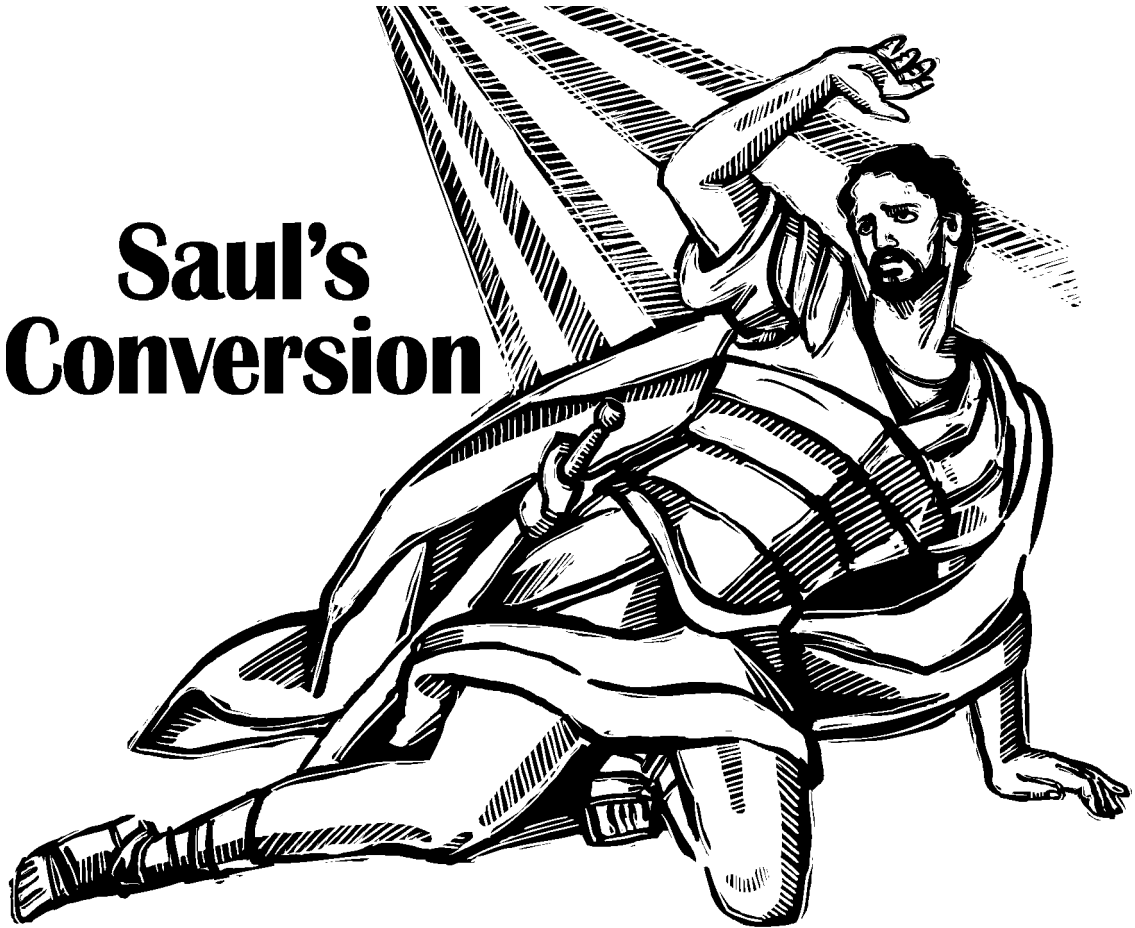


The Church of the Damascus Road

6th Annual Meeting

Saul's Conversion



12:00pm, November 10, 2007

St John Lutheran Church

Hwys 4 & 7

Pomeroy, Iowa

Opening Devotions

Piano Prelude

Hymn — WOV 651 “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Greeting and Kyrie — WOV p. 28

Hymn — WOV 791 “Alabaré”

☐ The Lord be with you.

☑ And also with you.

☐ Let us pray. God of Justice, for our sake your Son was condemned a criminal. Visit our jails and prisons with your judgment and mercy. Remember all prisoners; bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will; and give hope for the future. When any are held unjustly, raise up for them advocates bringing them release and giving us the wisdom to improve our system of justice. We pray for all those who are part of the Church of the Damascus Road. Also, watch over those who work in these institutions; give them strength and compassion, and keep them from becoming brutal or callous. Lead us to do for those in prison what we would do for Christ. Amen

— *Prayer by Lynn Noel*

Scripture Philippians 3:12-14 — *“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

Homily

Hymn — WOV 752 “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

Bonnie Keiswetter, Pianist

**The Church of the Damascus Road Annual Meeting
10th Anniversary Celebration**

Agenda

12:pm, November 10, 2007
St John Lutheran Church
Hwys 4 & 7, Pomeroy, Iosa

Welcome, Prayer

Dinner — Prepared by Kennneth Axman - pork loin and St. John Lutheran ladies - side dishes

Devotions — Pastor Carroll Lang (page 2)

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 StoryTeller 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:
- 4 A History of The Church of the Damascus Road
 - 5 Minutes of 2007 CoDR Annual Meeting — January 28, 2007
 - 6 Outside Council Meeting Highlights
 - 7 Outside Council Members/ Memorials/Honoraria
 - 8 FDCF and NCCF Regular Volunteers
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 - 13 Church Records
 - 14 Church Attendance at FDCF and NCCF
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 - 16 NCCF Donations from Offerings
 - 17 FDCF Inside Council Reports
 - 18 Kite Quilt Project and Compassion Iowa Grant
 - 19 StoryTeller Program
 20. CoDR Timeline — 1996 to October 31, 2007

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.

The Church of the Damascus Road

Fifth Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Church of the Damascus Road was held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Humboldt on Sunday, January 28, 2007 at 4 p.m. Pastor Carroll Lang began with devotions from Romans 12:3 and Ephesians 4:11. He stated that the ground is level at the foot of the cross and called on everyone to encourage one another in accountability and to spur one another on in love and good works.

President Dennis Booth welcomed the group.

Gerald Clausen representing the WIS greeted the group and offered encouragement and thanks for the ministry. He highlighted 1 Corinthians 13.

Outside Council members were introduced. Storytellers, volunteers, former members of CoDR, supporters and visitors were all acknowledged.

