

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are

# Yes!

in Christ.  
11 Corinthians 1:20

STORIES OF THE BRETHREN IN CHRIST  
AT WORK IN THE WORLD

## Grab hold of God and don't let go!

*One pastoral family's invigorating story* by Carolyn Kimmel

How do you build a church? "With eyes that see the people who aren't there," says Marty Waite, a church plant veteran who most recently started White Rock Fellowship, a BIC church in Noblesville, Ind.

"If God wants a church here, He already knows the people who are to be here. We have to go where He is already," says Marty, who has dared to do just that, moving his family nearly a dozen times to plant or restart different churches.

Just dreaming isn't enough, Marty, 50, said. "Everybody dreams, but a visionary sees it done. If you get your dreams from God, you can be a visionary. Often times we want to do great things, but if we don't get hold of what God wants us to become, they're just pipe dreams.... The only scary part is making sure you know what God wants you to do. You wait until you know, then risk everything to do it."

For Marty, that meant giving up his primary career as a successful contractor and, later, college administrator, and moving around the country to start or restart churches. His most recent plant is his first with the Brethren in Christ.

His wife, Pam, is used to her husband's penchant for following God, although she admits at times it's been scary. "I've never viewed myself as a risk taker, but as I look back over life with Marty, that's what we've done. But God has never let us down."

And, she says, they've seen miracle after miracle along the way. "My husband is a dreamer, but he doesn't just dream. He puts feet to it. If he gets a hold of what God wants him to do, he moves heaven and earth to

*Continued on next page*



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Among the "family" joining the ministry of Pam and Marty Waite (to the left in the picture) are: (clockwise from the top) Assistant Pastor Matt Leadley, seen holding his daughter Rosilee and next to his wife Beckey, and the Waite's older son Andy, holding his son Joshua, and standing next to his wife Jaime. Matt Leadley sort of adopted the Waites when he went to high school with their sons and eventually even moved in with the family. After he married, he followed them to Indianapolis, saying there was no place he would rather minister than with them.

**"Knowing you're where God wants you to be is the safest place to be. No promises, though, that it's the easiest place to be."**

Photo by John Walker



## Building on the Edge of Disaster

"Miracles happen on the edge of disaster," says Marty Waite. "It's kind of fun to set out here where, if God doesn't undertake for you, you aren't going to make it."

In fact, White Rock Fellowship got off to a rocky start itself, with three false starts because they couldn't find a consistent place to meet on Sunday mornings. It wasn't until they began to look for land and trusted that God was saving some for them that White Rock took off. The property acquisition is a miracle story itself. It's located along a major highway in a rapidly developing suburb of Indianapolis and worth far more than the \$100,000 they offered for it. But the offer was accepted, and with Marty (a former contractor) and sons at the head of the construction project, a 16,000-square-foot building was built.

"We spent \$530,000 on the purchase of the land and putting up the building, and it's worth \$2 million. Now that's a miracle," Marty said. The church ministers to about 300 people a week, counting the church service of 220 to 240 people and the Wednesday night Bible studies and small groups. Plus, about 65 children are enrolled in the church's day care center, which also helps pay the mortgage.

Marty estimates about 75 percent of the people connected with the church are new Christians. "To reach new people, your programs have to be things that help them change their lives," he said.

The church has a vision for planting five more churches in the Indianapolis area. Three people from the congregation are currently training for planting, and 13 people are taking study courses preparing for full-time ministry, Marty said. He wants to expand the church's counseling ministry. Other people in the congregation have caught their own visions. One man wants to start a sports ministry; another has a vision for a Christian radio station.

Grab hold of God *continued from previous page*

do it. It's hard to be married to a man like that, but yet I know he won't make a step that he doesn't know God wants him to make. That gives me confidence."

Marty Waite says there's no handwritten message from God. The key is "getting close enough to God to know His voice."

"It's like a mother with her child. That mother can hear all kinds of cries from a nursery full of kids, but she can pick out which one is her baby," he said. "We make it so hard to hear God, and God desperately wants to talk to us. Sometimes the best thing to do is be still and wait to hear the Lord. He will speak, and once you get to hear His voice a few times, you'll know it."

**B**oth Pam and Marty say that knowing you're where God wants you to be is the safest place to be. No promises, though, that it's the easiest place to be.

"There's been times He's led us into places I didn't want to go and I knew were going to be very difficult, but by the time we knew this is what God wants us to do, there wasn't any question that we'd do it," Marty said. "When we moved to Denver to start a church for another denomination, we didn't know a soul. We sat on our moving boxes outside our new house, with three small kids running around the yard, and we just cried."

Going where God wants doesn't always ensure success for the endeavor, as measured in human standards, but there will always be success in God's eyes, Marty said.

New to the BIC, Marty says he's enamored with the denomination because of its honesty and integrity. "When we talked about me coming to Indianapolis, they didn't over-promise what they would do and they kept their word. That's very, very positive and a powerful thing to be said," Marty said. In fact, he had not even agreed to come when Great Lakes Conference Bishop John Byers told him he was the

man the conference had chosen to plant White Rock. "Bishop John told me the board had decided I was the one, and they would wait until I listened to God and did what I was supposed to do," Marty says with a laugh.

