

# The Church of the Damascus Road

## Flash!

Volume 12  
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July 2009  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

### Who I Am

In 1 Peter 3:15 the Word says to “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, ALWAYS being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

What’s new? What’s changed? Who are you, really? That is the question I’ve been asked by counselors, family and others quite regularly lately. Up until tonight my common response has been that I’m a new creation by the grace of God and that the power of Christ has truly changed my heart. Good answer in itself and genuinely true.



However, my Christian faith has grown to a point of new understanding, and my spirit screams for me to be a man who not only wears a cross, but carries one as well.

So, tonight I pledge a new response, one that I feel translates my hope onto the hearts of others

and leaves no doubt as to who I am — what I am — and who I stand for — who am I really?

I am a part of the fellowship of the ‘un-ashamed.’ The die has been cast. The decision has been made. I have stepped over the line. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I’m finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap giving and unachieved goals.

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### CoDR Receives Governor’s Volunteer Award 10 Year Term of Service



*The Church of the Damascus Road was nominated by the Iowa Department of Corrections for 10 years’ long term service at a ceremony June 23, 2009 in Buena Vista University’s Anderson Auditorium. Several volunteers went up on stage to receive the award from Governor Chet Culver’s wife, Mari. They are (L-R): Carol Etzel, Dennis Booth, Marge Everts, Mari Culver, John Everts, Judy Lang, Pastor Paul Stone, and Pastor Carroll Lang.*

### A Story to Tell

Ever since I got out of prison I have been looking for a job and have been unsuccessful. When June came around and I still didn’t have a job my parents said that regardless of not having a job I would have to move out June 30. Around June 20 my grandparents visited our old church in Davenport, Iowa. They ended up seeing my best friend from high school and he asked how I was doing and my grandparents gave him my phone number so that he could ask me himself. About a week later he ended up calling me and asked if he could come down to see me. I said that would be great.

So Jason came down and we talked for a while and then went to go play pool. He mentioned me coming back with him to live. Now, I haven’t seen him for five years and after 3 hours he jokingly asks if I wanted to come back with him. I took him seriously because I was getting kicked out anyway so, what would it hurt? I basically begged his wife and told her the story and she agreed. I got here on Saturday of last week, but didn’t really start job searching until Monday, the day after Father’s Day. I walked everywhere filling out applications and asking people if they knew of any jobs. I didn’t really get anywhere until I got online. It was on snagajob.com that I talked to a few people about job openings. Most of them gave me the run-around until I just up and called Taco Johns on Locust St. It’s in walking distance, about 15 minutes. They said they just hired 6 new people but there is a chance of hiring a management position. So I called the next day and talked to the general manager and told him what the assistant manager told me about the 6 new and the possible management position. He agreed and paused, so I felt like I should say, “Well, is there a time that I could come in and talk to you about the position?” He said, “Come in tomorrow.” I was surprised, because I got my first job interview. My friends and family told me not to get my hopes up if I don’t get the job and to keep trying.

*Continued on page 3*



Great form, Pastor Zuehls, eye on the ball, knee tucked in, perfect! So, how come all you got was air, Pastor?



The green is WAY over there!



Come on, now, go in the hole!

### Golf Tourney Up to Par

The Third Annual Golf Tourney Fund Raiser began in light rain, ended in sunny skies and was a success. Everyone who played received a prize and everyone felt good about donating while having fun.

After all 18 golfers came back to the clubhouse, they were served a meal along with conversation. Then the prizes were given as the 1st through 9th place winners were called forward by event manager, Kathy Hansel.

A total of \$1,140 was received, and after expenses, netted us \$791 for Thrivent matching funds.



Pastor Stone called it a practice swing.



Everyone who played got a prize.



Art Greve connects and it's off!



A meal and conversation capped off a fun golf tourney fund raiser.

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

*Under same management for over 2000 years!*



### Brothers in Blue

Brothers in Blue is scheduled for October 8-11 at NCCF. The teams are being assembled, and will be ready to conduct the weekends.

To attend the weekend, see Pastor Stone for an application. The deadline is October 1 at NCCF, no exceptions.

The next Brothers in Blue at FDCF will be December 3-6. Applications will begin in September, and the deadline will be November 20.

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

Issue 12.4 July 2009

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. Paul Stone, Pastor  
Micheal Feldpausch, Editor  
Carroll Lang, Editor

Anyone wishing to be on our mailing list may send name, address, and phone numbers to The Church of the Damascus Road, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, 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

## No Change After All

After considerable discussion, and consultation with some legal minds, the CoDR Reentry Aftercare Steering Committee decided to stay with the more recognizable name of CoDR Reentry Aftercare.

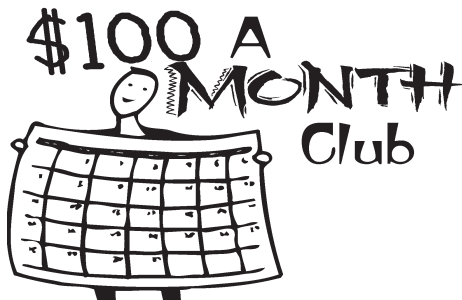


The ministry will continue in NW Iowa and, hopefully, more teams will be formed to build our network of

dedicated volunteers with one mission in mind: to *empower Christian communities to assist in the successful transition of ex offenders to society.*

We will provide training for teams of 4-7 persons in a community to form a covenant of friendship with an ex offender for up to a year to help him or her make a new life. If you and your community have not formed such a team, talk it over with your friends and give Pastor Lang a call at 515-571-6566 or email at CDLNg@aol.com.

