

# The Church of the Damascus Road

## Echo!

Volume 6  
Issue No. 1a  
January 2003  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA



### Your Name

You got it from your father.  
‘Twas the best he had to give.  
And right gladly he bestowed it.  
It’s yours, the while you live.  
You may lose the watch he gave you  
And another you may claim.  
But, remember when you’re tempted,  
To be careful of his name.  
It was fair the day you got it,  
your name to bear.  
When he took it from his father,  
there was no dishonor there.  
Through the years he proudly wore it,  
to his father he was true.  
And that name was clean and spotless  
When he passed it on to you.  
Oh, there’s much that he has given  
That he values not at all.  
He has watched you break your play things  
In the days that you were small.  
You have lost the knife he gave you  
And you’ve scattered many a game.  
But, you’ll never hurt your father  
If you’re careful with his name.  
It is yours to wear forever,  
Yours to wear while you live.  
Yours, perhaps, some distant morning,  
To another boy to give.  
And you’ll smile as did your father  
With a smile that all can share,  
If a clean name, a good name  
You are giving him to wear.  
*Edgar A Guest*

### Inside the Echo!

Page 2 - Healed of Cancer  
Page 2 - How Old Am I?  
Page 2 - Prayer of Direction  
Page 3 - Fishing with Jesus  
Page 3 - Friendship Cake  
Page 4 - Four Pillars, Part 1  
Page 4 - Think You Have it Rough?

### John 3:16

In the city of Chicago, one cold, dark night, a blizzard was setting in. A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner; the people were in and out of the cold. The little boy was so cold that he wasn’t trying to sell many papers.

He walked up to a policeman and said, “Mister, you wouldn’t happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and it’s awful cold in there, sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay.”

The policeman looked down at the little boy and said, “You go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come to the door you just say, ‘John 3:16,’ and they will let you in.”

So, he did, he walked up the steps to the door, and knocked, and a lady answered. He looked up and said, “John 3:16.”

The lady said, “Come on in, son.” She took him inside and sat him down in a split bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace and she went into the next room. He sat there for a while and thought to himself, “John 3:16...I don’t understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm.”

Later she came back and asked him “Are you hungry?” He said, “Well, just a little, I haven’t eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food.” The lady took him into the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn’t eat any more. Then he thought to

himself, “John 3:16. Boy, I sure don’t understand it, but it sure makes a hungry boy full.”

She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself, “John 3:16. I sure don’t understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean. You know, I’ve not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that old fire hydrant as they flushed it out.”

The lady came in and got him, and took him to a room and tucked him into a big old feather bed and pulled the covers up around his neck and kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he laid in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night he thought to himself, “John 3:16. I don’t understand it, but it sure makes a tired boy rested.”

The next morning she came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate she took him to that same old split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace and she took a big old Bible and sat down in front of him and she looked up at him and asked, “Do you understand John 3:16?” He said, “No, Ma’am, I don’t. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it.” She opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain to him about Jesus. Right there in front of that big old fireplace he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought, “John 3:16. I don’t understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe.”

You know, I have to confess I don’t understand it either, how God would be willing to send His Son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don’t understand it either, but it sure does make life worth living.

Author Unknown

John 3:16-For God so loved the world, the he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

*Given to the Editor, Gary LeCompte-NCCF*





## Healed of Cancer

**I** am so thankful to be alive today and to be able to bring you a message of Hope! That is what Jesus is—Hope. When I was eleven years old I was diagnosed with having a rare form of brain cancer that nearly took my life, but by the grace of God I survived.

God is extremely important to people who are fighting a battle with their health, often it's the only hope they have. I know I would have died if it had not been for God. Jesus doesn't want his children sick. He not only died for our sins, but for sicknesses as well.

God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). This is a sad thing, but it's true. Many do not have the knowledge of the Word of God or know that it is God's will for them to be healed. And this information is the difference between life and death.

David said, "How we thank you Lord! Your mighty miracles give proof that you care." (Psalms 75:1). God does care for his children. The fact that He healed me shows me He cares, and that He wants to heal you, too.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for..." if you have cancer, mental illness, or some other disease that has caused pain and sickness in your body I want you to know there is hope in Jesus. He does not want you to die an early death. He wants you to live and declare the works of the Lord (Psalm 118:17). Amen

Brothers, if you or any of your loved ones suffer from pain, sickness, or disease, then I pray you will read the following scriptures and fill yourselves with God's word and have Faith. Amen.

