



**THE CHURCH OF THE
DAMASCUS ROAD**
PRISON MINISTRIES

Matthew 25:35-36

"For I was hungry, and you fed me.
I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink.
I was a stranger, and you invited me into
your home. I was naked, and you gave me
clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me.
I was in prison, and you visited me."

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The Pieces are Coming Together!

Slowly but surely the pieces of ministry come together.

God's timing is as amazing as it is mysterious.

We've been looking at potential properties in the Fort Dodge area and haven't landed on the right one yet. We're still looking though and know that God has the right one waiting somewhere.

Location is very important as we want to be close to bus routes and stores with basic needs. We also want to have proper zoning through the city and be respectful neighbors, so this makes the search a little more complicated. Please join us in praying for the right property and God's continued guidance in this exciting new venture. Thank you!

Invite the Pastor

We're looking ahead to next year! Pastor Kelli would love to visit your church or small group with some of the guys in our Reentry program and share about the work of CODR Prison Ministry! He's also available to fill pulpits.

Please e-mail us at the address below to arrange a visit!

(515) 955-3579 codroffice23@gmail.com 239 N 11th St, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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like/subscribe to our facebook page*

www.codrcare.com

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MINISTRY UPDATE FROM PASTOR KELLI

Hello CODR Family! Wow, it seemed like fall lasted for one week and then it was winter! I've grown up in Iowa so it shouldn't be all that surprising, but it's still kind of a shock when that cold wind blows through you. I did manage to find my warm coat, stocking cap, gloves and boots so I'm ready :)

It's been a great month in the prison ministry

- Our Rockwell service is going strong, we've had a lot of new guys coming and a few getting involved playing guitar, so that's awesome!
- A new prison Chaplain has been hired and we're hoping to be able to go back into the Fort Dodge prison soon!
- We've started providing spiritual content on the tablets the halfway house uses for treatment. These are short devotional videos based on the lectionary readings for the week, and tailored to meet the needs of inmates and guys in reentry.
- As always, we're providing clothing, towels and hygiene supplies for the men at the Fort Dodge men's halfway house. We're especially in need of coats and other winter weather gear.
- This last month we've had the privilege of providing Reentry support for one of the guys we got to know inside the walls at our Rockwell City service who has now paroled out to the Fort Dodge area. This is the first time since Covid that we've been able to build the relationship inside and continue it outside and it has been amazing to witness!

Of course none of this happens without your generous support. I feel like the luckiest person in the world to be able to serve God in this way! I have a front row seat in the miracle of transformation that God works in the lives of these men. Your faithfulness in this ministry allows us to do what we do and I want you to know how grateful we are.

Of course it would be selfish of me to hog all of this joy for myself, so please give prayerful consideration to how you might be able to get involved as a council member or volunteer. It truly is a blessing!

In Faithful Service - Kelli

Ministry Supporters for September/October

- Adam & Inga Sanford
 - Bess Madsen
 - Dale & Lisa Siebrecht
 - Dave & Luann Bohnet
 - Deb Zemke
 - Dennis & Candace Booth
 - Diane Middleton
 - George Hedges
 - Glen & Sharon Houts
 - Jean Basinger
 - Jim & Mindy McColley
 - Keith Lowe
 - Kelli & Leah Glasgo
 - Kim Courter
 - Leola Brock-Reese
 - Lyle & Maureen Cameron
 - Lucille Geake
 - Margaret Jackson
 - Marlyce Hauge
 - Mark & Connie Gustafson
 - Mel Renken
 - Mike Cormack
 - Norman Nielsen
 - Scott & Solveig Lundgren
 - Steve & Barb Licata
-
- American Lutheran Church - Melvin
 - Augustana Lutheran Church - Manson
 - Bethany Lutheran Church - Emmetsburg
 - Faith Lutheran Church - Marcus
 - Faith Lutheran Church - Holstein
 - First Lutheran Church - Algona
 - Grace Lutheran Church - Fort Dodge
 - Lost Island Lutheran Church - Ruthven
 - New Covenant Christian Church - Fort Dodge
 - St. John's Lutheran Church - Cylinder
 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Rockwell City

Notes from our volunteers

There is a "true" sense of worship that happens inside the prison walls. The men come to worship ready to worship and are hungry for the word and what God is telling them. I have been fortunate to experience this level of worship with the men for a few decades and being back has been a fabulous renewal for me. I feel God's presence inside the prison and it feels awesome. God is at work inside the walls and the hearts and minds of the men are changing, I can feel it with the music and their attentiveness during the message. - **Larry Lubinus**

I remember the first time that my wife and I attended a Church of Damascus Road worship service. I think that we both went in with the attitude that we were somehow taking something in; and perhaps in some ways that is true; but when we were leaving we looked at one another and knew that we were leaving with a lot more than we took in. God was already there filling the guys with his spirit and also filling us. It's hard to describe but you could just feel it.