For Marty, one of the best things about planting a church is the potential to reach so many people in a new community. "I've never met a stranger," he jokes. "Where I bank, where I shop, where I eat, I introduce myself. Little by little, people throw out little pieces (about themselves) for you to pick up on. If I work on building a relationship with people, when something goes wrong in their lives, they'll beat a path to my door. If people know you really care about them, they remember that—maybe years later. That's how you build a church."

That and living your faith, he says. Often people reject Christianity because they don't see it making a difference in the way Christians live. "If we're real, people are just so hungry for real. Unfortunately, the 'church' has become such a facade, that when people see 'real' Christians, it shakes them to their core," he said.

**M**arty and Pam's faith has also borne fruit in their children. Son Andy, 27, is the associate pastor, son Adam, 24, is a worship team leader, daughter Christy, 25, works at the church daycare center. "We've always included our children in our ministry," says Pam. That has bred loyalty and faithfulness.

Andy, who works part-time at White Rock and works a second job in construction to pay his bills, says he's had offers for full-time ministry work, but he wouldn't trade where he is. "This is a place where people are living out what it means to follow Jesus everyday. When we do that, it makes for an incredibly excited feeling."

And the next generation of dreamers is in the making. Andy even sounds like his dad when he says, "Whenever you carve something out of nothing, you've got to know God has you there for a purpose. You grab hold and don't let go no matter what."

Pam & Marty Waite (on either side of the pulpit at White Rock) are surrounded (counter clockwise from far left) by the family that helps support the ministry: Jami, son-in-law Matt Sparks and Cristy, daughter-in-law Jaime and Andy (holding their son Joshua), daughter-in-law Mandy and Adam, and Janelle.

- Photo provided by the Waites





*I was thinking...*  
**Imagine the church to be**

At the opening of Walt Disney World in 1971, McNair Wilson, who worked for many years with the company's creative development teams, remembers standing beside Walt's brother Roy and several others on the ceremonial platform. Walt had already been dead about six years at that time, and one man on the platform turned to Roy and said, "You know, it's too bad Walt didn't live to see this."

With obvious relish Wilson recounts how Roy Disney looked back at this person and said, "Oh no, this all exists *because* Walt saw it."

When Walt had begun work on his second theme park, others only saw a plot of worthless swampland in north central Florida. The Wall St. Journal even referred to the project as the launch of Disney's latest folly. Only years later did others finally see the vision successfully thrive.

Thinking beyond Disney's earthly kingdom, where else do you think God sees His church kingdom expanding? And how do you think you are attached?

Ron Ross

*"The person in charge of finishing your part of creation is sitting in your chair right now. If you don't do 'you,' then 'you' doesn't get done, and God's idea, God's creation, is incomplete."*

- McNAIR WILSON

IN HIS "IMAGINUTY" SEMINAR, ABOUT RECAPTURING OUR CREATIVE SPIRIT, OFFERED AT THE EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COL., MAY 2002



### A vision-and ear-for worship

Adam and Mandy Waite, who met and were married at White Rock Fellowship, like most of the rest of their family there, can often be found serving some part of the ministry within their church. But now, Adam and Mandy and their accompanying band are also often found traveling to other churches and events in their region to help those gatherings and worship.

As the leaders of the worship team at White Rock, their work has included an expanding repertoire that included a growing number of their own songs. So, somewhere inbetween their normal work and the efforts at building their first house, they also developed and created a collection of their songs on CD.

The album, *Thirsty... John 7:38*, offers a range of worship songs that lift our seeking eyes to a God that we then worship. From the front cover of the CD insert in, the words and graphics follow the quest of a weary traveller to find the songs of joy on a tabletop jukebox at a local diner.

The **Thirsty...** CD is available through Adam & Mandy Waite at (317) 877-2597, or White Rock Fellowship at (317) 774-1307.



**Daring to Dream** is the first element of a two-part equation for forwarding the vision of the our church and its ministries.

Over the past years, we have dared to envision an exciting future for the Brethren in Christ Church. This shared vision concentrates on the health of congregations. It builds on the enduring biblical values. It thrusts us outward in various witness and service—a living testament to the transforming power of God's love.

This issue of **Yes!** has sought to seek out stories that help embody that idea at work in our church.

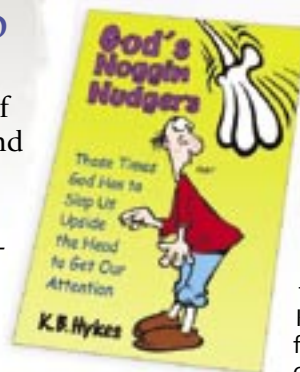


The second part of the equation, **Partnering to Succeed**, will be the focus of a second issue, following soon.

### Dreaming Resources

Though **McNair Wilson** is quoted in the article to the left in his sessions with a group of Christian magazine editors, his training seminar, **Imaginuity**, has inspired countless other groups and industries. His seminar is now available on a video tape, presented in two half-hour sessions. It's found at Wilson's web site: [www.mcnairwilson.com](http://www.mcnairwilson.com).

Wilson has also created other entertaining windows on our Christian walk, including several one-man plays he takes on tour, or his latest book, **Raised in Captivity**, also available at his site or through Christian Light Bookstores and other fine Christian bookstores.



