

The Church of the Damascus Road

5th Annual Meeting



4:00pm, January 28, 2007
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1212 Sumner Ave SW
Humboldt, Iowa

The Church of the Damascus Road Annual Meeting

Agenda

4:00pm, January 28, 2007

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1212 Sumner Ave SW, Humboldt, Iowa

Welcome, Prayer

Dinner — Catered by Kelmar Catering

Devotions — Pastor Carroll Lang

The Meeting — Dennis Booth, President

Introductions

- Outside Church Council members and spouses
- Former Outside Church Council members and spouses
- FDCF and NCCF Regular Volunteers and Story Teller Volunteers
- Former CoDR members and spouses/guests
- Correctional Facility representatives
- Others Present
- Getting to know you
 - Who are you?
 - Where do you reside? How far did you travel to be with us?
 - Are you representing a church? If so, which one are you representing?

Reports

The following reports are included in this packet:

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- 23 Story Teller Program

Remarks

- Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor, CoDR
- Former CoDR Members
- Others

Benediction — Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor, CoDR

A History of
The Church of the Damascus Road
by Rev. Carroll Lang

In 1996, the city of Fort Dodge, Iowa made a second bid to the Iowa Department of Corrections (having lost the first bid to Newton) to convince the IDOC to build a new prison in Fort Dodge. This time around the city's bid committee invited the clergy of Fort Dodge to join them. Three clergymen, the Reverends Marvin Jenkins, Allen Hermeier and Carroll Lang attended these meetings. Persons who had been invited to be part of the bid committee were asked to submit a component to the bid, offering the services they would provide. The clergy provided a "Spiritual Component" to the process, offering two major programs. The first was to provide an experienced parish pastor to start a prison congregation, and the second was to implement the Match Two program.

When the Iowa Department of Corrections accepted Fort Dodge's bid, Hermeier and Lang assembled laity and clergy from the area to form a steering committee. During discussion of the nature of the congregation, whether it was to be non-denominational or a part of a denomination, the Steering Committee was unanimous in stating that it should belong to a denomination. The deciding factor was that the ELCA was the only denomination offering to give financial support, so it was decided that the congregation would be part of the ELCA. The steering committee then contacted the Western Iowa Synod and invited Bishop Curtis Miller to join them in guiding the steering committee through the process of forming a mission prison congregation. Bishop Miller told the committee that the Rev. Delwayne Hahn was the Western Iowa Synod's ELCA liaison and he would be the steering committee's primary guide. Since the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City was only 24 miles west, it was decided to include both sites in the plans to start a mission congregation.

The committee met several times at Christ Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge and a couple times at the synod offices in Storm Lake. The ELCA Division for Outreach had indicated an interest in starting more congregations like this, so they agreed to support this mission start-up, paying half of the mission developer pastor's salary and benefits. A call committee was formed, represented by the Bishop, Pastor Hahn, the WIS Outreach Chair, and ecumenical representatives. The call committee chair was Fr Stephen Hall+, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fort Dodge. Several candidates were interviewed. Rev. Carroll Lang was issued the call in June 1997. He was called to begin a word and sacrament ministry at the North Central Correctional Facility on August 1, 1997. Later, when the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility opened in 1998, a word and sacrament ministry was to begin there. Although the call actually comes through the ELCA for a mission developer pastor, the actual letter of call is issued from the synod in which the mission is being developed. Salary is determined by the ELCA Division for Outreach. After the Church of the Damascus Road is self supporting, salary will be set by the Outside Church Council.

The ELCA Mission Investment Fund was instructed by the ELCA Division for Outreach to purchase a parsonage. Rev. Lang was instructed to locate a realtor and locate 3-5 possible homes in the "medium range" (\$40,000 to \$70,000). Del Hahn and Andrew Beal (Region 5 Building Consultant) came to Fort Dodge to view these homes and decided that we would need to set our range higher as the available homes were deemed inadequate by Mr. Beal. Rev. and Mrs. Lang then spent time with the realtor finding homes in the \$60,000 to \$120,000 range. After another visit from Del Hahn to view the 4 possible homes, a home was selected at a cost of \$96,000. As closing time neared, Andrew Beal had an EPA firm conduct an inspection and discovered lead and asbestos in the home. The purchase was canceled, and the Langs and the realtor began another search with a top range of \$130,000. There were none available, but the realtor had some prospects that were on the market for more than that amount, hoping that perhaps the owners would take a lower offer.

The options were narrowed to three, and then two, both for essentially the same price, but one had sewer and water service while the other had its own pump and septic tank. The first one, built in 1992, was purchased for \$153,000. The ELCA Mission Investment Fund paid for the house outright, and the agreement is that when The Church of the Damascus Road is self-supporting the house may be purchased for the same price regardless of what the market may be at the later date.

The Langs moved into the parsonage on October 11, 1997. In 2001 CoDR became solely supported by surrounding congregations and individuals, with not ELCA support. On April 20, 2002, CoDR was recognized as a congregation of the Western Iowa Synod ELCA, which meant that the parsonage had to be purchased from the ELCA. Pastor Lang was given a housing allowance to purchase the home.

The rest of the mighty acts of God and the activity of The Church of the Damascus Road, are they not written in the minutes and actions of the secretary and treasurer? And the ministry continues to grow.



Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December 17, 2006

Dear Members of Western Iowa Synod Congregations,

"... so that they may be one, as we are one" (John 17:11).

Today you are gathered in that important "ritual" of congregational life called The Annual Meeting. For some the annual meeting is simply a time to review and adopt an annual budget, and perhaps nominate and elect those who will serve on the church council. These are important decisions! In other places the annual meeting will also include reports of the past year's ministry and vision and direction for the year's ministry ahead. This, too, is important, if not essential, to a congregation compelled by the love of God to act.

As I am sure you have heard, the Western Iowa Synod is a connecting link to the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America throughout Iowa, the nation, and into all the world. This includes beginning new mission congregations, sending missionaries, nearly forty colleges and seminaries, disaster response, hunger relief, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran World Federation, and on and on. Here in Iowa these ministries include Lutheran Services in Iowa, Lutheran Campus Ministry, prison ministry, a new mission start in Sergeant Bluff, and a newly redeveloping congregation, Nuestro Salvador in Sioux City. It is mission support dollars from your congregation that enable the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA and the ELCA churchwide organization to do this ministry on your behalf.

Further, partnership with the synod extends directly to the front doors of our 160+ congregations with the search for pastors and interim pastors, conflict intervention, the formation of shared ministry partnerships, companion synod ministries, youth and family educational resource, leadership development through the Lay School of Ministry and the Western Iowa Synod School of Evangelism (a first in the nation), all the while administrating a territorially large and diverse synod. It is mission support dollars given from your congregation that enable the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA to do this ministry on your behalf.

I wish you God's rich blessing as you put your heads together to consider ways to faithfully respond to the opportunities God is placing before you. All things are possible with God, and sometimes the best strategy is to get out of the way of the Spirit's movement among us, trusting that giving it our faithful best, God will provide the rest with his abundant and ever present support.

Your partner in ministry,

+ Michael Andrew Last

+Bishop Michael A. Last

The Church of the Damascus Road

Fourth Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Church of the Damascus Road was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fort Dodge on Sunday, January 22. President Dick Hersom began with a welcome at 4 p.m. Pastor Carroll Lang also welcomed everyone and led devotions on Mark 1:16-20. There were 59 people attending. Everyone was introduced.

Applications for an AfterCare workshop were available. Judy Lang reported on the Kite Quilt program. In prison a kite is a message sent to staff in order to make a request. The quilts are given to prisoners' families to offer love and support for them. Robert Johnson's book, "Musings of a Prison Poet," is available for \$10. \$8 goes to a trust fund for his children's education.

St. Mark's Human Needs Committee served a lasagna dinner at 4:30 followed by the rest of the meeting. All the reports are included in the booklet.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved after correcting the date to 2005. Earl Johnson moved and Rollin Swanson seconded the motion. Jim Fevold should be added to the outside council members for 2005 and 2006. On p. 8 it should read Pastor Jane Johnston from American Lutheran Church at Melvin. The outside council can have 13 members plus 2 pastors. We can use two additional lay people.

Pastor Carroll Lang reported that he looks forward to a day when there is successful aftercare and beyond that to a time of preventive care. Pastor Danette Johns brought greetings from Bishop Last and the Western Iowa Synod.

