

The Church of the Damascus Road

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CODR Spotlight:

Special thanks to Michelle Tjaden and the students of the Digital Media Productions Program at ICCC here in Fort Dodge for helping us produce new testimony videos for our website and press releases! You're amazing, Go Titans!



He Has Risen!

He has risen indeed, and because Jesus walked out of that grave, we all get to experience new birth into God's family. It doesn't matter who you are, where you've been or what you've done, you are set free from the power of sin through faith in what happened that day!

Pastor Kelli would love to visit your church or community group and share about the amazing ministry of CODR! just email us at codroffice23@gmail.com



Letter from the Pastor

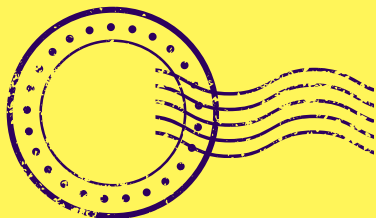
This was supposed to be the “Spring” issue of the newsletter and as I look out my kitchen window, I see my deck covered in snow! What’s up with that? My phone has reassured me it will be 60 degrees again soon, so I’m not too worried. It’s an exciting time for the prison ministry though as we prepare for Easter and Prison Fellowship Academy



Our service at Rockwell City is continuing to grow with an average of 35 guys worshipping every Thursday night. Since January, we’ve had the privilege of blessing 3 more men back to life outside the bars. We’re staying in touch with them, providing support and know that God will use them in mighty ways. As these men leave, new men are stepping into leadership, it’s awesome to see. April 4th will be the first Easter Baptism service and celebration banquet we’ve been able to have since Covid. God continues to bless!

Monday April 8th we’ll be having our first official meeting for Prison Fellowship Academy inside the Fort Dodge Prison. This will be the first time since January of 2020 that CODR volunteers will be allowed back in the facility, *HALLELUJAH!* It’s been a long time coming and we are so excited about the opportunity we have to work with the guys preparing them for Reentry. Our prayer is that this opens the door for us to come in for worship services eventually as well. Be praying for us as we begin this great new adventure.

We’re still looking for a suitable property to provide housing for the guys in our Reentry program and know that God has great things in store for us. Please join us as we pray for guidance in this new venture and as always be praying for the guys inside to receive and share the Good News!





The month of March has been all about preparation for Resurrection Day. Last month the guys were introduced to the concept of Lent on Ash Wednesday and what it means to sacrifice intentionally. This month, we wrapped up our Sermon on the Mount series focusing on the words of Jesus as he challenges the disciples to build on a solid foundation.

Next we focused on understanding how salvation and baptism work. Many of the guys haven't had much experience with church so there were lots of great questions. We came to grips with the reality that God really did send his Son to die for us and that simply by believing we can be set free from our sin to live a new and wonderful life devoted to him.

In prison, we're limited to one service a week, so we've had to be creative with our Holy Week schedule. March 28 will be our Good Friday service, then we celebrate the resurrection on April 4th with baptism and an Easter Banquet.

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

**Spirit of Hope
Rockwell City IA**

**Zion/St. John LC
Sheffield IA**

**We've got a
wonderful team of
volunteers at our
Rockwell City
service but we could
use a few more.
If you're interested,
shoot us an email at
codroffice23@gmail
.com**



PRISON
FELLOWSHIP



PRISON
FELLOWSHIP
ACADEMY™

CODR is very excited to partner with Prison Fellowship, a nationally recognized pioneer in prison ministry to provide a very special program called Prison Fellowship Academy.

Prison Fellowship® is an organization that “exists to serve all those affected by crime and incarceration and to see lives and communities restored in and out of prison—one transformed life at a time.” <https://www.prisonfellowship.org>

Prison Fellowship Academy® uses “targeted curriculum, compassionate coaches, and restorative community to replace participants’ criminal thinking and behaviors with renewed purpose and biblically based life principles. Graduates complete the yearlong program as change agents and good citizens inside and outside of prison.”

