

the

# Lampost

an every-so-often newsletter of Lampost theatre co.



it was ninety degrees outside and the theater wasn't cooling down.

We had turned the air conditioning on early that day in anticipation of the evening's performance. I told Jeff to climb up on the roof to see if the air was working. I knew it was bad news by the look on his face as he climbed down.

We would have to call a professional. It was a Saturday - - after hour charges! Yikes!

Within two hours the repair man climbed down from the roof. He was happy to report that it was only a \$12 part. The bad news was that with Saturday charges and having to open the parts store it was all going to cost us \$250!

My heart sank. With all the renovations and start-up expenses on our new theater, the last thing we wanted was to have to put money into the existing air-conditioner.

I found myself down right depressed. I knew I needed to go to prayer. "Lord," I said, "I just can't let this bill overwhelm me. Instead of worrying, I'm going to turn it over to you. This building is Your idea from the beginning, so I guess You'll just have to pay this bill too."

We were in the middle of our preview performances of *The Wedding*. For the three previous nights, we had set out little donation cans around the building. "You can help build it," read the label on each can. Each night we had collected ten to fifteen dollars in these cans.

This night, after the air conditioning incident, I approached the cans with a slight anticipation. Maybe the Lord would answer my prayer through the cans. "Of course," I thought, "that's up to Him."

I reached into the first can - - a check! I opened it: \$100! I went to the next can and there was another check: also \$100. I went to the last can and there was some ones, some fives, and change. I counted eagerly. The grand total: \$254.00!

My mouth dropped open. He had done it again: the Lord had provided through His people at just the time of need. This seems to be the recurring theme around here. Just when we discover another need, we watch as He provides. Equipment for the new Coffeabar, money to pay the utilities, workers to help with the renovation - we are constantly watching little miracles take place as His plan for this new facility unfolds around us.

Even the PR seems to be touched by His hand. We found ourselves on the front page of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier one day. In bold headlines and with full-color pictures, it told the story of how this funeral home is being "Born Again" from a house of mourning into a place of celebration and life. We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

If you are getting this newsletter, you probably have some part in this wonderful unfolding story. Maybe you contribute financially, or you came to a program, or you just expressed an interest. Regardless of your involvement, please join us in the most important part: praying and watching for the Lord to move. Join us also in rejoicing that He gives us stories to tell: tangible reflections of His goodness and grace!

-Marsha

**Born again** **Lampost**  
Christian theater ministry gives new life to Cedar Falls funeral home

front-page article, courtesy of WCF Courier

august 2003

# meet the team!

Along with the new facility comes a new level of activity and ministry. God has provided us with a new staff that's ready and eager to step out in faith, live in community together, and meet these new challenges.



**nate meyer** has been in several Lampost outreach productions over the past few years. He recently graduated from UNI with a teaching degree. Nate brings a unique spontaneity and humor to the ministry ensemble, and a servant heart toward the needs of students. Nate is originally from Spencer, IA

**betsy mcgovern** is our student intern. She starts her Junior year at UNI this month, and began helping out on the BASIC Drama Team while still in High School. She has a passion for creative ministry, and brings with her experience in Musical Theater as well. Hailing from Bettendorf, IA, Betsy is a communications major and will be interning in Public Relations with Lampost as well as participating in the performance ensemble.

**ELISA POTT** was part of the BASIC Drama/Discipleship Team lead by Lampost. She has also had experience in collegiate and community theater in her hometown of Fort Dodge. She sees the calling of dramatic ministry as a great opportunity to display the love, life, and humor of our God. For this reason she decided to pursue full-time ministry with us after graduating from UNI in May. Elisa is a hard worker who has already gotten a lot of jobs done around here.

**MATT NIKKEL** is our coffee geek. We were praying for someone to manage the coffeebar end of the ministry. Matt was dreaming of doing just that someday. Not only was he a math education major (good for management) - he also knew more about coffee, latte, and espresso than is healthy for the common individual! Brew all that together with a real desire for discipleship, and you'll get a picture of how God provided for us through Matt!

**JEFF & MARSHA HANSON** have been part of Lampost for more years than they care to count. They are about the only permanent fixtures we brought with us to the new place.

**MYKA & RACHEL HANSON** have been "part of the act" from birth, not only performing in key "younger" roles, but carrying their own weight in renovation tasks as well.

**in addition** to our full-time staff, we will be relying on volunteers and student apprentices to help with everything from office work to performance to serving coffee. Is there an area you'd like to help out in? Let us know!

**"Who will go for me?  
Whom shall I send?"**

# the things we did last summer...

Can you believe the summer is over already? It was a crazy one for us. Yes, our major activities were related to fixing, renovating, and preparing the new theater/studio. But somehow, along with that daunting task, the Lord still provided tremendous opportunity for ministry. Here's some highlights...

## SWAMP thing



Once again we headed to the swamps of Florida to train missionaries with Teen Missions. It was great to prepare over 100 teens to proclaim the Gospel in Africa, Brazil, Cameroon, Poland, Honduras, Australia, and two teams that toured US music festivals.

From Florida we went to New York to train missionaries for Touch The World. These teams spent the summer in Brazil, Cuba, Greece, Mexico, & Arizona.

## touching the WORLD

## MARRIED FOR the 12th time

In order to give the community a preview of things to come, we opened a series of performances of *The Wedding* at the partially-renovated studio. It was our first production at the "new place." We held five weekend performances, and by the third night we were playing to full houses. How exciting to see the theater packed with joyful faces!

Counting past performances, Pam DeJong (who played the bride) had been married 12 times to 3 different grooms in 2 years.



## MARKED FOR ministry

As if the troupe wasn't busy enough training others and being part of *The Wedding*, they also underwent their own training period at the start of the summer. Past teams have affectionately labeled this intensive 3-week discipleship program as "a cross between an African Mission and a Medieval Monastery." Study in community, ser-vanthood, and ministry combined with exercise in prayer, creativity, and construction.



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## WHAT WE NEED MOST...

As you open this newsletter, you are about to encounter some miracles. You'll hear how God has provided. You'll meet people who have devoted themselves to serving a big vision. You'll also get a glimpse of how our little ministry has been spreading around the world this summer.

### **But it's incomplete.**

In this newsletter you'll read reports, stories, and statistics. But they mean nothing without the missing ingredient — the thing we need most.

### **What we need most is you.**

This newsletter reflects a vision to impact the lives of college students, give them a place to flourish in the Spirit and equip them to transform their world through Christ. But that vision requires something bigger than the rag-tag band of believers God has assembled on Seerley Boulevard.

### **That vision needs you. Prayerfully consider if you have a part to play. We need:**

- people to pray
- a volunteer staff to help run the coffeebar
- a one-Saturday-a-month maintenance crew
- monthly financial supporters (still need about \$1300/mnth in support)

### **God continues to provide. Maybe He's providing through you.**

If you can contribute to this vision with time, talent, or finances - contact us!