In discussing the budget it was noted that 5% goes to Prison Congregations of America and .5% to the Western Iowa Synod. We should encourage monthly and quarterly gifts from congregations and individuals. The income for 2005 was \$128,266.93 and expenses were \$124,668.72. Reserves, savings accounts and Mission Plus equals \$51,000. Donations of Church of the Damascus Road are determined by the members. They support a Chilean child through Children International for \$18 per month.

Pastor Lang continues to encourage churches, organizations and individuals to become active in their support; he makes many visits. It was suggested that council members contact inactive churches or that volunteer coordinators take on this challenge.

There are reports of many inside council members included in the booklet. Six former members brought their personal greetings and testimonies in behalf of Church of the Damascus Road and Pastor Lang's leadership and compassion. They expressed appreciation for the opportunity to know the love of God.

Pastor Lang closed the meeting with a benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Wold, CoDR Outside Council Secretary

Church of the Damascus Road

Outside Council Highlights 2006

January: Voted to use memorial money to purchase a snake and mixer for the sound system at FDCF. Officers were elected as follows: Pres. Mark Haase, Vice Pres. Dennis Booth, Treas. Rollin Swanson, Sec'y Kay Wold.

February: Bub Gleason was accepted as a new council member. Pastor Lang reported on Compassion Iowa as a source of grant money for AfterCare training.

March: Jim Wengryn was accepted as a new council member. Dick Hersom has requested a leave of absence from the council. The grant proposal for Compassion Iowa is completed. Awards are made in June with notification by mid-May. Zion/St. John of Sheffield renewed their covenant as a mission partner. Inmates gave 3 of the 15 talks at a recent Brothers in Blue weekend at NCCF.

April: 51 people attended 2 AfterCare programs given by COPE. Carroll, Holstein, Spirit Lake, Sioux City (2), Lytton, and Harcourt are all interested in having AfterCare Teams. Marge Everts and Candace Booth will be making Kite quilts at the WIS Assembly on May 6 to represent CoDR.

May: There are AfterCare Teams in Holstein, Lytton, Fort Dodge, Humboldt and Spirit Lake. Much of the discussion centered on AfterCare. A separate AfterCare committee was suggested; the executive committee will handle it.

June: Paul Harrison was accepted as a new council member. CoDR is in the process of applying for non-profit 501(c)3 status. The new AfterCare Steering Committee is Carroll Lang, John Everts, Mark Haase, Dennis Booth, Judy Lang, Jim Fevold, Kay Wold, Rollin Swanson, and Paul Harrison. A new AfterCare poster is on display at the Chamber of Commerce.

July: The AfterCare Committee has received \$5,077, the first half of a grant, from Compassion Iowa.

August: Jim Fevold resigned from the council to work with LSI on AfterCare in IA. AfterCare Steering Committee adopted a mission statement: "Empower Christian communities to assist in the successful transition of ex-offenders to society" and chose Paul Harrison as its director.

September: AfterCare training in Des Moines was cancelled due to double booking by the hotel. The first Compassion Iowa grant report has been completed. Some of the money will be used to have Linda Schroeder do training in Spencer. Senator Daryl Beall spoke to the council about his support of prison reform.

October: Discussed plans to celebrate the 10th anniversary of CoDR in 2007. The AfterCare Steering Committee reports progress towards an AfterCare Board of 11 members. Dennis Booth was appointed to serve as president because Mark Haase has missed 3 meetings without cause.

November: Iowa's AfterCare model has caught the attention of Sen. Joe Biden in Washington, D.C. Dick Hersom has officially resigned the council. Kathy Hansel was elected to serve as V. President. Contributions from congregations are about half of last year. They need to understand it isn't possible for CoDR to become self-sustaining.

December: A Thrivent fund raiser yielded \$1,300. The annual meeting is set for Jan. 28 at Our Saviour's in Humboldt at 4 p.m. Russ Goebel, a parole officer for sex offenders will be giving a workshop at 2 p.m. Peg Jackson completed her term on the council and was thanked.

Respectfully submitted by Kay Wold, Secretary

The Church of the Damascus Road *Outside Council Members*

The Outside Church Council shall be made up of persons from: congregations of any Christian denomination in Western Iowa (not more than 13); clergy of any Christian denomination in Western Iowa (not more than 2); Synod Staff (nonvoting); Prison Congregations of America (nonvoting), and Pastor of the congregation, who cannot hold office but who has voice and vote.

CoDR Outside Council Members - 1/2007 -12/2007

Mr. Dennis Booth, President	Lutheran, Lytton
Mrs. Kathy Hansel, Vice President	Lutheran, Badger
Rev. Kay Wold, Secretary	Lutheran, Corwith
Mr. Rollin Swanson, Treasurer	Lutheran, Fort Dodge
Mr. Mark Haase,	Lutheran, Humboldt
Mr. John Everts	Lutheran, Lytton
Mr. Lee Kuhrt	Lutheran, Pomeroy
Mr. Paul Peterson	Lutheran, Callender
Mr. Paul Harrison	Catholic, Fort Dodge
Rev. Danette Johns, WIS	Liaison (Ex-officio member)
Rev. Ed Nesselhuf, PCoA	Consultant (Ex-officio Member)
Cynthia Hanks	Office Manager/Financial Secretary (Ex-officio Member)
Rev. Carroll Lang	Pastor

Past CoDR Outside Council Members - 1/2006-12/2006

Mr. Mark Haase, President	Lutheran, Humboldt
Mr. Dennis Booth, Vice President	Lutheran, Lytton
Rev. Kay Wold, Secretary	Lutheran, Corwith
Mr. Rollin Swanson, Treasurer	Lutheran, Fort Dodge
Mr. Richard Hersom	Presbyterian, Fort Dodge
Mr. Lee Kuhrt	Lutheran, Pomeroy
Mrs. Kathy Hansel	Lutheran, Badger
Mr. John Everts	Lutheran, Lytton
The Rev. Fr. Margaret (Peg) Jackson	Episcopal, Fort Dodge
Mr. Jim Wengryn	Catholic, Fort Dodge
Mr. Paul Peterson	Lutheran, Callender
Mr. Paul Harrison	Catholic, Fort Dodge
Rev. Danette Johns, WIS	Liaison (Ex-officio member)
Rev. Ed Nesselhuf, PCoA	Consultant (Ex-officio Member)
Cynthia Hanks	Office Manager/Financial Secretary (Ex-officio Member)
Rev. Carroll Lang	Pastor

Memorials/Honoraria - 2006

We received a total of \$615.00 in memorials and honoraria in 2006.

William & Anjanette Goetz, West Allis WI - Guy Olson memorial
Elaine Nauss, Emmetsburg - Julieann Strohman memorial
Gary & Nancy Rosendahl, Eagle Grove - Bernice Thurmond memorial
Bethany Lutheran Church, Emmetsburg - Harold Heykes memorial
Dale & Lisa Siebrecht, Curlew - Marjorie Cross memorial
Lee & Jean Kuhrt, Pomeroy - Marlene Bridwell memorial
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of mother, Ruth Schmalenberger
Mel & Marian Renken, Manson - Milton Hoag memorial
Gloria Stensland, Thor - LeRoyn Stensland memorial
Neal & Virginia Miller, Manson - Milton Hoag memorial
William & Anjanette Goetz, Milwaukee WI - Guy Olson memorial
Neal & Virginia Miler, Manson - Margaret Waller memorial
Earl & Lela Odland, Clarion - Robert Marshall memorial
Cynthia Hanks, Manson - Marguerite Wyatt memorial
Kim M. Mark, CoDR member, Fort Dodge - Sherman A. Mark memorial
Cynthia Hanks, Manson - Everett Sexton memorial & Reg Merrill honorarium
Cynthia Hanks, Manson - Carroll & Judy Lang honorarium
Mary Sexton, Fort Dodge - Everett Sexton memorial (to Bible fund)

FDCF & NCCF Regular Volunteers

The following volunteers have taken a special course, been issued a personal ID badge and, with the exception of NCCF regulations, are able to attend a worship service without having to be on a regular Visitor's List:

