



# the Lampost

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

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## the year-end balance...

As you open this newsletter, you are about to encounter some miracles. You'll hear how God has provided through people who have jumped into the vision with us. You'll get a glimpse of how this little ministry, multiplied by servants and helpers, has been given the opportunity to impact more lives.

### But it's not about us.

We can not begin to list all those who have been a part of 2003. Sacrificially. Generously. In little ways and in big things.

### This is just a glimpse - a shimmer of their shining for Christ.

#### Thanks to the following; just a sampling:

- the couple who left a check to help with rising heat costs
- Walnut Ridge Academy for an extra donation - it buys a projection screen.
- Archer Electric & Tom Resitter for generously low contractor fees.
- The Print Zoo for donating our sign
- the couple who showed up with a gift of 96 sets of silverware just in time for dinner (theater, that is...)
- the man who said: "I don't like football, but I'll donate the projector so you can outreach on Monday nights."
- the women who baked - and baked...
- the man who drilled more holes and fixed more mowers and filled in more gaps than seems humanly possible.
- the couple who has been supporting us since they were part of our first apprentice troupe almost 20 years ago.
- the woman who called us before sending her microwave to Goodwill
- all the ones who support us regularly
- the man who drove his tractor 2.5 hours so we'd have something to clear snow from our parking lot.

### this one gets used!

It was early one morning. It was September. We had just opened the new coffee shop after months of what seemed to be endless renovations. I was starting the day in prayer, and as I closed, I tagged on a simple request: "Lord, now that we have put so much into preparing this place, I just pray that You will see to it that this place gets used for your Kingdom."

It was a heartfelt request, but little did I know that my heart was in store for some encouragement.

I walked out of the office where I had been praying. Already in the theater there was a men's discipleship study group underway with their weekly meeting. The new Lampost building provided a place where they could meet "outside the church" but in a friendly environment for discipleship.

Downstairs in the basement, a group of college students was in fervent prayer on behalf of the campus and the world. They had been meeting there daily at 6am. Our basement provided them a central location and a secluded haven for prayer.

Out in the coffee shop, the aroma of espresso was warming the place as someone entered to meet with someone for their weekly mentoring session. "You can't believe what a blessing it is to have a place like this to meet" she said.

Just beyond that door, in the "outer office," Betsy was preparing to start her day contacting churches and organizations as part of her communications internship. Here she was having an opportunity to further her education, but to gain experience applying her major in a ministry environment.

I was on my way upstairs to meet with Marsha to discuss auditions for Godspell. I considered how this would become a discipleship opportunity with 10 people from 4 churches that would meet here almost daily for the next 2 months. It would result in the presentation of the Gospel to about 1500 people in November. It was then that

I connected all these dots and it dawned on me: God was already answering my prayer.

In the two months that followed, He never let up. Over the weeks the theater has become a concert hall to showcase musical talent seeking to honor Christ. It has become a retreat center for church leadership teams seeking to grow in their outreach. It has become a luncheon spot to encourage a group of seniors that call themselves "Elderberries" in Christ. It has housed weekly youth group meetings. It has become a worship center for students wanting to find an extra opportunity to honor the Lord. The theater has even been used as a theater space (imagine that!) to house productions of Godspell and The Chosen Ones.

Almost daily there are Bible studies, often multiple ones, taking place around the building. Some are student groups, others are adults from local churches, some church leadership teams.

And on top of it all, the coffee shop now provides a constant place where people can meet, talk, interact. People come in there who would never darken the door of a church. By God's grace, our door is open to them.

I guess when you say a simple prayer like "Lord, just see to it..." you had better be ready to see for yourself what He's already done.

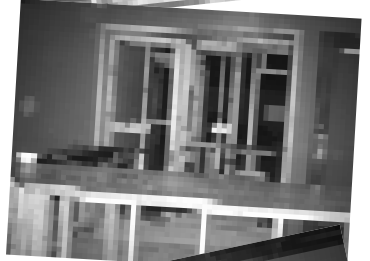


students meet & study in the coffeeshop

december 2003

# 2009 WAR STORIES

**"The battle belongs to the Lord!" There's no time we understood that better than during the last year as we watched him provide ammunition, troops, and even the battlefield itself. He is amazing.**



**< PROGRESS** The Lord's volunteer army put in hundreds of man hours to transform the new building (exemplified here by the construction of the coffee

**USE YOUR GIFTS >**  
Art students paint a mural on one of the theater walls. What a blessing it has been to watch different talents find a place to serve!



**V A TIME TO BUILD, A TIME TO TEAR DOWN**  
Male college students seem to excel at the latter..



**< LET NO ONE DESPISE YOUR YOUTH**  
Students from Walnut Ridge Baptist Academy showed up for their service day project. They devoured the old wall paper off our walls like locusts.



**PREACH THE GOSPEL >**  
Godspell opened as our first major production in the renovated theater. All six performances were to sell-out crowds.



**SHINE IN ALL SEASONS >** Whether for Monday Night Football, Wed. Night Youth, Thursday After-BASIC, or Christmas Dinner Theater (pictured here) - God has given a place to creatively shine the light.

## AND IN OTHER NEWS...

Life & Ministry were not limited to the new facility at Seerley Boulevard. Here are some highlights from other locales this year:

- BASIC continues to be a strong presence on the UNI campus. It is exciting to co-sponsor this event. The drama/discipleship team has been a creative challenge as we develop new material weekly to exhort students in godliness.
- The new touring team (Nate, Elisa, & Betsy along with Jeff) began sharing their performance ministry at churches and conferences. In October, they were part of Main Event, a gathering of 2000 college students from across the midwest.
- Our summer missions work with hundreds of teens paid off in ministry that went out around the world. Our resource materials continue to go out to more places.
- Working with the Iowa High School Speech Association, the door has opened for us to do more training in public schools, to help teens grow through creativity.
- Also this year, Saddam Hussien was captured - we had no involvement, however.