

# The Church of the Damascus Road

# Flash!

Volume 5  
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Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

## Wooten's Last Korner

Being in prison has opened my eyes as well as my heart. I believe I have grown tremendously, not only emotionally, but also spiritually. I've seen and heard a lot of guys in here discuss the Bible in depth, but they take everything so logically. For example: God created Adam and Eve and sometime after that they had Cain and Abel. Now, in Genesis 4:17a it says, "Cain lay with his wife and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch." The question came up, "If Adam and Eve and Cain were the only ones on earth, where did Cain's wife come from?" All the Bible says is that Adam and Eve were the first man and woman, not the only ones on earth.

It's like the old joke about a bus driver. He starts his route in the morning, picks up 4 people, goes to the next stop where 2 people get on and one gets off. At the next stop 7 people get on and 5 get off. Okay, you with me? So, how old is the driver? See what I mean? I made the same error in interpreting scripture, only my hang-up came with God trying to kill Moses in Exodus 4:24.

Most folks use these instances in the Bible as reasons to disprove the entire Bible and as a defense to excuse themselves from church altogether. That shouldn't be.

These instances in the Bible to me are like Lays Potato Chips — "you can't eat just one!" I always want more.

The point I'm makin' is that we shouldn't give up or give in just because we don't get it or can't explain it ourselves. We should search for the answer through the use of a commentary or a good friend or even the pastor.

I'm sure Pastor Lang gets a kick outta watchin' me behave like a kid at Christmas as I discover little mysteries like the above mentioned earlier. Just remember, stay challenged, stay focused, and stay in the Word.

God bless you all.

## Inside the Flash

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## It's Official!



Waiting to address the assembly.



Art Greve III



W. Glenn Wooten

The Church of the Damascus Road is now officially recognized as a congregation of the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This recognition took place on April 20, 2002 at the Western Iowa Synod Assembly in Sioux City, Iowa. Since starting on August 1, 1997 the congregation has been a mission development. Now that CoDR is a congregation, it will be necessary to have annual meetings and to organize the Inside Church Council into working committees in such areas as Evangelism, Stewardship, Education, Worship, and Ministry (service).

Three released members of CoDR were present at the Assembly: Art Greve, Glenn Wooten and Jeff Swearingen (who was camera shy). Art and Glenn each addressed the assembly, giving powerful witness to what CoDR meant to them. After the resolution passed, Art and Glenn were allowed to vote during proceedings.

## Musings

I was musing awhile back and remembered that approximately 16 years ago a cousin of my first wife, who lived in Runnels, Iowa, had a fire in his home that took the life of his 2 year old son. The children were in the house and he and his wife were outside.

Their son was the cutest little guy and they would bring him over and he played with my old dog, Duke. They also had a daughter that was 4 or 5 years of age. The fire began to engulf their home rather quickly, Their daughter made it out of a window but the little boy did not make it out alive. It sickened my heart that he had to die this way. There was very little to say that would help comfort his parents or help them understand why he had to die this way. I praise God that he will spend eternity with our Lord in heaven as do all children that are too young to receive salvation as we do.



When the little girl made it out, she told her parents that a man with long hair and beard helped her to a window and helped her out. Sometimes life can be hard to understand and we must accept as God's will and understand that he knows best and leave it in his hands.

After the fire was extinguished they found the little boy, but he was not burnt as they expected. Not far away from the body was the family Bible that was not damaged by the fire. I find this story to be somewhat amazing and positive proof that there truly is a God, and that he loves us all, especially the little ones.

We may wonder why he chooses one child over another. Why did his parents have to suffer such anguish and such a great loss. I believe that his parents have to invite Jesus into their lives, so that some day in the future that they, too, will spend eternity with their child. This story is true. I hope it will give you something to think about. Go in peace. serve the Lord.

Robert L. Johnson II



About our Board Members

## Jim Fevold

Jim, along with his wife, Marilyn, manage Humboldt Homes, a residential housing project. But for the last 16 years, he has also spent countless hours spreading the word of the Lord to those in jails or prisons throughout the state.

"By using the talent the Lord has given me to spread his word, this encourages me that I am making a difference in the community. Probably 90 percent of inmates don't accept what I do, but if I help one person, it's worth it," Fevold said.

In 1981, Fevold spent four days at a Christian retreat at Lake Okoboji. He then joined Gideons International, a religious group that is involved with prison ministry, among other projects. He credits these two influences for getting him involved in this type of volunteer work.