FDCF- Current Volunteers

D. Dwanyne Anderson, Webster City
Carol Etzel, Fort Dodge
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Cleo May Swanson, Fort Dodge
Rollin Swanson, Fort Dodge
Dorothy Zehr, Fort Dodge

NCCF-Current Volunteers

Candace Booth, Lytton
Dennis Booth, Lytton
John Everts, Lytton
Marge Everts, Lytton
Bub Gleason, Manson
Ginny Gleason, Manson
Judy Gronbach, Dakota City
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Cleo May Swanson, Fort Dodge
Rollin Swanson, Fort Dodge

The following individuals are regular volunteers for our Storyteller Program:

Isabelle Benjamin, Bradgate, Coordinator
Judy Gronbach, Dakota City
Donna Haack, Pomeroy
Dennis & Candace Booth, Lytton
John & Marge Everts, Lytton
Judy Watne, Galt
Dorothy V. Zehr, Fort Dodge
John & Jody Eppley, Humboldt

Kenneth & Vivian Perin, Humboldt
Jean Peterson, Pomeroy
Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Fort Dodge
Dale & Nancy Bruns, Jolley
Lee Wilson, Fort Dodge
Lee & Jean Kuhrt, Pomeroy
Ruth Younie, Pomeroy

The following churches/individuals have contributed books for our Storyteller Program:

Isabelle Benjamin, Bradgate
First Congregational UCC, Webster City
New Covenant Christian Church, Fort Dodge
Nancy Peck, Sioux City
First Lutheran Church, Clarion
Trinity Lutheran Ch WELCA, Spencer
Ullensvang Lutheran Church, Thor

Asbury United Methodist Church
Webster City
Ms. Bev Bremer, Le Mars
AAL Branch 8639, Lehigh
Lutheran Brotherhood Br 8563, Milford
Hardy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hardy
Western Iowa Synod Women's Organization

Many other churches, church organizations and individuals have contributed money for this program

From the Pastor

The Church of the Damascus Road is in its 10th year of ministry. I am always amazed at the response and support we receive from congregations and individuals to ensure that this ministry continues. I am grateful and thank God for all of you who are part of that support. We are at about the 97% level of support and more and more congregations are adding us to their budgets, but more support is needed if we are to extend our ministry to include reentry aftercare of ex-offenders.

We do all we can as a congregation to give encouragement, exhortation, and hope to the members so that when they leave they will have a renewed sense of direction and purpose to make a new life for themselves with the aid of the Holy Spirit. However, that's where the support ends for most of the members for whom we wish Godspeed. What is urgently needed is a system of support in the community to which they locate after release, and plans for this support is growing slowly but surely.

Prison authorities are becoming more and more aware of this need and are willing to endorse responsible efforts to provide aftercare for ex-offenders. Paul Harrison has contributed immensely to our After-Care efforts, tirelessly traveling from one AfterCare team to another to offer his help. We owe him a great debt.

AfterCare training events are planned for Saturday, January 27, 2007 from 1pm to 5pm in Boone, and Saturday, February 10, 2007 in Nevada. A fee of \$10 per person includes a meal and an aftercare manual. Try to get 3-7 persons from your congregation and/or community to attend the training together.

Who knows? As we move into the area of AfterCare and are successful in keeping ex-offenders EX-offenders, maybe we will even begin giving PREcare in our congregations and communities to keep people from offending or at least keep them from being sent to prison. We could reduce the need for expensive prisons and fulfill the desire of Christ for us to "do to the least of these." There will always be a need for prisons, but — maybe we won't need so MANY!

— *Pastor Carroll Lang*

Presentations/Sermons/Updates 2006

- 01-01-06 Lone Rock Presb, Lone Rock IA, 9am Supply-CoDR sermon, 10am SS, with ex offender
- 01-05-06 North Central Chapter IA Council United Blind, Ft Dodge; Present-Jim Fevold/Mark Haase
- 01-08-06 Washington LC, Duncombe, 9:15am & 10:30am, Supply, taking Dan Hicks
- 01-15-06 St Olaf LC, Fort Dodge, assist with worship
- 01-29-06 Trinity LC, Ottosen, 9am-Supply/Temple Talk, 10:30am-Supply/Temple Talk
- 02-05-06 St Paul LC, Rolfe; 9am Holy Communion, Fellowship & SS after-Presentation/Mark Haase
- 02-12-06 Nazareth LC, Armstrong; 9am Worship, 10:30am Adult Forum Presentation with Dan Hicks
- 03-05-06 Zion St John, Sheffield 9:00am Worship, 10:15am Fellowship & Presentation
- 03-12-06 Good Shepherd Episcopal, Webster City 10:30 Supply, CoDR sermon, Fellowship after
- 03-26-06 United Methodist Church, Holstein 8:30am CoDR sermon, 9:30am SS, 10:45am CoDR sermon
- 04-01-06 UMC, Rockwell City Presentation-Jim Fevold & Mark Haase
- 04-02-06 St Olaf, Fort Dodge, Presentation at SS class
- 04-23-06 UCCC, Webster City 9am SS, Presentation; 10:30am Supply
- 05-14-06 Bethany LC, Spencer 10am Presentation
- 05-04-06 Zion LC, Gowrie 9:30 Worship w/Paul Harrison, John Johnston
- 05-28-06 St John's, Carroll 9am Worship
- 06-18-06 Nazareth & St John, Coulter
- 07-09-06 UMC in Webb, Gillett Grove & Dickens, CoDR sermon & presentation, will take ex offender along
- 07-16-06 Grace UMC, Spencer 8:30 & 11am Worship, present between, Lloyd Abbey, Paul, John & others
- 07-23-06 Our Saviour's LC, Rembrandt 9:30am-rural Rembrandt 10:30am Holy Communion at both
- 08-07-06 Hilltoppers, Fort Dodge 11:30am-1pm Presentation at Sandstone Restaurant
- 08-20-06 Immanuel LC, Burnside 9:30am Supply
- 10-01-06 Spirit of Life LC, Sergeant Bluff, 10:15am Worship, Noon brunch w/presentation
- 10-28-06 Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer 5:30pm Worship
- 10-29-06 Bethany LC, Spencer 8:30am Worship, 11am Worship
- 11-12-06 St Peter LC, Pocahontas 8:45 & 10:45am Sermon/Video about CoDR
- 11-19-06 St. Olaf Lutheran, Fort Dodge, 9, 10 and 11am
- 12-07-06 Bethany LC, Thompson

CoDR Budget and Expenses for 2006

The Church of the Damascus Road

Budget 2006

The Church of the Damascus Road

Expenses 2006

Human Resources

Pastor Salary	43,640.00
Housing Allowance	13,200.00
Utilities	6,000.00
Social Security Offset	4,340.00
Pension & Benefits	16,835.00
Continuing Ed.	500.00
Professional Exp.	<u>500.00</u>
Total	85,015.00

Office Mgr.'s Salary	10,320.00
Soc. Sec & Med.	<u>790.00</u>
Total	11,110.00

Pulpit Supply	1,800.00
Accompanist & Supply	2,600.00
Mileage	<u>5,500.00</u>
Total	9,900.00

Administrative

Telephone	2,400.00
Printing	1,400.00
Postal Expense	1,800.00
Office Sup & Equip	1,700.00
Copier Maintenance Agreement	1,200.00
Annual Meeting	300.00
Miscellaneous	<u>600.00</u>
Total	9,400.00

Mission

Prison Congregations of America	6,475.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	647.00
Newsletter	4,300.00
Congregation General	500.00
Congregation Worship	600.00
Congregation Education	500.00
Conference Expenses	900.00
AfterCare Training	550.00
Miscellaneous & Lutheran	
Resource Center	<u>200.00</u>
Total	14,672.00

2006 Budget Subtotal	130,097.00
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Office Rent*	6,000.00
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Grand Total	136,097.00
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*Our thanks to St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, for their 'in kind' donation of office space valued at \$6,000.

