

# The Church of the Damascus Road *Flash!*

Volume 11  
Issue No. 4  
July 2008  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

## Country Gospel Concert

A Country Gospel concert will be held from 1pm to 9:30pm, July 13 on the farm property of Mark and Cheryl Juhl, rural Remsen, IA. Featured artists include: Terry Smith, Elaine Peacock, Wayne Longtin, Sr., Ervin Pickhinke and others.

Tickets for the event are \$15 adults (\$10 after 6pm), and ages 6-12 are \$5 (\$3 after 6pm). Taverns, hotdogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips, bars, fresh popcorn, coffee & pop are available, cost not included in ticket price.



Terry Smith

Bring your lawnchairs and treat your ears to some excellent and inspiring music to lift your soul.

Proceeds after expenses are earmarked for the ministry of The Church of the Damascus Road, with matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Bring the whole family and join us!



## Our Annual Golf Tourney

### Golf Tourney Fundraiser

Our 2nd Annual Golf Tourney fundraising event was Saturday, June 21, at 9am at the Oakridge Golf Course near Goldfield. Nine persons attended. There were a lot of conflicts, so some of the participants from last year couldn't attend, but one of this year's participants pleaded with Kathy Hansel to hold another tourney next year, so we will plan on it. More on this later.

This is a fundraiser for CoDR, with matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a total of about \$1,200.

Those who attended had a good time and enjoy conversation over lunch.

## Worship, Believe God

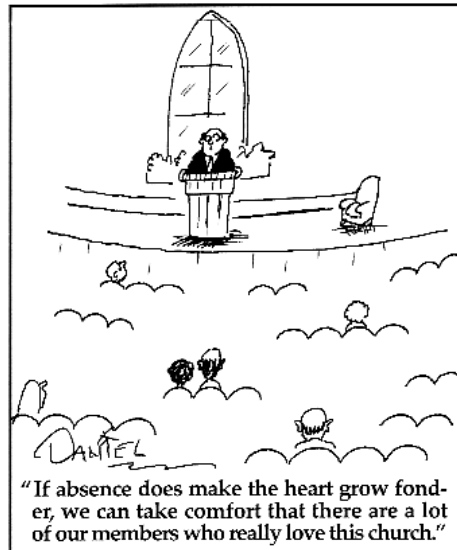
Fellow brothers of Rockwell and FDCF, who serve on the council, and attend the Church of Damascus Road services. Have you found what you came for, the love of our Lord? The faith to believe in Him? Pray always before you go to bed, ask for forgiveness. Love Him always as He has loved you.

A brother like you in Christ has something that many people on the outside wish they had more of – time. Everything seems to go slower and slower. The clock has stopped. That is serving time the hard way. But a person can use time a better way.

I, a former church council member of the inside council, use my time to know Jesus Christ better. I thought my life was coming to an end, but it is just only beginning. Jesus my Lord brought me to my knees, and finally, I look at Him and declared my life to Him. I ask for His help, His strength, His forgiveness, and His will. He gave me a lot and so much more.

I also thank Pastor Lang and Judy Lang for helping to stay on the path to His light. It is a blessing that they taught me so much. Thank you and may Jesus love you always.

—Ryan A Lingford, FDCF 2004



from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
©Dennis Daniel ("Brother Blooper")  
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## Outside Council Profile



Mark Juhl

My name is Mark Juhl and I live near Remsen, Iowa. I've been married for over 38 years to my wife Cheryl and we have three children and two grandchildren. We are members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Remsen where I have served on council, led Adult Studies, and occasionally led the worship service.

My activities with the Western Iowa Synod include attending many synod assemblies, formerly serving on the Synod Council, serving on the Lutheran Men in Mission Board and completing the Lay School of Ministry.

I presently operate a Can Redemption Center in LeMars and operate a small farm outside of Remsen. Formerly worked with people who had disabilities and was Executive Director of a work activity center.

### Inside the Flash!

- Page 2 - Child's Book Report on Bible
- Page 2 - Damascus Road
- Page 3 - Aftercare
- Page 4 - Artwork
- Page 4 - Worship Schedule
- Page 4 - Invite the Pastor to your church

## A Child's Book Report on the Bible

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, "Give me a light!" and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston.

Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti.

Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more, Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua, who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament.

Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn?") It would be nice to say yes.