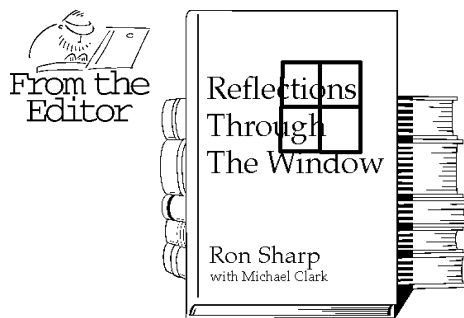
Fevold started his volunteer work at the Humboldt County Jail, but has since moved on to other area jails, including making visits to the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility. He spends from two to four hours a week with inmates.

Prisoners are not the only people Fevold helps, he also ministers to their family members if they request it.

"It's nice to know that the community can call on me to visit a son or daughter if they're in jail. Prison ministry isn't for everyone, but everyone is welcome in the eyes of the Lord," Fevold said.

As Jim told a story of an inmate who had lost hope because family and friends had forgotten about him, tears began welling up in his eyes. "The young man asked why I cared, since his own family and friends didn't. I just told him there's always hope," he said emotionally.

"My mother" Jim says, "always wanted one of her sons or daughters to be a pastor or missionary, so I guess it was inevitable to be giving of my time this way."



On Wednesday April 8th we were blessed to have Ron Sharp attend our worship service to sign copies of his book "Reflections Through the Window". He provided copies of his book at no charge to the inmates. We still have a few copies of the book and will remain available until they run out.

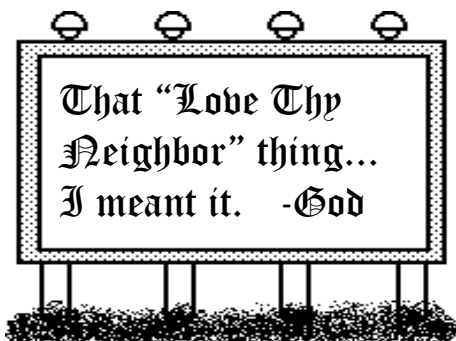
He spoke to the congregation about how much that he loves Jesus and how much Jesus means to him. He brought two other men with him so that they could share their testimony with the congregation. One of the men brought along his guitar. He played a few songs, some of which he wrote himself.

Robert L. Johnson II Editor



## Holy Baptism

FDCF May 15, 2002  
Dennis Lee Kyarsgaard



## Music is Inter-Faith

Doug (Doc) Thompson, a Jewish inmate at FDCF, finds music truly "soothes the savage breast." Doug loves to play the piano and comes in every chance he gets when Pastor Lang is in the FDCF Chapel and asks to play the piano. In fact, for Christmas 2000, Doug suggested we do a Christmas pageant and he offered to accompany the musical portions.

Good music knows no religious boundaries. Doug often plays through the Christian hymnal, just to be able to play some music. We have appreciated Doug's ministry of music.

## Universal Donor

In our scientific age there are thousands living who owe their lives to blood transfusions. By analogy, it can be reverently said that, in a mystical sense, the Son of God is the great universal Donor, giving new life to the sinner who trusts his shed blood for cleansing.

— L. Nelson Bell

## The Church of the Damascus Road *Flash!*

Volume 5.3

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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.

Robert L. Johnson II, Editor.

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

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

## Lost

Lost in thought  
Is where I dwell  
So many problems  
Who can I tell?

How can a disease  
Lock me away?  
Away from my family  
I must stay.

No more freedom  
Locked away.  
Someone watching  
Night and day.

Growing old,  
Turning gray.  
Give me direction,  
Show me the way.

Less than human,  
So it seems,  
A living nightmare  
Tormented dreams.

Each day that passes,  
Going by,  
Missing loved ones,  
Try not to cry.

Drug addiction  
Was my curse.  
No longer sane,  
Getting worse.

Seeking comfort,  
I need each day,  
Blessed Jesus  
I humbly pray  
Amen

Makes no difference,  
Young or old,  
Still addicted,  
I was told.