Human Resources

Pastor Salary	43,640.00
Housing Allowance	13,200.00
Utilities	6,000.00
Social Security Offset	4,300.04
Pension & Benefits	16,009.90
Continuing Education	500.00
Professional Expenses	<u>499.92</u>
Total	84,189.90

Office Manager's Salary	10,320.00
CoDR Employee Payroll Tax Expense	<u>798.60</u>
Total	11,118.60

Pulpit Supply	1,227.37
Regular & Sub Accompanist	2,550.00
Mileage	<u>5,980.05</u>
Total	9,747.42

Administrative

Telephone	2,556.85
Printing	1,639.82
Postal Expense	2,827.88
Office Supply & Equipment	1,251.25
Copier Maintenance Agreement	843.95
Annual Meeting	228.66
Miscellaneous*	<u>1,969.47</u>
Total	11,317.88

Mission

Prison Congregations of America	5,930.67
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	593.15
Newsletter	4,693.07
Congregation General	382.79
Congregation Worship	540.46
Congregation Education	72.90
Conference Expenses	1,089.76
AfterCare Training/Ex offender Expense	3,357.66
Miscellaneous/Lutheran Resource Center	<u>695.00</u>
Total	16,599.71

2006 Expense Subtotal	132,983.51
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Office Rent**	6,000.00
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Grand Expense Total	138,983.51
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*Incorporation status - IRS form 501(c)3 exp 1,431.00 (Not anticipated)

**Our thanks to St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, for their 'in kind' donation of office space valued at \$6,000.

CoDR Budget and Needs for 2007 and Contributions for 2006

<u>Budget-2007</u>	<u>Needed Income-2007</u>	<u>Contributions -2006</u>
Human Resources		
Pastor Salary	45,678.00	January 16,824.72
Housing Allowance	13,200.00	February 9,897.69
Utilities	6,000.00	March 10,384.44
Social Sec. Allowance	4,340.00	April 7,323.41
Pension & Benefits	16,015.00	May 10,898.83
Continuing Ed.	500.00	June 8,661.26
Professional Exp.	500.00	July 7,536.40
Total	86,233.00	August 13,251.86
Office Mgr.'s Salary	11,000.00	September 5,072.34
CoDR Payroll Tax Exp.	842	October 6,550.68
Total	11,842.00	November 10,582.30
		December 17,805.40
		Total 124,789.33
Pulpit Supply	1,800.00	
Accompanist & Supply	2,600.00	
Mileage	5,500.00	
Total	9,900.00	
Administrative		
Telephone	2,400.00	
Printing	1,400.00	
Postal Expense	1,800.00	
Office Sup & Equip	1,700.00	
Copier Mtnc. Agrmt.	12,000.00	
Annual Meeting	300.00	
Miscellaneous	600.00	
Total	9,400.00	
Mission		
PCoA*	6,475.00	
Western Iowa Synod	647.00	
Newsletter	4,300.00	
Congregation General	500.00	
Congregation Worship	600.00	
Congregation Education	300.00	
Conference Expenses	1,100.00	
AfterCare Training	3,000.00	
Miscellaneous & Lutheran Resource Center	200.00	
Total	17,322.00	
2007 Budget Subtotal	134,697.00	
Office Rent**	6,000.00	
Grand Total	140,697.00	
\$100 a Month Club Churches & Individuals		
	January 11,224.75	January 16,824.72
	February 11,224.75	February 9,897.69
	March 11,224.75	March 10,384.44
	April 11,224.75	April 7,323.41
	May 11,224.75	May 10,898.83
	June 11,224.75	June 8,661.26
	July 11,224.75	July 7,536.40
	August 11,224.75	August 13,251.86
	September 11,224.75	September 5,072.34
	October 11,224.75	October 6,550.68
	November 11,224.75	November 10,582.30
	December 11,224.75	December 17,805.40
Total	134,697.00	Total 124,789.33
		2006 Total Income 124,789.33
		2006 Expenses 132,983.51
		2006 Total Loss -8,194.18
		Trans from MissionPlus: 24,000.00
		Transfers totaling \$24,000 were made in April, June, July, September, October, November and December to supplement our income
		Transfer from Savings: 7,189.24
		When needed to pay for these specific expenses, money was transferred from these allotted funds: AfterCare, CoDR payroll tax expense, FDCF & NCCF offerings & CROPWalk donations, Bible, Pastor & CoDR continuing education funds, Discretionary, Outside Council, & Congregation general, worship, and education.
		Year-End Balances:
		Checking: 11,332.81
		Reg. Share Acct. 14,844.40
		MissionPlus 13,254.86
		Total: 39,432.07
*Prison Congregations of America		
**Our thanks to St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge, for their 'in kind' donation of office space valued at \$6,000.00		

Church Records 1997 to 2006

Baptisms, Renewal of Baptisms & Affirmations

Marriages

	<u>FDCF</u>	<u>NCCF</u>		<u>FDCF</u>	<u>NCCF</u>
1999 to 2005	53	34	1998 to 2005	16	6
2006	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	2006	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
	65	34		26	6

1999 to 2005 - 1 Renewal of Baptism and 2 Affirmations and at FDCF, 1 Renewal of Baptism and 4 Affirmations at NCCF
 2006 - 9 Baptisms and 4 Affirmations Baptism and 1 Affirmation of Faith at FDCF, No Baptisms or Affirmations at NCCF

Monthly Contributions (Pledges) 1997-2006

<u>Pledges-Churches¹</u>		<u>Pledges-Organizations²</u>		<u>Pledges-Individuals³</u>	
\$1 to \$50	16	\$1 to \$50	1	\$1 to \$50	25
\$51 to \$100	7	\$51 to \$100	0	\$51 to \$100	7
\$101 or more	4	\$101 or more	0	\$101 or more	1
Fallen short	14	Fallen short	1	Fallen short	14
No longer giving	<u>10</u>	No longer giving	<u>1</u>	No longer giving	<u>7</u>
Total*:	51	Total*:	3	Total**:	54

*Of 51 churches & 3 org. pledging, 41 churches and 2 org. are giving; 27 churches & 1 org. are fulfilling their commitment.

**Of 54 individuals pledged, 47 are giving; 33 are fulfilling their commitment.

Annual Contributions (Gifts) 1997-2006

<u>Gifts-Churches¹</u>		<u>Gifts-Organizations³ / ²</u>		<u>Gifts-Individuals³</u>	
\$1 to \$100	6	\$1 to \$100	4	\$1 to \$100	124
\$101 to \$500	37	\$101 to \$250	4	\$101 to \$300	44
\$501 to \$1,000	9	\$251 to \$500	0	\$301 to \$500	4
\$1,001 or more	18	\$501 or more	1	\$501 to \$1,000	9
No longer giving	<u>137</u>	No longer giving	<u>48</u>	No longer giving	<u>459</u>
Total:	207	Total:	57	Total:	646

¹Includes Church Women, WELCA, Sunday Schools & Western Iowa Synod

²Includes AAL, Lutheran Brotherhood, Women's Clubs, American Legion Auxiliary, etc.

³Includes Memorials & Fund-raiser Gifts (The majority of individual gifts are 'one time' only.)

1997 to 2006

<u>Database Entries⁴ - '97-'05 / '06</u>	<u>No. Pledged - '97-'05 / '06</u>	<u>No. Giving Gifts - '97-'05 / '06⁵</u>
Churches 633 652	49 51	69 70
Organizations 68 53	3 3	7 9
Individuals ⁶ 1,239 1,344	63 63	185 184

⁴The Database entries are those receiving the newsletter *Flash*.

⁵The figures in this very last column equal the total of each category (church, etc.) minus the number of those no longer giving. e.g., Gifts-Churches—207 churches are listed in our DB as giving gifts (see above). Of those, 137 no longer give, hence 207-137=70. Only 70 churches donate to CoDR — all gifts are donated on an occasional basis.

⁶Of these, 51 are former CoDR members who have been released and 12 who were transferred to other facilities.

Categorized - Contributions 1997-2005[^]

2006[^]

Total-'97-'06[^]

All Lutheran churches., org. & WELCA	428,640.02	61,027.24	489,667.26
Methodist churches	18,065.66	2,094.15	20,159.81
Episcopal churches	17,519.00	2,200.00	19,359.00
Presbyterian churches	19,764.96	3,601.50	23,366.46
Other churches	14,602.67	2,569.69	17,172.36
Western Iowa Synod	3,720.33	0.00	3,737.00
Clubs, Secular org., Businesses & Schools	9,988.97	620.00	10,608.97
Individuals	<u>242,771.45</u>	<u>48,942.42</u>	<u>291,713.87</u>
Total:	755,089.73	128,266.93	804,032.15

[^]All figures are from the Quicken records on our computer.

