Pastor Paul gives food to all who come

by Louise Penn

If you've ever driven by Emerson and Broadway during the past couple years on a Wednesday or Saturday, you can't help but notice a huge crowd milling around with grocery bags, and several vans pulled up beside the First National Bank. What's the scene on a typical Saturday at the corner of Emerson and West Broadway

been going on is the biggest and most organized food giveaway in the area. Pastor Paul Arntopulos and a staff of volunteers from the Disciples Ministry operate a used clothing store, and he has a radio program on KUXL 1570 AM from 1:30 to 2:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. Most of his congregation comes from the suburbs, he said, and they are devoted and committed to service.

Services at Disciple's Ministry are at 8:00 P.M. on Fridays and 10:00 A.M. on Sundays. For those who need help or those who would like to help others, the phone number is 521-4665.

The church at 1000 Oliver Avenue North give away over 8,000 bags of groceries per month to the needy and the not so needy. Pastor Paul is a soft-spoken but dynamic person who oversees the $12,000 per month operation. As we spoke, about 100 people and other young men created makeshift swatchback aisles much like Valleyfair. The crowd seemed amazingly orderly and cheerful. A disheveled man with mismatched shoes and no socks mingled with well dressed people who seemed

unabated by the situation.

If they are willing to stand in line and carry the food away, they either need it themselves or want it for someone else. I'd rather see a few who don't need the food get it than let someone go hungry.

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