

The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

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Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA



Footprints

One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to me, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life. This really bothered me and I questioned the LORD about it "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

—Unknown author



Attention Members:

Encourage all of you to submit articles to the Flash, and Echo for us all to read. It's good to hear personal testimonies of how God has inspired you. Let us know what's on your minds, and in your hearts.

—Tony Halsrud FDCF

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Christrum



Prayer Vitamins

Anxious- Take Vitamin A

"All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Blue- Take Vitamin B

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy name." (Psalm 103:1)

Crushed- Take Vitamin C

"Cast all your care on Him, because he cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

Depressed- Take Vitamin D

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

Empty- Take Vitamin E

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name." (Psalm 100:4)

Fearful- Take Vitamin F

"Fear not, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God." (Isaiah 41:10)

Greedy- Take Vitamin G

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put unto your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

Hesitant- Take Vitamin H

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces Salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'" (Isaiah 52:7)

Insecure- Take Vitamin I

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Jittery- Take Vitamin J

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

Know nothing- Take Vitamin K

"Know this that the LORD is God, it is He that made us and not we ourselves." (Ps 100:3)

Lonely- Take Vitamin L

"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Mortgaged- Take Vitamin M

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Nervous- Take Vitamin N

"Never, no never will I leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Overwhelmed- Take Vitamin O

"Overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)

Perplexed or puzzled?- Take Vitamin P

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

Quitting- Take Vitamin Q

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong." (1 Corinthians 16:13)

Restless- Take Vitamin R

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him." (Psalm 37:7)

Scared- Take Vitamin S

"Stay with me, and do not be afraid; for the one who seeks my life seeks your life; you will be safe with me." (1 Samuel 22:23)

Tired- Take Vitamin T

"Those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Uncertain- Take Vitamin U

"Understand that I am (the LORD). Before Me no God was formed, nor shall there be any after Me." (Isaiah 43:10)

Vain- Take Vitamin V

"Vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one." (Acts 5:16)

Wondering what to do?- Take Vitamin W

"What does the LORD require of you but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Exhausted?- Take Vitamin X

"Exercise thyself rather unto godliness." (1 Timothy 4:7)

Yearning for hope?- Take Vitamin Y

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

Zapped- Take Vitamin Z

"Zealous for good deeds." (Titus 2:14)

'Twas the Night Jesus Came

'Twas the night Jesus came
and all through the house,
Not a person was praying,
not one in the house.
The Bible was left
on the shelf without care,
For no one thought Jesus
would come there.
The children were dressing
to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling
or bowing their head.
And Mom in the rocking chair
with babe on her lap
Was watching the Late Show
as I took a nap.
When out of the east
there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet
to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and lifted the sash.
When what to my wondering eyes
should appear,
But Angels proclaiming
that Jesus was here.
The light of His face
made me cover my head...
Was Jesus returning just like He'd said?
And though I possessed
worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life
which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word
as He searched for my name,
When He said, "It's not here,"
my head hung in shame.
The people whose names
had been written with love,
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready
He rose without sound,
While all of the others
were left standing 'round.
I fell to my knees but it was too late,
I'd waited too long
and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried
as they rose out of sight,
Oh, if only I'd known
that this was the night.
I woke from my dream, I felt like a dope,
But determined to change,
'cause now I had hope.
I've only one life
and when comes the last call,
I want to be ready, and glad that's not all.
— *Unknown*

Remember

When things get tough, always remember... Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it!!

Questions

Where Did I go wrong?
Was it when I took a first hit of the bong?
How did I end up at this point?
Was it when I took the hit off the joint?
Will I always be this way?
Will I be like this to my dying day?
Will I ever be free again?
Or will I keep coming back to the pen?
Will I ever be happy inside?
Or will I be the same as time goes by?
Is this how things were meant to be?
Or can somebody really love me?
Out of these questions that I ask myself
I'll be glad when I find the answers at last.
'Cause if one of these questions are true,
I really wish that I can be loved by you.
— *Stephen Stockbauer FDCF*

God Says

When God says it will come to pass,
That means he is coming
with a greater blast.
You cannot get to heaven
by the church or the mayor,
But you can get there
by the love of God and prayer,
Amen!
— *Al Cooper FDCF*

Relying on God's Love

Love resides within a heart that's true.
In the land of the living,
Where love is highly praised.
Even though this is true,
in times of trouble,
Friends just seem to fade away.
But no matter what our situation may be
We can find goodness and greatness,
When love is displayed.
When we look forward
with an increasing hope,
Regardless of our circumstances.
We must view everything
with the eye of faith
Where the desires are kept
Alive and effective by the divine grace.
I will accept God's love always,
Because, God is truly a friend.
— *T. Rada*