Church Attendance

Fort Dodge Correctional Facility Fort Dodge, Iowa

Worship services 5/22/98 to 12/27/05

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers¹</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance²</u>
(348)	20,581	348	1,028	2,595	223,495

Worship Services 1/4/06 to 12/27/06

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers¹</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance²</u>
(51) ³	4,233	51	130	269	4,683

Total communed in 2005: 3,989 (85% of total attending worship services)

These statistics include many inmates, volunteers and visitors who have repeatedly attended services.

North Central Correctional Facility Rockwell City, Iowa

Worship Services 8/28/97 to 12/28/06

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers¹</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance²</u>
(425)	9,220	425	1,1135	2,367	13,118

Worship Services 1/5/06 to 12/29/06

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers¹</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance²</u>
(50) ³	1,008	50	261	172	1,491

Total communed in 2005: 1,411 (95% of total attending worship services)

<u>Average Total Attendance/Service</u>		<u>Average Total Attendance/Service</u>	
NCCF		FDCF	
8/27/97 - 12/29/05	31	5/22/98 - 12/28/05	54
1/3/06 - 12/28/06	31	1/4/06 - 12/27/06	92

Legend

() Number of services each year at each facility

¹Our Volunteers began serving in 1999 after applying for the position, and then being trained to be an official volunteer. Upon completion they were issued official badges which allow them to attend a worship service without being on the regular Visitor's List. In 2001 NCCF changed their regulations allowing only ten visitors. We are no longer able to take any person under age 18 into NCCF

²Includes 35 Federal inmates housed at FDCF. Pastor Lang has a communion service for them during count before the evening worship service. Although they cannot worship at the regular service, they are included in the attendance and communed count.

³FDCF-Data not turned in to office due to the absence of Pastor Lang or undetermined circumstances. NCCF-Two services were not held due to Brothers in Blue weekend events held there that week.

This report does not reflect an accurate attendance for the worship services at each facility throughout the years of our existence, due to lack of reporting during Pastor Lang's absences.

Fort Dodge Correctional Facility Benevolences

During 2006 FDCF Inside Council members voted to disperse their offerings in the following ways:

March 12, 2006	
ELCA World Hunger Appeal (Souper Bowl)	\$ 78.23
Prison Congregations of America	37.50
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	37.50
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	30.00
RBC Ministries	30.00
Children International (quarterly dues)	54.00
Anita Michael fbo Holly Michael	111.00
Children International (Easter gift-Stefani)	<u>25.00</u>
Total:	403.23
June 26, 2006	
Prison Congregations of America	\$ 45.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	45.00
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	36.00
RBC Ministries	36.00
Children International	54.00
The Lord's Cupboard (through First UMC-Ft Dodge)	25.00
American Cancer Society	20.00
Mercy Home for Boys and Girls	10.00
Make-a-Wish Foundation	24.00
Camp Courageous	20.00
Inter-Faith Forum Transient Fund	<u>20.00</u>
Total:	\$360.00
September 13, 2006	
Prison Congregations of America	\$ 48.75
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	48.75
RBC Ministries	39.00
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	39.00
Children's International	54.00
Buddy Walk	25.00
Special Olympics Iowa	20.00
Covenant House	10.00
Make-A-Wish Foundation	10.00
EMS Memorial Bike ride	25.00
American Cancer Society	15.00
Muscular Dystrophy Association	15.50
Church World Service/CROPWalk	<u>15.00</u>
Total:	\$635.00
December 26, 2006	
Prison Congregations of America	\$ 37.50
Western Iowa Synod	37.50
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center	30.00
RBC Ministries (Daily Bread)	30.00
Children International	54.00
Stefani's Christmas gift	35.00
Victory Junction	25.00
Youth Shelter	20.00
Shriner's Children's Hospital	11.00
Boy Scouts of America	<u>10.00</u>
Total:	\$290.00
Total 2006 contributions	\$1,688.23
Non-offering gifts	
CROPWalk donations for 2006	\$83.86

North Central Correctional Facility Benevolences

During 2006 the Inside Church Council members of the voted to disperse their accumulated offerings in the following ways:

March 15, 2006

Prison Congregations of America -----	\$ 22.50
Western Iowa Synod-ELCA -----	22.50
Maryn Olson-----	45.00
Holly Michael (Northfield Community Church) -----	20.00
Catholic Sweet Potato project -----	20.00
Green Ivy School in Kenya-----	20.00
Fort Dodge AfterCare -----	<u>30.00</u>

Total: ----- \$180.00

June 20, 2006

Prison Congregations of America -----	\$ 25.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA -----	25.00
Global Mission Support/ELCA-Maryn Olson -----	50.00
CoDR AfterCare -----	40.00
Children & Family Urban Ministries -----	30.00
Open Bible of Calhoun County -----	<u>30.00</u>

Total: ----- \$200.00

September 13, 2006

Prison Congregations of America -----	\$ 15.00
Western Iowa Synod -----	15.00
Global Mission Support/Maryn Olson -----	30.00
Calhoun County Family Development Ctr -----	26.00
A.L.M./Green Ivy School -----	<u>26.00</u>

Total: ----- \$ 112.00

December 20, 2006

Prison Congregations of America -----	\$ 12.23
Western Iowa Synod -----	12.23
Community of Christian Fellowship -----	24.47
Lord's Cupboard, Fort Dodge -----	24.47
ELCA/Division for Global Missions/Maryn Olson -----	<u>24.46</u>

Total: ----- \$ 97.86

Total giving in 2006: ----- \$589.86

Non-offering gifts

CROPWalk ----- \$ 78.50



NCCF CROP Walkers



FDCF CROP Walkers

FDCF Inside Council Reports

Fort Dodge Inside Council President

Since I arrived at FDCF 2-1/2 years ago, I made a decision to get as involved with the church as I could. Now I am the president of the Inside Church Council. It is no accident that things happen in the Body of Christ for the Glory of God. I have seen so many prayers answered right in front of my eyes since I've been here and deepened my relationship with God.

I've been blessed to be able to give one of the talks for our Brothers in Blue weekend three times now. No matter where we are, God can and will use us if we let Him. He wants our trust and obedience, today and always. When I'm at a church related function, I don't even feel like I'm incarcerated. It's a feeling only the Holy Spirit can give us as humans. Inner peace.

Our purchases this year include a Carvin 16 channel Sound Board, snake, three microphones, six microphone stands, a carrying case for our microphones, and ten microphone cables. How much equipment is enough? Only God knows!

Our numbers at our worship services keep increasing or at the very least are maintaining an average of 80 to 100. There continues to be people talking through the service, but we can't control the actions of others, only be good examples ourselves.

I would like to see more people get involved with God's church here, We all have to answer God's call. We all can do something for Him, no matter where we are. I would like to encourage all to learn more about our Lord and Savior every day, and strengthen our faith and walk with him. In Christ's love.

Tony Halsrud

FDCF Inside Council Vice President

Ibegan attending this church service around the end of February of this year, I found that I was accepted for who I was and the outside visitors were there with open arms showing me what Christian love truly is. I attended Brothers in Blue in June and I was able to leave behind all my sins. From then on I have become an active member of the Church of the Damascus Road. I am always glad to see people go from the congregation. It always makes me rejoice when I am able to share with others what I heard at the service. It's all God's grace that I ended up here so I could get more in touch with Him on a personal level. My walk with Jesus has been strengthened through this small prison congregation. I have watched the numbers grow here and I know God is pleased with the work of this church. It is my prayer that there is a congregation on the outside that will accept me as openly as we are all accepted here. Bless you all for helping get this one lost little sheep on the right track in life.