#### God's Noggin Nudgers

K.B. Hykes  
 Paperback: 136 pages  
 (Xulon Press, December 2002)  
 ISBN: 1591603420

During her time as the program director at Christian Retreat Center (a BIC campground and missions training center in Waterford, Pa.), Kim Hykes discovered a potential gift for writing. However, fearing the obstacles often faced by those with no formal training in writing, Kim questioned whether it was a gift God would have her pursue. In 2000, Kim found time to seek answers to that question and decided to co-author a book with her favorite author—God.

Kim, currently a member of Five Forks BIC, in Waynesboro, Pa., has filled her book with Scriptural references and how they tie in with our daily lives. Throughout the book she uses a good mixture of humor and "shoot from the hip" logic to further drive home each of the passages considered.

**God's Noggin Nudgers** is available at local Christian Light Bookstores, through their Web site ([www.christianlightbookstores.com](http://www.christianlightbookstores.com)), or at many other fine bookstores.



## Dreams showing fruit in

# africa



Above: Several celebrate in the large auditorium being built as part of Lobengula BIC Church, in Bulawayo. It's currently considered the largest BIC church in the world. Inset: Harriet Bicksler, seen in silhouette, watches through the window of her tour bus as it passes an outdoor service somewhere along a road in Zimbabwe. Harriet, who was born and raised as a child of missionaries in that area many years ago, was among several who led groups to various mission sites while on the way to the Mennonite World Conference. Her recollections of the trip can be seen in *Shalom*, the magazine she edits, found on the web at [www.bic-church.org/shalom](http://www.bic-church.org/shalom). Other stories and accounts of MWC are featured in the November/December 2003 Visitor.



This past summer, the Brethren in Christ churches in Zimbabwe got to host the Mennonite World Conference, an international gathering held every six years. On our way to Bulawayo, where the event was held, many of us had first chance to actually see some of the many African ministry sites we had until then only read about. On excursions to the various sites, many found themselves contemplating the faith and drive of those who had preceded us over a century ago. One of the particularly bumpy roads leads to the campus of Macha Hospital, its two schools and its church, all part of a BIC ministry effort in Zambia. Several on the bus, knowing about the destination, were led to marvel at the drive of people like Frances Davidson and others who had made the trek by slow boat and ox cart in the early 1900's, all while following nothing more than a clear vision to start a ministry effort where none existed.

Within the century since, the church that these pioneering missionaries felt the call to seed is now flourishing and even sprouting new. In fact, in the last couple years, the African BIC church has just surpassed the membership of the North American churches, and they are now beginning to send their own missionaries.

During the main conference, the Africans hosting all of these international visitors thanked us, the current representatives of the earlier missionary-sending churches, for coming so many years ago to awaken them to the gift they were now aware they had and celebrated in Jesus.

## New kinds of new pastors

While the annual orientation for new pastors and their spouses is expected to teach the attendees about the traditions and values of our church, and even offers opportunity for these new ministers in our churches to meet most of the church's central officers and leaders, it also proves an interesting way to see some of the new thinking in ministry throughout our churches.

In order to meet an expanding vision for reaching their communities in new and unique ways, many of our churches are creating ministry roles to focus on those new outreaches and services.

Jeff Harden, along with his wife Eva and their three young boys, now fills a role as the new associate pastor at New Life BIC, in Collingwood, Ont. While the role has existed before, the church is asking that within it he now seeks to expand the methods by which the church communicates to its people and the surrounding community. Many of the areas New Life has started to explore along this route follow in turn the initial footsteps of the church's former associate pastor, Mike Wright. Mike himself has now moved on to a full-time role helping the Canadian Conference form a regional youth training program, itself a new and innovative program.

Several of the pastors at the orientation sessions, held every October at the central BIC offices, in Grantham, Pa., introduced themselves as pastors of various specialized ministries within their churches, reflecting a

need to better focus on specific outreaches and services offered to the church and their surrounding communities.

Of course, church planting pastors continue to reach out in new ministry, either by working to start churches which serve new areas without any church, or to serve new audiences not yet reached by already established churches. Reaching either new areas or new audiences takes a bit of a pioneering vision, as well as an ability to perceive the needs and personality of a new community or new audience within a community already served.

While the orientation is given to help introduce all the new pastors to the ways of the church they are joining, one of the lessons is usually on how the BIC church has always been opening to continually adapting to better minister. Listening to the new pastors at orientation, it seems that lesson is still actively in practice.

