

The Church of the Damascus Road

Flash!

Volume 14
Issue No. 4
July 2011
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

Living Waters

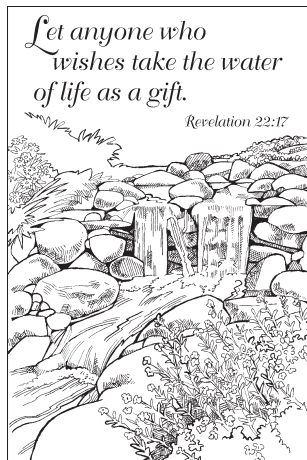
Drink in deeply of the Living Waters
Holding up your sons and daughters
All get filled with the Holy Ghost
Taking back all that's lost

Today's the day to take the land
Promised from when time began
Be strong and of good courage
God's Holy Spirit will go before us

Let us go in power and take the land
With Holy Ghost, and God's Right Hand
So how then could we ever loose?
Only if we should so choose

So dance before Him, all your might
And sing Him a knew song
We take the land at first light
Peace in our hearts, all fear is gone

Jesus filled us with the Holy Ghost
Let the Living Waters flow
Surround us with Your Heavenly Host
Tomorrow the Promised Land we go
— William Bell FDCF



Inside the Flash!

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Join Us July 9 and 10, 2011 at the Toe-Tappin' Country & Gospel Music Fest



The Fourth Annual Fundraiser benefitting The Church of the Damascus Road will be Saturday, July 9 from 10am to 10pm, and Sunday, July 10 from 10am to 6pm (free admission Sunday from 10am to 12pm) in the grove on the Mark and Cheryl Juhl farm, 11584 Polk Avenue, Remsen, Iowa. Y'all come! Bring your favorite lawnchairs and treat your palate with good food and treat your ears to good music, while supporting a great ministry. Admission is \$15 for each day, \$25 for both days, those aged 17 and under are free. 100% of admission benefits CoDR, thanks to sponsorships provided by area businesses.

Treat Your Ears

Featured Performers

Terry Smith, Nashville, TN
Bob and Sheila Everhart, Anita, IA
Wayne Longtin, Sr., LeMars, IA
Jackie Shewey, Cortland, NE
Lee Miller, Americus, KS
Pat Boilesen, Albion, NE
Marge Lund, Anita, IA
Elaine Peacock
Andy Juhl, Marcus, IA
Terry Surr, LeMars, IA
Francis Hahn, Mapleton, IA
Ed and Kathy Dovel, Omaha, NE
Rick and Harriette Andersen, Underwood, IA



Wayne Longtin, Sr. sings with kids



Terry Smith

Elaine Peacock



Sound by
Heeren Sound,
LLC



Get set for toe-tappin' fun!

Treat Your Palate

Sandwiches
Salads
Snack Foods
Beverages
Saturday sales benefit CoDR
Sunday sales benefit
Prison Congregations of America

Leave It at Jesus' Feet

I'd like to tell you a story about a young boy growing up in a big family. A boy told him, "There is something special about you. Someday you'll be a priest and lead people to Jesus. A boy full of the Spirit and love for the Lord. That simple understanding."

Then one morning he woke up to find out his hero, his dad, was gone, had died. This boy's little four-year-old brother asks the priest (a good friend), "Why did God take my dad when we weren't done with him yet?" At 8 years old, this left the young boy questioning his faith.

As this boy grew, he distanced himself further and further from God. This boy's mother, an annoying Christian woman, never lost her faith. This boy goes to her with all his troubles and problems. She always says, "Leave it at the foot of Jesus on the cross." It can't be that easy. This boy never got that. Honestly, the Crucifix scared him. He thought it was gross, morbid.

Then this boy, now a man, goes to jail, meets a man and finds the Lord again. And on his new journey he wants more understanding. Still going to his mom, her still saying leave it at Jesus' feet. Then this man goes to prison. Chasing straight after God with all his heart. His pastor starts saying leave it at His feet. His friends do the same. Going through pain, loss and struggle. Through a simple song one night when he couldn't sleep it came to him on the wings of the Holy Spirit.

So if you don't get it, let this try and help you. Please, if you will get comfortable, close your eyes, and imagine you're at Calvary, the top of the hill. You are standing at the foot of the cross. Your Lord and Savior, Jesus, hangs, nails through his hands and feet, a crown of thorns pressed onto His head, His skin torn from His flesh from the 39 lashes, His face swollen and bruised from the beatings, covered in blood and sweat running down onto the ground. Although probably not much sweat left from the night and day he has just endured.

You're at His feet. Can you see Him? Now take all your sins, problems, troubles, worries, struggles, your past, future, mistakes, your life, things done and left undone and put them all in a box. Now place them at the foot of the cross. Yes, in the blood, it's okay, just set them down in the blood — that's the point.

Now step back, your future is in God's hands and you can never have your burdens back. Your sins are forgiven once and for all. They're gone forever — that's God's Love. Now think of one thing that makes you truly happy. Got it? Let it fill you up. It's ok, go ahead and smile or cry. There, now, that's the Holy Spirit.

I hope that through this story that boy leads at least one of you to Jesus. Leave it at His feet.

—Russell Pick, FDCF June 2011

New Member



Mark Willson

My wife Cindy and I live in Johnston with our yellow lab, Sadie. We have 4 children, and 2 grandchildren. I recently retired from a 15 year career as a financial advisor. I attended my first Brothers in Blue last October and I felt God calling me to be more involved in prison ministry. I feel honored to be on the Outside Church Council and the Reentry Reintegration Steering committee for the Church of the Damascus Road, and look forward to many years of service.