Dustin Lear

FDCF Inside Council Secretary

This has been a great year for me and I have been very blessed to be part of a wonderful Council. When I came here on October 10, 2004, I wasn't with God. I fell away but then one of the guys who was on the Church Council kept telling me to just come once, and then I won't have to go again. So in 2005 I came to see what the Church of the Damascus Road had to offer. Before I did, however, I went to Abundant Life worship on Mondays and Harvest Baptist on Saturdays. I didn't like them much but once I went to my first service at the Church of the Damascus Road I was so surprised to see you get greeted at the door and can participate in the scriptures. So after awhile of going to the Church of the Damascus Road I asked Pastor Lang who I had to talk to, to be on the Council. He sent me to Tony Halsrud who told me I needed to attend 3 Council meetings. So I did and was then unanimously voted onto the Council in September. It was great to be accepted so warmly in a prison church and not pushed away or not wanted sometimes. In November I became secretary. It was so great. I write down all the things we talk about in the Council meeting. I never felt so much love since I'd been down until Pastor Lang and the Church of the Damascus Road brought me into their heart and church. On Wednesdays during worship I read the prayer and sing the Kyrie Eleison which means "Lord have mercy." I went to Brothers in Blue seven times while at MPCF, but never felt the love for God and all his children like I did when I went to Brothers in Blue as a Palanca member here at FDCF. I felt so much love for everyone and I knew that Jesus was right there beside us all, praising and worshiping with us. I also had my picture taken and put into The Church of the Damascus Road *Flash* in the December 2006 issue. It was great to see my picture in there walking for the CROP Walk and hunger of people that have to walk every day to get water or food. That isn't all. I also have my name on the back of the *Flash* issues where it says FDCF Church Council. I'm so happy God gave his Son to die for all us sinners and now He gave me a wonderful pastor and a great church council to worship and praise with. Thank you Lord Jesus for all and thank you Church of the Damascus Road for accepting me into your church and your hearts. I will never forget about you when I leave this place ever. If it wasn't for all you great gentlemen I would be lost forever Thank you all again and God bless you all and may he work in you even more and bring more people to the Church council like he did me. The congregation is a very big part of the church as well. The congregation also accepted me into the church. I was baptized on July 12, 2006. It was so wonderful to finally, in my whole life, to know God and my Lord Jesus Christ. I hope whoever reads this sees how much the Church of the Damascus Road has done for me and will want to come and worship with us and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. One more thing. Thank God for all he has done for each of you who reads this and know that He is always watching over us and always wants to bring us to him. That's all you have to do is call on his son's name and remember that Jesus Christ died for our sins and you too shall be saved from all your sins. Remember to thank God because that's what it's all about and that the main purpose in life is to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jeffery Lee Verschuure

FDCF Story Tellers Chairman and Prayer Team Leader

I'm proud to say that I have been put in charge of the behind the scenes paperwork for the StoryTellers Program. This is a place where men in the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility can go once a month and read a book on cassette tape to their children. What's nice about working for this program is that you get to hear all the fathers talk about how their children are looking forward to getting a book every month. I'm also the prayer team leader. That has done very well this year. We start off going around the table and pray for many people in need of prayer including myself, our families, soldiers overseas, and each other as well. The Church of the Damascus Road means a lot to me because everyone makes you feel like family.

Randy Elliot

Reports continued next page

FDCF Chapel Librarian

It has been a pleasure to serve the Church of the Damascus Road and Pastor Lang. Being on the Church Council has been like a family to me. We currently have a little over 2,600 books. We have Self-Help books, Inspirational-Testimony books, Novels, and Classic Story books. The library has a variety of different versions of the Holy Bible and Spanish Bibles. The newsletters we receive are *Pentecostal Evangel*, *The Lutheran, Baptist Bulletin*, and many more. There is a section in our library strictly for Catholics too. I am thankful for all the Church Ministries and others who donate books to the library. Other religious groups donate their books too, such as Scientology and Jewish Mysticism. I want to thank most importantly the Most High God who loves us and makes all things possible. Peace be with you.

Joseph Kosiba

FDCF/NCCF Flash & Echo Editor

Greetings in Christ! I am the editor for the *Flash & Echo* publications. This year has been great! We have had a good combination of wonderful inmate artwork as well as testimonies and poetry. I became a Church Council member in July of this year. Soon thereafter I began assisting the librarian with daily tasks as well as entering our books into a computer database. I became the editor of the *Flash & Echo* in September and still remain as an assistant to the librarian doing the computer entry. I enjoy the work that I do and thank the Lord every day that I am able to help the Prison Ministry of Pastor Carroll Lang by what I can do, or rather what God can do through me. I am extremely grateful and humbled to work with Pastor Lang and his great wealth of knowledge and ability to teach. Our Inside Church Council President, Tony Halsrud, has also shared his wealth of knowledge with me and the support of being a friend. I thank God for all He is doing for me and all the doors that are opening up. I look forward to an even better year in 2007. We all appreciate your support and contributions. Keep them coming in. God bless you all.

Kyle W. McMenamain

Christmas Card Give Away

This year the Christmas card giveaway was a tremendous hit with the inmates at both facilities. We gave away 984 cards at NCCF, Rockwell City and 3,242 at FDCF, Fort Dodge. The total cost for postage was \$383.76 for NCCF and \$1,268.11 at FDCF. A big thank you to the inmates at both institutions for their hard work and help in making the 2006 card giveaway a success. The inmates at both prisons were allowed to send up to four cards at no expense to them. This program is looked forward to by many inmates during the holidays. We're looking forward to an even better year in 2007. Shalom

Kyle W. McMenamain

My Brothers in Blue

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters. First may I share my gratification for taking the time to read this letter. In contrast remember while reading this letter I only speak from my heart, and learn with my mind. My main objective for writing you is to express how merely thankful I am for receiving your Christmas card you have passed forward.

Although we're not well acquainted, I've got the exciting feeling that God has done wonderful things in your life. I personally rely on His powerful grace each day while dealing with this mundane world. My intentions are to continuously persevere in my walk with Christ despite any obstacle along the way. I've logically found an aptitude for God and his peaceful ways. Therefore this Christmas has given me a whole new outlook on life.

I accept your card with peace, hope, and serenity to overcome in the new year to come. I aspire to eventually become whatever God's will is for me. Thy will be done, not mine.

"I pray that God may grant this world peace. Heavenly Father, look upon my dear Brothers in Blue and allow them to reach for the stars and embrace your will across the nation. May there be great wisdom to come for my Christian families. Keep us safe and sound, and enable us to open our eyes to your grace and good word. In Jesus name we pray. Amen." Never give up, never give up, never, never, ever give up!

Sincerely, yours truly...

Joey M. Vazquez

"Serenity is having an inner calm in the midst of ups and down of life.
It involves learning to be content with the things in our lives that cannot be changed."

Life Recovery

Reports continued next page

NCCF Inside Council Reports

NCCF Inside Council President

Greetings from the brothers of the congregation of the Church of the Damascus Road, here at NCCF. Our former President, David Porter, left Rockwell City on December 14. May the Lord watch over him and guard him in all his future paths. I am handed the honor of addressing you as their new president. I have immensely enjoyed this year as a member and my journey on this path. I am truly honored and humbled at the faith my fellow brothers place in me here at NCCF. In this situation, I would like to quote 1 Peter 5:7, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." NIV.

This year has been a blessing for me as well as all of us here. This is due only to the gifts you give us in your efforts to be with us, in person as guests and visitors, and the efforts of the many of you who pray for us. We thank you for your time and support. Please know that we truly are grateful to you for all of this. Many of us would be hard pressed to assemble and spend time in fellowship to get to know the Lord and each other. You help this reality take place for us.

As I am new to my position I am not up on all that took place this past year. But I must call the programs a success. "Story-tellers", "Brothers in Blue", and another big event this year was the Christmas card giveaway that took place on December 14. Many would not have been able to send cards without your generous aid in doing so.

Our efforts in the missionary field, began in 2005 when we decided to support, in small part, Maryn Olsen who is very active in working and educating HIV-AIDS infected and effected people in Africa. Maryn has returned her heart-felt thanks in the letters, prayer requests and news that she sends quite often. This has become a very worthwhile and progressive project.

Our Inside Council is, for the most part, new. New ideas are being considered and the ongoing projects will not change at all. One area we are looking at is an education committee to schedule some type of weekend time together. We have some ideas, but this is in early stage; perhaps a marriage class, or one on parenting, or early church history. It needs to be something to repeat a couple time a year as the turnover rate here at NCCF is high and it leaves few men to fill spots for any real length of time.

The CoDR AfterCare program needs your prayers. As always, it is as much of an honor for me to spend time with inmates as well as writing letters for them when they apply for help. In the past this area of men's lives have been a neglected area by society. To simply know people are willing to help when we get out is something that was not there in years past. I truly feel this is an area that needs continued growth and people. Many have no one or few friends that can support a worthwhile life style, left to themselves. Yet they truly have a desire to succeed in life and how they live. Only the Lord and His disciples can make that happen for them.