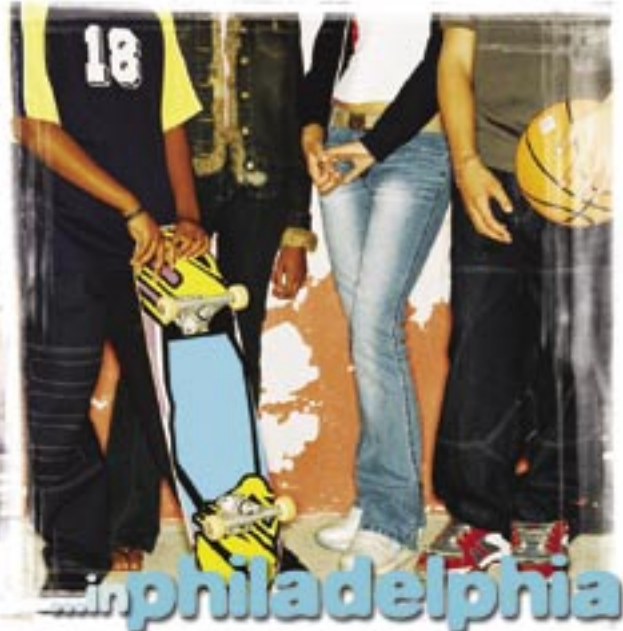
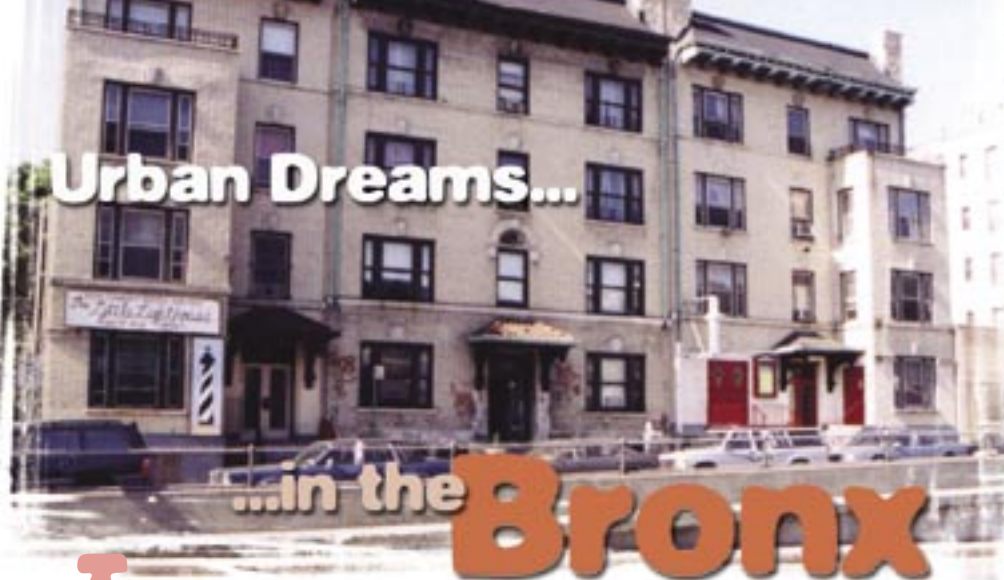


Above right: Jeff and Eva Harden.

To the right: New pastor John King mugs for the camera with Michelle Lehman of the World Missions office during the get-acquainted luncheon held for pastors and BIC office staff. John's new role at Mechanicsburg BIC is as a pastor for young adults, an often neglected segment, and one to which Michelle belongs at Mechanicsburg.







To some in this neighborhood in the Bronx, it might seem only a vacant four-story facility. But, to Brethren in Christ World Missions and the Church's Atlantic Conference it is looking like an opportunity for an Urban Discipleship Center.

A what?

Well, see, the missions department has a need for more opportunities for young adults to practice and go into service, and the Atlantic Conference's Bishop, Craig Sider, wanted to be mobilizing more for ministry. So, a task force was formed, and in separate meetings each entity's board approved jointly moving forward with developing the building into a center to house volunteers who will in turn work to reach out to various needs in the Bronx area. And certainly the opportunities for participants in this future program could find a range of discipleship training experiences in this busy urban center. Every tangible need for the program is already there—even a BIC Church, Fellowship Chapel, attached at the other end of the building structure. And now, with a determined search to immediately find and appoint a full-time dedicated director and eventually a training staff, the opportunity to learn would seem to be close at hand.

Those developing the program foresee a variety of urban ministry experiences—2-week ministry teams, possible 3-month experiences over the summer, or longer 9-month and 1 year training internships that could work with various discipleship programs.

Two young men from Air Hill BIC, near Chambersburg, Pa., have been at the center since September as part of a 3-4 month voluntary service to begin preparing the building, and work crews and painting teams are coming up through out the fall to join them in their efforts.

While the building has been the site of ministry efforts several times before over the last few decades, it has previously always been the responsibility of a single support group. First, the World Missions had supported it as part of their "home missions" efforts, but eventually shifted the responsibilities to the regional conference when the Missions Board redirected their efforts to exclusively international focus in the early 1990's. The regional conference, better suited for maintaining churches and with no given structure for larger missions projects, assigned responsibilities to the small Bronx congregation, which has tried maintaining various smaller ministries there within it's more limited means.

Now, however, with each of the two sides now partnering together in this new effort, it creates a whole new dimension and scope of opportunity within either of their ministries. And the renewed vision has many excited.

Get information and updates on the Bronx project at the BICWM web site: [www.bic-church.org/wm/Bronx.html](http://www.bic-church.org/wm/Bronx.html).

One day, so many young men were drawn from the streets of Germantown, Pa. into something called a "Rap Battle" that neighbors got worried and called the police.

However, when the police in this greater Philadelphia area community arrived and found out why the youth were all there, they were ecstatic.

Seems the Rap Battles drawing teens into "The Spot" are part of an after school program of Bryan and Brenda Robinson's Brotherly Love Urban Youth Services, a sister ministry of the Philadelphia-based Circle of Hope Churches. Since it opened in March, the program has welcomed hundreds of kids who wouldn't otherwise be so likely to show up for any kind "service" or "program." But, they are drawn by art and loud music and friendship, all readily extended by the Robinsons and other staff.

