

# The Church of the Damascus Road

# Flash!

Volume 14  
Issue No. 5  
September 2011  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA



## 10th Annual Meeting

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The Church of the Damascus Road will be held Sunday, November 13, 2011 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Rockwell City, Iowa. Registration and coffee fellowship will begin at 2pm. A forum on Reentry Reintegration will begin at 2:30pm. Supper will be served at 4:45pm and the meeting will start at 5:30pm. So we know how many will be attending/eating, please RSVP by November 6, 2011 by mail to The Church of the Damascus Road, 239 North 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501, by email at DamascusCh@aol.com, or by phone at 515-955-3579.

## Country Gospel a Success!



The 2011 Country Gospel Fundraiser event on the Mark and Cheryl Juhl farm was another success, making about \$5,000 for the Church of the Damascus Road and \$400-\$500 being sent to Prison Congregations of America.

### Inside the Flash!

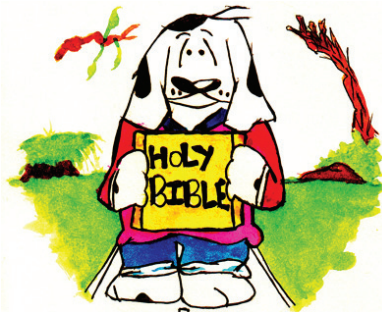
- Page 2 - Story of a Little Boy
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- Page 2 - My Lord
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## Swamped! Thanks!

Story Tellers books are not currently needed. Your response to our request for children's books for dads to read to their children was *tremendous!* We now have enough books to last for the next several years. If you have already gathered books that you have not gotten to CoDR, don't throw them away; let's talk and figure a way to get the books to our office. Many of the dads report that receiving a book along with their voices on tapes or CD's is terrifically appreciated by their children. It's one more way for the men to change their and their family's life for the better.

—Pastor Paul



## Study Bibles Needed

Inside both prisons we are experiencing a tremendous thirst for God's Word. Members and seekers not only want to read Scripture, they want to understand it as well as they can. Study Bibles with notes and references are extremely useful.

If you or your group/congregation would like to help. We are looking for new or near new Study Bibles to give to involved and interested inmates. NRSV, RSV, NKJV, and NIV are preferred.

You could buy and send one or more Study Bibles, or you could send CoDR a donation designated for Study Bibles. We can usually get a better price than retail. Thanks in advance for your consideration of these holy tools for ministry.

—Pastor Paul

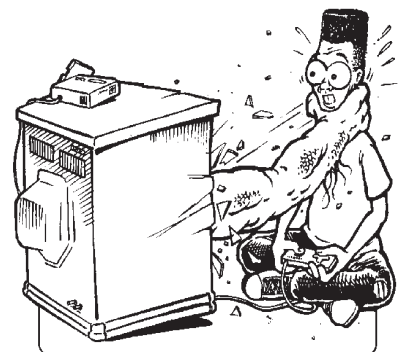
## Study Bible vs TV

The greatest resource available to us is our Bible; this especially rang true while I was incarcerated because I was going through some very stressful and emotional times back then and often I needed someone there for strength, comfort and guidance and my Bible was God's way of providing. I have heard it once referred to as God's love letter to His people. I know when I first entered the prison system I took a little over \$200 with me to buy a TV because that was how I was planning to do my time with my head buried in the "Boob Tube."

I was early on in my Christian walk and desired a good study Bible especially since one of my fellow inmates at the Polk County Jail showed me his and to be quite frank I was a little jealous because I desired all the tools available to satisfy the new found thirst for God and His word.

Instead of saving the money for when I entered the prison where I would do my time I spent \$40 on a new Ryrie Study Bible and that was the best investment that I could have made because unlike buying a TV and investing in what worldly things I undoubtedly would be watching, I was investing in my relationship with God. I needed change in my life; I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. The Bible says that the Bible is living and active as well as it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. When you are incarcerated your heart is where a hotbed of emotions are stirring and how you deal with them determines how your time will be spent whether in pain and suffering or in the joy that only knowing Jesus can bring.

—Robert L. Johnson II



## A Story of a Little Boy

This is a story of a little boy who was always in trouble growing up in life! It all started with a 7 year old boy who had two older brothers and he looked up to them more than any others, and one day they started to do things the little boy thought were cool, but later found out, though it was fun, it was also a very destructive path.

