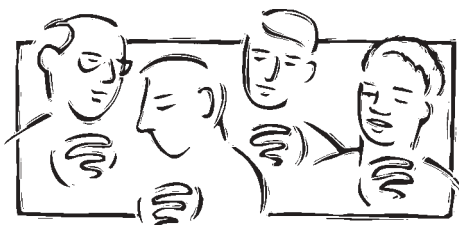


# The Church of the Damascus Road

# Damascus Road

# Echo!

Volume 7  
Issue No. 2a  
March 2004  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA



**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

## Attention!

Much help is needed from all of us. Each week at the Church of the Damascus Road we have a prayer box for prayer requests. We pray for these requests before our weekly Bible Studies. You do not have to sign your name to your request because God knows who is being prayed for. We will pray for your request for several weeks. Then come join us at 6:30pm on Tuesdays at NCCF and on Fridays at FDCF so we can pray together. Bible Study follows at 7pm. We hope to see you there.

— Shawn Bentley

## God Knows Who I Am

The world may criticize me,  
Not knowing who I am.  
While God will stretch out to me  
His tender loving hand.  
For He knows just who I am.  
Where I go, I take my heart,  
Where I've been, I leave my love.  
Vision sees beneath the surface  
And sees with the eye of faith.  
Visions will remind me of God's  
Love and amazing grace  
Which heal my wounds,  
And strengthen my faith.

*Written by: T. Rada*

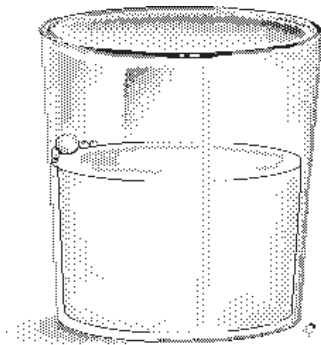
## Inside the Echo!

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## Buy Milk

A young man had been to Wednesday night Bible Study. The Pastor had shared about listening to God and obeying the Lord's voice. The young man couldn't help but wonder, "Does God still speak to people?" After service he went out with some friends for coffee and pie and they discussed the message. Several different ones talked about how God had led them in different ways. It was about ten o'clock when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, "God, if you still speak to people speak to me. I will listen. I will do my best to obey."

As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought to stop and buy a gallon of milk. He shook his head and said out loud, "God, is that you?" He didn't get a reply and started on toward home. But again the thought, buy a gallon of milk. The young man thought about Samuel and how he didn't recognize the voice of God, and how little Samuel ran to Eli. "Okay, God, in case that is you, I will buy the milk." It didn't seem like too hard a test of obedience. He could always use the milk. He stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started off toward home.



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As he passed Seventh Street, he again felt the urge, "Turn down that street." This is crazy, he thought, and he drove on past the intersection. Again, he felt that should turn down seventh Street. At the next intersection, he turned back and headed down Seventh. Half jokingly, he said out loud, "Okay, God, I will." He drove several blocks, when suddenly, he felt like he should stop. He pulled over to the curb and looked around. He was in semi-commercial area of town. It wasn't the best but it wasn't the worst of

neighborhoods, either. The businesses were closed and most of the houses looked dark, like the people were already in bed.

Again, he sensed something, "Go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street." The young man looked at the house. It was dark and it looked like the people were either gone or they were already asleep. He started to open the door and then sat back in the car seat. "Lord, this is insane. Those people are asleep and if I wake them up, they are going to be mad and I will look stupid."

Again, he felt like he should go and give the milk. Finally, he opened the door, "Okay God, if this is you, I will go to the door and I will give them the milk. If you want me to look like a crazy person, okay. I want to be obedient. I guess that will count for something, but if they don't answer right away, I am out of here."

He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside. A man's voice yelled out, "Who is it? What do you want?" Then the door opened before the young man could get away. The man was standing there in his jeans and T-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face and he didn't seem too happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. "What is it?"

The young man thrust out the gallon of milk, "Here, I brought this to you." The man took the milk and rushed down a hallway speaking loudly in Spanish. Then, from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her holding a baby. The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face. The man began speaking and half crying, "We were just praying. We had some big bills this month and we ran out of money. We didn't have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking God to show me how to get some milk."

His wife in the kitchen yelled out, "I ask him to send an Angel with some. Are you an Angel?" The young man reached into his wallet and pulled out all the money he had on him and put in the man's hand. He turned and walked back toward his car and the tears were streaming down his face. He knew that God still answers prayers.