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

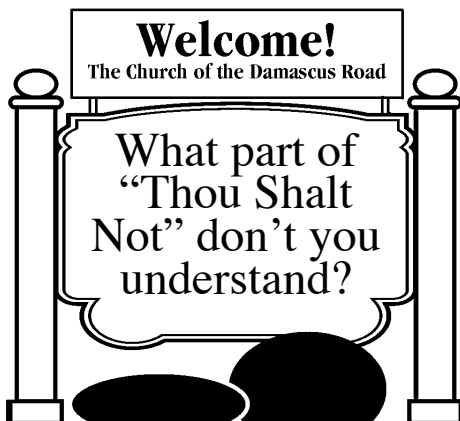
Any way, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again.

He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum.

His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.



## THE BOOK



## Brothers in Blue Aug.7

Brothers in Blue at FDCF has been rescheduled for August 7-10. Nearly the entire team has to be reassembled and that work is in progress. So far 11 have agreed to serve.

Inmates who had signed up for the June 12 weekend have been sent a notice asking them to reply whether or not they still intend to attend or serve on the palanca support team.

Also, more inmates will be able to apply to attend the rescheduled weekend. The deadline will be July 18, no exceptions.

See Pastor Lang for an application.

— Ray Kerley



Donors of \$100 or More Per Month, both Churches & Individuals

- Augustana Lutheran, Manson
- Badger Lutheran Church, Badger
- Bethany Lutheran, Spencer
- Emanuel-St. John Lutheran, Lytton
- First Lutheran, Algona
- First Presbyterian, Fort Dodge
- Grace Lutheran, Fort Dodge
- Immanuel Lutheran, Forest City
- New Covenant Christian, Fort Dodge
- Our Saviour's Lutheran, Callender
- Our Saviour's Lutheran, Humboldt
- St. John Lutheran, Pomeroy
- St. John Lutheran, LeMars
- St. Mark's Episcopal, Fort Dodge
- St. Olaf Lutheran, Fort Dodge
- St. Paul Lutheran, Palmer
- Sukup Manufacturing, Sheffield
- Trinity Lutheran Chrch, Hardy
- Zion Lutheran Church, Clear Lake
- Zion St. John Lutheran, Sheffield
- Patricia Gohman, Kingman AZ
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- Troy & Karyn Leininger, Spencer
- Eunice Loots, Fort Dodge
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- Noel & Linda Singer, Webster City
- Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Fort Dodge
- Mary Wilkins, Fort Dodge
- Vince & Leila Wilson, Fort Dodge



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

Issue 11.4 July 2008

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  
Tony Halsrud, Senior Editor  
Chad Bechtel, 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](mailto: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



Paul Harrison, Director of CoDR Reentry AfterCare

## Reentry AfterCare Hits the BIG Road(s)

It seems just like yesterday (June of 06) when we had a new poster made up for promotional materials that had eight RAC Teams under the "umbrella." Then in March of this year God gave us a Grand Month by kicking off in Grand Island, and reaching as far east as Grand Rapids by mid month. During this time we were planting more seeds than even I imagined. Not without growing pains of course but the rule that is without exception; "if you are not having problems you are not doing anything"! While dealing with problems, solutions are found, "even a battery has a NEGATIVE post" and is necessary for creating energy.

With a wealth of new friends dedicated to take this ministry to all new levels, we are blessed to see so many states now following the model of reentry that gives the community ownership and networks resources to provide solutions, with that comes energy like I've never felt before. With RACTTs scheduled in four locations in Nebraska, presentations all over Iowa in July, August and September having a full slate, the next level is pretty exciting. A number of vehicles have been the cause of this growth and though we are blessed by them all (and all of you) I'm pretty amazed at the **good press** that we have been getting. Nebraska Public Television has done an excellent job of promoting RAC and other stations are following the lead, great work to all who have been involved in these promotions.

The big thank you and motivator that surrounds this great movement is an example of restorative justice by seeing those who have been served, empowered to serve others. We are seeing over eighty percent of RAC participants serve a Team which just proves that "working together...**works**"! Now that we have helped make the one hundredth RAC participant a part of an RAC community, the number of teams are starting to grow even quicker. I express thanks to all who have made this possible, for those that we have served, and for the communities and families that have been affected in such a great way. Also, please remember that "working together...**works**." As many organizations and ministries have grown to this level, it seems as though a few people always want to re-invent the wheel or be lone rangers... that's not what makes it work, the world is bigger than that.

Please join us for a RAC event in the locations listed on the left for either a presentation or a Team Training. For more info on time and locations for these events please contact us using the information below.