Well, when the little boy was 8 he took his first puff off a joint. Later, at about 9, he started using meth with his brothers. He drank and got sick. Well, after 5 years of all this he had started stealing and landed himself in a juvenile facility. He got out 2 years later at age 15 and was clean for about a month, then started all the stuff he was doing before and found himself in prison at age 18. As a young kid he had a whole life ahead of him, but instead did stuff in life that was not good. He wasn't at all educated about any drugs and alcohol as a young kid. Now he sits here (in prison) not once, but twice. This kid I'm talking about is me. I've had a life led by the devil for 15 years and now I've got Christ who saved me from sin.

I hope you understand it was not my intention as a little boy to grow up using drugs and alcohol. It just happened. Then I heard God say, "Son, you've been given another chance, don't blow it!"

I gladly tell you all that my brother, Eddie, did 3 years by Dubuque and is out and off paper and married with kids, and Larry did 3 years 6 months in Mount Pleasant, Anamosa, Newton, and is also now married and with kids.

I've come close to death 3 times, once by gun, once by overdose on meth, and once by getting stabbed. Every time God saved me and I say now, if you truly believe in God, then he'll save your life. Otherwise, he'll wait for you to ask for his help and for him to save you.

I still look up to my brothers today because, if they can stop using drugs and alcohol, so can I.

That is my story. Thanks for listening. May God have mercy on you and, God bless you all.

—James Wolff, 6-15-11



## Official Acts

### Baptisms

#### FDCF

Joshua Jeremiah Albrecht - 12-10-10  
 Jeffrey Edward Baase - 12-12-10  
 Joe Milton Barnes - 12-12-10  
 Jason Allen Campbell - 12-12-10  
 Myles Jeffrey Cornwell - 12-12-10  
 Mark Anthony Davis - 12-12-10  
 Tyler Ryan Doty - 12-12-10  
 Ryan LeRoy Gile = 12-12-10  
 Mike Richard Lee Jones - 12-12-10  
 Derek David Leuchtenhacher - 12-12-10  
 Som Lovan - 12-12-10  
 Sean Darcelious Murray Jr. - 12-12-10  
 John Lee McFadden - 12-12-10  
 Bryan Lloyd Moore - 12-12-10  
 Nickey Dewayne Jerrold Stone - 12-12-10  
 Timothy Aaron Weyls Jr. - 12-12-10  
 Robert Eugene Wimer - 12-12-10  
 John Michael Woods - 12-12-10  
 Shody James Hunt - 5-25-11  
 Steven Eugene Hattig - 6-12-11  
 Nicholas Scott Prine - 6-12-11  
 Branden Junior Ayala - 6-29-11  
 Jostein Junior Ayala - 6-29-11

#### NCCF

Shawn David Daniels 3-6-11  
 David Douglas Harrington 3-6-11  
 Lucas Scott McMahon - 3-6-11  
 Christopher Michael Phipps Jr. - 3-6-11  
 Herman Robert Rauch - 3-6-11  
 Cary Clayton Welsh - 3-6-11  
 James Harry Wiggins - 3-6-11

### Weddings

Kenrick Jerrod Jefferson & Rebecca Jo Pritchard - 11-10-10 - FDCF  
 Monprintess Laverne Perkins & Heather Anne Koppen - 11-10-10 - FDCF  
 David Sherrod Lacaze & Amanda Irene Rodgers - 11-19-10 - NCCF  
 Michael Richard Lee Jones & Katie Linn Benton - 12-23-10 - FDCF  
 Frank Anthony Amodeo & Emily Anne Martin - 01-7-11 - NCCF  
 Chad Allen Herring & Allison Renae Zoeller - 6-18-11 - FDCF

## My Lord

For you, you are my Lord  
 You give me the shield and the sword  
 Lifting me up when I fall,  
 Because your grace is for all  
 Under your wings I am safe  
 Under my feet are the snakes.  
 If I falter, how weak is my strength?  
 If I follow you my path is straight.  
 You are through the narrow gate  
 Know that it's never too late  
 With you I am brave  
 Because you are mighty to save  
 One of your greatest gifts is love  
 To all it is free from above.

—Russell Pick, FDCF June 2011



## 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.

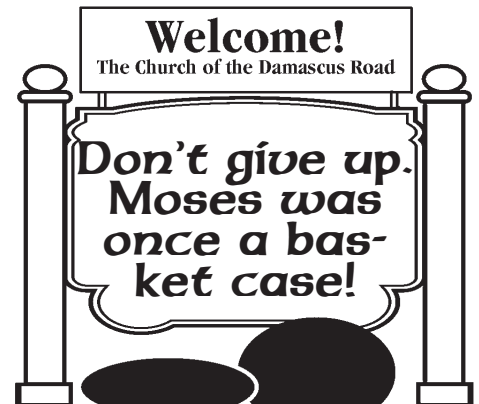


## NCCF Brothers-in-Blue

The 28th Brothers in Blue weekend at NCCF will be October 6-9, 2011.