*Author Unknown*

## In His Arms

A local county sheriff got a disturbing call one Saturday afternoon a few months ago. His six-year-old grandson Mikey had been hit by a car while fishing with his dad. The father and son were near a bridge when a woman lost control of her car, slid off the bridge, and hit Mikey at a rate of about 50 mph. When the sheriff got to the hospital, he rushed to the emergency room, where he found little Mikey conscious and in fairly good spirits, considering what had happened to him.

"Mikey, what happened?" the sheriff asked. Mikey replied, "Well, Gramps, I was fishin' with Dad, and some lady runned me over, I flew into a mud puddle, and broke my fishin' pole and I didn't get to catch no fish!" As it turned out, the impact propelled Mikey about 500 feet, over a few trees and an embankment, where he landed right in the middle of a mud puddle.

His only injuries were to his right femur bone, which had broken in two places and needed surgery. Otherwise the boy was fine. Since all he could talk about was that his fishing pole was broken, the Sheriff went out and bought him a new one while he was in surgery, so he could have it when he came out.

The next day the Sheriff sat with Mikey to keep him company in the hospital. Mikey was enjoying his new fishing pole, and talked about when he could go fishing again as he cast into the trash can.



When they were alone, Mikey matter-of-factly said, "Gramps, did you know Jesus is real?" "Well," the Sheriff replied, a little startled. "Yes, Jesus is real to everyone who believes in Him and loves Him in their hearts." "No," said Mikey. "I mean

Jesus is REALLY real. "What do you mean?" asked the Sheriff. "I know He's real 'cause I saw Him," said Mikey, still casting into the trash can. "You did?" asked Gramps, the Sheriff. "Yep," said Mikey. "When that lady runned me over and broke my fishin' pole, Jesus caught me in His arms and laid me down in the mud puddle."

*Author Unknown*

## The Average Soldier

- ◉ The average age of the military man is 19 years.
- ◉ He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country.
- ◉ He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.
- ◉ He's a recent High School graduate; he
  - ◉ He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.
  - ◉ He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle.
  - ◉ He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food.
  - ◉ He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.
  - ◉ He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job.
  - ◉ He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.
  - ◉ He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them.
  - ◉ He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.
  - ◉ He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.
  - ◉ Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom.
  - ◉ Beardless or not, he is not a boy.
  - ◉ He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding.

Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

Prayer "Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen."

## Directions

Make a Right onto Believeth Blvd. Keep straight and go through the Green Light, which is Jesus Christ. There you must turn onto the Bridge of Faith, which is over troubled water. When you get off the bridge, make a Right turn and Keep Straight. You are on the King's Highway — Heaven-bound. Keep going for three miles: One for the Father, One for the Son, and One for the Holy Spirit. Then exit off onto Grace Blvd. From there, make a Right turn on Gospel Lane. Keep Straight and then make another Right on Prayer Road. As you go on your way, yield not to the traffic on Temptation Ave. Also, avoid *Sin Street* because it is a *dead end*. Pass up Envy Drive, and Hate Avenue. Also, pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossiping Lane, and Backbiting Blvd. However, you have to go down Long-suffering Lane, Persecution Blvd. and Trials and Tribulations Ave. But that's all right, because *Victory Street* is straight ahead! Amen!

— Ray Kerley, 12/03/03

## Holy Love

I wondered aimlessly, blinded by sin  
 'Til I opened up my heart  
 and let my Savior in.  
 He opened up my eyes, healed all my pain  
 All praise be to Jesus,  
 I'm no longer the same.  
 The light at my feet, taken by the hand,  
 Victory in Jesus, I take my stand  
 Standing forever with the saints above,  
 Sharing and rejoicing in God's Holy Love

*Robert L. Johnson II 3-25-2003*

**The Church of the  
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Volume 7.2a                      March, 2004

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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.  
 Jeffrey Roberts, 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:  
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### Wisdom to Live By

1. The best way to get even is to forget.
2. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
3. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
4. Some folks wear their halos much too tight.
5. Some marriages are made in heaven, but they ALL have to be maintained on earth.
6. Unless you can create the WHOLE universe in 5 days, then perhaps giving "advice" to God, isn't such a good idea!
7. Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up.
8. Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous. You will get knocked down by the traffic from both ways.
9. Words are windows to the heart.
10. A skeptic is a person who when he sees the handwriting on the wall, claims it's a forgery.
11. It isn't difficult to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add a little dirt.
12. A successful marriage isn't finding the right person; it's being the right person.
13. The mighty oak tree was once a little nut that held its ground.
14. Too many people offer God prayers with claw marks all over them.
15. The tongue must be heavy, indeed, because so few people can hold it.
16. To forgive is to set the prisoner free and then discover the prisoner was you.
17. You have to wonder about humans, they think God is dead and Elvis is alive!
18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again. Just be sure to flush when you are done.
19. You'll notice that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
20. If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher.

Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!  
 Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.



Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.  
 Circle them in the puzzle below.

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Proverbs 6:6 _____     | Exodus 16:20 _____    |
| Psalms 78:45 _____     | 1 Sam. 24:14 _____    |
| Matt. 23:24 _____      | Isaiah 50:9 _____     |
| Judges 14:8 _____      | Isaiah 59:5 _____     |
| Acts 12:23 _____       | Leviticus 11:22 _____ |
| Leviticus 11:22 _____  | Leviticus 11:22 _____ |
| Leviticus 11:22 _____  |                       |
| Deuteronomy 7:20 _____ |                       |



M O T H S G N A T B H  
 A N T A L L C H P E O  
 G R A S S H O P P E R  
 G F C R I C K E T S N  
 O L S P I D E R S B E  
 T E C L O C U S T D T  
 S A E F K A T Y D I D  
 G F L I E S W O R M S

Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket





Jeffrey Roberts, FDCF, 2003



Derek Graybill, FDCF, 2004

## The Story of St. Patrick

Centuries ago, when Britain was ruled by Rome, there was a young boy named Patrick who lived in Britain with his family. Although Patrick's parents had reared him as a Christian, he didn't take their teachings seriously. He preferred to follow the sinful example of other youths.

Patrick continued in this way of life until one day he was captured by a band of marauders from Ireland who made him return with them as a slave of their country. They forced him to live in poverty and hunger, working as a shepherd and a swineherd.

Patrick missed Britain and his family so much that he thought his heart would break. He began to pray, however, asking God to help him and begging forgiveness for his sins. The Lord heard his prayers, filling him with the fire of a new faith he had never known before.

One night while Patrick was still in captivity, God showed him a way to escape from Ireland, and after six years of slavery, he found his way back to Britain and his family.

From that time on, Patrick dedicated his life to God, eventually receiving Holy Orders. His life became a continual quest for holiness.

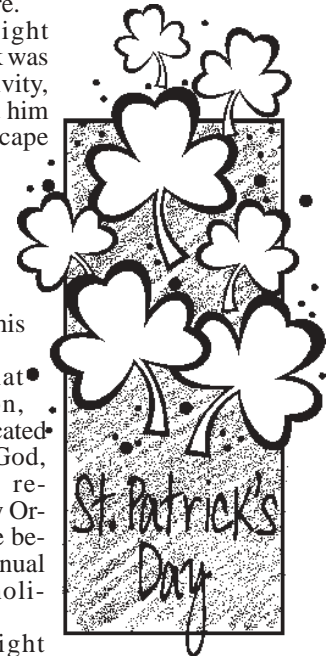
One night while Patrick was at prayer, he heard a voice calling him. An angel appeared to him with a message that the people of Ireland wished him to return to their country and walk among them once more - this time, not as a captive, but as God's apostle.

Patrick saw God's plan in all that had happened, and he consented to return to Ireland. He was consecrated bishop and was sent there to preach the Gospel of Christ.

In the early days, Patrick suffered great persecution, but the fire that God had kindled in his heart spread throughout all of Ireland, and Patrick came to be regarded as an angel among men.

Now a saint, Patrick stands as a symbol of the Irish, of the unique destiny they claim, and of the beloved place they will always have in God's heart.

With special thoughts and a prayer that God will bless you on St. Patrick's Day and always.



### 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

### On Your Mind

From there on the Cross,  
how far could You see?

Was I on Your mind,  
were You thinking of me?

Why did You decide  
to give up Your life?

I am not worthy  
of such a price.

You endured suffering and pain  
For me, a sinner,

I bear this in shame.

I bow down before You,  
humbly in praise.

From now and forever  
'til the end of all days.

Amen

Robert L. Johnson II 1-22-2003