When the music gets turned up in the after-school program every Wednesday, many kids come wandering up the steps to visit. Several of them are from a homeless shelter in the same block, and Robinson notes this is one hurting group of kids.

Through the various programs they have thought up so far, they Brotherly Love team has a vision to offer anyone who comes in at least seven ways of impact. Obviously spiritual impact is at the top of their list, but they also hope to offer academic impact (through tutoring, college counseling and visits), technological impact (computer training and sharing), economical impact (employment and job training), and social impact (community service, life skills), as well as recreational and cultural impacts.

Bryan and Kariem Amos, another youth minister who helps the program, don't leave it there. They are out in the neighborhood, coaching basketball and just hanging on the corners—whether it is a "drug corner" or not—just looking for who is open to the gospel. Some of their encounters make for interesting reading at the ministry's web site: [www.brotherlyloveurbanyouth.org](http://www.brotherlyloveurbanyouth.org)

**Being "poured out" into the "black hole" of urban need and postmodern vacuity may seem like a big waste of time, but the people who write scripture keep acting like that's the way things work.**

**So far, being poured out feels filled up.**

—Rod White, Pastor of Circle of Hope, the BIC Church Network in the Philadelphia, Pa. area.



# Thinking outside the

**T**hink it takes lots of people and money for a church to really make a difference in its community?

Well, think again.

Meet Scot Zagol, pastor of Ontario (Calif.) Brethren in Christ Church and his congregation of 70 people and a paid staff of three people besides himself.

Each week, 1,000 people pass through one of the many programs offered on their church's campus, often in collaboration with the city or existing community

organizations. There's a pre-school (run independently by the state on church property), a youth center, a weekly Bible study for teens, work training for seniors 55 and older, a help-the-homeless program and parenting classes. In schools throughout the area, they conduct programs on drug prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, teen parenting and how to quit smoking.

The programs carry a steep price tag - between \$50,000 and \$250,000 a year - but it's all paid for by grants, private individuals and volunteers.

## *Out of decline... a dream*

Their dream started, oddly enough, when their church was in decline. "It's more or less being obedient," says Zagol, who became pastor in 1996. "We get into a self-preservation mode instead of a lifestyle of risking it all for Christ. We're actually finding people are becoming attracted to us because we're not a self-serving church. We want to be of service to our community."

"It caused us to look at what we could do and what we should do. We asked ourselves, 'How can we use our resources to be a blessing to the community?' Zagol said. "It got us to the point where instead of us telling the community what they need, they tell us. It began with using our gym for a teen center and went from there."

Ontario is a city of about 140,000 people,



## *Taking it to School*

**E**arly on, Zagol realized the best way to reach kids en masse would be in the public schools. So he approached some of the schools and said, "Here's my director of health services. Is there something we can do with our anti-drug program for you?"

The director of health services was actually a mom with teenagers from Zagol's congregation. Though she had no real training she knew how to talk to kids about the things they were interested in, and she had a heart for reaching them. "We started out just transporting materials to assemblies. Now we're in charge of the assemblies and school district pays us to do the work!" Zagol said with a chuckle.

BIC Community Services of Ontario, Inc. (as they call themselves) also holds parenting classes for teenage parents at two of the area's high schools, taught by this same woman from the congregation. They do unique things to keep young moms coming back, such as, they give out raffle tickets every time a student shows up for the class. Then, they raffle off a crib and other baby items that are donated by local businesses. They use the Growing Kids God's Way curriculum by Gary Ezzo, but they leave out the God part. What's left is good, sound parenting skills and principles. Now, they're working with schools on starting abstinence-based programs.

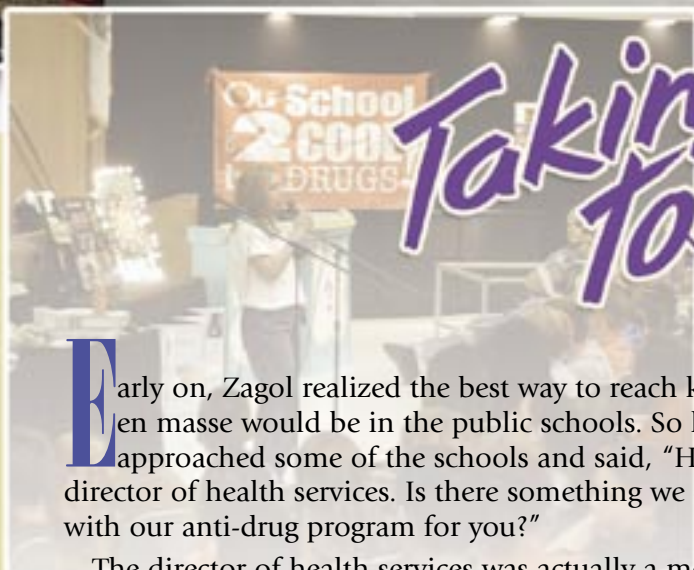
The American Cancer Society has asked them to take on four more high schools this year with their smoking cessation program, and they're looking for more funding so they can do that - from schools, private foundations, etc. For now they're doing the programs in 10 high schools and reaching around 20,000 kids. "We have kids literally crying to us to help them stop smoking," Zagol said.

