

The Church of the Damascus Road *Flash!*

Volume 10

Issue No. 2

January, 2007

Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

No Portion Ours

There is no portion of our time that is our time, and the rest God's; there is no portion of money that is our money, and the rest God's money. It is all His; He made it all, gives it all, and He has simply trusted it to us for His service. A servant has two purses, the master's and his own, but we have only one.

—Adolphe Monod

Guilt

I lay down in my cell bunk another day has gone by, I cover my head to hide the tears that I cry. The pain that I feel is not felt by just me. For the hurt that I've caused affects my whole family. You cannot imagine the pain that I feel. From the results of poor judgement, the results of a bad deal. The family we once were, for now we can no longer be. Unless my hopes and my prayers are answered by thee! I wish I could relive the past two years of my life, for then I'd still be at home with my children and my wife. The longer we are apart, the further apart we may become. So I pray for all to forgive me and hope once again we'll all become one!

— Dennis D. Schiltz

Life

This life is a mystery for me and you, but we have to see it through. God will tell us what to do. Only one man knows what is going to be. This is Jesus Christ whom we will see when he comes to get you and me. So do not push him away, call on your Savior today.

— Albert Cooper FDCF

Inside the Flash!

Page 2 - \$100 a Month Club
Page 2 - Father
Page 2 - Land to Land
Page 3 - Christian One-Liners
Page 3 - AfterCare
Page 3 - A Thought and A Verse
Page 3 - So, What Is AfterCare?
Page 4 - Artworks

CoDR's



Annual Meeting

The 5th Annual Meeting of the Church of the Damascus Road will be held on January 28, 2007 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Humboldt, Iowa. The meeting will begin at 4pm, with supper at about 5:30pm and witnessing/fellowship to follow. The meal will be catered at a cost of \$7.00 per person.

We invite former members of CoDR, individuals and congregational representatives to join us in a reunion of friends. Visit with former members and hear what CoDR meant to them while in prison and know that your support is needed into the future.

Please RSVP with the number of persons attending at 515-955-3579 (leave message) or email at DamascusCh@aol.com so the caterer knows how many meals to prepare. If you are representing your congregation and would like to bring a love offering, a basket will be available in which to place your gifts.

A special feature of the afternoon will be two special presentations at 2:00pm for AfterCare teams or those interested in being involved in AfterCare.

One presentation will be by Mr. Russ Goebel, a Webster County Parole Officer specializing in sex offenders. He will show us statistics regarding recidivism that will give us all a realistic understanding of sex offenders who are being released. AfterCare teams will be asked to consider relocating these persons so it is vital that we get the right picture and not the picture painted by the politicians trying to get elected.

The other presentation is by Tom Schmidt of the Community & Family Resource Center in Fort Dodge. CFR is a treatment facility for alcohol and drug abuse persons and Tom will help us to understand addiction as we seek to help ex offenders relocate in our communities.



\$100-a-Month Club

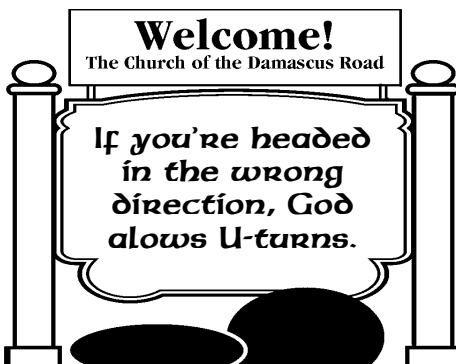
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- Vince & Leila Wilson, Fort Dodge

Dear God,

Please forgive me, for this I humbly pray. My ways are forever filled with darkness. Please, Lord guide my way. For Jesus is my savior. Through Him I confess my sin. No longer afraid of this spiritual battle. My Savior will always win. As I bow my head and close my eyes a tear slides down my cheek. Remembering all the times he made me strong when I was feeling weak. Please God forgive me for the pain that I've caused to the ones that I love. I know my savior has forgiven me. He sent me a blessing today; mother's unconditional love.

