

# The Church of the Damascus Road Echo!

Volume 11  
Issue No. 1b  
February 2008  
Fort Dodge & Rockwell City, IA

## Makes One Cry

Then Jesus took his Disciples up the mountain and, gathering them round him, he taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek. Blessed are they that mourn. Blessed are the merciful. Blessed are they who thirst for justice. Blessed are all the concerned. Blessed are you when persecuted. Blessed are you when you suffer. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in Heaven."



Then Simon Peter said: "Will this count?" And Andrew said: "Will we have a test on it?" And James said: "When do we have to know it for?" And Philip said: "How many words?" And Bartholemew said: "Will I have to stand up in front of the others?" And John said: "The other disciples didn't have to learn this. Do I have to read it?" And Matthew said: "How many marks do we get for it?" And Judas said: "What is it worth?" And the other Disciples likewise tried to pass the buck.

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus's lesson plan, and inquired of Jesus his terminal objectives in the cognitive domain.

And, Jesus wept.

— Ray Kerley

## 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

## Inside the Echo!

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**NOW YOU  
ARE THE  
BODY OF  
CHRIST  
AND  
INDIVIDUALLY  
MEMBERS  
OF IT.**

1 Corinthians 12:27, NRSV

## His Son's Love

The son of God was no illusion,  
Jesus is real, so let there be no confusion.  
He died for our sins on a wooden cross,  
Shedding his blood,  
So our souls would never be lost.

—Jeremiah Hemenway, FDCF

## Just Being Me

As I reach inside myself  
and feel the damage done,  
I try to hide the mess  
my lonely life has become.  
I stuff my feelings deep,  
deep as they'll go!!  
Paint a smile on my face  
so no one will know,  
And dream of a day  
when this loneliness will go away.  
A day when I can be myself  
and I won't turn to drugs for help.  
A day when I can be happy  
and free just being me.

— Matthew Jordan

## Christians

by Maya Angelou

When I say .... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin"  
I'm whispering "I was lost,  
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say.... "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble  
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say.... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak  
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed  
And I need God to clean my mess.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect,  
My flaws are far too visible  
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain.  
I have my share of heartaches  
so I call upon His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not holier than thou,  
I'm just a simple sinner  
who received God's good grace,  
somehow!

## Bits of Knowledge

A man's action is only a picture book of his  
creed. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it  
falls due. - Dean Inge

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give  
thanks in all circumstances; for his is the  
will of God in Christ Jesus for you., - 1  
Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Bible gives us ample warning that  
ingratitude is the tragic flaw of human  
nature, a flaw we need to constantly  
fight against. - David S. Handley  
All our life is a holy festival - St. Clement  
of Alexandria

## Questions on Faith

Some say the Bible is all a myth,  
I would answer with something like this:  
Were the worlds made by some big bang?  
Or something similar from which we came?  
Science first denied that there is a God,  
Now they're not sure and study on,  
Darwin's theory with the single cell,  
"It's only a theory," Darwin would tell.  
With all the evidence so clearly seen,  
And DNA proving from one source we came.  
So why is it so hard for us to believe?  
Is there a God, have we been deceived?  
The man in question, from Galilee,  
Did signs and wonders for all to see,  
Claimed a kingdom from up above.  
He didn't want taxes, only our love.  
— William E. Bell, FDCF

## God's Gift to Me

God's gift to me  
So precious is life  
The gift is free  
No more strife  
No more pain  
What's to lose?  
All to gain  
Forgiveness is total  
How can it be true  
Oh, but it is  
For Jesus died for you  
Give Him your heart  
Give Him your soul  
He'll carry the weight  
Which will make you whole.  
— Charles Nicolls FDCF 2006

## Life

Life is a mystery for me and you,  
But we have to see it through.  
God will tell us what to do.  
Only one man knows what is going to be.  
This is Jesus Christ whom we will see  
When he comes to get you and me.  
So do not push him away,  
Call on your Savior today.  
— Albert Cooper

## Death

Death is fast, Death is slow,  
Death you will never know.  
It comes at night, it comes at day,  
but it will never stay.  
It brings sorrow, it brings fright,  
it brings restless nights.  
It takes family, it takes friends,  
death will always win.  
If you do not understand death,  
Call on Jesus Christ for spiritual rest.  
— Albert Cooper