**T**he church so strongly believes in this avenue to the schools that it paid several thousand dollars to the makers of Barney, the purple dinosaur of TV fame, to make Freddie the Firefly. He is the BIC Community Services mascot, as a logo on his baseball cap proclaims. His favorite song is "This Little Light of Mine," and a beacon on his tail lights up, especially when the song is sung.

"We were having a challenge getting in the elementary schools because we're a church. Freddie gets us in!" Zagol said. Freddie deals with health issues, such as why smoking is bad for you, and other topics like how to make your house safe against fire and earthquakes. (Freddie doesn't actually talk much. He relies on the person who goes with him to say things like, "Freddie wants you to know smoking isn't good for you.")

Freddie handed out more than 70,000 parenting packets last year at local schools and other community events, in English and Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese.

"Freddie doesn't say anything about the BIC, but he





# church box

by Carolyn Kimmel

and the church is located in a poor, under-served area. To Zagol, that meant the area was ripe for the Lord's work.

"I think it's a matter of seeing a need and stepping up to meet it," he said. For instance, the local probation department is always looking for places where kids in trouble with the law can do community service. What better way to reach out to lost kids than by offering up the church as a place to do that service, Zagol said. "Every week, we have two to three kids who are volunteering with us *and* we can share the Lord," he said.

How about the homeless? How can the church help those folks? Well, did you ever wonder where homeless people receive their mail since they have no address? Zagol did, and now the Ontario BIC lets homeless people use the church address. "It doesn't cost us anything. It's a very simple way to help."

Zagol said offering help is in the BIC roots. "The Anabaptist roots very much give us a mandate to care for the poor, as Jesus did himself."

Where does that leave the people in the congregation who have their own needs? "We're also to minister to each other without losing our passion for the community," Zagol said. "Plus, when you're helping someone else with their problems, your problems look a lot smaller."

hands out baseball trading cards with his picture on the front, and information about his home, the Ontario BIC, on the back. That sparks a lot of interest from the kids who want to know more about where Freddie lives," Zagol said.

Another of the church-sponsored school programs features a well-known basketball handler Bruce Crevier who twirls 22 basketballs at one time, which all say "Jesus is Lord. Press on toward the goal." Amazing that a public school allows this? Yes, Zagol says, but the administration is open to it. In fact, the BIC Community Services handed out more than 5,000 Christian tracts in the schools last year.

"Bruce talks to the kids about how to win in the game of life, set goals, and how drugs and alcohol ruin your goals."

To churches who think they would never gain such access to schools, Zagol says it's hard work, but it's definitely doable. "At first they're on their guard, but once they get to know you, you start getting opportunities. It's been very positive for the school and for the community. Now schools are happy to be working us."

## Your church is HOW big?

When you consider the relatively small size of the Ontario BIC congregation, the list of ministries and services is impressive. Pastor Scot Zagol says, "We listen for the needs in our community and look for ways that we can engage in them. We've taken a lot of criticism from people who think we are putting too much emphasis on the social side of things, But, we've opened a lot of doors."

Here are just some of the services offered by this small church:

- **Helping Hands food program** - supplies between 50 and 100 families a week with groceries.
- **Parenting Awareness program** - distributes parenting information to about 75,000 mothers at health (and other) fairs.
- **Teen mother program** - offered in 5 high schools. The church is contracted by the school district to provide 13 weeks of instruction.
- **Tobacco cessation program** - offered at 10 high schools, 1 week per school, to help kids quit smoking. 25-30 teens per school sign-up.
- **Red Ribbon Week** - church selected by the school district to presents an anti-drug, alcohol and tobacco program to 20,000 youth.
- **Job training for youth and seniors**
- **English as a second language classes**
- **Para Los Niños** - a state-run program that uses buildings and play areas on church grounds to provide free childcare for 200 children.
- **Teen Center** - the church's gym building is used cooperatively with the city and volunteers to offer athletic programs for teens.
- **Freddie the Firefly** - visits elementary schools, working with the district to contact about 60,000 kids on health and safety issues. Visits pre-schools and kindergarten classes during immunizations and holds hands with the children while the shots are given.
- **Hispanic ministry** - recently begun as an outreach.

