

# The Church of the Damascus Road

## Flash!

Volume 13  
Issue No. 4  
July 2010  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA



### Benefit Rescheduled

As you know, June was a wet month. It rained and rained to the point that the golf course was covered in water. So, after deciding they wouldn't let us use canoes, or play the eighth fareway over as many times as we needed to fill our card, the club decided to give us a rain date. And besides, schwimfluggles aren't exactly the fashion statement of the year!

We have now rescheduled the CoDR Golf Benefit for the 17th of July at Oakridge Recreation Association in Goldfield. Tee-off will still be at 9:00. If you would like to sign up or reaffirm your status for golfing, please contact Kathy Hansel at 515-356-2341 or crazycutter@wccta.net. It would be greatly appreciated if you did sign up ahead of time, because that way if we need to change it again, we would know who to call. I apologize if we missed calling anyone, because I didn't have a list of all who were planning on coming. Come join the fun and fellowship we enjoy on these days. It is to help a great cause!!!!

**Bring friends to join in the fun!**

—Kathy Hansel

### 3rd Annual Musicfest

The 3rd Annual Toe-Tappin' Country & Gospel Musicfest will take place July 10 and 11th in the grove on Mark and Cheryl Juhl's farm. Proceeds go to The Church of the Damascus Road.

The list of artists has been growing each year and this year's docket includes Terry Smith, Nashville, TN; Bob & Sheila Everhart, Anita; Lee Muller, Americus, KS; Francis Hahn, Mapleton; Terry Durr, Le Mars; Elaine Peacock, Elk Point (Sun only); Jackie Shewey, Cortland, NE; Wayne Longtin Sr., Le Mars; Ervin Pickhinke, Sioux City (Sat only); Ed Nesselhuf, Burbank, S.D.(Sun only); Andy Juhl, Marcus; Tom Mullally, Le Mars; Rick & Harriette Anderson, Underwood.



Sandwiches, salads, snack foods and beverages available---No alcohol allowed on premises. Saturday Food Sales benefit The Church of the Damascus Road; Sunday Food Sales benefit Prison Congregations of America.

Admission benefits The Church of the Damascus Road. Saturday Admission - \$15.00 Sunday Admission - \$10.00; 2 Day Admission - \$20.00; Under 18 - Free Admission.

Located in the farm grove of Mark and Cheryl Juhl, 11584 Polk Ave., Remsen, Iowa. Bring your lawn chairs and treat your ears while supporting a great ministry!

For more information contact: Mark or Cheryl Juhl at 712-540-6025 or 712-756-8851 (thecanfarm@frontiernet.net) or The Church of the Damascus Road at 515-955-3579

Directions From: Remsen, North on L-12 to C-16; west on C-16 to Polk Ave & North on Polk 1 1/2 miles. Le Mars, East on Hwy 3 to K64 (to Oyens); North 4 miles to C-16; East 2 miles to Polk Ave.; North 1 1/2 miles (Bridge out on C-16 off Hwy 60). Orange City, South on K-64 (Crossing Hwy 60) to 110th St.; east on 110th to Polk Ave and then 1/2 mile south on Polk Avenue.

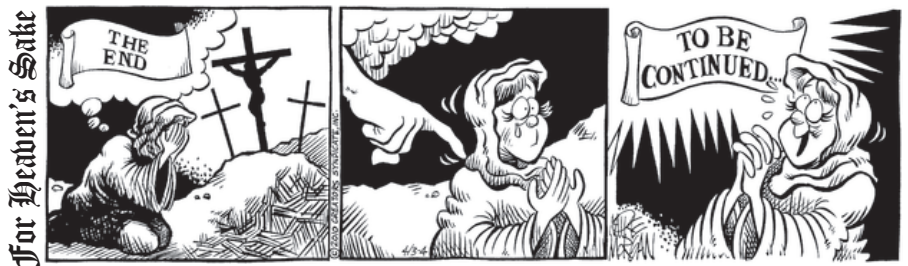


**Bring the whole family for some wholesome entertainment, toe-tapping music, cowboy poetry, worship, and sing-alongs. See you there!**



