



## Metro/State news

Marketplace section begins on page 13B Want ads/6B

Minneapolis Star and Tribune

 Thursday  
 November 28/1985

1B



Staff Photo by Charles Bjorgen

Hundreds of people lined up for free groceries Wednesday. Some arrived nearly an hour before the Disciples Ministry Church Mission opened its doors in north Minneapolis.

## Mission puts a little hope, humanity in food sacks

 By Diana Eriel Gonzalez  
 Staff Writer

Pam Beck kept her ungloved hands firmly in her pockets Wednesday morning as she endured five more frigid minutes of waiting in line for a free bag of groceries that would be Thanksgiving dinner for her and her 3-year-old son.

For nearly an hour, 26-year-old Beck of northeast Minneapolis and her neighbor, Marjean Maltz, waited along with several hundred other people for the doors of the Disciples Ministry Church Mission

in north Minneapolis to open.

Waiting for Thanksgiving groceries was a first for both women, who said they wouldn't be able to have a good dinner without the extra help. Beck, who is divorced and has been receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children for three years, said \$66 worth of monthly food stamps doesn't go far.

"Wait till Christmas. That is going to be awful," she said. "I don't have two cents to pay anyone."

Maltz said she and her husband had

been going through hard times since her husband was injured in a car accident and lost his job. Both are looking for work, she said.

"He hasn't been back to work yet. We just spent our last \$70 to pay an employment agency. We're not on welfare yet, but it looks like that is next," Maltz said.

The bag of groceries "is going to be part of my daughter's birthday dinner tonight. We're going to wrap Thanksgiving and her birthday into one," she said.

Inside, the Rev. Paul Arnpoulos stood by the line, trying to coax smiles out of the shivering men and women, hugging them or shaking hands or giving them an affectionate slap on the back.

"You need a little personality in with this, too. It isn't like you can say, 'Here's your bag' and (treat people with) rudeness," he said.

After the 20th complaint about the cold, he shouted, "Wait a minute! I've got some hats. I'm going to go get some hats."

Within minutes he was back, eyeing the crowd.

"This is you!" he said to a long-haired woman. "Hey, that looks good on you, that's your color."

Another woman got a hat after she told Arnpoulos she had lost her purse. Without hesitation, Arnpoulos began praying with her about the purse, disregarding the crowd filing behind him.

By early afternoon, the church had

Food continued on page 5B.

## FOOD: Church also will serve dinner to hundreds

Continued from page 1B

given away about 5,500 bags of groceries. The remaining 500 or 600 bags were given to elderly people living in apartment complexes or to unions that will give the food to members who have been laid off.

Each bag contained either turkey drumsticks or a chicken, potatoes, onions, flour, creamed corn, bread or pie, extras such as candy and, in some cases, pizza.

Today, the church will be serving

dinner starting at 2 p.m. to hundreds of people, Arnpoulos said.

Arnpoulos — or Pastor Paul, as he calls himself — moved his non-denominational evangelical church from Brooklyn Park to the inner city about seven years ago.

"I started out with about four or five food bags. I'm up to 12,000 a month," he said.

The church also runs a "hobo bus" that travels under the city's bridges to offer hot meals to the homeless.

The mission's programs will be expanding during the next few months, Arnpoulos said. By next year, church workers plan to open a continuation warehouse-shelter at 293 Commercial St. in St. Paul. The building will have congregational dining facilities, enough sleeping rooms for between 50 and 150 homeless people, storage space for food and a kitchen. In about six weeks, a half-way house will open at 726 Penn Av. N. to help people make the transition from being homeless to supporting themselves with jobs.