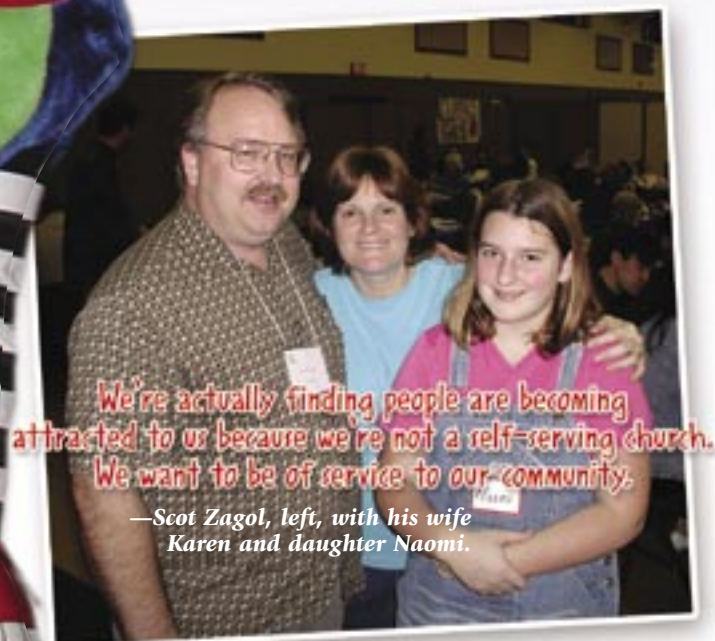
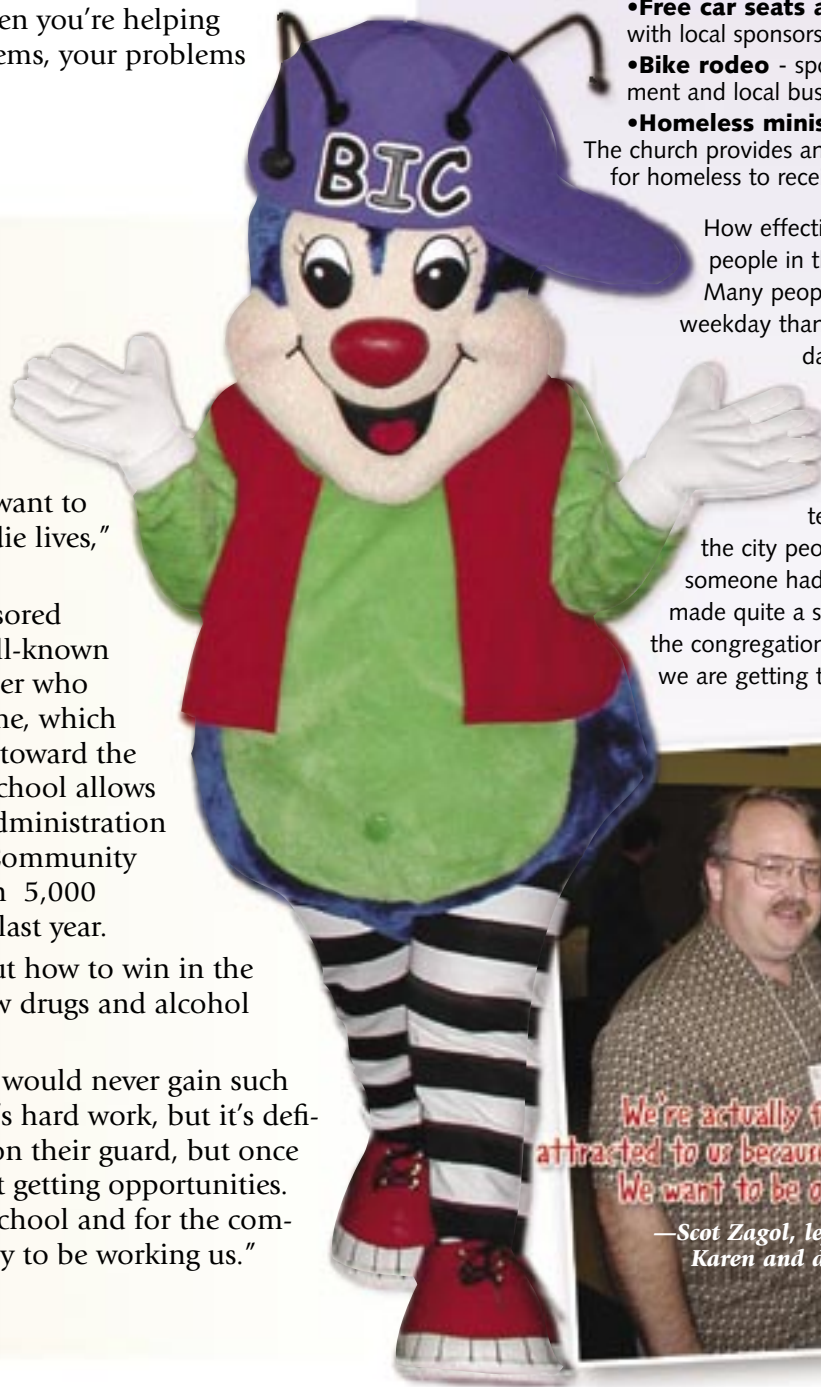
• **Free car seats and instruction** - done jointly with local sponsors.

• **Bike rodeo** - sponsored in part with police department and local businesses. Riders got free helmets.

• **Homeless ministry**

The church provides an address and local-service phone for homeless to receive mail and messages.