Paul Harrison reported that AfterCare reduces recidivism and strengthens communities. He thanked the group for networking and reported that there are close to 30 success stories. He and Judy Lang showed a Power Point presentation that was also shown to the Dept. of Corrections. He stated there is a 95 % success rate with AC. The DOC was receptive to all proposals that were made.

Mike Hartwig, the project director of Compassion Iowa, said that heart for AC showed in the grant application. He is in charge of Marriage Matters, which trains mentor couples to meet with at risk couples. The purpose is to strengthen families, which in turn helps to reduce recidivism. He wants to give pre-release support for couples and is offering the training free of charge. He also wants to track ex-offenders.

The 2006 budget was \$136,097 including \$6,000 of office rent donated by St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge. The 2007 budget is \$140,697 including \$6,000 donated office rent. Attention was called to the annual reports on church records, offerings of members, and inside council reports.

The total Compassion Iowa grant has been received for AfterCare. Kite quilts for families of inmates were on display at the meeting. 47 people were in attendance.

Five brothers brought greetings: The best part of the week is going to church. Reading the Bible changed my life.

Jesus found me in prison. AfterCare is important for success. I didn't want to go back home.

I found new life through my arrest, incarceration, and Jesus Christ. "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

I am on the right path through Christ who gave me my life back.

AfterCare is growing and is served by those who have been served.

Kathy Hansel announced the first annual golf tournament will be at Goldfield on May 19.

John Everts thanked everyone for their support. Zion/St. John of Sheffield is the one congregation that is a Mission Partner. Other congregations are urged to consider this level of support.

Kelmar Catering served the meal for \$7 per person.

Respectfully submitted by Kay Wold, Secretary

Church of the Damascus Road

Outside Council Highlights, January - October 2007

January: Dennis Booth was elected as President of the Outside Council with Kathy Hansel as Vice President, Kay Wold as Secretary and Rollin Swanson as Treasurer. Paul Harrison was on a radio program promoting Re-entry AfterCare. It was announced that Mike Hartwig from Marriage Matters of IA would give a presentation on Inside/Outside Dads at the annual meeting. Three officials from FDCF visited the meeting to talk about mutual concerns.

February: Mark Buss from Marriage Matters of IA presented a plaque to the CoDR Compassion Iowa committee members. The AfterCare presentations at the annual meeting helped educate people on sex offenders. Jerry Bartruff is the new re-entry coordinator and is good to work with. There are several changes at the Oakdale intake center. Child support recovery forms and driver's license suspension forms will be filled out. Any traffic violation fines will be made part of restitution. Some mental health screening will also begin. The Prison Reform Committee is helping to select a new DOC director. Cynthia Hanks is back at work part-time after an illness.

March: A change in the 2000-foot rule for sex offenders passed in committee and will go to the legislature. It shifts the focus from where an offender may live to where his time is spent. The Compassion Iowa grant is now completed. The IA Family Policy Center will network on re-entry. CoDR received \$2000 from the St. Olaf Foundation and \$10,000 from Sukup Family Foundation.

April: The 501c3 status for CoDR is complete. A vision for Reentry AfterCare was presented that would divide the state into regions with regional coordinators who would report regularly to Paul Harrison and Pr. Carroll Lang. A church from KY is coming to worship at FDCF; it will be a mini Come and See event to help them in setting up a congregation in KY.

May: Paul Harrison was appointed as the Director of the CoDR Re-entry AfterCare ministries. He told about a possible federal grant. AfterCare teams will be featured in the Chamber of Commerce display in Fort Dodge.

June: We learned there are federal grant monies available for Reentry AfterCare; it could support five regional coordinators in IA at \$20,000 per year for three years. Matching funds are required and in-kind matching such as radio airtime and office rental space qualifies. A committee to plan for the 10th anniversary of CoDR has been formed. The Reentry AfterCare Benefit Golf Tournament will be held June 30.

July: The program of Inside/Outside Dads started in Newton with 13 participants. Bub Gleason is facilitating the program in Rockwell City. Jerry Bartruff is working hard to insure that everyone coming through Oakdale will have a projected release date and identifiable benchmarks indicating readiness for release.

August: Mark Juhl was accepted on the Outside Council. The Inside/Outside Dads classes are going well. Bub and Ginny Gleason are finishing the first class in Rockwell City; a second class is starting in Newton. The 10th Anniversary of CoDR will be observed at the annual meeting Nov. 10 at St. John Lutheran Church in Pomeroy. Morning workshops on Reentry AfterCare and Inside/Outside Dads with Marriage Matters will be presented. Lee Kuhrt and Dennis Booth were appointed to explore adding staff to expand the Reentry AfterCare ministry and to present a proposal to the annual meeting.

September: The Reentry AfterCare Board reported an increase in grant money from \$100,000 to \$500,000 after a visit from a person of Washington, D.C. The grant covers a three-year period. AC areas of Iowa also need to be increased to ten areas. Each one will receive \$50,000. They are northwest, northeast, southwest, southeast, Des Moines, Sioux City-Omaha-Council Bluffs, Boone-Ames, Waterloo-Cedar Rapids, Dubuque and Davenport. Barnabas Uplift is a WIS program that helps people in poverty with jobs and income tax credit. Pr. Lang attended a web-streamed meeting on collaboration between faith-based and community organizations, learning the guidelines to follow to avoid conflicts between church and state.

October: Lee Kuhrt reported that he and Dennis Booth have worked on a job description for the Director of the Reentry AfterCare Board. They will also work on a salary package and an administrative assistant position and salary. The 10th Anniversary of CoDR will be celebrated at the annual meeting on Nov. 10. The congregation on the inside is making plans. Pr. Lang will seek permission for cake and coffee at NCCF and for ice cream and a Joyful Noise concert at FDCF.

