Pastor Paul prepares a feast for the needy

by Carole Lynn Shew

Most people spend the holidays feasting; Pastor Paul Arnopoulos spends the holidays at his mission church preparing a feast for the needy of Minneapolis and surrounding communities.

Yet “food dispensing” is a lot more than handing out bags of food, says Arnopoulos and his staff of volunteers at Disciples Ministry Church Mission, which is housed in a converted synagogue at 1000 Oliver Avenue N., in Minneapolis. Those who receive groceries also receive the gospel message.

“When I go out I minister the gospel right along. I’ve led as many as 45 in a group to the Lord at one time,” Arnopoulos says. “I pray with people, and Christian volunteers talk to people and minister the gospel to them.”

Arnopoulos believes that providing food for the needy is a good part of what the gospel is all about. “If a man’s hungry, feed him,” he says. “Feeding and breaking bread has a lot to do with ministering the gospel. What better place is there to minister the gospel than when you’re breaking bread with somebody?” he asks.

Pastor Paul Arnopoulos moved to Minneapolis from Brooklyn Park nine years ago, but he did not become involved with “food dispensing” until he...