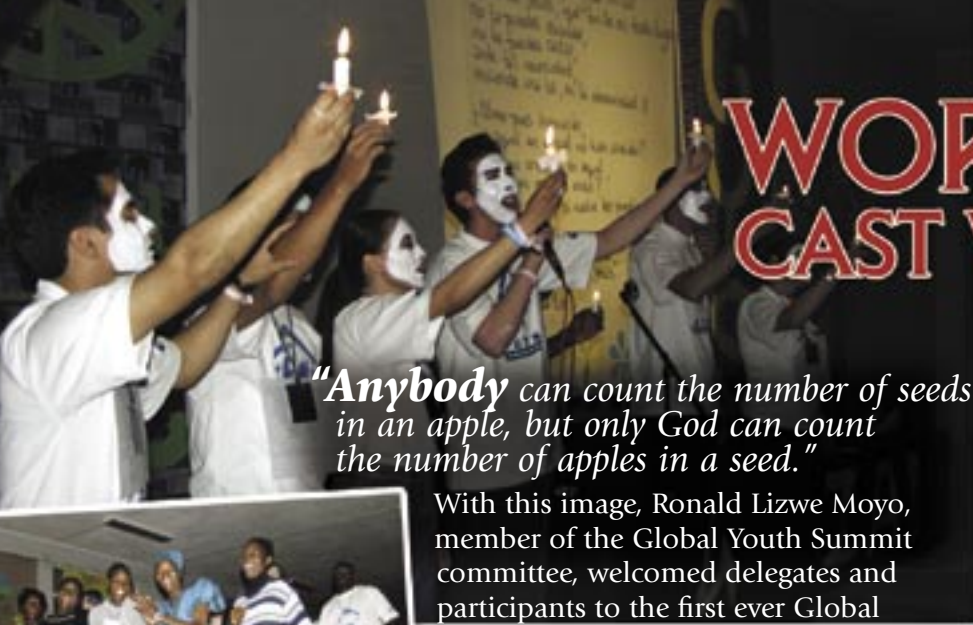
How effective is this approach to exposing people in the city of Ontario to the church? Many people come to the church on any weekday than on Sunday—about a thousand a day for some services. Each of these has brought great interaction with the community. Is it worth it? Scot remembers the first day the gym was open to the public as a teen center. At the end of the day the city people came to him and told him that someone had set off a huge stink bomb and it made quite a smell. Scot joyfully shared that with the congregation that Sunday saying, "Obviously, we are getting the right kids." - JW



We're actually finding people are becoming attracted to us because we're not a self-serving church. We want to be of service to our community.

—Scot Zagol, left, with his wife Karen and daughter Naomi.





# WORLD'S YOUTH CAST VISION IN AFRICA

By Wendy Jansen for Meetinghouse

*"Anybody can count the number of seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed."*

With this image, Ronald Lizwe Moyo, member of the Global Youth Summit committee, welcomed delegates and participants to the first ever Global

Summit (GYS), held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, just before the start of the larger, week-long Mennonite World Conference (MWC) from which the idea had grown. On August 7-10, over 220 young people from 28 different countries gathered to discuss the challenges facing Christian youth and young adults today.

Dreams of organizing a Global Youth Summit began several years ago when MWC saw the need to explore and share the gifts and insights of young church members from around the globe. A five-member committee was formed, with one representative from each of the continental regions, and they set out a three-phase plan.

Phase One was to create and distribute a survey to discover some of the most pressing concerns and challenges facing young people around the world. Over 1500 surveys were completed globally. Phase Two was gathering for conversation and discernment in Bulawayo, and Phase Three is an action phase to take place after GYS is over.

During the three days of the GYS, delegates and

participants talked and listened, prayed, worshiped and played together. Continental caucus groups met each day to discuss the survey results and to brainstorm ways that both MWC and local churches could help them work at solutions to some of their concerns.

By the end of the second day, delegates had reached a preliminary consensus on the main issues and suggestions for how to respond. Five delegates were selected to present the results to the MWC General Council.

In the closing worship, led by the Asian delegation, Elina Ciptadi from Indonesia shared about a dream she had had since childhood. She had always dreamed of making the world a better place. For years, she kept her dream to herself, because she felt that she was too little to ever be able to accomplish such a lofty dream by herself. But she prayed, and asked God to use her. Now, as a delegate of the GYS, she was seeing her dream come true.

Many youth share such a dream, but by themselves feel powerless to make a difference. The Global Youth Summit brought youth from around the world together, and provided a forum for them to express their concerns and commitment, and to make a difference. Being a global church is not easy. The issues presented were complicated and serious, and don't have easy answers. But here in Bulawayo, seeds of hope, of faith, and of commitment were planted. Only God knows what amazing things might grow out of this gathering.

Full coverage from Africa 2003, Mennonite World Conference appears in the November/December 2003 *Visitor*.



## KIDS for the KING

## Taking turns at playing Esther

**Try on the crown and see what you think!**

It doesn't take a crown to think like Queen Esther, but sometimes trying on parts of someone else's costume that we don't normally wear does help us begin to think about what that other person had to think about—whenever or wherever they lived.

(Or guys, it could make you think like one of the kings.)

Find a toy crown, or have Mom or Dad help cut out a paper crown and decorate it. Try it on. See what you think!

I felt like a queen the other day.

Well, I actually looked like a queen—Queen Esther, that is.

In junior church we're learning about Esther and how she saved the Jews from this guy named Haman who wanted to destroy them.

To act out the story, we get to dress like Queen Esther. We learned she saved her people by asking the King to spare their lives, even though she knew the King could've killed her for coming to him without an invitation.

She was scared stiff to do it, but she knew it was what God wanted her to do, so that gave her courage.

Our teacher said Esther's story shows us that God is always in control, and He will always make a way for us to do what He wants us to do. Esther risked her life to save her people, but she dared to do it because she trusted God.

It sorta makes me think I can do stuff I don't think I can or stuff I don't really want to do, if Jesus is with me and helps me. When I think of being Queen Esther, I think of being strong and brave and able to do what God tells me to do - and I know I don't have to wear a fancy purple dress to do it! - CK

Laura Heck, of the Dillsburg (Pa.) BIC Junior Church, listens to instructions from teacher Ruth Ann Engle on what she should do next as Queen Esther