—Kay Wold, Council 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. John Everts	Lutheran, Lytton
Mr. Lee Kuhrt	Lutheran, Pomeroy
Mr. Bub Gleason	Our Savior UMC, Manson
Mr. Paul Peterson	Lutheran, Callender
Mr. Paul Harrison	Catholic, Mitchellville
Mr. Mark Juhl	Lutheran, Remsen
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 - January thru October 2007

To date we've received a total of \$460.00 in memorials and honoraria

Golden K Kiwanis, Fort Dodge - Everett Sexton memorial
Neal & Virginia Miller, Manson - Joe Middleton memorial
Gary & Nancy Rosendahl, Eagle Grove - Ruth Powell memorial
Richard & Lois Christopher, Thor - Delmar Gonder memorial
Bruce Hansel & Kathy Hansel, Badger - Margaret Persons memorial
Bruce and Kathy Hansel, Badger - Roberta Persons memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Jay Olson memorial
Lester & Betty Larson, Badger - Andrew Hellvig memorial
Marlys Wetzal, Badger - Andrew Hellvig memorial
Rev. Darryl & Cheryl Landsverk, Badger - Andrew Hellvig memorial
Gary & Nancy Rosendahl, Eagle Grove - Lura E. Frank memorial
Richard & Lois Christopher, Thor - Minnie Knudtson memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Minnie Knudtson memorial
James McCubbin, Fort Dodge - In honor of Paul Peterson's 80th birthday
Brian & Janis Campbell, Emmetsburg - Robert Arney memorial
Richard & Lois Christopher, Thor - Cora Foster memorial
Naomi Torkelson, Thor - Cora Foster memorial
John Schmalenberger, Fort Dodge - In honor of mother
Jerrold & Alice Jimmerson, Manson - Noress Larson memorial

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
Dale Timmerman, 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
Dorothy Zehr, Fort Dodge

The following individuals are regular volunteers for our Storyteller Program:

Isabelle Benjamin, Bradgate, Coordinator
Dennis & Candace Booth, Lytton
Dale & Nancy Bruns, Jolley
John & Jody Eppley, Humboldt
John & Marge Everts, Lytton
Judy Gronbach, Dakota City
Donna Haack, Pomeroy
Lee & Jean Kuhrt, Pomeroy

Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Kenneth & Vivian Perin, Humboldt
Jean Peterson, Pomeroy
Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Fort Dodge
Judy Watne, Galt
Lee Wilson, Fort Dodge
Ruth Younie, Pomeroy
Dorothy Zehr, Fort Dodge

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

Where Has the Time Gone?

In prison, offenders “do time” as they serve their sentences. Ten years is a long time in prison. I am not serving a sentence. I am called to serve Jesus by serving others. Time passes all too quickly, it seems. Ten years have flown by and here we are celebrating a decade of ministry in the North Central Correctional Facility and the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. This could not have been accomplished without a team effort. The guests and volunteers who attend worship, help with Story Tellers, serve on the Outside Church Council, and support The Church of the Damascus Road are what have made our congregation a living, breathing community of faith in action.

What will the future of this congregation look like? A change in pastoral leadership will occur in 2009 as I retire from 40 years of ordained ministry. New pastoral leadership will help our congregation grow in new ways as we continue the prison congregation concept.

One of the byproducts of worshipping with offenders is the desire to help them when they are released, the kind of help that keeps them accountable and on track. The Church of the Damascus Road has gained a good reputation statewide and in other parts of the nation, including Washington DC, as providing the kind of ministry our communities need to keep people out of prisons and leading productive lives. Our Reentry AfterCare ministry, which grew out of the COPE (Congregation Offender Partnership Enterprise) model in St. Louis, MO, has been transformed into a model that fits our Iowa correctional system and is even being adapted to fit neighboring states and as far away as Maryland and Colorado.

Paul Harrison has a prophet’s “fire in the belly” to make this ministry grow to meet the needs of released offenders. The success rate shows that recidivism can be reduced dramatically. The future of this ministry will see a huge growth as more and more communities step up to the plate to meet this vital need. Christ’s Church, the community of faith active in love, is the best arena for this nurturing ministry to take place. And it works!

Adding another staff member, therefore, will be a priority for the future of The Church of the Damascus Road Reentry AfterCare ministry. Paul Harrison has been working tirelessly without salary because of his driving zeal for what we’re doing, but this can’t continue. We need more and more congregations and individuals to add us to their budgets for the long haul (until we close the doors of the prisons), so we can provide a salary for this position of Reentry AfterCare.

What the future will look like is up to all of us to mold and shape in the years ahead. We can do it, because God has empowered us with his Holy Spirit and has promised to be with us always, even to the closing of the prisons (wink).

— Pastor Carroll Lang

Presentations/Sermons/Updates - January through October 2007

- 01-07-07 Bethany Lutheran Church, Thompson
- 01-14-07 Immanuel Lutheran, Swea City - CoDR sermon and video
- 01-21-07 Immanuel Lutheran, Forest City (canceled-inclement weather)
- 02-11-07 Trinity Lutheran Churches in Rutland and Ottosen, supply
- 03-11-07 Zion St. John Lutheran, Sheffield, 9am Worship, SS after
- 04-15-07 Immanuel Lutheran, Forest City (rescheduled) 8:15am and 11am Worship 9:30am SS
- 04-22-07 First Presbyterian, Sac City, CoDR Sermon, John Everts
- 04-29-07 First Presbyterian, Odebolt, 8:45am SS, 10am Worship
- 05-06-07 Washington LC, Duncombe, Supply
- 05-13-07 Present at Waterloo Ridge Lutheran near Decorah (Hermeier) 9am SS, worship after
- 06-03-07 Lost Island and Zion Lutheran Churches, Ruthven
- 06-23-07 Stratford Lutheran Women, presentations Judy Lang
- 06-24-07 United Methodist Church, Eagle Grove, 9:30am Worship, Coffee after, CoDR sermon
- 07-01-07 Trinity Lutheran Churches in Rutland and Ottosen, supply
- 07-08-07 Trinity Lutheran Church, Webster City - supply and presentation
- 07-15-07 Badger LC, Badger, 9am Worship Service in memory of Andrew Hellvig, Paul Harrison
- 07-15-07 Zion St John LC, Sheffield, Supply & update
- 08-26-07 1st UMC, Swea City, 9am Worship
- 09-06-07 Eagle Grove EV LC & Samuel LC joint womens’ meeting 1:30pm AfterCare, Paul Harrison
- 09-16-07 Our Savior UMC, Pomeroy 9am, Manson 10:45am CoDR sermon, presentation
- 09-23-07 First Christian Church, Sac City, Supply pastor,
- 09-30-07 Grace Episcopal, Boone 10am, Worship, presentation
- 10-21-07 St Paul LC, Renwick 9am Worship, 10:15am SS presentation
- 10-28-07 Augustana LC, Manson 9am SS, 10am Worship

2007 Reentry AfterCare in Review

Mission: Empowering Christian Communities to assist in the successful transition of ex-offenders into society.

WOW! Looking back on this past year, Wow! is the only word that comes to mind. Our Annual meeting last year was held in January and our number of successful reentries was at the twenty-five mark, which was over three times our original goal for that time frame. Now, ten months later, that tally is 75, with 8 releases pending over the next few weeks.