A Debt to Sorrow

No words can express how much the world owes to sorrow. Most of the Psalms were born in a wilderness. Most of the Epistles were written in a prison. The greatest thoughts of the greatest thinkers have all passed through fire. The greatest poets have "learned in suffering what they taught in song." In bonds Bunyan lived the allegory that he afterwards wrote, and we may thank Bedford Jail for the Pilgrim's Progress. Take comfort, afflicted Christian! When God is about to make pre-eminent use of a person, He puts them in the fire.
— *George MacDonald*



Carry On

Carry on - When times are rough
Carry on - When life seems so tough
Carry on - Hope has faded
Carry on - Tears won't stop
Carry on - Hearts broken in two
Carry on - God is all around
Carry on - He'll pull you through
Carry on - Have faith and believe
Carry on - Hope is only a step away
Carry on - God's love won't stray
Carry on - He is the light and the way.
— *Charles Nicolls FDCF 2006*

Prison

The word prison to me means; People Requiring Immediate Services Or Needs. We, as inmates, are these people. We require services in the form of protection from society and ourselves. The lifestyle displayed indicates that either we will hurt or kill someone, or someone will hurt or kill us. Perhaps this is how God preserves life, others and ours. We need services to help us be better dads and responsible citizens of our communities. We need G.E.D.s and Financial Management. We certainly need Anger Management. Last, but not least, we need going home Keys. Information that will help us continue to be better people in society and with our families. Instead of being a place of doom and gloom, PRISON is the inmates' dressing room. We dress for success to continue productive lives in society. We are: People Requiring Immediate Services Or Needs, but we are people.

— *Kenneth Crawford FDCF*

A Little Wisdom

We are all spiritual beings having a human experience.

— *Dr. Vernon Barksdale*

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

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An official publication of The Church of the Damascus Road, a Christian Community of Reconciliation, serving the inmate population of the correctional facilities at Rockwell City and Fort Dodge, Iowa.
Rev. Carroll Lang, Pastor
Tony Halsrud, Editor

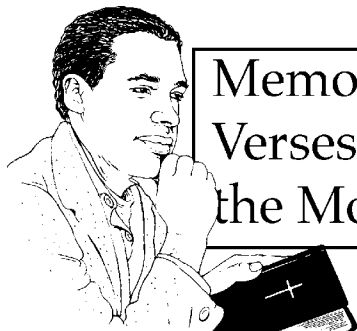
Your Favorite Scripture

Do you have a favorite scripture verse or verses in the Bible? Tell us what the Word of God means to you and where it is in the Bible. We will publish it in our newsletter each month. We all need encouragement every single day of our lives. We may never know how one single word from someone can affect us until we meet Jesus Christ and all is revealed. Is your daily goal to please Him? We need to abide in His word so that He will abide in us. And we will see God through our actions.

We must be able to "talk the talk" if we are trying to "walk the walk."

Give your scripture references to Pastor Lang or any Inside Church Council member.

—Tony Halsrud FDCF



Memory Verses for the Month

December

A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor (Proverbs 29:23). Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways (Proverbs 3:31).

Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other (Galatians 5:26). Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior (Habakkuk 3:18).

A Thought

It is as impossible for man to demonstrate the existence of God as it would be for even Sherlock Holmes to demonstrate the existence of Arthur Conan Doyle.

—Frederick Buechner

Brothers in Blue

Every six months we have Brothers in Blue at FDCF, and NCCF. It takes three and a half days from Thursday afternoon until Sunday night. It is a great time for true Christian fellowship with outside guests. You will be truly blessed if you sign up for this experience. You will learn more about God from those who truly know him. Don't forget to sign up early.

—Tony Halsrud FDCF



The Son of the Highest

A new baby brings joy and the anticipation of what he or she will grow up to become. Jesus' birth was miraculous, but His life was prophesied and planned by God.

Unscramble the words below, matching them to their correct spelling. Then use the numbers to fill in the correct words to complete Luke 1:32-33 (NIV).

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|------------|---------|
| 12. taerg | he | 2. noS | forever |
| 8. eh | Jacob | 11. seouh | end |
| 13. gHhi | father | 5. northe | Son |
| 7. aDvid | give | 1. roevfr | house |
| 10. bocJa | great | 6. dingmok | throne |
| 3. reafth | High | 9. den | kingdom |
| 4. vieg | David | | |

"He will be _____₁₂ and will be called the _____₂ of the Most _____₁₃. The Lord God will _____₄ him the _____₅ of his _____₃ _____₇, and _____₈ will reign over the _____₁₁ of _____₁₀ _____₁; his _____₆ will never _____₉."

Luke 1:32-33, NIV

Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David 8. he 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High

How True for Iowans

60 above zero: Floridians turn on the heat. People in Iowa plant gardens.

50 above zero: Californians shiver uncontrollably. People in Cedar Rapids sunbathe.

40 above zero: Italian & English cars won't start. People in Iowa drive with the windows down.

32 above zero: Distilled water freezes. The water in Des Moines gets thicker.

20 above zero: Floridians don coats, thermal underwear, gloves, wool hats. People in Iowa throw on a flannel shirt.

