

# The Church of the Damascus Road

# Echo!

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## Evangelism

There is a subtle false teaching that says we can be evangelical without being evangelistic. It has us believe we "go" to church rather than we "are" the church.

— Chris Lyons

## I AM

I was regretting the past and fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking: "My name is I AM." He paused. I waited. He continued, "When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WAS. When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WILL BE. When you live in this moment, it is not hard. I am here. My name is I AM."

— Helen Mallicoat

## For Today

For today, as I awake, I will rejoice and be glad, for it is a day that you, Lord, have made for me.

For today, as I arise, I will delight in your word, for your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

For today, as I begin, I will remember I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

For today, as I encounter others, I will greet them in peace, that I might be of one mind in your peace.

For today, I will love all things you have created as you have loved me in Christ.

For today, I will find my comfort and rest in you, Lord, for greater are you in me than he who is in this world

For today, as my day comes to an end, I will turn to you, Lord, in prayer and petition and be thankful you are my God.

—Henry Potteet 02-06

## Inside the Echo!

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Lord Guide Us Through  
our Hard Times



## God Wipes Sin Away

One rainy afternoon I was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, my daughter, Aspen, spoke up from her relaxed position in her seat. "Dad, I'm thinking of something."

This announcement usually meant she had been pondering some fact for a while, and was now ready to expound all that her six-year-old mind had discovered. I was eager to hear.

"What are you thinking?" I asked. "The rain," she began, "is like sin, and the windshield wipers are like God wiping our sins away."

After the chill bumps raced up my arms I was able to respond. "That's really good, Aspen."

Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little girl take this revelation? So I asked.. "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?" Aspen didn't hesitate one moment with her answer: "We keep on sinning, and God just keeps on forgiving us."

I will always remember this whenever I turn my wipers on.

## Heart's Journey

What would you do if Jesus was there with you? Prepare to do all the things most men are afraid to do! Pray with him, say to Him: "Your wish is my Command."

UNDERSTAND! He's willing to do everything He can. Take His hand, hold Him, never let go of Him. He wants you... You need Him physically, emotionally, and SPIRITUALLY!

Grow old with Him. So you can joke and laugh together, that you last forever, give Him your heart. What would you do?

—Winston Halstead

# Worship the LORD

## Love Commandment

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved by my Father and I will love him, and will manifest myself in him. Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man loveth me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. (John 14:21-23 KJV).

What are Jesus' commandments? That we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, body, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31).

The word of God says that love is fulfilling the law (Romans 13:10).

God is love! When we walk in love, we walk in his realm, his very nature compels him to care for us and protects us.

God is love! He knows how to give us the good things in life far better than we could for ourselves! All we have to do is ask (Matthew 7:11).

How many parents want their children to go through life poverty-stricken, nose to the grindstone, sick, afflicted, downtrodden, downcast, down and out?

That should make you excited! Know that God wants what is good for us: "prosperity, health, wholeness" and will give it if we ask!

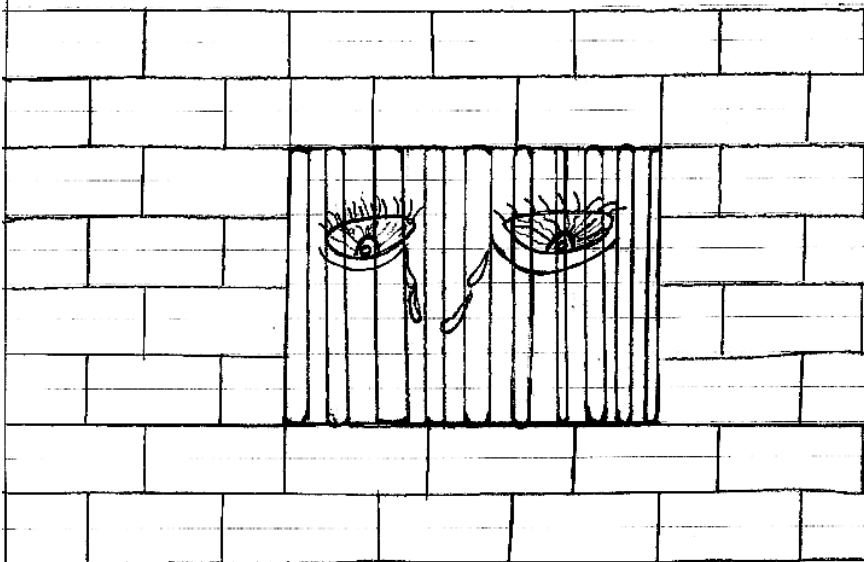
— William E Bell, FDCF



Everything I need to know about life I learned from Noah's Ark

- One: Don't miss the boat
- Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat
- Three: Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark
- Four: Stay fit, when your 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big
- Five: Don't listen to critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done
- Six: Build your future on high ground
- Seven: Speed isn't always the advantage. The snails were onboard with the cheetahs
- Eight: For safety sake, travel in pairs
- Nine: When you're stressed, float awhile
- Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals
- Eleven: No matter the storm, when your with God, there's always a rainbow waiting