Who makes that happen? **YOU!**

At the end of September we had twenty-nine Reentry After-Care Communities with teams of three to seven folks trained to help our 64 men and 9 women overcome the obstacles of Reentry. We have always known that the sixth ministry of Matthew 25 clearly spells out how to serve those whom society deems “the least of these.” But often the mindsets and obstacles of society were roadblocks to this mission. One year ago we had around one hundred volunteers making up eleven Reentry AfterCare Communities. Now, by taking the message to the road and empowering our Individual Christian Communities to serve the needs of an individual, we are seeing the blessings abound. Now those who have been served by this great ministry are serving others, with two wonderful effects; (1) common ground and knowledge, (2) more team members! The excitement of success and service continues to build and the month of October is witness to that. In four trainings we added over 100 team members who are organizing eighteen new teams, and a number of them are already looking at applications. To shed light on the power and strength of these teams, the last sign-in sheet pushed us over the six-hundred mark. As a byproduct of this series of events, we have nine more trainings either scheduled or in the process of setting a date, most of which will be completed and organized before mid-January.

Relationship Building: as we have increased the size of our volunteer base, with that came an abundance of resources. We have formed networks with transitional houses all over the state and support missions as well. These networks provide clothing, food, medical/dental, mental health and substance abuse support. This support gave us the credibility to move into other supportive measures — working with the Department of Corrections and Community Corrections, our release structure is becoming more efficient and more supportive of our participants’ individual needs.

Spanning the Globe: As we are quickly blanketing the state of Iowa one Community at a time, we are also crossing into other states that border us, and others that are connected to us by way of Prison Congregations of America. In June Colorado was host to a training event. We are now working on networking with all of Iowa’s border states and we are in organizational stages with MI, KY, NC, and in communication with seven other states including Hawaii.

Alternatives to Incarceration: Six times this past year we have had the opportunity to provide an alternative to incarceration. Five of these six times were fruitful and one was the ol’ learning curve.

Financial Wellbeing: We have cultivated a great relationship with DHS and Child Support Recovery that has allowed us to not only help with related child support issues after release, but we are working toward correcting these reentry obstacles prior to release. Consumer Credit and other agencies have been of great assistance as well.

Inside/Out Dads: We started three pilot programs in Newton, Rockwell City, and Fort Dodge this year to teach life skills and fatherhood relationships, using volunteers from the outside. We are getting some great feedback from the participants, their families, the IDOC, and the volunteer facilitators as well. As a supportive measure to both Reentry AfterCare, and Inside/Out Dads, we are weaving the services of Marriage Matters Mentor Couples into helping the participants that are in a committed or married relationship, but are separated by a fence. This is a very proactive measure toward Reentry and another good identifier of potential Reentry AfterCare Participants.

Blessings and Peace to all of those who have served, been served (or both) by this great ministry, and look forward to another great year of Blessings!

Paul Harrison
P.O. Box#1613
Fort Dodge IA 50501
Cell: 515-230-8815
paul.aftercare@gmail.com

Reentry AfterCare Teams

Spirit Lake, Fort Dodge, Humboldt, Holstein, Lytton, Boone, Webster City, Spencer, Forest City, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Ames, Pleasant Hill, Des Moines, Muscatine, Burlington, Davenport, Grimes, Sioux City, Council Bluffs and more teams forming weekly.

Faith-based Transitional Houses and Organizations

To avoid re-inventing the wheel and provide more services, we networked with many faith-based organizations. They include Mission of Hope, Cedar Rapids; Beacon of Life, Des Moines; Salvation Army; Matthew 25 House, Ames; Wrap-Around of Des Moines; YMCA/YWCA; Big Brother/Big Sister; Grow Ministries, Genesco IL; Jesus Mission Camp, Muscatine; Cornerstone, Ames and Des Moines; Heartland Vineyard, Waterloo; Lutheran Social & Family Services; Catholic Charities; Beyond Welfare; Atlas of North West Iowa; Boone County Cares Coalition and Boone Biblical Memorial; Institute of Self Worth, Springfield MO; Make Connections, St Louis MO; Iowa Family Policy Center, Pleasant Hill; Saints of Salvation Ministries, Omaha NE; Christ for the City, Council Bluffs/Omaha NE; Christian Restorative Services, St. Paul MN; and many others.

Special thanks to Prison Congregations of America and Pr. Ed Nesselhuff; Iowa Family Policy Center; Department of Corrections, Jerry Bartruff, Anne Brown and all the staff; The Judicial Districts of Community Corrections and Reentry Coordinators; Department of Human Services; Consumer Credit of Des Moines, Tom Coates; Jay Rudolph, KJYL & sister stations; Jay Micheal McCoy MAC of 98.3 WOW FM; Steve Daece of WHO afternoon drive — AND MOST OF ALL...the volunteers who make all this happen!

—Paul Harrison

CoDR Budget and Expenses - January thru December 2007

The Church of the Damascus Road

Budget 2007

The Church of the Damascus Road

Expenses: Jan-Dec 2007

Human Resources

Pastor Salary	46,678.00
Housing Allowance	13,200.00
Utilities	6,000.00
Social Security Offset	4,340.00
Pension & Benefits	16,015.00
Continuing Ed.	500.00
Professional Exp.	<u>500.00</u>
Total	86,233.00

Office Mgr.'s Salary	11,000.00
Soc. Sec & Med.	<u>842.00</u>
Total	11,842.00

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	300.00
Conference Expenses	1,100.00
AfterCare Training/mileage	1,500.00
Miscellaneous/Lutheran Resource Center	<u>200.00</u>
Total	17,322.00

2007 Budget

Subtotal	134,697.00
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Office Rent*	6,000.00
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Grand Total	140,697.00
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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	38,178.00
Housing Allowance	13,200.00
Utilities	5,000.00
Social Security Offset	3,616.60
Pension & Benefits	15,460.47
Continuing Education	499.92
Professional Expenses	<u>499.92</u>
Total	76,454.91

Office Manager's Salary	11,000.04
CoDR Employee Payroll Tax Expense	<u>841.44</u>
Total	11,841.48

Pulpit Supply	1,197.85
Regular & Sub Accompanist	2,550.00
Mileage	5,782.43
Reentry AfterCare mileage	<u>1,411.12</u>
Total	10,941.40

Administrative

Telephone	2,501.48
Printing	574.00
Postal Expense	2,888.35
Office Supply & Equipment	1,588.69
Copier Maintenance Agreement	1,412.52
Annual Meeting	1,240.39
Miscellaneous	<u>1,568.74</u>
Total	11,774.17

Mission

Prison Congregations of America	6,707.33
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	671.73
Newsletter	4,688.03
Congregation General	304.41
Congregation Worship	477.30
Congregation Education	50.00
Conference Expenses	1,026.92
AfterCare Training/Ex offender Expense	1,759.44
Miscellaneous/Lutheran Resource Center	<u>219.22</u>
Total	15,904.38

Unbudgeted expense-Paul's Credit Card

Gasoline	2,123.52
Motels/restaurants	479.37
Cash advances/charges	6,160.04
Office equipment/supply/Other	<u>1,563.50</u>
Total	10,326.60

2007 Expense Subtotal	125,198.26
Office Rent*	6,000.00

Grand Expense Total	131,195.26
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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.