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## Church/State Separation

**W**hile a handful of atheists slowly cause Christianity to be publicly banned, insisting on the separation of church and state, Christians cringe and do nothing. They do believe their rights are being eroded away by the likes of Madalyn Malloy O'Hair (the instrumental cause of prayer being removed from public schools). Instead of doing something about such reversals of Americanisms, Christians sit around and whine and complain. Instead of standing up for what we believe in, the church has become a house divided, powerless, even though more than 80% of the American population professes to be Christian. Part of the reason Christianity is powerless rests in the fact that biblically atheists are right: there ought to be a separation of church and state in this country and in every country where Christ is preached. Like Christ, Christians are not in the world to condemn the world, but to save; not to change the minds of those who reject God, but to change the lives of those who accept Him. Consider what the Bible tells us: **Matthew 13:22:** And he that was sown among the thorns, this is he that hears the word; and the care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

**Romans 12.2:** And be not fashioned according to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, and ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

**Galatians 1.4:** who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us out of this present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father:

**John 8.12,23,26:** Again therefore Jesus spake unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life. And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: you are of this world; I am not of this world. I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you: howbeit he that sent me is true; and the things which I heard from him, these speak I unto the world.

**John 15.17-19:** These things I command you, that ye may love one another. If the world hateth you, you know that it hath hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own: but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

**1 John 2.15-19:** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vain glory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passed away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abideth for ever. Little children, it is the last hour: and as you heard that antichrist cometh, even now have there arisen many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they all are not of us.

Do not concern yourself with the world or the things that are of this world. Instead, concern yourself with the things that are of God and let Him judge the world.

—Mike Downs

## Why is Christianity still so immature?

**A**ll spiritual teachers tell us "**Do Not Judge.**" For those of us raised in a religious setting, this is very difficult. In a strange way, religion gave us all a Ph.D. in judgmentalism. It trained us very early in life to categorize, label, and critique. It told us all about worthiness and unworthiness. This judgmental mind told us what is right and wrong, who is gay or straight, and who is good or bad.

This sort of mind never creates great people, because everybody has to fit into our way of thinking. At an early age our grid was complete. We had decided who fit in and who did not fit in. We fashioned our own little world.

Christianity that divides the world in this manner and eliminates all troublesome people and all ideas different from our way of thinking cannot be mature religion. It cannot see the multiple gifts of each moment, nor the dark side that coexists with it.

This mind does not lead us to awareness, and above all, this mind will find it impossible to contemplate. To practice awareness means you live in a spirit of communion; your world becomes alive and very spacious, and not divided by mere mental labels.

— Fr. Richard Rohr, O.F.M

*Richard Rohr is a Franciscan Friar and founder the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a center that trains lay people for the outreach ministries of the church. Father Richard is the author of several books.*

## Faith and Patience

"...*be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*" Hebrews 6:12

**B**e not slothful. The New Webster's Dictionary defines sloth as laziness, and/or spiritual apathy. So, what this verse is telling us is to never give up, never lose hope, or take the promises of God for granted, or be lazy concerning them. There is a thief out there (the devil) that is looking to steal the good news of the promises from our hearts.

Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17) the promises, and faith is the substance behind the waiting for them to come. Faith pleases God. Hebrews 11:1,6.

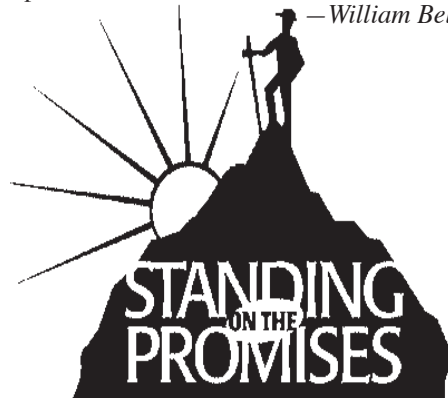
Patience is what is required to see God's promises made immediately evident.

Jesus equated the Word to seeds in the parable of the sower in Mark 4. As he explained, there are many ways the devil will try to steal the Word (or promises) from you.

We, through faith and patience, inherit all the promises of God. The power to heal, deliver and prosper us, give us victory and make us whole is available to all of us who believe and patiently wait for the results of our beliefs to come.

Do you know what you have been promised? Do you believe Daddy will give you everything he said he would? Believe! It pleases him!