In closing I regret that I have not spent long enough in my brothers' trust to give you a more detailed report of this year. However, now that I come into the beginning of a new year I will be sure to keep the high notes and, next year, share more with you as the Lord sees fit to grant me. Peace to you in the coming year.

God does bless you all. You belong to Him, and He to you. What an awesome gift we receive in that simple fact. Peace be yours and your paths be gentle ones this coming year. A Disciple of my Lord JESUS CHRIST, President of Inside Council, NCCF,

JoRay W. Dale

NCCF Vice President

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This past year has been a blessing for all of us here at the Church of the Damascus Road. A major part of this blessing are the volunteers that come as guests to the services on Thursday evenings here at NCCF. It is nice to be able to visit with people outside the walls of the prison, and I know it is something that many of us look forward to each week.

Also, in December of this year we lost our former president, David Porter. Though we regret our loss, we are grateful that the Lord has allowed him to leave and move on. Porter was an encouragement to us all in his faithfulness. I know he encouraged me to get more involved in the Church of the Damascus Road. He always had a kind word to say to a brother.

We look forward to 2007. We have many brothers in new positions starting this year, including our new president, JoRay W. Dale. We have many ideas for the upcoming year as well as continuing the great ministries already in place such as StoryTellers, Brothers in Blue, and the Christmas card giveaway. These ministries help the inmates reach out to others and wouldn't be possible without your help. Thank you. Grace of the Lord be with you all.

Kristian Beranc

NCCF Evangelism

Well this has been a path that I would have never dreamed of taking but those were my plans, not God's. He had so much in store for me in the months to come back in May 2006. Slowly He has started to show me why this was the only path to help me get away from my drug addiction before I died or did something really bad. Since my incarceration I have been steadily on a great path with a couple of stumbling stones. But once I was invited to the Church of the Damascus Road by a former inmate, Jacob Reeves, I've been seeing the light in a different spectrum: a brighter one. One that I have not seen since I was a child. Also, I was asked and accepted to serve on the Inside Church Council and have enjoyed keeping my time tied up with my Bible study correspondence and evangelizing in the prison. God has blessed me with this experience and will bless me with many more to come. So far I have got a few people to come and join the congregation and I'm sure there will be more to come. Pastor Lang has also been blessed with patience in dealing with some of the prisoners as well as the wisdom with words to reach them. I would also like to thank all of the Outside Council members for their support and for their caring hearts. Another point to touch is that we are a congregation that accepts many different backgrounds and denominations all with the same purpose of serving our Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes our Tuesday night Bible studies are very interesting because of all the different outlooks but we always refer to the Word for the truth. Also, Thursday night worship service is filled with the Holy Spirit as well as neat sideshows by John Everts. All in all 2006 passed by so quick for me and I am now ready to see what God has planned for 2007. Thank you and God Bless.

Eric Mullinex

Compassion Iowa Grant Report

In March of 2006 some of us went to a grant-writing workshop at Buena Vista University. As a result we applied for the Compassion Iowa Grant for faith-based or community-based organizations (FB/COs) that work with people who are in need of assistance to become productive citizens. We were awarded a grant of \$10,154.00 for the period from June 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007. This money was to be used for capacity building, equipment upgrades and leadership training and not for direct assistance to people.

Below is what has been spent through January 15, 2007:

Contractual (<i>Honoraria, mileage & housing for persons conducting AfterCare trainings</i>).....	\$1,841.55
Training Meals and Snacks (<i>Participants paid part of cost</i>)	\$128.19
Travel for required trainings	\$1,714.91
Travel for teams and capacity building.....	\$528.91
Supplies, printing and resource books	\$755.64
Computer.....	\$1,911.66
Personnel – Judy for bookkeeping, etc.	\$599.25
Personnel – Paul for working with participants and teams.....	<u>\$1,045.50</u>
Total spent to January 15, 2007:	\$8,525.61

We have about \$1,630.00 left to spend. Below is how we plan to spend this money.

Contractual for Annual Meeting Training, and in Boone and Nevada	\$1,190.00
Training – snacks and drinks for these trainings.....	\$70.00
Travel for Compassion Iowa training in Storm Lake	\$35.00
Travel for team building and capacity building	\$145.00
Supplies – copies of materials for trainings.....	\$30.00
Personnel – Paul and Judy	<u>\$160.00</u>
Total left to spend by February 28, 2007:	\$1,630.00

For this Compassion Iowa Grant for faith-based organizations, at least two people from each organization that received a grant were required to attend Transformational Leadership and Planning Program Training. This training was done at four two-day workshops in Des Moines and four one-day regional seminars in Storm Lake. Paul Harrison and Judy Lang attended these sessions. Mark Haase attended the first training. Due to a change in leadership, John Johnston replaced Mark. At our last training in Des Moines we did a presentation to two people from the Department of Corrections and discussed ways we can work together with the common goal of reducing recidivism.

In addition to these trainings, a Management Series of ten workshops were offered at five different sites in Iowa. These were no charge to us except for travel and food. We had at least one person attend nine of the ten different workshops. They were:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Strategic Planning Processes – <i>Paul and Judy</i> | Building Effective Boards - <i>Paul</i> |
| Fund raising/Donor Development - <i>Judy</i> | Marketing Strategies - <i>Paul</i> |
| Leadership and Team Development - <i>Judy</i> | Fiscal Management – <i>Judy</i> |
| Volunteer Recruitment & Management – <i>Judy</i> | Coalition Building – <i>Paul and Judy</i> |
| Identifying & Leveraging Community Resources – <i>John and Marge Everts</i> | |

Regardless of the amount of things that this grant required us to do during its duration, the networking with other FB/COs has expanded our capacity statewide. These connections have provided more growth for our Reentry AfterCare Ministry and have given us some additional tools to help us grow.

Part of the process included the formulation of a mission statement: **“Empower Christian communities to assist in the successful transition of ex-offenders to society.”**

Paul Harrison and Judy Lang

AfterCare Teams

AfterCare provided successful reentry for 26 participants last year. Teams assisting at least one participant include:

Fort Dodge AfterCare	Rollin Swanson
North Central AfterCare, Humboldt	Al Schmidtke
UMC AfterCare, Holstein	Ken Miller
Calvary AfterCare, Fort Dodge	Leroy Johnson
Lakes Area AfterCare, Spirit Lake	Harold Overmann
Lytton AfterCare	Dennis Booth
Webster City AfterCare	Doug Messerly
Boone Co AfterCare, Boone	Bruce Thomas
Spencer AfterCare	Tom Dettmer

These are similar ministries with whom we’ve networked this past year, thus giving us more ability to serve:

Atlas of North West Iowa, Orange City	Harlan Stob & Nathan VanVoorst
Cornerstone of Ames & Des Moines	Tim Lubinus
Wrap-Around of Des Moines	Allen Spencer
Heartland Vineyard, Waterloo	Kathy Kratchmier
Catholic Diocese of Dubuque	Tom Lang
Matthew 25 House, Ames	Don Payer
Freedom House, Council Bluffs	Bob Thompson

These teams are primed and ready for a participant:

Morningside AfterCare, Sioux City	Dave Hecht
Jesus Seekers, Carroll	Allen Anneberg
Nevada AfterCare	Bruce Dittmer

2006 Reentry AfterCare in Review

One year ago, on January 29, 2006, I asked Pastor Carroll Lang for “five minutes” of time to speak on AfterCare during our Inside/Outside Church Council Meeting. Over one-and-one-half hours later the meeting wound down and CoDR AfterCare began to wind up! At the time of this meeting my number was 0085254. I resided and was receiving my mail at the North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF) in Rockwell City, Iowa. I was one of approximately 9,000 inmates in our system. During my relatively short stay at NCCF, I watched as a number of men left that facility to become one of the 29,000 people that we have on probation or parole. They left with good intentions after paying their so-called “debt to society,” but reentered a world filled with old haunts, taunts, and temptations. They often were released with virtually no monetary resources, no positive home environment, and no tools in place to help them become productive members of society. The result of this, more often than not, was that the same men re-offended, more as a matter of survival, not extreme criminal action. However, these same actions are the key factors in the rate of recidivism. Of the 29,000 people on parole or probation, over fifty percent of them will re-offend before they are discharged and thirty-seven percent of those will re-offend after discharge. I witnessed several of these men reenter the same gate that they had left through a matter of weeks before. After seeing the actual recidivism process take place on the inside, with countless hours of discussion with persons caught in the cycle, as well as with the counselors in charge of these men, my heart was led to become involved in a reentry program, using the research available to me from real live humans who were a part of this process. A long conversation with Pastor Carroll Lang rewarded me with the information that the Church of the Damascus Road, a prison congregation existing inside the correctional facilities at Fort Dodge and Rockwell City, Iowa, had such a ministry in place for a few years and was looking for ways to make it grow.