CoDR Budget and Needs for 2008 and Current Contributions - 2007

<u>Budget-2008</u>	<u>Needed Income-2008</u>	<u>Contributions: Jan-Dec 2007</u>
Human Resources		
Pastor Salary	46,967.00	January 20,523.33
Housing Allowance	13,200.00	February 9,253.39
Utilities	6,000.00	March 22,208.86
Social Sec. Allowance	5,325.00	April 11,361.39
Pension & Benefits	16,543.42	May 8,675.93
Continuing Ed.	500.00	June 8,503.31
Professional Exp.	500.00	July 9,792.98
Total	89,062.42	August 6,568.83
Office Mgr.'s Salary	11,275.00	September 9,499.46
CoDR Payroll Tax Exp.	863.00	October 8,469.03
Total	12,138.00	November 13,814.55
		December 25,847.56
		Total* 154,518.62
Pulpit Supply	1,500.00	
Accompanist & Supply	2,600.00	
Mileage	5,500.00	
Reentry AfterCare Mlg	1,000.00	
Total	10,600.00	
Administrative		
Telephone	2,400.00	
Printing	800.00	
Postal Expense	1,800.00	
Office Sup & Equip	1,700.00	
Copier Mtnc. Agrmt.	1,400.00	
Annual Meeting	300.00	
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	
Total	9,400.00	
Mission		
PCoA*	6,508.00	
Western Iowa Synod	651.00	
Newsletter	4,700.00	
Congregation General	400.00	
Congregation Worship	500.00	
Congregation Education	100.00	
Conference Expenses	1,000.00	
AfterCare Training	2,000.00	
Miscellaneous & Lutheran Resource Center	250.00	
Total	16,109.00	
2007 Budget Subtotal	137,309.00	
Office Rent**	6,000.00	
Grand Total	143,309.42	
*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		
\$100-a-Month Club Churches & Individuals		
Grace Lutheran, Fort Dodge	11,442.42	January 20,523.33
Our Saviour's Lutheran, Callender	11,442.42	February 9,253.39
New Covenant Christian, Ft Dodge	11,442.42	March 22,208.86
St. Paul Lutheran, Palmer	11,442.42	April 11,361.39
Hardy Trinity Lutheran, Hardy	11,442.42	May 8,675.93
Emanuel-St John Lutheran, Lytton	11,442.42	June 8,503.31
Trinity Lutheran, Spencer	11,442.42	July 9,792.98
First Lutheran, Algona	11,442.42	August 6,568.83
First Presbyterian, Fort Dodge	11,442.42	September 9,499.46
St John Lutheran, Pomeroy	11,442.42	October 8,469.03
Bethany Lutheran, Spencer	11,442.42	November 13,814.55
Our Saviour's Lutheran, Humboldt	11,442.42	December 25,847.56
St. Mark's Episcopal, Fort Dodge	11,442.42	Total* 154,518.62
Zion St John, Sheffield	11,442.42	
Immanuel Lutheran, Forest City-	11,442.42	
Sukup Family Foundation,	11,442.42	
Hampton	11,442.42	
Patricia Gohman, Kingman TX	11,442.42	
Noel & Linda Singer, Webster City	11,442.42	
Adam & Inga Sanford, Frisco TX	11,442.42	
Troy & Karyn Leininger, Spencer	11,442.42	
Pr. Carroll & Judy Lang, Ft Dodge	11,442.42	
Rollin & Cleo Swanson, Ft Dodge	11,442.42	
Eunice Loots, Fort Dodge	11,442.42	
Larry & Cindy Lubinus, Grimes	11,442.42	
Melba Shelby, Fort Dodge	11,442.42	
*Of this, \$5,537.00 was designated for a specific fund.		
2007 Income to Dec 154,518.62		
2007 Expenses to Dec 125,198.26		
2007 Gains to Dec 29,320.36		
Trans to MissionPlus: 17,000.00		
Trans from MissionPlus: 24,100.00		
Transfers were made in June, July, August and October, to supplement our income.		
Transfer to Savings 17,903.16		
Transfer from Savings: 17,469.69		
When needed to pay for specific expenses, money was transferred from these allotted funds: AfterCare, CoDR payroll tax expense, FDCF & NCCF offerings, Pastor & CoDR continuing education funds, Discretionary, Pastor's professional expense, StoryTellers & Outside Council.		
Balances as of 12/31/07:		
Checking: 14,275.25		
Reg. Share Acct.** 15,277.87		
MissionPlus 6,652.76		
Total: 36,205.88		
**Except for the interest all monies in this account are in specific funds, i.e. AfterCare, Memorials/Honoraria etc.		

Church Records 1997 to October 2007

Baptisms, Renewal of Baptisms & Affirmations

Marriages

	<u>FDCF</u>	<u>NCCF</u>		<u>FDCF</u>	<u>NCCF</u>
1999 to 2006	70	33	1998 to 2006	36	6
Jan-Oct 2007	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Jan-Oct 2007	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
	72	33		38	6

1999 to 2006 - 65 Baptisms, 2 Renewals & 7 Affirmations at FDCF. 34 Baptisms, 3 Renewals & 4 Affirmations at NCCF.
2007 - 2 Baptisms at FDCF. No Baptisms or Affirmations at NCCF.

