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Damascus Way

1515 E. 66th Street Minneapolis, MN 55423 (612) 866-0462

Dear Faithful Friend of the Damascus Way Ministries,

Dan Henry turned the wrong way on the interstate. There was a crash. Someone died.

At the time, he never saw it coming. He had a job he liked and was very excited about his recent promotion. His boss was even sending him to Chicago to help their very busy store during the Thanksgiving holiday. Dan was pleased with himself and felt like celebrating, so went out for a couple of drinks with co-workers the night before he was to leave for Chicago.

The evening would have ended far differently if Dan had not stopped at a second bar on his way home to get a good night's rest. His brain was a little fuzzy ... he missed his exit ... then he grew confused and headed for the ramp. Tragically, it was an on-ramp, not an exit ramp. Dan headed directly into oncoming traffic, driving westbound in the eastbound lane.

Somewhere on the Mendota Bridge the nightmare ended. Dan's car crashed headlong into another vehicle, killing the driver, a 20-year-old woman.

Dan was hospitalized and treated for his injuries. Two days passed before he was told of the woman's death. He was devastated about his irresponsible behavior and the grief he had caused her family. Later, at the trial, he wanted to tell the family how sorry he felt but his lawyer advised against it at that time. Dan's opportunity came when he was sentenced, and he expressed deep regret for his actions.

Dan went to prison where he served 24 months of his 48-month sentence; he now continues with another eight months here at Damascus Way on the work release program.

During the day, he works construction and holds a part-time job at Abercrombie clothing store. He began attending church and Bible study while in prison, activities once a part of his life but which had fallen off years earlier when his parents divorced. God worked in Dan's heart and Dan experienced a heartfelt commitment of his life to the Lord Jesus.

His walk with God is strengthened by regular attendance at Golden Valley Lutheran Church, weekly Bible studies and AA. Dan thinks daily of the young woman whose death he caused and he writes to her family on each anniversary of the accident. He wants them to know he will never forget. One of the many lessons Dan has learned is to "Be responsible. You may not have bad intentions but your actions may have bad consequences."

While it is painful to consider the waste of a young woman's precious life and the years Dan must spend paying for the consequences of one night's bad decision, I thank God once again that He raised up this ministry to point broken men back to God. There is no better help for a broken man than God; and Damascus Way continues to serve as God's hands and arms, bringing men to Himself for grace, forgiveness, healing and a second chance. Please stand with us, strengthen and help us, so we may bring hurting men to the Father, will you? Will you send a gift of support today so we may continue on? Thank you.

For the men of Damascus Way,

Dick Harden

Rev. Dick Harden, Director
Damascus Way Reentry Center

P.S. A restored life of love and service to God is the best recovery for the tragedy of a lost life. We need your help to continue the work God has raised up at Damascus Way. I have enclosed an envelope with your name already printed on it, and your gift is tax-deductible. Thank you for your kindness!