Eight months ago, after notification of our being awarded the Compassion Iowa Grant, we started the Transitional Leadership Training Series. Although we were already growing and expanding, this was awesome timing for our networking and capacity building needs, and to continue the growth of our ministry. Also, thanks to the Compassion Iowa Grant, we were able to upgrade our computer system to help facilitate our ministry of Reentry AfterCare.

Today! Far exceeding our original goals at the time of the grant application, our AfterCare Ministry has expanded into eleven (and growing) formally-trained Christian communities, and one (and soon others) transitional house with the capability of housing ten women and ten men. These participating communities, made up of over one hundred volunteers, working together with their available resources, have provided an environment that has successfully helped twenty-four (and counting) ex-offenders reclaim their independence and become productive members of society instead of a recidivism statistic.

Our AfterCare Mission: “Empower Christian Communities to assist in the successful transition of ex-offenders to society.”

Our Success: “Working together works” — by working with the Iowa Department of Corrections, legislators, local and statewide elected officials, and networking with communities and their resources, we have embedded the idea of being proactive in the reentry process and the results have proven that it works. These results are evi-

dent when looking at the lives of those we have served, and seeing those who have been served learning to serve others! We live in a world where success sells, and the success of our ministry is being looked at as a model as far away as Washington, DC. Awareness and education for the continuation of this much-needed ministry will be very beneficial to the integrity of the ex-offenders, the long-term reuniting of families, and the economic infrastructure of the affected communities.

Some success stories created by this ministry!

Lloyd walked out the gate of NCCF on March 21, 2006, destined for a homeless shelter with a total of \$6.27 and the clothes on his back. This is a man that during his time of incarceration completed his GED, was active in Bible studies, volunteered time for Bikes for Tykes, and a number of other causes. He was accepted into the AfterCare Ministry of Spirit Lake, Iowa, which gave him assistance with employment, mentoring, transportation, and a new Christian community to call home. Lloyd has been gainfully employed since the third day of his new start in life, and has met a wonderful Christian woman with three daughters who all call him “Dad.” On the nine-month anniversary of his release he purchased a home.

John walked out the gate of NCCF on April 27, 2006. He relocated in Fort Dodge with the AfterCare team. He was employed for a time in a cabinet shop, and later working as a contractor doing roofing and remodeling jobs. John has reconciled with his fourteen-year-old daughter who spent a couple of weeks with him this past summer. John has been attending the Compassion Iowa Training and is becoming a vital part of CoDR AfterCare. On December 23rd, he was discharged from parole.

Arnie was released to a homeless shelter in Ames, Iowa. After a few weeks of trying to get started without a support team to help him overcome the hurdles of reentry, he contacted us and was matched with the AfterCare team at Holstein, Iowa. Today he is working for a local cattle feedlot owner and very active in the community. On December 8th he was discharged from parole.

Jimmy was released from NCCF in August, after having spent eleven years incarcerated, to the Work Release center in Sheldon, Iowa. The Spirit Lake AfterCare team took Jimmy into covenant with them and he has been gainfully employed and active in the local Catholic Church.

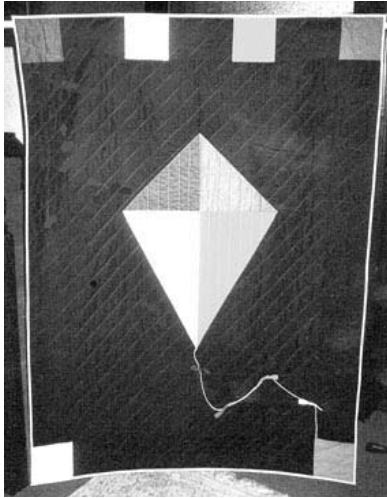
Steve was released in mid-December as one of the first to participate in the transitional house in Boone. Steve has found a new home and a great environment to start his new life in the world outside of the fence. He has been building shelves for the nursing home, utilizing the shop at this facility, and will be an important part of implementing an on site industry to help support this ministry.

These five men are examples of AfterCare assisted reentries, and only the beginning of many more examples. I don’t like the terminology of “failures.” I prefer to use the term “learning curves.” We have had a few of them, but to see the twenty-five (and counting) successful reentries has been a true blessing! A special thanks to all the supportive congregations and volunteers that make this much-needed ministry happen! God bless you all!

Paul Harrison
Church of the Damascus Road
AfterCare Coordinator
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Fort Dodge, IA 50501
Cell: 515-230-8815 lead-iron@mchsi.com

Kite Quilt Project

The Kite Quilt project has been gaining interest with church groups since it was introduced to us in September of 2005. A “kite” is a memo that inmates use to contact prison staff to request an interview or to ask a question. A “kite” is a form of communication and a Kite Quilt communicates that we remember the families and loved ones of those who are in prison. The quilts are given to families of inmates to send a message of love to the families at home.



The design for the quilts was created by Mrs. Kaona Hazlett, wife of Rev. Chuck Hazlett, the first pastor of the prison congregation in Appleton, MN. The design is a kite of four colors (green, blue, red, and yellow) on a background. The suggested size of these quilts is for a double bed or a single bed. Instructions are available from Judy Lang or The Church of the Damascus Road office.



The Church of the Damascus Road had a booth at the Western Iowa Synod Assembly. Candace Booth

and Marge Everts were there to assist several persons in assembling of the kites for future quilts.

If you are interested in making kite quilts, call our office at 515-955-3579 or Judy Lang at 515-576-6810 and ask for the Kite Quilt

Packet. The packet contains a photo of a quilt, a cover sheet with explanation, instructions and a quilt pattern.

We have received some completed quilts, which are beautiful! Thanks to those who have given us kite quilts. Completed quilts can be left at, or sent to, our office in St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 239 North 11th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. Be sure to attach a note on the quilt giving us your name, address, and church so we know who made it. If you have questions contact Judy Lang.



Story Tellers Story



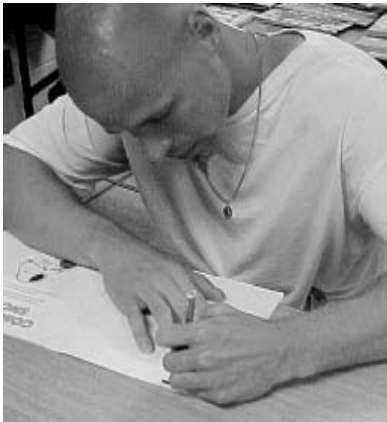
1. Volunteer "engineers" set up recorders before fathers arrive.



2. Fathers select books to read to their children. Books, cassettes and envelopes are donated by outside congregations and individuals.



3. The father reads the book, recording it on cassette tape. A brief greeting may be given at the beginning and the end of the recording.



4. A brief message may be written in the front of the book.



5. A store order is filled out, except for the amount of postage, and signed.



6. The envelope is addressed to the child or in care of parent of guard-



7. Book, tape and store order are stuffed in envelope and taken to mail

Another Story



An inmate in FDCF, shared this photo of his son listening to a tape of his father's voice reading the book he is holding. This inmate has read books and sent them home several times and wanted to share how much his son enjoyed it.

Inmates at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility and the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City have monthly opportunities to select books to read to their children, recording their voices on cassette tape, and sending the book and tape to their children. The child then puts the tape in a player and opens the book and turns the pages as his Dad reads to him.

Inmates who wish to participate in this project of the Church of the Damascus Road need to sign up ahead of time. At FDCF they can do this in the chapel on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. At NCCF they need to contact David Porter or Pastor Lang to be scheduled to read.

Recording sessions are on 3rd Fridays at FDCF and on 3rd Saturdays at NCCF.