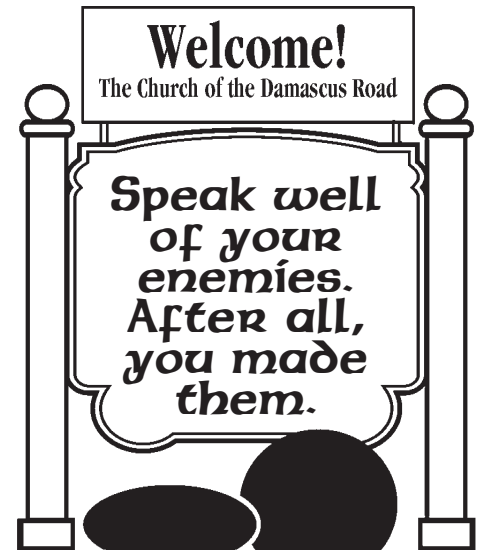
—William Bell



## NCCF Brothers-in-Blue

**T**he 26th Brothers in Blue weekend at NCCF will be October 7-10, 2010. Applications will be available soon, and the deadline is September 30. Even if you are not sure you'll still be here by then, sign up anyway just in case. This renewal ministry has been an awakening for many.

—Pastor Carroll Lang



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

Issue 13.4 July 2010

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  
Carroll Lang, Editor

Anyone wishing to be on our mailing list may send name, address, and phone numbers to the address below, or by e-mail at: [DamascusCh@aol.com](mailto:DamascusCh@aol.com). The Flash will be sent directly to your home. Our office is at St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

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



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

- Augustana Lutheran, Manson
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- M&M Leonard Woodruff, Rockwell City



# RE-entry integration

"It's a Ministry, Not a Program"

## Back in Action

Reentry Reintegration slowed down a bit while I underwent 8 weeks of prostate cancer treatment at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. The doctors prescribed two kinds of treatment: hormone shots and pills, and radiation. Judy and I traveled to Rochester every Monday and home every Friday from May 10 to July 2. Each week held 5 treatments one a day for five days.



While in Rochester we stayed in the Sandra J. Schulze Hope Lodge, a housing facility provided free by the American Cancer Society. People from all over America and from foreign countries come to the Mayo Clinic and they were represented as residents of Hope Lodge. Many friendships were made and will be long remembered.

When I completed all 42 treatments I rang the bell that announces to all in the waiting room that I have finished, and all applaud. Judy shared my elation that it is over and done for now, anyway. I am confident that the 42 treatments will have eliminated the cancer, but will know for sure in December after some tests.

During this time I have tried to keep up with Reentry Reintegration and also editing the newsletter. This vital reentry ministry will always need your help and willingness to serve.

I've said this before—we need your help in locating existing teams in parts of Iowa other than NW Iowa as well as developing more teams around the state. Please give me a call at 515-571-6566 or email me at CDLng@aol.com.



—Rev. Carroll Lang, NW IA Director

## Members of the Western Iowa Synod Assembly

Since current members are not allowed a furlough to attend the Western Iowa Synod Assembly, former members must step into the breach and attend on their behalf.



Judy Lang, Kim & Matt Hayes

This year's members of the assembly were Matt Hayes and Jeff Swearingen.



Jeff Swearingen

This was Matt's first time, so he was very interested in all the proceedings in forums and plenary (business) sessions.

Because Jeff lives right in Sioux City, he has been called upon several times to serve in this capacity, and has will-

ingly answered the call every time. Matt and Kim live in Sibley and he has actively spoken about CoDR to church groups in the area and we are hoping to start Reentry Reintegration teams in the near future. Jeff has been sidelined from trucking with a back injury.

## From a member:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord has put a dream in my heart since listening to Bishop Last's presentation on May 11, 2010, here at NCCF, on the work being done by the Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Africa.

I feel God is calling me to use my Registered Nursing skills in service to his people in that developing country.

I ask for your prayers, and, if you feel so moved, your financial support. With these I can accomplish what God is calling me to do. Thank you.

—Rex Arrowsmith,  
CoDR Inside Church Council Member

The Church of the Damascus Road  
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 Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Thanks for  
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July 2010

**Invite the 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 enable the pastor of Damascus Road 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**

Artwork by  
 Lyle Harris  
 NCCF

**Inmates:**

You, too, can have your artwork displayed in the Flash! and the Echo! Simply hand your art to Pastor Stone. It will be scanned and then returned to you.

Life with L.T. by Lyle Harris



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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- William Stark ..... Sec'y/Story Tellers
- Michael Downs ..... Librarian
- Lyle Harris ..... Rex Arrowsmith
- Thomas Tymkowicz ..... Chad Bechtel
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- Raymond Reynolds ..... Jacob Chiwengo
- Brandon Walstrom ..... Douglas Oberly
- Russel Klein ..... Nathan Merrill
- Wayne Smith

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