

# OASIS

Your Hope Presbyterian Learning Community

## COMMUNICATOR

### APRIL 1992

#### SPOTLIGHT ON PASTOR PAUL'S

On Saturday, April 11 from 9 am to Noon, OASIS members will go to the Disciples Ministry in North Minneapolis to assist with packing food bags for the annual Easter food give away. Those who have participated the past two years have found it an exhilarating experience as they witnessed first hand the commitment and zeal of this caring ministry. If you would like to be a part this year, sign up Sunday mornings in class or call Shirley Gillespie, 831-8767.

The facade of the old synagogue with its onion shaped domes and Star of David is an imposing presence at the 1000 corner of Oliver Avenue North. Housing Disciples Ministry, it is a symbol of a North Minneapolis that no longer exists—a beacon of hope in the midst of the North Minneapolis of today.

Disciple's Ministry is the fruition of the dream of one man, the Rev. Paul Arnopoulos, a self-taught Pentecostal preacher who was dramatically converted to Christianity in 1972. His life transformed, he closed down the janitorial service he owned in California and moved North to attend the Compassion Bible College in Fridley.

After a short course in Bible and theology, Arnopoulos served a small church near Amery, Wis.

Next, he moved to Brooklyn Park and started a successful church in his home, soon moving to another building. In 1977, the church purchased the old Jewish synagogue in North Minneapolis. At that time, he lost about two-thirds of his congregation. Frequent break-ins into the parishioner's cars and the new environment scared many off.

Not only that, but the new vision that was emerging for Pastor Paul was not shared by all the members. His vision was for mission, for serving and evangelizing the needy of the Northside—that

required commitment and sacrifice. Not everyone wanted to be part of a "mission church." Even today Arnopoulos' church numbers only about 150 people. About 15 of those are actively involved in the work of the mission.

The following excerpt from Pastor Paul's 1992 letter to his supporters indicates the scope of Disciple's Ministry to those in need:

"The Grocery Shelf serves families of two or more people, senior citizens, and handicapped. Each person receiving groceries must provide proof of identification for each family member and complete a registration form used by the Mission to gather statistics. Once registered, each family can receive groceries once a month.

"A family of up to 6 people with

a baby typically receives about 77 pounds of groceries, worth about \$125 if purchased from a large discount food store. This food costs the Mission about \$2 to give away. Not exactly a miracle, but a pretty good return on your investment, don't you think?

"Of the 4776 registered families, 64% are single mother families and 90% have less than \$800 monthly income. How would your family live on \$800 a month?

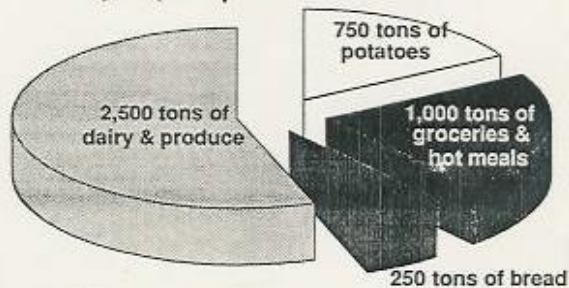
"All of the perishable food given away is donated. The Mission only pays for its storage, refrigeration, transportation and handling. The Mission also buys non-perishable food that cannot be sold retail.

"Your contribution also helps pay the salaries of 5 full time staff workers and other administration costs, like leaky roofs.

"So what does all this cost? About 3 cents per pound of food given away. In today's economy, that's a real bargain!

"In 1991 we saw many wonderful things happen! Over 9 million pounds of food went through Disciples Ministry Church Mission to over 40,000 people in the metro area. Our Hot Meal Program which

#### How Disciples Ministry Fought Hunger in 1991 9,000,000 pounds of food!



-Continued-

over 40,000 people in the metro area. Our Hot Meal Program which serves a breakfast buffet and a noon meal serves hundreds daily. Through public service announcements on WCCO, KSTP, KTIS, KNOF, KCCM, KMOJ and WDCY

radio, we are able to announce our street give-aways to the public. We are now beginning to announce our daily menu on KMOJ and also news about our wonderful "free" Clothing Closet.

"We just recently started a temporary Jobs Service and Packaging Company to help bring in the necessary funds needed to sustain our work. If you know of anyone who needs workers or blister card packaging, please mention us."