Applications will be available soon, and the deadline is September 29. 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 Paul Stone



**The Church of the Damascus Road Flash!**  
 Issue 14.5 September 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
- St. Paul Lutheran, Holstein
- St. Paul Lutheran, Palmer
- Ullensvang Lutheran, Thor
- Unuted Methodist, Holstein
- Zion Lutheran, Clear Lake
- Zion Lutheran, Gowrie
- Zion St John Lutheran, Sheffield
- John & Marge Everts, Lytton
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- Noel & Linda Singer, Webster City
- Rev. Paul Stone, Eagle Grove
- Sukup Family Foundation, Hampton
- Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Fort Dodge
- Chris Tostenrud, Everly
- Leila Wilson, Fort Dodge
- M&M Leonard Woodruff, Rockwell City



# RE-entry integration

"It's a Ministry, Not a Program"

## More Teams Being Planned

New Hope Prison Congregation, Iowa's fourth prison congregation, located in the Newton Corectional Facility, has gathered a reentry aftercare team of area supporters and we have set a date for a training session on November 19, 2011. After a short time, they will be training other teams and the movement to assist ex offenders to make successful transition into society, thus granting taxpayers big savings, will have added more numbers.



In Rockwell City, plans are still underway to involve local congregations to join in forming a team, get trained, and prepare for its first ex offender. Your prayers toward this end are welcomed

Reentry Reintegration's Mission Statment 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

## From Sen. Patrick Leahy

There are currently more than two million people in jail or prison in the United States, and more than 13 million people spend some time in jail or prison each year. The Second Chance Act recognizes that most of these people will at some point return to our communities," said Senator Leahy. "I believe strongly in securing tough and appropriate prison sentences for people who break our laws. But it is also important that we do everything we can to ensure that when these people get out of prison, they reenter our communities as productive members of society.



Helping ex offenders leave our prison systems and successfully make the transition back into society saves untold taxpayer dollars and changes from a drain on funds to a contribution to society.

## How to Get to Heaven

A man died and met St. Peter at the gate. St. Peter says, "Here's how it works: You need 100 points to get in. Tell me about your life."

"Well" the man said, "I was happily married and never cheated on my wife."

"That's good," said Peter, "That's 2 points."

"Hmmm," said the man, "this is going to be harder than I thought. Well, I went to church regularly, volunteered my time and tithed. I was involved in prison ministry for twenty-five years. I went to prisons regularly and shared Jesus with them."

"Wonderful" said Peter, "That's worth another 2 points."

"Only 2 points!" said the man, "at this rate, it'll only be by the grace of God that I'll ever get into this place!"

"Bingo!" said Peter. "That's 100 points! Come on in!"

—Shared by W. E. Bell



The Church of the Damascus Road  
 239 North 11th Street  
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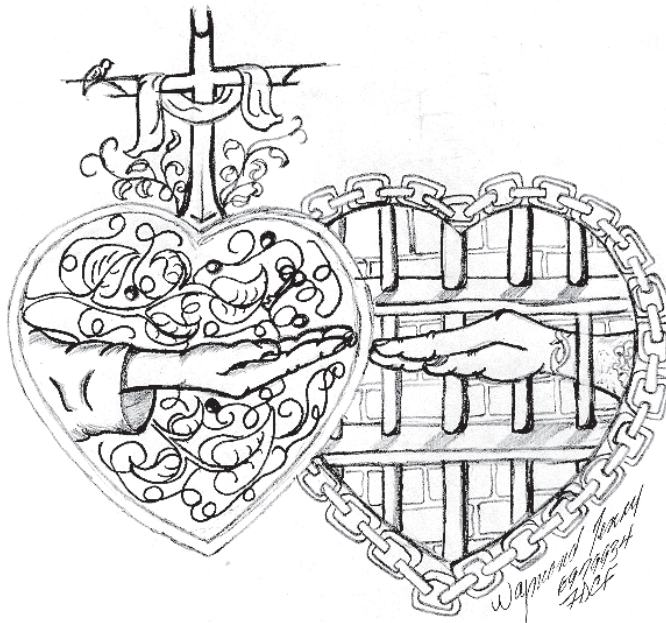
September 2011

### 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



Waymond Tenney, FDCF

**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.



### 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**  
 Arthur Bennett ..... President  
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 Alan Schieffer..... Secretary, Co-Story Tellers  
 Nathan Merrill..... Librarian  
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 Raymond Reynolds..... Kirby Sanders  
 Som Lovan ..... Wayne Smith  
 Cedric Williams ..... Sam Velau

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