— Bobby Dixon FDCF



Father

Father, Father, hear me please,
 Father, Father, thanks for setting me free,
 Father, Father, thank you for giving your son for me,
 Father, I know you didn't have to do it, but you did it for me,
 Father, Father, thank you for everything you've given to me!
 Jesus in your name I pray, thank you for washing my sins away.
 If it wasn't for you, I'd still be satan's slave.
 Thank you for cleansing me.
 Jesus in your name I pray,
 Father, Father, thank you for this wonderful day.
 Thank you for my joy, and peace,
 Thank you for the love you have put in me.
 Father, thank you for everything.

Richard Strum 7/14/06 FDCF

The last time

I didn't know it was the last time
 I'd tell my friend goodbye
 We talked and laughed, there was no hint
 That soon she was to die
 I didn't know it was the last time
 My spouse could speak my name
 I hope he knew I held his hand
 Before the angels came
 I won't know when it's the last time
 I help a friend in need
 To live each day as though my last
 Should really be my creed
 I won't know when it's the last time
 I see apple blossoms bloom
 Or watch spring flowers poking through
 Dispelling winter's gloom
 I won't know when it's the last time
 I celebrate Jesus' birth
 But what a blessing that He came
 Bringing heaven closer to Earth
 When will be the last time
 I sing a hymn to Him
 Jesus, Savior, Son of God
 Before Whom all glories dim
 When will be the last time
 I bow my head to pray
 Some things we just aren't meant to know
 I think it's best that way
 Perhaps this is the last time
 That I shall write a poem
 I know my days are numbered
 Till God shall call me home
 I know there'll be a last time
 For everything I do
 A simple fact, which must be faced
 When the years one's left are few
 I won't know when it's the last time
 That on this earth I trod
 But there'll be that joyous first time
 When I shall see my God!

— by Elizabeth Daws Sturns
 Our Saviour's Lutheran, Humboldt, IA

Land to Land

If one community coversate reach a agreement to negotiate.
 It's better to give then take, believe in faith.
 Being righteous wanting to do good.
 Termites will try to discourage your spirits,
 But it's Teflon not wood.
 Built on a solid foundation, if it's goodness then preach.
 To every nation, mountain top, ocean and creek.
 Let me irrigate this for your lands to reach.
 Say grace before we eat, be courteous when we greet.
 Digest humbleness, be meek.
 If insight is foresight gather hungry ears and preach.
 If one preach to teach, it's a blessing to each.
 If one teach but don't practice what he assign.
 That's blind insight you don't want to seek that kind.
 Let us be truthful when we speak, having good intentions.
 The veil has risen honey was giving.
 If one want to be a master one must first be a slave.
 Not the type of slave in them days,
 But a servant devoted to righteous ways,
 thirst, crave.

— Larry Peters 2006



The Church of the Damascus Road
Flash!

Issue 10.1 January 2007

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.
 Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor
 Kyle W. McMenamin, Editor

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. The Flash will be sent directly to your home.
 Office at St. Olaf Lutheran Church
 239 North 11th Street
 Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Reentry AfterCare!

It's a Ministry, Not a Program

AfterCare in Spirit Lake

The Lakes Area Reentry AfterCare team has been growing and developing since March 2006 when we attended the training event in Cherokee. The following is a brief report of how our partnerships are working:

Lloyd Abbey - He has been with us about six months now. He has his own apartment. He works about fifty hours per week for Shaw Paint, Glass and Locksmith here in the Lakes area. He doesn't work for the easiest boss but he is a good employee. He attends the Evangelical Free Church every Sunday and attends our interdenominational bible study. He struggled for a short time with depression until we got him back on his medication. He is doing fine now.

Jimmy Naujock - He came to us from the Sheldon Work Release program. He is staying at Discovery House here in Spirit Lake. He is employed by Citation Homes, manufacturer of pre-built homes. He is doing exceptionally well at this job. He attends St. Mary's Catholic Church every Sunday and attends weekly bible study held at Discovery House.

Bruce Potter - He is Jimmy's roommate at Discovery House. Jimmy has been an excellent mentor and help with Bruce. Bruce has a job delivering pizzas here in the area and is doing a good job. Although he did not work out well in Humboldt or Emmetsburg, with Jimmy's influence he seems to be finding satisfaction and success here. He is not involved in our AfterCare program because he does not attend church regularly. It is our hope that little by little we can get him to be involved in one of our churches.