## Poetry from inmates

If you would like to see something that you have written for God, or someone else that you love, you can submit it to the Church of the Damascus Road, and we will publish it in our monthly newsletters. It can be from someone else to you also. We need to be encouraged by each other in this place. Jokes can be submitted also.  
— Tony Halsrud FDCF

## Project God's Love

Through my sorrows and my trials,  
My strength to endure  
Has come by way of you.  
The knowledge and my faith in your  
Word have enabled me to  
Always feel secure.  
I know through your love  
And compassion,  
I will some day be with you.  
Lord give me, your faithful servant,  
The will to be a friend.  
The kind that's truly loving  
And always understands.  
Lord never let me drift apart from you,  
Because in the bottom of my heart,  
I treasure you as a precious, loving friend.  
My daily devotion is  
to know you and project  
The same love you have shown for me.  
I will make this my daily duty, Lord,  
I will also praise you till the end.  
— Written By: T. Rada

## To My Son

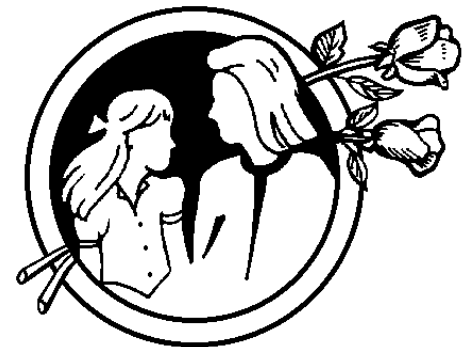
Sitting here thinking of you,  
There really isn't anything else to do.  
I think of you as days go by,  
Wondering if this is where I want to die.  
You were born in '99,  
With a love that is divine.  
You are my first kid,  
I hope you forgive me  
for all the things I did.  
Lately I haven't been around that much,  
But with the Lord by my side  
I hope to be around a whole bunch.  
I love you with all my heart and soul,  
I realize now that I've been a big fool.  
I pray for you every night,  
I hope you go through life without a fight.  
I wish for you a better life than I had.  
— Stephen Stockbauer FDCF

## Love

Lessons learned  
Over time  
Verify the truth told  
Everything we can hold  
— 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



## Mother

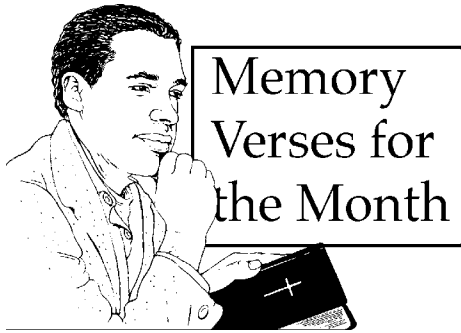
A mother's love you can see on her face,  
A mother's love you will never replace.  
No matter how far we are apart,  
There will always be  
love for her in my heart.  
My mother will always be there for me,  
Whether I'm here or whether I'm free.  
Although most men find them a wife,  
She'll never be the real love of his life.  
My mom has loved me from the start,  
That's why I love her  
with my whole heart.  
— Stephen Stockbauer

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

Issue 11.1b

February 2008

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



## February

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall (Psalm 55:22).

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28).

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble (Psalm 9:9). When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world (1 Corinthians 11:32).

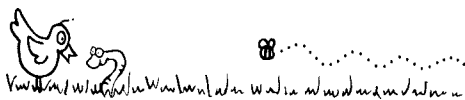
## Your Favorite Scripture

**D**o 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



## Signs of Life

From my window I see flowers in bloom.

I see ants at work gathering food.

I see a multitude of colorful butterflies.

I see trees that are full and green.

I can see people laughing, talking, walking, and playing.

I see birds flying cheerfully and enjoying a summer day.

I see the beautiful signs of life.