Proverbs 4:20-23, Joshua 21:45, Phillipians 2:13, Romans 8:4, 2 Corinthians 1:20, Matthew 8:2-3, Exodus 15:26, Exodus 23:25, Deuteronomy 7:15, 30:19, Malachi 3:10, Psalms 103:1-5, 107:26, 118:17, Matthew 18:18-19, Isaiah 53:5, Jeremiah 30:17, Psalms 91:16, Mark 11:22-24, 16:17-18, John 9:31, 10:10, Hebrews 13:8, James 5:14-15, 1 John 5:14-15, 3:21-22.

God bless you,

— John Senter, NCCF

## How Old Am I?

**O** ne evening a grandson was talking to his grandfather about current events. He asked what grandpa thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age and just things in general. His final question was: "How old are you, Gramps?"

The granddad replied, "Well, let me think a minute—I was born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

"There was no radar, credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens. Man had not invented pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers, the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man hadn't yet walked on the moon.

"Your grandmother and I got married first and then lived together. Every family had a father and a mother, and every boy over 14 had a rifle that his dad taught him how to use and respect. And they went hunting and fishing together. Until I was 25, I called every man older than I, 'Sir,' and after I turned 25 I still called policemen and every man with a title, 'Sir.' Sundays were set aside for going to church as a family, helping those in need and visiting with family or neighbors. We were before gay-rights, computer dating, dual careers, daycare centers and group therapy. Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

"Serving your country was a privilege; living here was a bigger privilege. We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent. Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins. Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breeze started. Time sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends — not purchasing condominiums.

"We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt or guys wearing earrings. We listened to the Big Bands, Jack Benny and the President's speeches on our radios. And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey.

"If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk. The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam. Pizza Hut, McDonald's and instant coffee were unheard of. We had 5 and 10-cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents. Ice cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar and a Pepsi were all a nickel. And if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one? Too bad, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

"In my day, 'grass' was mowed, 'coke' was a cold drink, 'pot' was something your mother cooked in, and 'rock music' was your grandmother's lullaby.

"Aids were helpers in the Principal's office, 'chip' meant a piece of wood, 'hardware' was found in a hardware store, and 'software' wasn't even a word.

"And we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby.

"No wonder people call us 'old and confused' and say there is a generation gap.

"How old do you think I am?" (This man would be only 59-years old.)



## Prayer of Direction

It is your will, Father, that I desire  
the spark of your love  
that sets my heart on fire  
Bathed in the light you have for me,  
opening my eyes, allowing me to see  
Always there for me.

I shall never walk alone,  
For it is when you choose Jesus  
That I shall go home. Amen

—Robert L. Johnson II

## The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 6.1a

January, 2003

The official publication of The Church of the Damascus Road, a Christian Community of Reconciliation, serving the inmate population of the medium security units at Rockwell City and Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Gary LeCompte, Editor,

If you are reading a copy of this letter that is not yours, you can subscribe and receive your own copy by writing to:

The Church of the Damascus Road  
PO Box 834  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834  
Office at St. Olaf Lutheran Church  
239 North 11th Street, Fort Dodge  
515-955-3579



## Fishing with Jesus

Moses and Jesus were in a boat fishing on the sea talking about things they've done in the past. Jesus asked Moses what one of the best things he's done in the past. Moses was thinking for awhile and said, "I haven't parted the sea for awhile." So Moses raised up his hands and the sea began to separate itself. Jesus said, "That is pretty good." Moses asked Jesus what one of his best things he's done. Jesus said, "I haven't walked on water for awhile." So, Jesus stood up and went over the side of the boat, bloop-bloop-bloop, down went Jesus. Moses reeled him up, Jesus said, "I don't understand." So, Jesus tried again, and then...bloop-bloop-bloop, down went Jesus again! "I don't know what I am doing wrong" said Jesus. So He tried a third time...bloop-bloop-bloop, down went Jesus! So, one more time Moses reeled Him up. "I can't do it anymore! Then Moses replied, "The last time I saw you walk on water, you didn't have those holes in your feet.