They lived in the deepest darkness. They suffered as prisoners in iron chains. They tripped and fell, and there was no one to help them. They cried unto the Lord because of their problems and he saved them. He brought them out of their troubles. He broke off their chains. Let them give thanks to the Lord. He breaks down gates of bronze; he cuts through bars of iron. He gave his command and healed them. He saved them from the grave. Give thanks to the Lord. That's what those who have been set free by the Lord should say. (Psalm 107)



Aaron Bury FDCF 2006

Biblical Theme Songs

- Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"
- Adam and Eve: "Strangers in Paradise"
- Lazarus: "The Second Time Around"
- Esther: "I Feel Pretty"
- Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"
- Moses: "The Wanderer"
- Jezebel: "The Lady is a Tramp"
- Samson: "Hair" Salome: "I Could Have Danced All Night"
- Daniel: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"
- Esau: "Born To Be Wild"
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "Great Balls of Fire!"
- The Three Kings: "When You Wish Upon a Star"
- Jonah: "Got a Whale of a Tale"
- Elijah: "Up, Up, and Away"
- Methuselah: "Stayin' Alive"
- Nebuchadnezzar: "Crazy"

Guilty!

There was a story of a duke who boarded a galley ship and went below to talk with the criminals manning the oars. He asked several of them what their offenses were. Almost every man claimed he was innocent, blaming someone else or accusing the judge of taking a bribe. One young fellow, however, replied, "Sir, I deserve to be here. I stole some money, No one is at fault but me. I'm guilty." Upon hearing this, the duke shouted, "You scoundrel, you! What are you doing here with all these honest men? Get out of their company at once!" The duke ordered that this prisoner be released. He was set free, while the rest were left to tug at the oars.

— Charles Spurgeon

Your favorite verse here:

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, selfcontrol, against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

A Little Wisdom

We are all spiritual beings having a human experience. — Dr. Vernon Barksdale

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# Praying for Money

A little boy wanted \$100.00 badly and prayed for two weeks but nothing happened. Then he decided to write God a letter requesting the \$100.00. When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to "God U.S.A.", they decided to send it to President Bush.

The President was impressed, touched, and amused. So he instructed his secretary to send the little boy a five-dollar bill. President Bush thought this was a lot of money for a little boy. The little boy was delighted with the \$5.00 and sat down to write a thank you note to God, which read:

Dear God, thank you very much for sending the money. However, I noticed that for some reason you sent it through Washington D.C. and as usual, those crooks deducted \$95.00.

-Author unknown

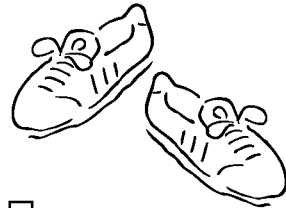


## "A Special Fitness Plan"

Read the words in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. It talks about being in shape to "run the race" – to be a Christian. Below is a fitness plan to help.

Match the words from the list below into the shaped boxes to complete the sentences.

- ①    your    .
- ②     about God's    .
- ③    every  .
- ④ Pray      .
- ⑤  at             for        day.
- ⑥   to       God in       you do.



## The Kite Tangled in the Tree

The other kites are flying free  
But I am tangled in a tree.  
My heart is crying with despair,  
Will I ever be up there?  
Torn and tattered, how can I be  
Ever up there flying free?  
The string is tangled in more than one limb  
The future for me seems so dim.  
God has been healing,  
But it takes so long  
And the gale wind forces seem so strong.  
What will happen to a kite like me,  
Tangled, so tangled in a tall, tall tree?  
Will I, will I ever be  
Up there with the other kites flying free?  
Able to trust the breeze and string,  
Able to trust God in everything?

- |     |            |       |      |       |        |
|-----|------------|-------|------|-------|--------|
| Do  | someone    | each  | Try  | Bible | words  |
| for | everything | one   | Read | Think | others |
| day | please     | thing | Pray | least | loving |

Answer: 1. Read your Bible. 2. Think about God's words. 3. Pray every day. 4. Pray for others. 5. Do at least one loving thing for someone each day. 6. Try to please God in everything you do.