But the guys, like all of us, sometimes have a hard time translating that experience or conversion to their lives when they leave the prison. I recall one young man, who we attended services with, who returned to our community when he was released. He struggled for a while and got back into using but would try several times to get clean. Today he is a regular church attender, has a steady job, got married and got his wife involved in the church and my wife and I were able to attend her baptism. He bought a house and got custody of his two daughters and she got custody of her daughter. For my wife and I, we thought that our involvement in the Church of the Damascus Road service would be a blessing to the guys, but we have found that we have received a far bigger blessing. - **Mark Juhl**

If you are like me, time away from home is a nice vacation but it always feels good to return home. That was the feeling I had in returning to worship at NCCF after being away for over three years. Some things were familiar, like the same well-lit room, the same plastic chairs, the same room arrangement, the same wooden podium, the warm smiles of the inmates, inmate participation, loud praising, uplifting prayers from inmates, confession/forgiveness, communion, the creed, and the Lord's prayer. Some things were different, like new faces, a new pastor, contemporary songs with guitar, a different order of worship and a limited number of volunteers. Prayers have been answered as we worship inside the prison walls. It feels good. Thank you Jesus. - **Candace Booth**

Devotions & Deep thoughts

We could learn a lot from Crayons: Some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors..., but they all exist very nicely together in the same box - **Robert Fulghum**

Whatever fear still assails us is either a temptation of Satan or a remnant of the old man, for in Christ there can be nothing but supreme assurance and joy. - **Martin Luther**

Faith goes up the stairs that love has made and looks out the window which hope has opened. - **Charles Spurgeon**

Prayers

Lord, we pray for the men at the Fort Dodge and Rockwell City prisons as well as the staff at those facilities. We ask for your guidance and provision as we look for a reentry housing facility and Lord we especially pray for those suffering with the horrors of war and oppression of any kind. Teach us to love as you love, in the name of your son, **Amen**



You're Invited to
**The Church of the Damascus Road
Prison Ministry**
Fall

Celebration

Nov / **12** / 2023

4-4:30pm Appetizers and Fellowship
4:30-5pm CODR Ministry Presentation
5-5:30pm Time of Worship and Prayer
5:30-6pm Appetizers and Fellowship

St. Olaf Lutheran Church

239 N 11th St, Fort Dodge, IA

RSVP 515-955-3579 or codroffice23@gmail.com



Volunteer Opportunities

Here are a few of the great ways we get to share the love of Christ to the individuals as they transition out of prison



Connie's Closet

Supplying the Fort Dodge Men's Halfway house with basic needs

- *Currently we are in need of Towels, Washcloths, men's coats, sweatshirts and sweatpants (XL-3X), Shirts (XL-5X), Belts (all sizes), Shoes (tennis shoes, black dress, non-slip and work boots, socks (6-12 size), Underwear (L-3X), and Plastic hangers. Donations can be dropped off at St. Olaf or Grace Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge Ia.*



Be a Reentry Mentor

Mentors help returning citizens navigate the complicated world they are experiencing after prison. We provide practical as well as emotional and spiritual support. Send us an email or call the number below if you would like to be a Reentry Mentor



Transportation Assistance

Individuals leaving incarceration often don't have a driver's license and/or a vehicle. Our volunteers provide transportation support for getting to work, job interviews, health care appointments, family visits and recovery meetings. Send us an email or call the number below if you would like to be a Reentry Mentor



Become a CODR Council Member

As we're reimagining what this ministry will look like in the future, we could use your support. Our goal is to have our CODR Council reflect the diversity in our Churches and our community. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 11th from 4:30-6pm at St. Olaf Church in Fort Dodge IA. Call or email if you have any questions!



Become a financial partner

We're able to do this incredible work because of the financial support we get from God's people. Check our our website at codrcare.org or scan the QR code to join us in this great mission.



Also - we're looking for submissions!

Email us your observations, poems, praises, testimonies, deep thoughts, humor, devotionals or anything else relevant to prison ministry.