15 above zero: New York landlords finally turn up the heat. People in Iowa have the last cookout before it gets cold.

Zero: People in Miami all die. Iowans close the windows.

10 below zero: Californians fly away to Mexico. People in Iowa get out their winter coats.

25 below zero: Hollywood disintegrates. The Girl Scouts in Iowa are selling cookies door to door. (True!)

40 below zero: Washington DC runs out of hot air. People in Iowa let the dogs sleep indoors.

100 below zero: Santa Claus abandons the North Pole. Iowa get upset because they can't start the Mini-Van.

460 below zero: ALL atomic motion stops (absolute zero on the Kelvin scale). People in Iowa start saying..."Cold 'nuff fer ya?"

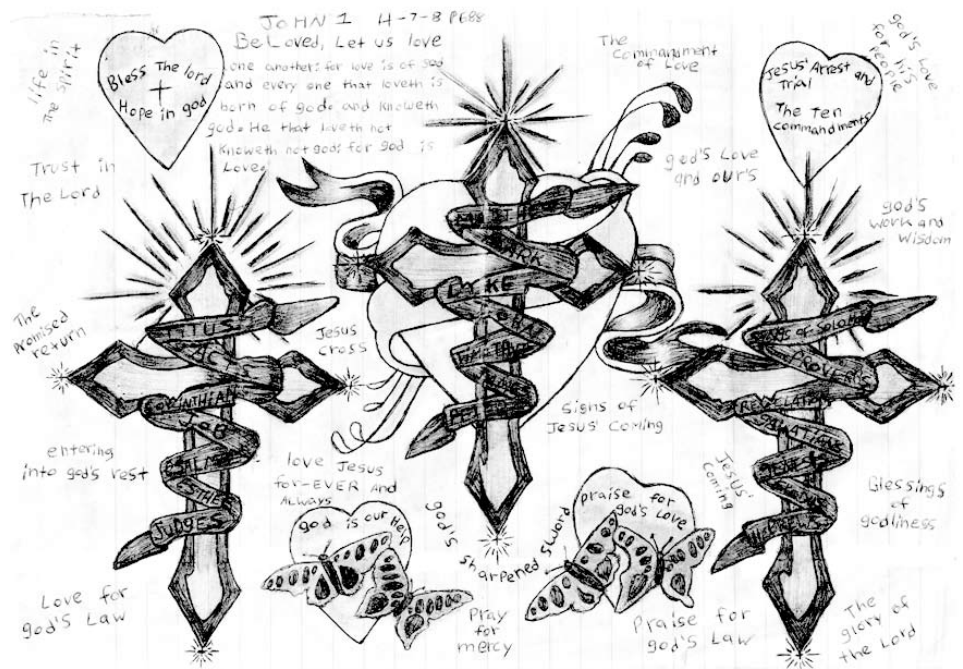
500 below zero: Hell freezes over. Iowa public schools will open 2 hours late.



Spiritual Aid

If you are in a miserable dispute just for a moment put everything on mute. I was in your shoes, lost and wild throughout my young years as a child. I really never once found out what this life was all about, until I came to prison put in a jail cell. Had all the time to think what's up. I noticed my ways were only corrupt. I got sick and tired where my behaviors would lead. I realize it was from pride and greed. Where to turn where to go? My questions were answered when I opened the Bible.

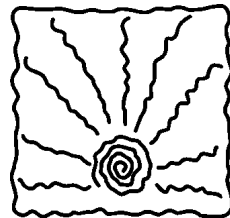
—Nathan D. McLaughlin FDCF



Josh McHale FDCF 2007

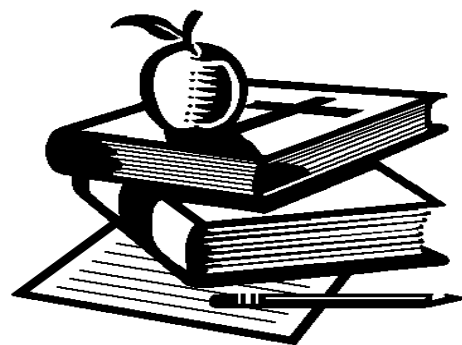
Yes and Amen

This is a verse from the Bible. I would like you to read it carefully and see what the theme means to you. (John 15:7-8a): "If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done to you. Herein is My Father glorified..."



AMEN

God gets glory by answering prayers!
—William Bell



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, tapes and compact discs in our library! There are many genres of books to choose from! We hope to see you there!

ATTENTION!

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 Opportunities

Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge
7:00pm WednesdaysHoly Communion
6:30pm Fridays Prayer & Bible Study

FDCF Chapel Hours
2:30pm-4:00pm Wednesday
1:00pm-2:00pm Friday
2:30pm-4:00pm Friday

NCCF Rockwell City
6:30pm Tuesdays Prayer & Bible Study
6:30pm ThursdaysHoly Communion