Over the course of the next year CODR volunteers will have the privilege of facilitating this incredibly powerful and transformational experience at FDCF. Here is a picture of the PFA Graduation ceremony March 1st at Anamosa!



NOTES FROM THE INSIDE



By Brennen Weiland - FDCF

My name is Brennen Weiland and becoming a new creation is my obligation to my savior and to my brothers and sisters in this world. I'm honored to be able to put my story out there in hopes that it will help others find strength in Jesus Christ.

I was born into addiction. My mother and father were both drug addicts but thankfully my mother gave me up for adoption when I was born. I was raised in a good Christian home but was bullied a lot because I was Hispanic and didn't fit in with others at school. Even though I loved God, I felt like he abandoned me during that time. I realize now that he was there the whole time, I just wasn't listening.

As I grew, I became a star athlete and found that other kids liked me. I was so hungry for acceptance that I fell in with the wrong people and started partying and using drugs including meth. I loved the feeling at first, but things got out of control very quickly. Before the end of my Senior year, I had been in and out of El Dora and 3 rehab centers for my meth use. I went from "the cool kid" to "the kid with little hope of doing something with his life".

I tried the military next and managed to stay sober for quite awhile while enlisted. After I was honorably discharged, I thought I had my addictions conquered. I went back to my hometown after the military, but soon started using drugs and dealing again. I was in and out of jail a lot over the next few years until finally I was given a 17 year sentence for robbery.

I was broken at this point in my life and decided that something needed to change. I called to Jesus and asked for his forgiveness. About this time I met my mentor Bobby. He had a story much like mine, but he was living the kind of life I wanted to live. I started to really study the bible this time and devoted my life to learning about God and helping others.

What Christ has done for me is hard to put into words but the Holy Spirit inside me, through my devoted life in Christ, has redeemed me into a man of compassion, love, hope, integrity, joy and purpose. Jesus saved my life and revealed my purpose. After release, I am planning to start a Christ-centered recovery house to help others, like me, find their way home. Thank you all for supporting prison ministry and giving us hope. I am eternally grateful!

A Special Thank you to our February Donors



Individuals

*Adam & Inga Sanford
Brian Underwood
Dale & Lisa Siebrecht
Dennis & Candace Booth
Gary Edgerton
Glen & Sharon Houts
Jim & Mindy McColley
Kelli & Leah Glasgo
Laurel Palmer
Lyle & Hilda Hartling
Margaret Jackson
Mark & Connie Gustafson
Mel Renken
Melba Shelby
Steve & Barb Licata
Steve Pederson
Troy & Karyn Leininger*

Churches/Civic Groups

*Rotary Club of Fort Dodge
American L C - Melvin
Augustana L C - Manson
Eagle Grove E L C
Grace L C - Fort Dodge
Hope L C - Everly
Lost Island L C - Ruthven
New Covenant Christian
Church - Fort Dodge
Our Saviour's L C - Humboldt
Our Savior's L C - Albert City
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- Fort Dodge
St. Paul's L C - Rockwell City
St. Paul's L C - Lakota
St. Paul's L C - Palmer*

*Also very special thanks
to our friends at St. Olaf
Lutheran Church in Fort
Dodge for donating this
beautiful baptismal font
for use at our Rockwell
City prison
service!*



CODR VOLUNTEER MENU

COME JOIN OUR TEAM OF FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS AND SHARE THE JOY OF SERVING IN GOD'S KINGDOM!

Come Worship With Us!

Prison worship is amazing! The men inside are hungry for the Gospel and praise God with all their might. Our volunteers always say they get way more than they give.

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 April 15th from 4:30-6pm at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge IA

Connie's Closet

Supplying the Men's Halfway house with basic needs such as: towels washcloths, men's coats, gloves, hats, sweatshirts, sweatpants and shorts (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).

Donations can be dropped off at St. Olaf or Grace Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge Ia.

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