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Learning tough lessons

In response to the letters to the editor and articles written with regard to Faith Center and/or Pastor Don Lyon: I was out of town and never had the opportunity to read any of the articles. I attend Faith Center and occasionally frequent other churches. I do not personally know Pastor Lyon, but I know others who do. People whose opinion I trust completely.

I do believe this: A good portion of organized religion is probably going to hell. As Christians, we all too often "shoot our wounded." Being a believer involves so much more than building a nice place to worship, or reciting Scripture, or believing we each somehow can earn our way to Heaven. God wants our total and complete obedience. It has been my experience that God will accomplish this goal with His love or His "hand." The love is the easier method. I was a slow learner.

But anyway, what do I know? I'm just a recovering drug addict, clean nearly 12 years now. I'm an ex-convict who didn't know how to live. I'm a sinner, probably more so than most. I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in my life. And He showed me how I could speak to schools with D.A.R.E. officers.

Oh, and it's almost Christmas again. God loved us all so much that He sent His son to die in our place. He paid the price for us all. Jesus did not die because we're all good enough. He died because we're all bad enough. I learned at least part of that from Pastor Don Lyon. He's a great teacher!

— Mark R. Durham Sr., South Beloit