Monthly Contributions (Pledges) 1997-2007

<u>Pledges-Churches¹</u>		<u>Pledges-Organizations²</u>		<u>Pledges-Individuals³</u>	
\$1 to \$50	15	\$1 to \$50	0	\$1 to \$50	27
\$51 to \$100	8	\$51 to \$100	0	\$51 to \$100	9
\$101 or more	9	\$101 or more	0	\$101 or more	2
Fallen short	8	Fallen short	1	Fallen short	6
No longer giving	<u>11</u>	No longer giving	<u>2</u>	No longer giving	<u>22</u>
Total*:	51	Total*:	3	Total**:	66

*Of 51 churches & 3 org. pledging, 40 churches and 1 org. are giving; 40 churches are fulfilling their commitment.
**Of 66 individuals pledged, 44 are giving; 38 are fulfilling their commitment.

Annual Contributions (Gifts) 1997-October 31, 2007

<u>Gifts-Churches¹</u>		<u>Gifts-Organizations^{3 / 2}</u>		<u>Gifts-Individuals³</u>	
\$1 to \$100	12	\$1 to \$100	6	\$1 to \$100	140
\$101 to \$500	30	\$101 to \$250	0	\$101 to \$300	14
\$501 to \$1,000	7	\$251 to \$500	0	\$301 to \$500	6
\$1,001 or more	4	\$501 or more	1	\$501 to \$1,000	6
No longer giving	<u>159</u>	No longer giving	<u>78</u>	No longer giving	<u>519</u>
Total:	212	Total:	85	Total:	685

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 October 31, 2007

Database Entries: ⁴ 1997-'06 / 10-'07	No. Pledged: 1997-'06 / 10-'07	No. Giving Gifts: 1997-'06 / 10-'07 ⁵
Churches	652 682	49 51 70 53
Organizations	53 85	3 3 9 7
Individuals ⁶	1,344 1,581	63 66 185 166

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—212 churches are listed in our DB as giving gifts (see above). Of those, 159 no longer give, hence 212-159=53. Currently, only 53 churches donate to CoDR — all gifts are donated on an occasional basis.

⁶Of these, 71 are former CoDR members who have been released and 13 who were transferred to other facilities.

<u>Categorized - Contributions 1997-2006[^]</u>	<u>2007[^]</u>	<u>Total-1997-'07[^]</u>
All Lutheran churches, org. & WELCA	489,667.26	53,504.04
Methodist churches	20,159.81	783.43
Episcopal churches	19,359.00	1,600.00
Presbyterian churches	23,366.46	2,448.87
Other churches	17,172.36	2,053.17
Western Iowa Synod	3,737.00	0.00
Clubs, Secular org., Businesses & Schools	10,608.97	260.00
Individuals	<u>291,713.87</u>	<u>54,207.00</u>
Total:	804,032.15	114,856.51

[^]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 12/27/06

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers¹</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance²</u>
(399)	24,814	399	1,158	2,864	28,178

Worship Services 1/3/07 to 10/31/07

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers¹</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance²</u>
(44) ³	2,820	44	105	160	3,136

Jan-Oct total communed in 2007: 2,283 (73% of total attending worship services)
These statistics include many inmates, volunteers and visitors who have repeatedly attended services.

52 FDCF members have served in leadership roles during the weekly worship services. Many serve as liturgy assistants by reading the 1st and 2nd readings, Psalms, and Prayers of the People. In addition many have provided vocal and/or instrumental music. Others assist Pastor Lang during communion or are greeters.

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>
(475)	10,228	475	1,396	2,539	14,609

Worship Services 1/4/07 to 10/25/07

	<u>Inmates</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Volunteers¹</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Total Attendance²</u>
(41) ³	754	41	212	172	1,351

Jan-Oct total communed in 2007: 1,336 (99% of total attending worship services)

<u>Average Total Attendance/Service</u>		<u>Average Total Attendance/Service</u>	
NCCF		FDCF	
8/27/97 - 12/28/06	31	5/22/98 - 12/27/06	71
1/5/07 - 10/25/07	33	1/4/07 - 10/31/07	76

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 a total of 94 Federal inmates, housed at FDCF, who attended 7 worship services. Pastor Lang had a communion service for them during count before the evening worship service. Although they could not worship at the regular service, they were included in the attendance and communion count. As of July 1, 2007 all Federal inmates had been transferred elsewhere.

³FDCF-One service not held due to an unannounced lockdown. NCCF-One service was not held due to a Brothers in Blue weekend event held there that week. A blizzard cancelled a second service.

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.

Church Giving

Fort Dodge Correctional Facility Benevolence

Between 1998 and 2006, our FDCF members have given \$11,407.45 in offerings and \$11,253.86 in benevolence gifts.

From January through September 2007 NCCF members have given \$564.74 in offerings. To date, 2007 FDCF Inside Council members voted to disperse their offerings in the following ways:

February 21, 2007

ELCA World Hunger Appeal - Souper Bowl	\$	35.24
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March 12, 2007

Prison Congregations of America		32.50
Western Iowa Synod ELCA		32.50
Children International		66.00
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center		26.00
RBC Ministries		26.00
Make-a-Wish Foundation		10.00
Shriner's Children's Hospitals		15.00
Ronald McDonald House		17.00
Variety Club of Iowa		10.00
Iowa Chapter of Cystic fibrosis		15.00
Rabiner Treatment Center		<u>10.00</u>
Total:	\$	260.00

June 26, 2007

Prison Congregations of America		29.38
Western Iowa Synod		29.38
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center		23.50
RBC Ministries		23.50
Children International		66.00
Stephani's birthday		25.00
Anti-parasite campaign		9.00
Duane & Kelly Nostrom Benefit Account		<u>29.25</u>
Total:	\$	235.01

October 1, 2007

Prison Congregations of America		13.60
Western Iowa Synod ELCA		13.60
Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center		10.80
RBC Ministries		10.80
Children International (Dues)		<u>66.00</u>
Total:	\$	114.80

February to October 2007 total contributions \$ 609.81*
FDCF began 2007 with \$101.71 in their account

North Central Correctional Facility Benevolence

Between 1997 and 2006 our NCCF members have given \$7,081.78 in offerings and \$6,735.12 in benevolence gifts

From January through September 2007 NCCF members have given \$366.85 in offerings. To date, 2007 NCCF Inside Council members voted to disperse their offerings in the following ways:

April 11, 2007

Prison Congregations of America	\$ 8.25
Western Iowa Synod-ELCA	8.25
ELCA/Division for Global Mission (Paul Sharp)	16.50
Duane & Kelly Nostrom Benefit Account	<u>33.00</u>
Total:	\$ 66.00