— Jeffrey Roberts, FDCF

## Friendship Cake

- 1 Cup Greetings
- 1/2 Cup Smiles
- 1 Large Handshake
- 1 Teaspoon Sympathy
- 2/3 Cup Love
- 2 Cups Hospitality



Cream the greetings and smiles thoroughly. Add handshake separately. Slowly stir in love. Sift sympathy and hospitality and fold carefully. Bake in a warm heart and serve often.

— Author unknown

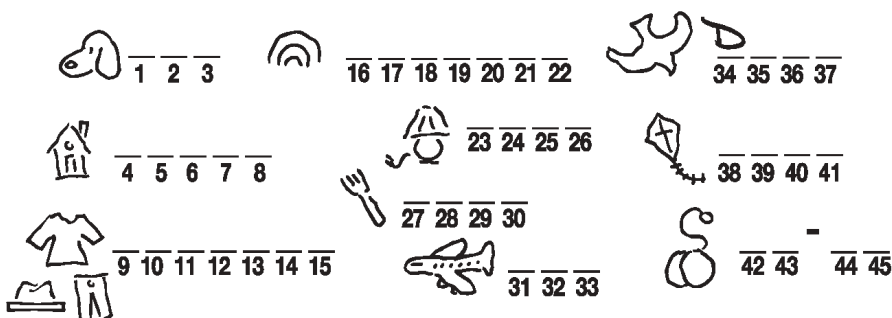


## Psalm 100

Find these words from Psalm 100.

Write the name of each picture on the lines.

Transfer the letters to the lines of the verse.



" 7 4 2 6 12 27 2 16 31 2 42 12 21 12 4 37 10 2 16 1 "

17 10 10 12 4 8 8 17 16 12 13 "

22 2 16 7 13 18 26 12 13 8 23 2 16 34 22 18 12 4

3 10 24 1 19 14 7 7 "

9 35 25 14 20 14 27 11 16 8 4 18 25 22 18 12 4

31 5 44 27 6 23 7 5 19 3 15 " " 14 19 12 14 16 13 18 7

3 24 33 8 7 22 18 12 13 12 4 24 19 38 7 3 18 36 18 19 3

17 19 1 4 18 7 9 5 6 16 12 7 22 18 12 13 26 16 17 18 7 8 "

3 18 36 14 33 13 24 19 38 7 12 5 4 18 25 17 19 1

26 16 17 18 7 8 13 18 7 19 17 25 32 "

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs .... Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name!"

Dog, House, Clothes, Rainbow, Lamp, Jet, Dove, Kite, Yo-Yo



Part I

# Four Pillars of a Man's Heart

"Bringing Strength into Balance"

## Listen Up!

This is a book report that I did for my College study for "Theology." I write this so maybe I can catch the attention of the men here young and old. It is time for a turning point in all of our lives. The choice is up to you for change. I would like to start this with a poem from "The Christian Newspaper."

## Without Christ

Christ is the Way-Men without him are like Cain, wanderers, and vagabonds.

He is the Light-Men without him walk in darkness and know not whither they go.

He is the Vine-Men who are not in him are without branches prepared for the fire.

He is the Rock-Men not built on him are carried away by the flood of judgment.

He is the Bread and Water of Life-Men without him will hunger and thirst through all eternity.

He is the Alpha and Omega-Men without him have neither beginning of good nor end of misery.

So, what kind of man builds a civilization, a small civilization, that will outlast himself? What kind of man has shoulders broad enough to build on? A four-pillar man. A Man of Vision and Character ...A King. A Man of Strength and Power ...A Warrior. A Man of Faith and Wisdom ....A Mentor. A Man of Heart and Love ...A Friend.

Upon these pillars will determine whether the small civilization we call "home" will either stand or fall. We can't support a roof, keep out the elements, and shield against things that go bump in the night with one or two pillars. Three pillars might hold up for a while-but the structure is out of balance and always in danger of collapse. It takes four pillars to hold up a building, a temple, or a home. These four pillars that I've mention already makes a man. One who will bear the weight, stand against the elements, and hold one small civilization intact in a world that would like nothing better than to tear it down. So, I must ask myself, what kind of a man am I? How can I become what I so deeply need to be? Will I ever be any different? What kind of man am I growing into? Will someone look over the remnants of my small civilization one-day? What will they see? What kind of heritage will I have left? What difference will it make that I have lived? I cannot do much about my ancestors but I can my descendants. I've got to build a family that will outlive me. I've got to build a home that will outlast me. I've got to build a heritage that will stand strong and firm against the winds of time. I've got to build a civilization that will not fall apart with the passing years. I've got to build a civilization on pillars that will not lean or crumble. Because in Psalm

103:15-16 it reads, "As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more; and it's place acknowledge it no longer."