Fountain of Life

For centuries man has searched for the elusive Fountain of Youth in one form or another. Yet, even if they should find it, what would they gain? A few years added to an already miserable life?



I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

What we need to search for is the Fountain of Life. This is not elusive. It adds joy to your appearance and eternity to a fruitful life. As Jesus said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I

—Mike Downs



Join Outside Council

You are invited to consider being a member of The Church of the Damascus Road's Outside Church Council. The OCC is responsible for the financial support of the congregation, and the management of the church office, while the Inside Church Councils, made up of inmates, are responsible for the life, worship and ministry of CoDR in the prison.

The OCC meets every third Wednesday of the month at 11:45am for a catered lunch followed by the business at hand.

Terms of office are 3 years in rotation. If you feel called to this special ministry, please call 515-955-3579 or email DamascusCh@aol.com.



Appreciation for Brothers in Blue

From the inside out, we want to thank you for all your love and support through Brothers in Blue. We can't begin to tell you how much it means to us. Thank you, and God bless.

—Your Brothers in Christ at FDCF

Welcome!
The Church of the Damascus Road

Try our Sundays, they are better than Baskin-Robbins.

The Church of the Damascus Road Flash!

Issue 14.4 July 2011

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. 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
- Badger Lutheran, Badger
- Bethany Lutheran, Emmetsburg
- Bethany Lutheran, Spencer
- Emanuel-St. John Lutheran, Lytton
- Faith Lutheran, Odebolt
- First Lutheran, Algona
- First Presbyterian, Fort Dodge
- First United Methodist, Fort Dodge
- Grace Lutheran, Fort Dodge
- Morningside Lutheran, Sioux City
- New Covenant Christian, Fort Dodge
- Our Saviour's Lutheran, Callender
- Our Saviour's Lutheran, Humboldt
- St. John Lutheran, Pomeroy
- St. John Lutheran, Le Mars
- St. Mark's Episcopal, Fort Dodge
- St. Olaf Lutheran, Fort Dodge
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RE-entry integration

"It's a Ministry, Not a Program"



Pocahontas Baptist Church Reentry Reintegration Team Training

Hope for More Teams

Pocahontas Baptist Church has its first ex offender and the team is helping to settle him in. Terry Schoon, an ex offender and former member of the Church of the Damascus Road Inside Church Council, has worked hard to make this happen.

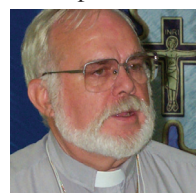
Hope for a team is stirring in Rockwell City and plans are to involve local congregations to join in forming a team, getting trained, and preparing for its first ex offender. Your prayers toward this end are welcomed

Reentry Reintegration's Mission Statement is to "Empower Christian communities to assist in the successful transition of ex offenders to society." Our Reentry Reintegration ministry will train and prepare you to welcome an ex offender back into society and help her or him make that successful transition, thus making him or her an EX ex offender.

Now, we're not saying it will be easy, but we know from experience that it is a rewarding ministry and, like any ministry, it is filled with sorrows and joys, hard work and feelings of success. Community size need not limit you. We have teams in communities both small and large and in-between.

There can be a vital ministry of reintegration in your area as well. We need your help in locating existing teams in parts of Iowa other than NW Iowa, 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



Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all.

"One is Evil - it is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

"The other is Good - it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.

"The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."



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

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Thanks for
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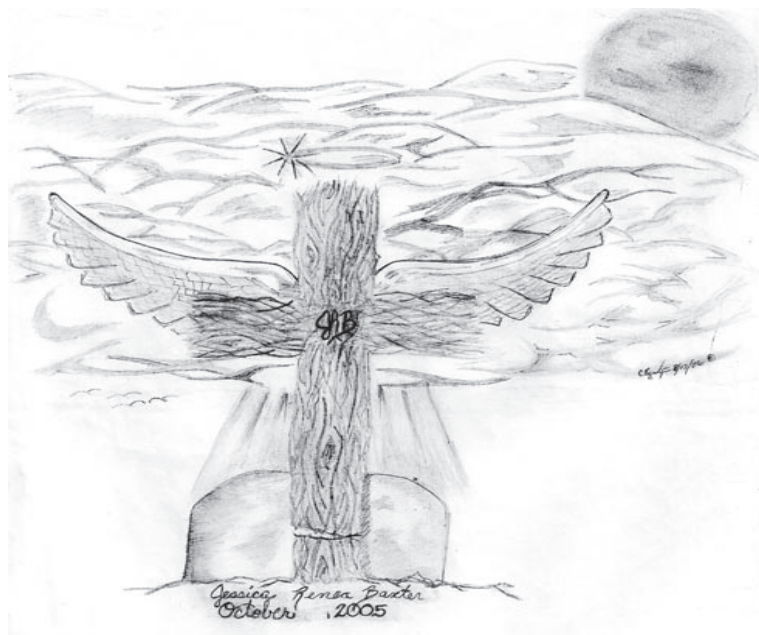
July 2011

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, 239 N 11th St, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, or by e-mail at <DamascusCh@aol.com> to arrange for a visit to your congregation. Pastor Paul 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

Inmates:
 There was no new original inmate artwork for this space, but you 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.



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.

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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