

The Church of the Damascus Road **Echo!**

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Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

What Does Love Mean?

- § A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8-year-olds, "What does love mean?" The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think.
- § "When my grandmother got arthritis, She couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis, too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8
- § "When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4
- § "Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5
- § "Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your french fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy - age 6
- § "Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri - age 4
- § "Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny - age 7
- § "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby - age 5
- § "If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend whom you hate." Nikka - age 6
- § "There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them." Jenny - age 4
- § "Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday." Noelle - age 7
- § "Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." Tommy - age 6
- § "My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." Clare - age 5
- § "Love is when mommy gives daddy the best piece of chicken." Elaine - age 5
- § "Love is when mommy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford." Chris - age 8
- § "Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." Mary Ann - age 4
- § "I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." Lauren - age 4
- § "I let my big sister pick on me because my Mom says she only picks on me because she loves me. So I pick on my baby sister because I love her." Bethany - age 4
- § "When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and stars come out of you." Karen - age 7
- § "Love is when mommy sees daddy on the toilet and she doesn't think it's gross." Mark - age 6
- § "You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." Jessica - age 8



Drawing by Craig Miller IMCC

Who took your place?

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."



Inside the Echo!

- Page 2 -Apostolic Profiles
- Page 2 -You and the Lord's Prayer
- Page 3 -Temple Talk
- Page 3 -Word Find
- Page 4 -Three Tree Fable
- Page 4- The Letter
- Page 4 - Our Daily Bread
- Page 4 - Artworks



You and the Lord's Prayer

The following is marked "Author Unknown" and was passed on to me on the web. I wish I were able to express appreciation to the writer for the blessing it brought. Like a smile, it should be passed on.
Editor

I cannot say **our** if our religion has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot say **father** if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily living.

I cannot say **who art in heaven** if all my interest and pursuits are earthly things.

I cannot say **hallowed be thy name** if I, called by his name, am not holy.

I cannot say **thy kingdom come** if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of God.

I cannot say **thy will be done** if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot say **on earth as it is in heaven** unless I am truly ready to give myself to his service here and now.

I cannot say **give us this day our daily bread** without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of my fellowmen.

I cannot say **forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us** if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say **deliver us from evil** if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot say **thine is the kingdom** if I do not give the king the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say **thine is the power** if I fear what my neighbors and friends may say or do.

I cannot say **thine is the glory** if I am seeking my own glory first.

I cannot say **forever** if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

To think and pray about: I cannot even say **amen** unless I honestly say, come what may, this is my prayer.

Apostolic Profiles

To: Jesus, Son of Joseph, Woodcrafters Carpenter shop, Nazareth 25922

From: Jordan Management Consultants, Jerusalem 26544

Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

The profiles of all tests are included, and you will want to study each of them carefully.

As part of our service and for your guidance, we make some general comments, much as an auditor will include some general statements. This is given as a result of staff consultation and comes without any additional fee.

It is the staff opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by

the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely yours,

Jordan Management Consultants

Annual CROP Walk October 9 & 10

The annual CROP Walk will take place at NCCF on Saturday, October 9 at 9am and at FDCF on Sunday October 10 at 1:30pm. We walk for two reasons. First we walk because they walk. Just to get food and water some people in Third World countries walk up to ten miles, carrying the water and food on their heads or backs. We walk to show our empathy and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Third World countries. Second, we walk as a demonstration to others who can see us walk and visibly see how much we care about the hungry of the world.

The CROP Walk is three miles. Easily done in an hour. If you call or write home about our walk, some of your friends and relatives may wish to give toward the hungry y sending their donations to

CROP Walk

The Church of the Damascus Road

PO Box 834

Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834

Personal donations from inmates may be made with a special CROP Store Order (FDCF) or giving sheet (NCCF). Set your

sights on the CROP Walk and join us for the fun and fellowship and the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing a good thing for someone else in need.

The Church of the
Damascus Road
Echo!

Volume 7.5a

September, 2004

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.

Albert Cooper, 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

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Fort Dodge, IA 50501-0834

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My Temple Talk tonight is on giving and the different types or ways of giving. First, we start by looking in Matthew 27:45-56. I don't think we really grasp the depth of the pain and suffering Christ underwent for us. The thorns twisted into a crown, then cruelly driven down on his head. He was flogged (whipped), then blindfolded, punched, slapped, beaten with clubs, then asked to prophecy who struck him.