## Funny Bones

Did Noah Fish? A Sunday school teacher asked, " Johnny, do you think Noah did alot of fishing when he was on the ark? " No, " replied Johnny. " "How could he, with just two worms. " Lot's Wife: The Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. when little Johnny interrupted, my mommy looked back once, while she was driving, he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

## Keep Them Close

I grew up in the 40's/50's with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for it... a father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones.

Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt, and a hat. Mom in a housedress with a lawn mower in one hand, and a dishtowel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing. I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't anymore.

Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away...never to return. So...while we have it... it's best we love it... and care for it... and fix it when it's broken... and heal it when it's sick.

This is true, for marriage... and old cars... and children with bad report cards... and dogs with bad hips... and aging parents... and grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it. Some things we keep, like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with.

There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special... and so, we keep them close!

I received this from someone who thinks I am a 'keeper', so I've sent it to the people I think of in the same way. Now it's your turn to send this to those people that are "keepers" in your life. Good friends and family are like stars... You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.

**KEEP THEM CLOSE!**

-Author unknown

## Memories

Memories of days gone by  
 Can warm a cold cold heart.  
 Reminding us of those we miss  
 Can tear a heart apart.  
 When I miss my loved ones  
 I take it to God in prayer.  
 That He will watch over them  
 As I can not be there.  
 Someday in the future  
 When God blesses me so.  
 Back to the arms of my family  
 Praising Him I shall go.

Robert L. Johnson II 12-15-2001

## Mother's Day

Marvelous and Meek,  
 Orderly behavior and Open,  
 Trusting and Tender,  
 Helping Hand and Honorable,  
 Everlasting love and full of Empathy  
 Reasonable and always Ready,  
 Sweet and Significant.  
 Dallies in prayer and Dedicated,  
 Always watchful and Attentive,  
 Young and Yearning.

Even though only one day is set aside for honoring our mothers, *each* day is Mother's Day because they are worthy of honor and have taken the time to carry us for nine months and to deliver us into the world.

No matter what lifestyles your mothers lived, you only have one mother. Thank her for bringing you into this world. Thank her for raising you up through your childhood. Thank her for being there when you were sick, hungry, needed clothes and protection from the "boogy man." Thank her for just being around.

Ladies and gentlemen, sometimes we don't know how blessed we really are to have a mother that is still living, still giving us a chance to treat them with respect, love, honor, patience and with tender care. We will never have a chance to get another mother, although a step mother or adopted mother gives us another chance. Mothers should be the Queen of our hearts and lives. Give her flowers, call her up once in awhile to say "Hello" and "I love you." Go visit her just to let her know that she is missed.

Young mothers, pattern yourselves after some of the women of the Bible, such as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Naomi, Ruth, Rahab, Esther, Mary the mother of Jesus, Eunice, Priscilla, Lydia and others.

And even though your mother may be in jail, in a treatment facility for drug addiction, in prison serving a life sentence, or may have abandoned you for reasons only God knows, in some way tell her "Happy Mother's Day" anyway. God calls on us to forgive as he forgives us. God bless all.

-Victorio DeLance 2005



## Trust

Trust is a confidence placed so securely in a person, place, or thing that we are certain to be betrayed. This confidence placed in a person will someday no doubt, lead to disappointment. Were this confidence placed in a home or business, heartache and pain would ensue at the devastation of these places being destroyed. If our confidence were placed in money, we would feel anger and sadness at having it stolen or lost to a bad investment. In all that we would like to trust, only in God can we trust.

- Kenneth Crawford (FDCF)

## Thinking Like God

As sinners we think and do things different than God. But if we just accept God we too can think like God and walk in his ways, just like he wants us sinners to do. It is a difficult road for many, but the Lord promises that if we follow him we can enjoy heaven with him.

Brothers and sisters, I pray that since we are sinners let us repent from our sins and accept the everlasting love Christ has for us. Let's ask for forgiveness of our sins and ask for salvation. AMEN



## 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.

## Check Them Out!

The Church of the Damascus Road Librarians are inviting you to come to the chapel (MPR 23), and "check out" the books in our library! There are many genres of books to choose from! We hope to see you there!

## Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge  
 7:00pm Wednesdays ..... Holy Communion  
 6:30pm Fridays ..... Prayer & Bible Study  
 NCCF Rockwell City  
 6:30pm Tuesdays .... Prayer & Bible Study  
 6:30pm Thursdays ..... Holy Communion