

THE CHURCH OF THE DAMASCUS ROAD

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CODR'S MISSION:

to break the vicious cycle of incarceration by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ both inside and outside the prison walls. We help individuals take responsibility for their lives and provide a healthy support system for their reentry into society.



It's gonna be a great one!

2023 was an amazing year for CODR Prison Ministry and we know God has even more incredible things in store for us in 2024! We're looking forward to expanding the services we provide and building a safer community for everyone!

The calendar is filling up! Pastor Kelli would love to visit your church or community group and share about the mission of CODR Prison Ministry!

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LETTER FROM THE PASTOR:

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you're all well and warm. We're getting along just fine at our house. The snow is falling, there's football on TV and chili in the pot so we're feeling pretty blessed. I'm excited about the great new opportunities coming up for us this year in the CODR prison ministry



Starting in March, we'll be partnering with a group called Prison Fellowship to provide a year long, bible based reentry program inside the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. We'll be able to build relationships with the guys on the inside and prepare them for a successful life after incarceration. We've also been invited to lead a special Easter Baptism service at the Fort Dodge Prison and expect a huge turnout, so God is definitely on the move here in Fort Dodge! Meanwhile our service in Rockwell City is growing by the week and we've just officially installed two new deacons!

Providing safe and affordable reentry housing will still be a major focus for us in the new year. Without this critical piece of the puzzle, individuals returning to our community from prison are much more likely to end up without support, without hope and going back to the only life they've ever known. We all need a place where we belong, where we are held accountable, paid attention to, and loved. The individuals we serve are children of God and deserve no less. Please join us in praying for God's guidance as we search for properties and continue to build community support. Thank you and God Bless!

DISCIPLE

» BE ONE. MAKE ONE. «

WHAT MAKES A DISCIPLE?

We've started off the new year with the book of Mark and we're leaning hard into the subject of discipleship with the guys at our prison service.

Jesus calls the most unlikely group of misfits to walk with him in his mission here on earth. These are young, illiterate, fishermen, trouble makers, tax collectors, and women of the night. It doesn't make any sense until we realize that's who he came to save.

These are the people uniquely qualified to go out into the world to "make disciples of all nations". The most important thing on their resume is willingness. They really don't know what they're getting into, but they drop their nets and follow "at once".

That's what we're trying to do. We want to be a group of people instantly obedient to Christ, recognizing him for who he is and taking him at his word.

**THANK YOU TO THE
FOLLOWING
CHURCHES FOR
HAVING US COME
SPEAK!**

**Christ LC
Fort Dodge IA**

**1st Presbyterian
Fort Dodge IA**

**Spirit of Hope
Rockwell City IA**

**Badger LC
Badger IA**

**Samuel LC
Eagle Grove IA**

**1st Baptist Church
Fort Dodge IA**

THE NEED FOR REENTRY HOUSING

I'm sure we've all heard the expressions "*ignorance is bliss*" and "*what you don't know wont hurt you*". The problem with these sayings is that they are incredibly misleading and allow us to ignore some pretty horrifying realities in our own personal lives and in our larger community. The "bliss" we have is actually just a facade that's covering up some serious cracks in the foundation.

I have to admit that before I got into prison ministry, I was pretty blissfully ignorant of what happens to people before, during and after incarceration. I've had my challenges and failings in life, but I was able to dig my way out of it and "*pull myself up by my own bootstraps*" (another great, but completely misleading expression). The truth is that I'm only here via the grace of God, and the support of some endlessly loving and profoundly patient people.

Every year hundreds of individuals are released from prison into our community. They are living next to you, driving next to you, working next to you, going to school next to you, sitting next to you at the doctors office and doing the best they can to survive next to you. We know for a fact that close to half of these individuals will reoffend because of the hopelessness they feel and the lack of support they experience. These are things we can remain blissfully ignorant of or these are realities we can wake up to and do something about. CODR's mission is to provide the support, structure and love that individuals need to successfully reenter society after incarceration and this year we would like that to include housing. We would love your support. Thank you!

Praises:

- For the incredible men and women we've been able to serve
- For the faithful and generous support we get from our donors
- For the opportunity to partner with Prison Fellowship and do Baptisms on Easter

Prayer Requests:

- Finding a solution to the reentry housing problem that the community can feel great about
- Successful launch of the Prison Fellowship Academy in FDCF
- Hundreds of guys showing up to our Easter Baptism service!

A Special Thank you to our December Donors

Individuals

Adam & Inga Sanford
Brian Underwood
Carol Etzel
Calvin Lundberg
Dave & Lu Ann Bohnet
Dale & Lisa Siebrecht
Darold Matter
Derold & Pamela Goetz
Dennis & Candace Booth
George Hedges
Glen & Sharon Houts
Harley & Susan Hett
James & Garcia Willis
Jean Matter, Lytton
Jim & Mindy McColley
Judith Lang
Judith Walrod
Lyle & Hilda Hartling
Kenneth & Joelle Puck
Kelli & Leah Glasgo
Margaret Jackson
Mark & Alana Ketchum
Mark & Connie Gustafson
Melba Shelby
Mel Renken
Paul & Noralyn Erickson
Rhonda Hoover
Richard & Betty Houge
Rodney Amlie
Sandra Mickelson
Steve & Barb Licata
Steve Pedersen
William Robb

Churches

Bethany LC Emmetsburg
Bethany LC Emmetsburg
WELCA
Ebenezer LC Women
Audubon
Elfsborg LC Pomeroy
Emanuel/St John LC
Lytton
ELC Women - Eagle Grove
Exira LC Women Exira
Faith LC Marcus
1st Covenant Church
Fort Dodge
First LC Algona
FDCF - inmates
Grace LC Fort Dodge
Grace LC Manson
Holmes ELC Women's
Circle
Immanuel LC Harlan
Lost Island LC Ruthven
Odebolt UMC
Our Saviour's LC Women
Audubon
Rock Creek LC Osage
Samuel LC Eagle Grove
St. John LC Women
Cushing
St. John LC Corwith
St. John LC Pomeroy
St John LC Sheffield
St. Paul LC Rockwell City
Trinity ELC Ft Dodge
Trinity LC Linn Grove
Wheatland Presbyterian
Breda



Volunteer MENU

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CONNIE'S CLOSET

Supplying the Men's Halfway house with basic needs: washcloths, men's coats, gloves, hats, 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.

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CODR CHURCH COUNCIL

* Come to one of our CODR Church Council meetings and see what we're all about. We would love to have you!

Our next meeting is Feb 12th from 4:30-6pm at St. Olaf LC in Fort Dodge IA

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BECOME A CODR FINANCIAL PARTNER

* We're able to do this incredible work because of the financial support we get from people like you.

To give online, check out our website at codrcare.org or you can send a check to The Church of the Damascus Road
239 N 11th St, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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(515) 955-3579

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