you've made me to be:

A disciple, an apostle, a minister in Christ, what more could I ever gain?

Except to dwell within your house with you forever to remain.

My brothers and sisters you've blessed me with, as you've raised me in your family,

To know that love is your greatest gift, as you sacrificed your Son for me;

And Lord, I'll ask for nothing, for you've given to me all I need.

I'll sing your praises, and live by your Spirit, while on your word I feed.

Just one more thing, Lord, before I go: in whatever you'll have me do,

May I be faithful in all my ways, and, Lord, know "I love you."

Henry Potteet



## Scripture is Life

Learning and memorizing Scripture is one of the most important parts in living a successful Christian life. God promises that we can prosper and be successful when we meditate on His Word day and night (Joshua 1:8). Scripture can encourage us, comfort us, and give us hope in times of need and despair. Scripture gives us our sense of direction and guides us through life's storms, as we walk in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:16, that: "All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." "God breathed the Scripture," is a very amazing statement! That means that there is 'life' in every verse you read and every Scripture that comes forth from our mouths.

When Jesus was led into the wilderness where he fasted day and night for forty days, he was then tempted by the devil at his weakest point. Jesus quoted Scripture and rebuked the devil and the devil left him. We, too, can overcome temptations by reading, quoting and especially memorizing Scripture. Let Jesus Christ be an example in our lives of how powerful Scripture can be. Jesus taught his disciples through Scripture. He cast out demons and healed the lame, blind and lepers—all through Scripture (Matthew 8:16-17).

The writer of Hebrews verifies just how powerful Scripture is: "The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

I started memorizing Scripture when I was going through the hardest times in my life, as in dealing with a heavy sentence and leaving heart broken lives behind me. It was

then that I turned to Philippians 4:13 that says: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." And by memorizing that verse and meditating on it day and night, I have found that *I can* do *all things* through Christ who strengthens me! I have based my faith and life on just that one verse. And the power that is in that one verse has brought me through the deepest, darkest waters of my life, and set me upon the firm foundation, which is Jesus Christ.

It was then that I hungered more and more for God's Word and memorized Scripture to apply to my everyday life and the lives of others. I started memorizing all the important Scriptures that would lead a lost soul to Christ. Then I started memorizing Scripture that would help comfort others; helpful Scriptures to help others; Scriptures on prayer, faith, knowledge, patience and endurance. I have it all stored in my mind, and I couldn't do it without Jesus Christ in my life!

A hint in memorizing Scripture is to not set your goals too high! Start with a small one line verse and then write it out on a piece of paper. I have found that if you can write it out, you can memorize it! Leave that verse or verses out somewhere where you can read them for a couple of days and soon that Scripture will be absorbed inside of you and you will not forget it.

Memorizing Scripture has changed my life by increasing my knowledge of God's Word, by witnessing to others, and helping anyone I can through the gift of love that Christ has given me.

We can change the world through the Word of God if we just put in a little effort!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Barry Chubick, Jr. #6617187

The Church of the Damascus Road  
PO Box 834  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834

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October 2001



<http://www.dodgenet.com/~cjlang/index.html>

Contact us by E-Mail:  
[DamascusCh@aol.com](mailto:DamascusCh@aol.com)

The Church of the Damascus Road now has a dedicated e-mail address which is checked every day. Just type your name, address, phone, Social Security number and birthdate right into the message box and we'll get right back to you and let you know whether there's enough space left for your visit.

### Visitors Being Scheduled

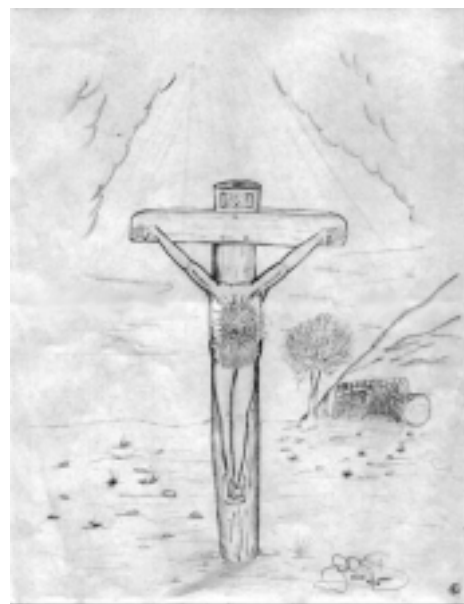
Visitors for The Church of the Damascus Road worship services at the North Central Correctional Facility, Rockwell City (limit of 9), and at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, Fort Dodge (limit of 15), are being booked for future worship opportunities (see schedule above). If you would like to visit either the Fort Dodge or the Rockwell City services, reservations need to be made soon to ensure the date you would like. During office hours (8am to 12noon, Monday through Friday) you can call 515-955-3579 and give the information to the office secretary, Cynthia Hanks, or send an e-mail message to "DamascusCh@aol.com" to schedule a time. The necessary forms and information will then be sent to you prior to your visit.

### Artist's Corner

The CoDR Flash welcomes your contributions of articles, editorials, thought pieces, opinion, poetry, artwork, etc. for publication in the Flash and/or the Echo.



Chuck Schoon, formerly at NCCF, created the above "tribute" to the Church of the Damascus Road.



Waymond Tenny, FDCF, shared his version of Christ on the cross.

A note to secretaries and pastors—

### Copy Me, Please!

We send our newsletter primarily to congregations. It's printed on white paper so it can be copied to include all or portions of it in your newsletter or bulletin, or simply made available to members of your congregation.

Anyone wishing to be on our mailing list may send name, address, and phone numbers to The Church of the Damascus Road, PO Box 834, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834, or by e-mail at: [DamascusCh@aol.com](mailto:DamascusCh@aol.com). The Flash will be sent directly to your home.

-- Pastor Carroll Lang

### Worship & Bible Study

#### FDCF Fort Dodge

7:00pm Wednesdays ..... Holy Communion  
7:00pm Fridays ..... Bible Study

#### NCCF Rockwell City

6:30pm Tuesdays ..... Bible Study  
6:30pm Thursdays ..... Holy Communion

### All Readers: Send Contributions

The editor of this newsletter is inviting ALL READERS, inside and outside to send in articles, poetry, art work, and opinions for the newsletter. So don't be bashful.