Robert L. Johnson II  
5-15-2002



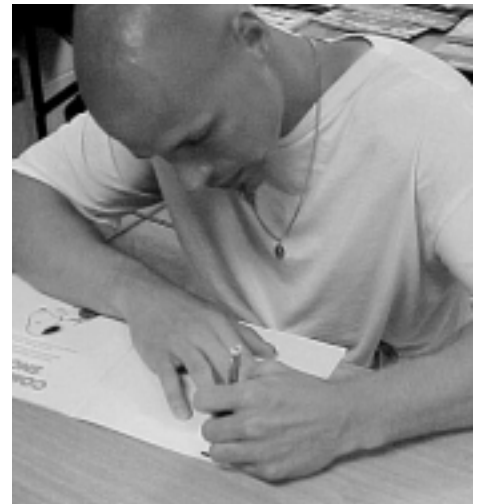
1. Volunteer "engineers" set up recorders before fathers arrive.



2. Fathers select books to read to their children. Books, cassettes and envelopes are donated by outside congregations and individuals.



3. The father reads the book, recording it on cassette tape. A brief greeting may be given at the beginning and the end of the recording.



4. A brief message may be written in the front of the book.



5. A store order is filled out, except for the amount of postage, and signed.



6. The envelope is addressed to the child or in care of parent of guardian.



## From Darkness to Light

Standing here in this rain storm  
Wondering when it is going to stop.  
Looking up at the dark gray sky,  
Lightning strikes before my eyes.  
For a moment I just stand there in a state of  
of mind,  
My guilty conscience telling me to move on.  
I don't want to be in darkness anymore.  
Could somebody please tell me where I can  
find the light?  
Suddenly I heard a voice call on me and said,  
"I am the light that shines in the darkness."  
Stunned feeling, numbness runs through my  
body.  
I fall to my knees begging  
For the Lord to let me into heaven's door.

—by Ricardo

Larios



7. Book, tape and store order are stuffed in envelope and taken to mailroom.

To sign up for Story Tellers, contact Pastor Lang or Tom Warner at FDCF or Misty Sweet at NCCF.

The Church of the Damascus Road  
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June 2002



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

## God Seeks

I have always been taught that God seeks men, not men God; but it has been only recently that I have begun to know that the great longing for Spirit-filled lives comes from the heart of God; that it is the holy God who seeks after men, who yearns and longs to fill men. The secret of being filled with the Spirit lies in letting God do for us what he most desires to do, namely, to fill us.

L.L. Legters

## Time

If I could turn back the hands of time,  
What would I choose to do?  
Would I be the man I am,  
Or would I be like you?

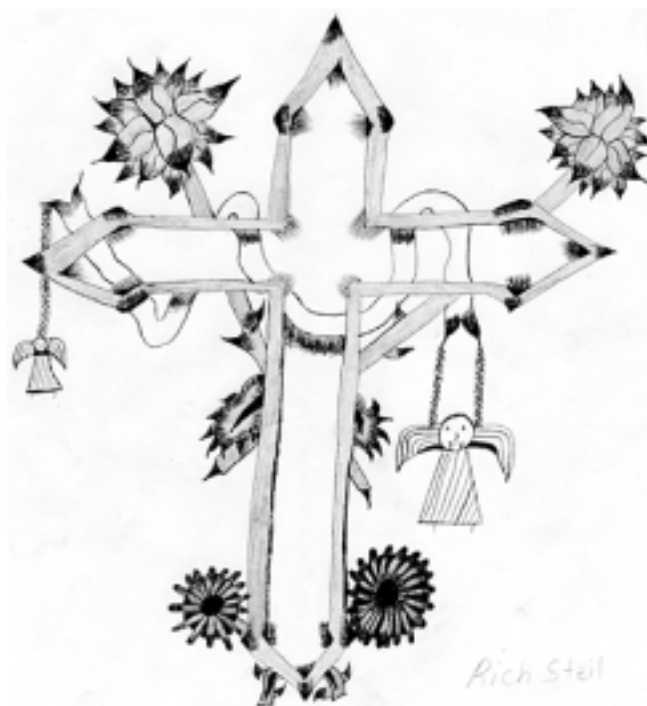
Would I choose to seek the Lord?  
Would I follow Him?  
Or would I stay in the world  
In a life of sin?

Would I do my very best  
To sow a fruitful seed,  
Or would I choose to turn my back  
On all of those in need?

The answer to these questions  
Is a search that you must start  
By looking down deep inside  
Of your very own heart.

Robert L. Johnson II, 12-15-2001

## Artists' Corner



Richard Steil FDCF

*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.