—Rev. Carroll Lang, NWI Director



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

- Augustana Lutheran, Manson
- Bethany Lutheran, Emmetsburg
- Bethany Lutheran, Spencer
- Emanuel-St. John Lutheran, Lytton
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- Our Saviour's Lutheran, Callender
- Our Saviour's Lutheran, Humboldt
- St. John Lutheran, LeMars
- St. Mark's Episcopal, Fort Dodge
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- St. Paul Lutheran, Palmer
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- Leila Wilson, Fort Dodge

# Reentry Aftercare!

## Where Do We Go from Here?

These are the known active Reentry Aftercare Teams, mostly in NW Iowa: Boone Biblical Memorial, Fort Dodge Aftercare, Grimes UMC Reentry Aftercare, Holstein UMC, Immanuel LC Forest City Aftercare Ministry, Lakes Area Aftercare, Lytton Aftercare, Matthew 25 House(Ames), Men's Christian Fellowship Group (Nevada), North Central Aftercare (Humboldt), Pocahontas Aftercare, Sioux City Reentry Reintegration, and Spencer Aftercare.

We need to form at least 15 more teams in our quadrant of Iowa. North Central Correctional Facility is now one of the three release centers in the Department of Corrections (Newton and Mitchellville are the others). Many of the applicants from NCCF, though they come from all parts of Iowa and even other states, are seeking to relocate in order to avoid old neighborhoods, old acquaintances, old habits, and the old life. They are looking for a fresh start in a new community, and that community could be yours. True, every community has opportunities to return to criminal activity, but it is a lot easier to avoid those temptations when you don't know where those opportunities are in a new community.

This is where those of you who are in other communities not listed, or in larger urban centers (Sioux City, Council Bluffs, Fort Dodge) can be of immeasurable help. No community is too small (Lytton is a very small town) if your heart is into ministry with an ex offender. Start talking to your friends at church, at work, in your service club, at play, and consider forming a reentry aftercare team in your community. If interest is raised, contact us at 515-571-6566 or email CDLNg@aol.com, and we will provide no-obligation training for your group at the best time for you.

—Rev. Carroll Lang, Director, NW IA Reentry Aftercare

**We Need The Following:**

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At least 15 more reentry aftercare teams and more caring volunteers

### Story to Tell, continued from page 1

Well, I go to the job interview and he can't find my application. I fill out a new one there and it felt like I was giving *him* the job interview. Because I was so nervous I kept talking. The only two questions he asked me were, "What did you do at your last job" (which was dollar tree as an assistant manager), and, "What did you do when you worked for Hy-Vee?" I told him, and the very next thing he said was, "Well ... would you like to start Monday?" My heart stopped. I wanted to drop my mouth, I was sooooo surprised and excited, but I held my cool and played it cool until I got outside. So I'm the new assistant manager at Taco Johns across from the Mississippi Valley Fairground.

God had a lot to do with it — he sent me Jason when I was on the verge of getting kicked out; he let them let me come and live with them after seeing him for 3 hours; and he let Taco Johns give me a chance.

Bottom line: GOD IS NEVER EARLY, BUT HE IS NEVER LATE. IT WAS A MIRACLE. IT WAS FATE.

P.U.S.H Pray Until Something Happens.

—Eric McDanel

### Who I Am, continued from page 1

I no longer need position, applause or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk with patience, live by prayer, and labor with power. My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my mind is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, and my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, let up, or slow up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and spoken up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go 'til he comes, give 'til I drop, witness 'til all know, and work 'til He stops me. And, when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My banner is clear.

I am — you are — we are — part of the 'Fellowship of the Unashamed,' thank you!

—Rob Fry, NCCF 6-25-09

The Church of the Damascus Road  
 239 North 11th Street  
 Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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July 2009

**Invite the NEW Pastor**

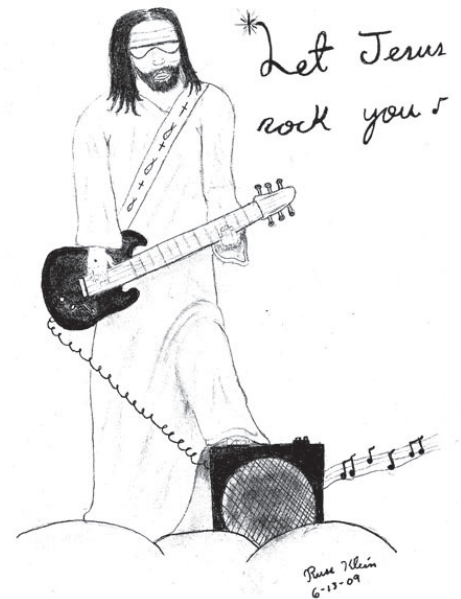
The worship services at The Church of the Damascus Road are scheduled on week-nights for two reasons. One is to enable people on the outside to worship with the inmates and not miss worship in their own congregations. The second is to make the pastor of Damascus Road available to visit area congregations 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, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, 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**



Drawings by Russ Klein, FDCF 6-09



Russ Klein 6-13-09



www.codrcare.org

**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.

- NCCF Church Council**  
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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 Paul Stone

**Worship & Bible Study**

- FDCF Fort Dodge**  
 6:30pm Wednesdays ..... Holy Communion  
 6:00pm Fridays ..... Prayer Team  
 6:30pm Fridays ..... Bible Study

- NCCF Rockwell City**  
 6:30pm Tuesdays ..... Bible Study  
 6:30pm Thursdays ..... Holy Communion