I have come from a long line of men who have made wrong choices. That's why my pillars of manhood have fallen, and my life was almost to the brink of ruin in the closing days of the millennium. Every single choice that I make from now on will affect every move I make and every thought I will think for the remaining days of my life. It will impact every single member of my family. My wife ♥ Smile! My son, brothers, sisters, nephews, neices, and friends. Also my children's children. Their children's children for generations to come. Therefore as I experience the tugging of God in my heart, I'm beginning to move back down the trail God intended for me as his man in the first place. I'm changing my priorities. I'm determined to follow the king. I'm going to be a Godly man. I'm going to keep my promises. No, it won't be easy. It's a road less traveled in my culture. Then, courage does not follow rutted pathways. Here let me describe each pillar by it's characteristic.

The first Pillar: a King. The heart of a man should be as a provisionary heart. A man that is intended to provide and a provider. He looks ahead, anticipate needs, spots potential dangers, defines direction, and charts a wise course. He is an overseer, in the truest sense of the word. Not one who lounges in a LA-Z-BOY, but who's always on his horse, riding the borderlands of his realm, checking the supports of the bridges, chatting with his troops, and scanning the horizon for potential enemies. Out of his heart flows a sense of purpose, stability, and justice. Possesses strong qualities of order, establishing reasonable patterns and structure, and maintaining a sense of calm. His trait in his heart expresses itself when he takes all the necessary steps to see to it that his family prosper-mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, as well as financially. The power to calmly turn chaos into order. This man is a Biblical Shepherd King.

The second Pillar: a Warrior. A man who is willing to be the man of the in-between. A man who walks with God. A man who is willing to stand between his family and whatever lions threatened them. For Satan is devouring every day, and he will roar louder and devour more as we enter the twenty-first century because he knows his time is short. Therefore the creator have placed a warrior in my chest. One who will remain alert on his post, vigilant and protective. One who will shield, defend, stand between, and guard against the works of satan. I am a protector, I invest myself in "the energy of self-disciplined, aggressive action." A warrior who doesn't love war. I draw no sadistic pleasure from fighting, or bloodshed, or destruction. A warrior who possesses high moral standards, and holds

them to high principles. I'm willing to live by them, stand for them, spend myself in them, and if necessary die for them. must fight the good fight, injecting myself into situations only when necessary. The only way I know when aggressiveness is appropriate is through careful discipline of the soul in God's good word. Making me strong in order to destroy evil in all of its many forms-dishonesty, corruption, tyranny, injustice, pornography, child-abuse, drugs, alcohol, oppression and racism.

Pillars three and four will be discussed in the next issue of the Echo!

— Victorio DeLance

## Think you have it rough?

It's a rare person who doesn't get discouraged. Whether it happens to us or to an associate we're trying to cheer up, the answer centers around one word: perseverance. The value of courage, persistence has rarely been illustrated more convincingly than in the life story of this man (his age appears in the column on the right):

Failed in business .....	22
Ran for legislature .....	23
Again failed in business .....	24
Elected to legislature .....	25
Sweetheart died .....	26
Had a nervous breakdown .....	27
Defeated for Speaker .....	29
Defeated for Elector .....	31
Defeated for Congress .....	34
Elected to Congress .....	37
Defeated for Congress .....	39
Defeated for Senate .....	46
Defeated for Vice President .....	47
Elected President of the US .....	51
This is the Record of Abraham Lincoln.	

## Love

I praise you Jesus  
in all I do.  
And most important:  
I love you, too.

-Robert L. Johnson II

## Contributions invited

The editor of this newsletter is inviting **ALL READERS** to contribute articles, poetry, art work, and opinions for the newsletter. So don't be bashful.

## Worship & Bible Study

### FDCF Fort Dodge

7:00pm Wednesdays ..... Holy Communion  
6:30pm Fridays ..... Prayer Team  
7:00pm Fridays ..... Bible Study

### NCCF Rockwell City

6:30pm Tuesdays .... Prayer & Bible Study  
6:30pm Thursdays ..... Holy Communion