The Roman soldiers were big burly brutes. They were cruel men who had no regard for our Savior, because they were going to end his life. They laughed and mocked him. Jesus did nothing but asked forgiveness for them. The soldiers spit on Jesus, one of the most insulting and degrading things one can do to another human being. I've been spit on before, and believe me a fist fight immediately followed. And Christ endured all of this, even though he was innocent! He did it for us!

Now let's turn to Ephesians 5:23-24. The Apostle Paul tells us that Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. That's us, "the body." The outsiders come here week-in-and-week-out, through snow, in the rain, through spring planting and fall harvest. They are farmers, business people, teachers, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives, all who have full schedules. They get home after work, eat supper, maybe tend to a few things, then right back in the car and over here to have fellowship with us. We, who have been deemed unfit to live in society. They come during holidays when life can be quite busy. Not only do they come for fellowship, but they always have a smile and a warm handshake and caring concern. They have an interest in us as human beings.

This is very special to me, in light of all of us inmates living in an atmosphere so filled with negativity, where those in authority doubt our every word and action.

These are just two very fine and beautiful examples of giving. This is something that all the money in the world could not buy.

To respond to these examples with gifts of mere money, just somehow seems inappropriate. My prayer for my fellow inmates and me is that we may be able to go out in the world and be and live worthy of the gifts given here for my fellow inmates and me.

Christ sits at the right hand of the Father. I believe when Jesus looks down on our little flock in Rockwell City that he smiles and says to the Father, "It was worth it!"

Given by Jeff Friis at worship at NCCF



2 Timothy 3:16-17

The books and subjects that we study in school prepare us for our futures and our lives. Studying the Bible is important also. Find what Paul wrote to his young helper, Timothy.

First write a word to fit each definition. Then transfer the letters to the lines below.

Printed and bound sheets of paper	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>				
They form the alphabet	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	
One who is learning	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	
A small test	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>				
A group of relatives	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>		
To offer something	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>32</u>				
Glad	<u>33</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>37</u>			
Group who works together	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>41</u>				

“ 24 5 27 11 38 10 26 35 7 14 10 6 21 11 29 2 15 1 10 9 24 18 33 6 15 24 17 15 21 12 20 11 40 23 14 27 23 3 10 13 16 24 38 33 21 17 29 ’ 39 9 1 14 4 21 17 29 ’ 38 2 10 10 40 38 8 21 17 29 34 17 15 7 10 24 21 17 21 17 29 26 17 ” 39 30 29 33 8 9 3 14 11 17 32 12 11 ”

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

Three Trees Fable

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty."

Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull."

Finally the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."

After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter" ..and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree a woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree, I should be able to sell it to the shipyard. "The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree so I'll take this one", and he cut it down."

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for.

The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end.

The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came to the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and he stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of the hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

The moral of this story is that when things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

The Letter

Dear Friend,
How are you? I just had to send you a note to tell you how much I care about you.

I saw you yesterday as you were talking with your friends. I waited all day, hoping you would want to talk with me. I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you—and I waited. You never came. It hurt me, but I still love you, because I am your friend.

I saw you sleeping last night and I longed to touch your brow, so I spilled moonlight on your face. Again, I waited, wanting to rush down so we could talk. I have so many gifts for you! You awoke and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

If you would only listen to me. I love you. I try to tell you in blue skies and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in the colors of the flowers. I shout it to you in the mountain streams and give the birds a song for you. My love for you is deeper than the ocean and bigger than the biggest need in your heart. Ask me! Talk with me! Please do not forget me. I have so much to share with you! I will not hassle you any further. It is your decision. I have chosen you and I will wait.

I love you. Your friend,
Jesus Christ

Author Unknown

Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread helps us to look ahead. When we do our devotions, God jumps into motion. If we are forgiven, we will keep on living! If we use to the best of our ability what "God" put in his will, we will be blessed with a lot of skill. So, if you get bad thoughts in your head, sit down and read your Our Daily Bread!

—Albert Cooper, Echo Editor

Brothers in Blue

I would like to remind all of you about Brothers in Blue. At NCCF, the Brothers in Blue weekend is October 14-17, 2004. At FDCF the Brothers in Blue is December 2-5, 2004. I encourage all of you who have never attended Brothers in Blue before to give it a chance, or, if you have participated in Brothers in Blue, ask Pastor Lang about the servant team. I was involved with the servant team and I was really blessed with the love that the team showed. May you be involved this time, I pray that the Lord may lead you to Brothers in Blue. Applications are available now at worship or during the afternoon when Pastor Lang is in the institution.

—Albert Cooper, Echo Editor



Artwork & Articles 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