Overall the Lord has blessed us with sending us good men as our first efforts in the AfterCare work. All the guys are well liked and supported by the people in the community that have gotten to know them.

— Harold Overmann, Chair



So, What Is AfterCare?

It is a ministry of the Church of the Damascus Road helping inmates stay out when they are released. Teams of three to seven persons in a community form a covenant of friendship together with an ex-offender for up to a year to help the ex-offender adjust to life on the outside, be part of a Christian community, stay employed, and make a new life for him or herself. The Christian community is the best environment in which to help the ex-offender maintain a law-abiding lifestyle.

Christian One Liners

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wits' end, you'll find God lives there.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete: thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make from which one you stay home?!

A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

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.

He who angers you, controls you!

If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!

Prayer: Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

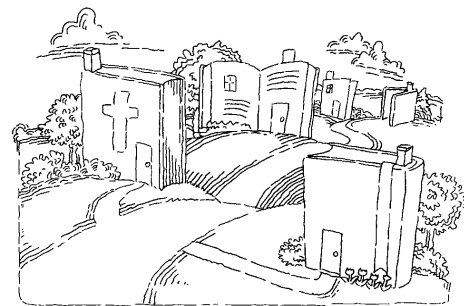
The will of God never takes you to where the grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

—Anonymous



A Thought:

Never to judge rashly; never to interpret the actions of others in an ill-sense, but to compassionate their infirmities, bear their burdens, excuse their weaknesses, and make up for their defects to hate their imperfections, but love themselves, this is the true spirit of charity.

Nicolas Caussin

A Verse:

Lord, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke. Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:15-16 KJV

The Church of the Damascus Road
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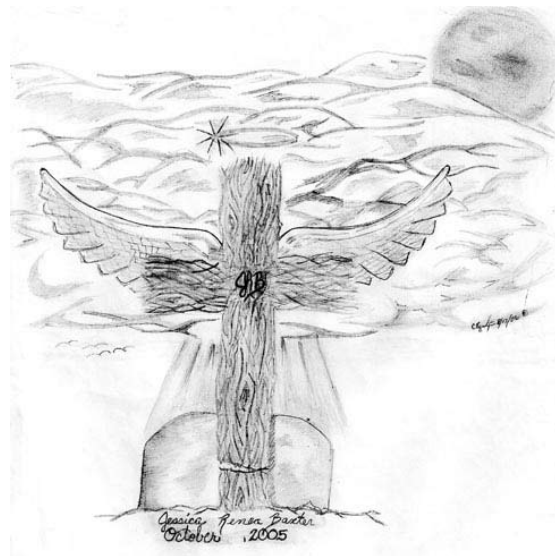
January 2007

Invite the Pastor to Worship

The worship services at The Church of the Damascus Road are scheduled on week-nights for two reasons. One is to enable people on the outside to worship with the inmates and not miss worship in their own congregations. The second is to make the pastor of Damascus Road available to visit area congregations on Sunday mornings. The pastor can give a brief update on the ministry, a sermon, a children's sermon, an adult forum, a children's Sunday school opening, a cross-generational class session, or any or all of the above, and is open to suggestions. All that is asked is that there be time to prepare.

Call 515-955-3579 or write to: The Church of the Damascus Road, PO Box 834, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834, or by e-mail at <DamascusCh@aol.com> to arrange for a visit to your congregation. The pastor speaks Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, United Church of Christ, Covenant, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, Evangelical, Reformed, Assembly of God, Mennonite, Nazarene, and a host of other denominations, independent, and non-denominational, too.

Artists' Corner



Chris Egenberger FDCF 2006



Rodger Verch III FDCF 2006



<http://www.frontiernet.net/~codr/index.html>

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.

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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.

-- Pastor Carroll Lang

Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge

7:00pm Wednesdays Holy Communion
 6:30pm Fridays Prayer Team
 7:00pm Fridays Bible Study

NCCF Rockwell City

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