July 12, 2007

Prison Congregations of America	\$ 20.00
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	20.00
ELCA/Division for Global Mission (Paul Sharp)	40.00
CoDR AfterCare	20.00
Christian Family Church, The Malawi Project	<u>60.00</u>
Total:	\$160.00

September 12, 2007

Prison Congregations of America	\$ 7.50
Western Iowa Synod ELCA	7.50
ELCA/Division for Global Missions (Patricia Bentsen)	15.00
CoDR Reentry AfterCare	15.00
Lisa McCuddin Memorial Fund	<u>15.00</u>
Total:	\$ 60.00

April to October giving in 2007: \$286.00



NCCF CROP Walkers



FDCF CROP Walkers

FDCF Inside Council Reports

FDCF Inside Council President

Being the Inside Church Council President brings a lot of responsibilities upon a person that you don't think about until you're in the position. You have to be a positive leader everyday and make conscious choices as to how to walk and talk. Remembering always that your actions speak much louder than your words. Also remembering that the lack of actions or words is equally important at times. We, as Christians, have to lead by example because everyone is always watching us, waiting for us to mess up.

I continually try to involve as many people in our daily activities and ministries as I possibly can. Obviously, this wasn't always my intention in life. We all have to know our own limitations so that we focus on where God wants us. It is important to serve God daily, wherever you are, because that's where he is.

It's important for us all to remember that God hears our every prayer and when they line up with his will he always answers those prayers in time. As inmates, sometimes we pray for selfish things. It's not selfish to pray for ourselves, but we always need to remember that God is in charge of our lives, this universe, and everything in between, every moment of every day. It's easy to take for granted your next breath, or your best friend. Be thankful for what you have in life and accept what God gives you. He knows best!

May God continue to bless you in your endeavors for supporting the Church of the Damascus Road.

—Tony Halsrud

FDCF Inside Council Secretary

Although I sit here contemplating on where I may have went wrong I still remain faithful. I think thus far I have made it by my mere faith in Jesus. Because before I came to prison and I was far away from the life of God I needed some type of intervention before it would be too late. I was out of control and unrighteousness. However, today is completely different because of my faith and those in the church whom I fellowship with.

I believe God chose me so that I can ultimately proof of how powerful he really is. By reading God's word I am generated into a kind and loving person. Even though I remain in prison and in a world that doesn't accept love I still have hope in Christ. So I say to you my brothers and sisters focus only on God and block out all evil dwelling. Only then can we continue this walk of love. It's not easy, but by God's mercy and grace we learn to keep it simple. For me, I feel that if I'm falling I need other Christians to pull me up. For I know I'm not perfect, nor do I have it all figured out and to me that is true humility. That's what saves me from having the problems that others experience.

Therefore, I speak in the name of love to all who have found hope for a better future. Wait patiently and be aware of a setback as if your life depended on it. Continue to show deep love for all who walk. It only gets better when you work hard at it, [2 Timothy (2:15-17)]. Thus may I encourage you all to read and fill your hearts with God's word by being committed to following Jesus steps, [John 1 (1-7)]. Because Jesus is what gives us our hope for each day and each day with Christ we then find peace, [John (16:33)].

—Joey Vazquez

FDCF Inside Council Member

On my first day at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility I was lost. I didn't know what to expect. I was filled with anger, confusion, and even fear. I didn't know who I could trust or how to comprehend doing up to three years here.

The next day I was relieved and surprised when I heard Pastor Lang call over the intercom announcing that The Church of the Damascus Road would be starting. I got it confirmed by the Corrections Officer that I could go. I was so used to being locked down in Oakdale, that I didn't expect that much freedom here at FDCF. We didn't even have an escort by a Correctional Officer!

When I arrived at the Visiting Room, where we hold the CoDR worship services, it was packed! At least 90 inmates were there. I actually had to grab an extra chair and add it to one of the rows. I was astonished to see so many inmates, criminals, people society has shunned, sitting in one place, waiting to praise our Lord.

It wasn't until the music started and I began singing, that I truly felt the Holy Spirit. It filled me with peace and joy. All the bad feelings I had were drowned out — the anger, the hate and the fear were taken from me. I was relieved of my pains. Of course, they came back later, but for that hour I felt what God must have meant for us before Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, or maybe even a glimpse of what heaven will be like.

After that night I forgot all about my drug addiction. I became addicted to Christ. In the past I thought drugs could suppress my pain, but that was nothing compared to sitting in the front row of church and hearing the voices of all my fellow Christians singing praises to our Lord.

Now the attendance is going down. We barely fill the first two rows. So with every Inside Council meeting we have, I try to encourage my fellow council members to come up with more and more ideas to attract more members, and other ideas to keep the ones we have. I hope that a ten-year anniversary will play a big part in our population growth, so that when lost and scared souls come to the Church of the Damascus Road for the first time, they can feel the security, peace and joy that I felt my first time.

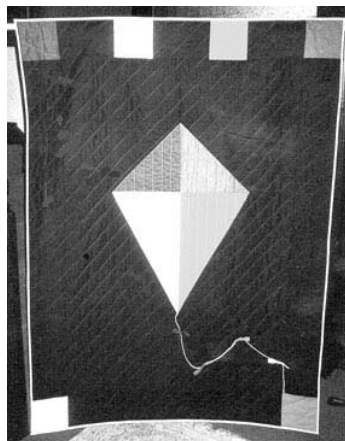
So, in conclusion, I thank you for your time in reading this, and ask you, "If you are incarcerated in FDCF or live nearby, come check us out." We have visitors from outside the fence every week, so if anyone out there is seriously considering checking out a prison congregation, we welcome you. For more information you can call 515-955-3579.

I thank all of our weekly members for the time and the effort you put into our congregation, and all who contribute in our offerings each week. I encourage you all to attend our prayer group and bible study on Friday evenings from 6:30-8pm. If anyone wishes to participate more in our congregation, I recommend joining our Inside Church Council. We could use your ideas and your knowledge. Thanks and God bless.

—Corey Mittrucker

Kite Quilt Project

The Kite Quilt project was introduced to us in September of 2005 at a gathering of Prison Congregations of America. We were given one quilt and a pattern at that time. 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. 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.