Other events being scheduled are for late August in Minnesota, in September we are looking at events in central, and northeast Iowa. Also on the radar are RAC events in Reno NV, Los Angeles CA, Michigan and — stay tuned!

## RAC Trainings Schedule

- June 28<sup>th</sup> RACTT Ames, IA
- July 13<sup>th</sup> CoDR Fundraiser Outdoor Concert  
Remsen, Iowa
- July 17<sup>th</sup> RAC Presentation, MLK Center  
Quad Cities area
- July 19<sup>th</sup> RAC Presentation, Cedar Falls
- July 25<sup>th</sup> Lunch and Learn Presentation to  
Employers, "Benefits of hiring RAC  
Participants" Omaha, NE.
- July 25<sup>th</sup> RACTT in Omaha 5:30 to 9:30pm
- July 26<sup>th</sup> RACTT in Lincoln, NE 8:30am to  
12:30am
- July 26<sup>th</sup> RACTT in York, NE 2:30 to  
6:30pm
- July 27<sup>th</sup> RACTT in Hastings, NE 2:00 to  
6:00pm
- July 28<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Presentation "Benefits  
to hiring RAC Participants Hast-  
ings, NE
- July 28<sup>th</sup> Lunch and Learn "Benefits for hiring  
RAC Participants York, NE.
- July 28<sup>th</sup> Evening Presentation "Benefits to  
hiring RAC Participants Lincoln,  
NE
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> RACTT Spencer, IA
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> RACTT Waterloo, IA
- August 9<sup>th</sup> RACTT in Quad Cities area 8:30  
to 12:30am
- August 10<sup>th</sup> RACTT in Cedar Rapids, IA
- August 16<sup>th</sup> RACTT in Ottumwa, IA (makeup  
for flood time)
- August 16<sup>th</sup> RACTT in Mount Pleasant, IA
- August 17 RAC Presentation in Gowrey, IA
- August 17<sup>th</sup> RACTT in Keokuk Iowa

Blessings and Peace  
Paul Harrison  
Director Reentry AfterCare  
#515-230-8815  
Paul.aftercare@gmail.com



A Training event at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cherokee on March 25, 2006

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

July 2008

### 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.

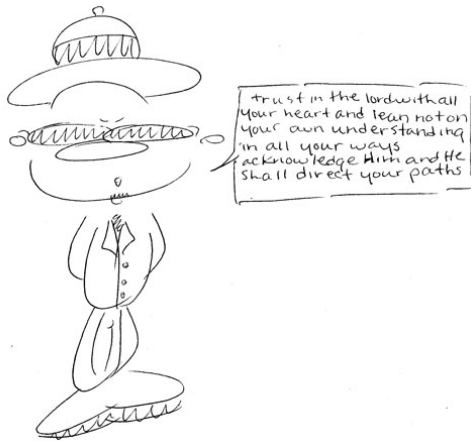
Call 515-955-3579 or write to: The Church of the Damascus Road, PO Box 834, Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834, or by e-mail at <DamascusCh@aol.com> to arrange for a visit to your congregation. The pastor speaks Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, United Church of Christ, Covenant, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic,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



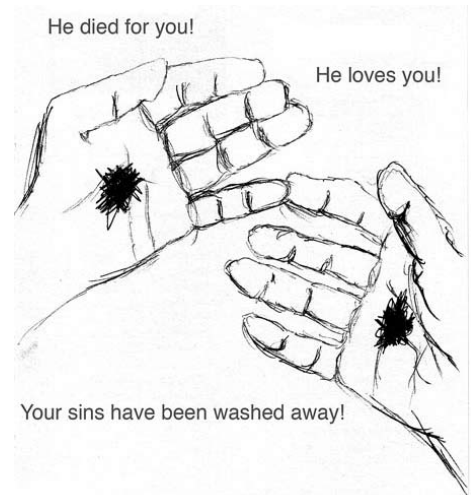
### All Readers: Send Contributions

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.

### Artists' Corner



Arnodo Turner FDCF 2007



Artist unknown, submitted anonymously

### NCCF Church Council

Gary Rolf ..... President  
 Jon Neely ..... Vice President  
 Chris Egenberger ..... Secretary  
 Lyle Harris ..... Daniel Skalla  
 Corey Mittrucker ..... Luke Snyder

### FDCF Church Council

Tony Halsrud ..... President  
 Chad Bechtel ..... Vice President  
 Alex Nolan ..... Secretary  
 Randy Elliott ..... Story Tellers Chairman  
 Raymond Reynolds ..... Jeremy Bogue

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

6:45pm 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