—Kenneth Crawford (FDCF)

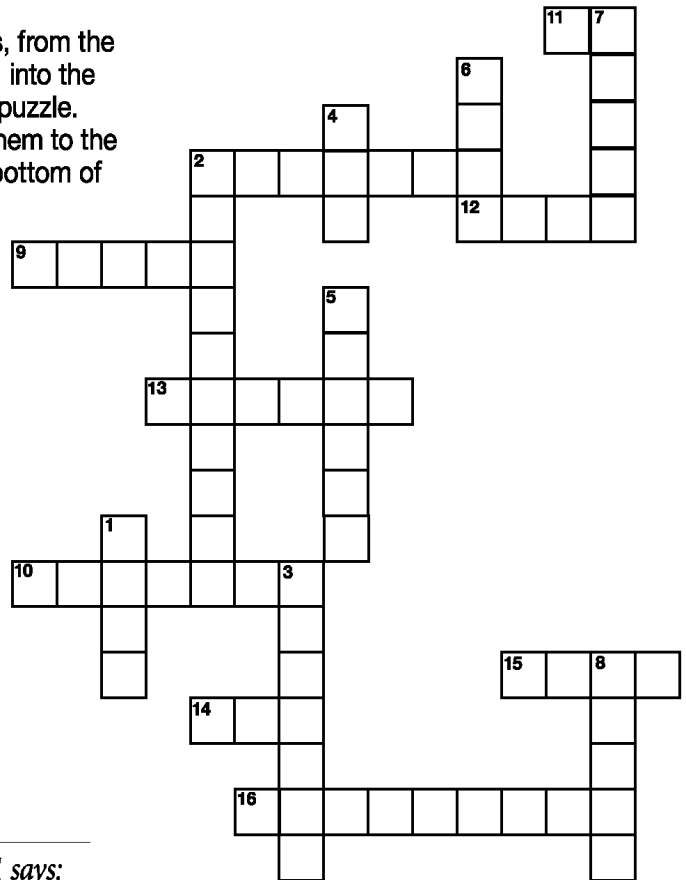
## God Does Wonderful Things!

October is a season of change. God causes all things to change for his purpose. Find out some other things God does.

Fit these words, from the Book of Daniel, into the squares of the puzzle. Then transfer them to the blanks on the bottom of the page.

### Word List

- up
- God
- his
- ever
- sets
- wise
- name
- power
- times
- kings
- praise
- wisdom
- changes
- seasons
- deposes
- knowledge
- discerning



Daniel 2:20-21 says:

"\_\_\_\_\_ be to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_;  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_;  
 He \_\_\_\_\_ them.  
 He gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_."  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning."

# 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.

## The Value of Time

A wise man will make haste to forgive, because he knows the true value of time.

— Samuel Johnson

## I've Learned...

That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

That when you're in love, it shows.

That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

That being kind is more important than being right.

That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

That money doesn't buy class.

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular. I've learned....

That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

— Andy Rooney



Unknown Artist FDCF 2007

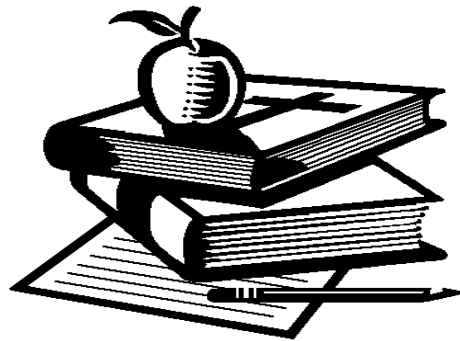
## Crossing Over

As sure as night will turn to day  
All our pains will pass away  
When we cross over to the Light  
No more tears will we cry

Seed is planted and soon dies  
Raise from darkness toward the sky  
Yes it rises just as He  
He is risen and paved the way

So when it's time for me to go  
Please no one cry or heads hung low  
I have won over the darkness and  
Crossed Over to the Light

— 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!



Unknown Artist FDCF 2006

## Kindly Refusal

I have had prayers answered—most strangely so sometimes—but I think our heavenly Father's loving kindness has been even more evident in what he has refused me.

— Lewis Carroll

## You Never Know

You never know 'till you try to reach them how accessible men are; but you must approach each man by the right door.

— Henry Ward Beecher



## Worship & Bible Study

FDCF Fort Dodge

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

FDCF Chapel Hours

2:30pm-4:00pm Wednesday  
2:30pm-4:00pm Friday

NCCF Rockwell City

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