We decided this was a project we would take on, so we made copies of the pattern and have been asking quilting groups in churches to make kite quilts for us. By our annual meeting in January of 2007, we had about 10 kite quilts. As of November 1, 2007, we have 35 kite quilts. Thanks to the work of many people. Thanks to Ginny Gleason for promoting this project in the United Methodist Churches and to Candace Booth and Marge Everts for promoting it in the Lutheran Churches. We are now at the stage where we are considering how to best distribute these quilts to the families of inmates. I have been promoting this project whenever Pastor Lang and I go to churches to talk about Church of the Damascus Road. Thanks to all who have put in hours making these quilts.



—Judy Lang

Compassion Iowa Grant Report

In the spring of 2006, we applied for a Compassion Iowa Grant for faith-based and community-based organizations who work with people who are in need of assistance to become productive citizens. We were awarded \$10,154.00 for the period from June 2006 through February 2007. This money was to be used for capacity building, equipment upgrades and leadership training and not for direct assistance to people. We were required to attend workshops and trainings and to give financial and progress reports.

The greatest benefit of this grant has been the people we have been able to network with in our Reentry AfterCare Ministry. The relationships with these other organizations has given us the opportunity to start new missions, such as Inside/Out Dads and Marriage Matters. Other benefits include: improving and doing our own AfterCare Team Trainings, leadership training, a new computer and upgrades. Another benefit is that some we have served are learning to serve others by joining the ranks of the Reentry AfterCare teams.

Note: in the final financial report below that we spent all of the grant and most of the dividends earned.

Grant Financial Report

Income		
Grant checks	\$10,155.00	
<u>Dividends from bank</u>	<u>\$9.96</u>	
Total Income		\$10,164.96
Expenses		
Contractual (for AfterCare team trainings)	\$3,036.69	
Training (meals and treats)	\$208.19	
Travel for training	\$1,714.91	
Travel for teams, services, and capacity	\$706.43	
Computer	\$1,911.66	
Supplies \$784.44		
<u>Personnel (Paul and Judy)</u>	<u>\$1,802.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$10,164.32
Balance at end of grant		\$.64

—Judy Lang and Paul Harrison

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 or guardian.



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.

The Church of the Damascus Road Timeline

What does ten years look like?

1996

Fort Dodge Bid Committee for the prison included 3 pastors.

1997

Fort Dodge bid, including a prison congregation, accepted.

Prison Congregation Steering Committee formed.

June - Pastor Carroll Lang called by Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA to be pastor of The Church of the Damascus Road (CoDR).

August 1 - Pastor Lang started.

August 28 - First worship service at North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF).

October - First newsletter, called the Flash, sent out.

October - Associated Press visited worship at NCCF. Article & pictures were in newspapers in several states.

October - ELCA purchased the parsonage.

1998

January 8 - Outside Council organized.

February - Gail Lund hired as secretary.

March 28 & 29 - "40 Winks in the Klink" fundraiser.

April 18 - Paul Rueter shared his experience with CoDR at Western Iowa Synod Assembly.

May 22 - First worship service at FDCF.

June - Started ELCA Mission Investment Fund account.

August 21 - Had to have 3 worship services at FDCF.

September 2 - Worship at FDCF changed to Wednesdays.

September - 1st joint Inside Outside Council meeting, NCCF.

September 26 & 27 - First annual CROP walk.

1999

January - Rosemarie Prochelo hired as secretary.

June - First joint Inside Outside Council meeting, FDCF.

September 1 - Cynthia Hanks hired as secretary.

October - Brothers in Blue held at NCCF.

2000

January - Purchased new keyboard for FDCF.

May - First Brothers in Blue at FDCF.

May/June - Waldorf College students produced video, Prisoners for God.

September - Started Story Teller ministry.

September 9 - Fundraiser dinner at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge.

September 23 & 24 - Reentry AfterCare Training at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Humboldt.

2001

March 24 - Reentry AfterCare training at Asbury Methodist Church, Webster City.

May - Purchased office furniture. Leased a copy machine.

October - Purchased new printer.

2002

January 26 - PCoA board met here. Fundraiser with Higher Power at St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge.

January - Purchased new keyboard for NCCF.

April 20 - Recognized as a congregation of the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA.

May - Purchased new iMac computer for office.

July 19 - Fundraiser with Phil & Pam Morgan at Asbury Methodist Church, Webster City.

October - Pastor Lang given housing allowance.

2003

January - Zion-St. John Lutheran Church, Sheffield, became Mission Partner for 3 years.

January 25 - 1st Annual Meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, 6 PM.

February 22 - Fundraiser with Higher Power at Asbury Methodist, Webster City.

March - Purchased rebuilt typewriter for the office.

April - Became associate member of Chamber of Commerce.

July - Story Tellers at NCCF moved to Saturdays.

September - Purchased projector for PowerPoint & videos.

2004

January 24 - 2nd Annual Meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, 6 PM.

February 28 - Fundraiser for Reentry AfterCare with Brown Family Singers at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Dodge.

July - Celebrated Pastor Lang's 35th Ordination Anniversary.

September 29 - Pastor Lang got Governor's Volunteer Award.

December - First Christmas card give away at FDCF.

2005

January 22 - 3rd Annual Meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, 6 PM.

February - Purchased new copier.

July - Purchased microphones, guitar, case & stand for FDCF.

October 29 - Attended PCoA Benefit Dinner in Sioux Falls, SD. Received a Kite Quilt & pattern.

December - Started DSL for the office.

December - Christmas card give away at FDCF & NCCF.

2006

January - Zion-St. John Lutheran Church, Sheffield, renewed mission partner for 3 years.

January 22 - 4th Annual Meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, at 4:30 PM.

January 30 - Attended Grant Writing Workshop at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake.

March 25 & 26 - Reentry AfterCare Training at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cherokee.

May 6 - Booth on making Kite Quilts at synod Assembly.

June - Awarded Compassion Iowa Grant (June 2006 through February 2007.) AfterCare Steering Committee formed. Paul Harrison is helping with ReentryAfterCare.

October 29 - Reentry AfterCare training at Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer.

2007

January 28 - 5th Annual Meeting at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Humboldt, at 4 PM with workshops at 2 & 3.

May - Purchased a CD cabinet for FDCF.

June 30 - Reentry AfterCare Fundraiser golf tournament, Oak Ridge, Goldfield.

July - Inside/Out Dads started at NCCF.

August - Purchased new keyboard for NCCF.

November 10 - 6th Annual Meeting and CoDR 10th Anniversary Celebration at St. John Lutheran Church, Pomeroy at noon with workshops at 10 & 11am

—Judy Lang