

9-22-2005

## GlimmerGlass Volume 65 Number 02 (2005)

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### Recommended Citation

Miller, Tricia (Executive Editor) and Musselman, Sarah (Business Manager), "GlimmerGlass Volume 65 Number 02 (2005)" (2005).  
*GlimmerGlass*. 876.  
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## BROADWAY REVUE ON TAP

Friday, Saturday night performances feature songs from Rent, Phantom of the Opera

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5



## ROAD TO RECOVERY

Volleyball players healing as team prepares for tournament

SPORTS, PAGE 9

# GLIMMER GLASS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2005 • Vol. 65 No. 2

## WORLD REPORT



### Hurricane names running out in '05

This year's landmark hurricane season could cause forecasters to run out of names before the season ends on Nov. 20, according to CNN.

Every year, forecasters release a list of 21 pre-determined names alternating male and female in alphabetical order, excluding Q, U, X, Y and Z. Hurricane Rita is the 17th Atlantic storm this season, leaving only four more names before the end of the list.

If more than four hurricanes are left in the season, "additional storms will take names from the Greek alphabet," according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) Web site.

Names are retired by the NHC if the storm causes extreme damage and loss of life. An NHC representative said Hurricane Katrina will "absolutely" be retired by the organization.

### Marshall Field's to become Macy's

Marshall Field's & Co., a name once synonymous with Chicago nostalgia, will be replaced by Macy's in 2006, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

Federated, parent company of Macy's and Bloomingdale's, doubled its size Aug. 30 after the \$11 billion purchase of Field's owner, May Department Stores Co.

Some remnants of the historical name may be protected. The Commission on Chicago Landmarks recommended that the city council bestow landmark status to the retailer's flagship store downtown.

"It's like changing the name of the Eiffel Tower, honestly," Preservation Chicago President Jonathan Fine said earlier this month.



Adriell Beals hands a crisis care kit intended for Hurricane Katrina victims to Student Education Association member Leann Kerney. SEA members collected nearly 500 kits, which were donated to Heart to Heart International.

## Students aid Katrina victims

By Jonathan Swigart  
News writer

To help victims of Hurricane Katrina through Heart to Heart International, students gathered over 418 Crisis Care Kits and pledged to fast around 400 meals on Tuesday, Sept. 20., which will result in funds donated by Sodexo Dining Services for the relief effort.

The student body filled out approximately 560 commitment cards, holding them accountable to donate. On the first collection day, 418 kits were donated.

The donation process started after chapel Thursday, Sept. 8, with the dispensing of cards in one-gallon-size bags listing nine items needed to complete a care kit: a wide-tooth comb, a hand towel, a washcloth, soap, a soap dish, shampoo,

bandages, a toothbrush and toothpaste. Students were able to drop off care kits at Ludwig Information Desk and McHie Arena concession stand from Sept. 15-20 and then on the second collection day set for Wednesday, Sept. 21.

A couple days after the damage of Katrina could be assessed, Associated Student Council and the Chaplain's Office discussed how Olivet could help, keeping the primary focus on a partnership with Heart to Heart International. They contacted Dr. Gary Morsch, the president and founder of Heart to Heart. A former colleague of Chaplain Michael Benson at Southern Baptist Seminary, he informed them of the great need for care kits.

Working alongside the Chaplain's Office and ASC is the Student Education

Association (SEA). According to SEA President Luke Hays, more than 30 SEA members assisted the collection and transport of care kits. Each kit was moved into a recreational vehicle (RV) donated by local car dealer Brown and Brown. Then on Saturday, the loaded RV departed to Louisiana to be dispersed to those in need.

"The students here at ONU are genuinely concerned about the hurricane victims," freshman Sara Danner said. "It became a reality to us, especially since we had a visitor here in Parrott from New Orleans."

Student Body President Andrew Twibell said he is almost certain there will be a mission trip to the disaster area over Christmas break. He added that going now would be more ineffective than anything.

Twibell takes pride in the student body for giving spiritually, in addition to giving financially.

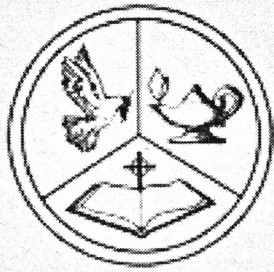
"While not everyone has been able to give, though many have, the spirit of prayer has clearly been upon all the chapel services involved in the disaster relief effort," he said.

Sodexo has not yet figured how many meals students pledged to fast, but general manager Judy Coomer estimated 400.

Although Coomer says she is always here to "back up the students," she and her staff have been organizing their own relief efforts for Sodexo employees displaced by Katrina.

"I think that's what we need to do in life ... help each other," Coomer said.





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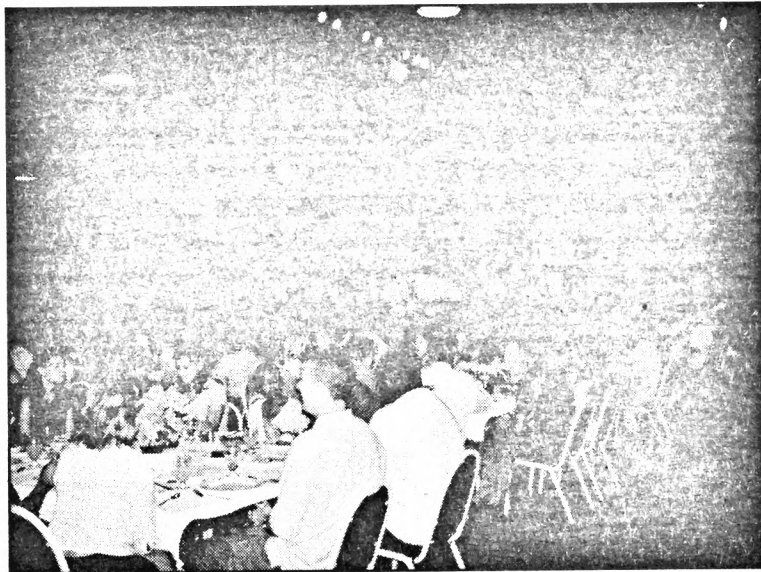
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# ONU enrollment breaks records



Though freshmen did not fill as many seats as they normally do at September's annual freshman dinner, enrollment at Olivet, including freshmen, is on the rise.

By **Katie Nichols**

News writer

Olivet's 2005 enrollment reached record heights with 820 freshmen, 552 sophomores, 466 juniors, 541 seniors and 1,583 graduate students.

Although this year's freshman class is not as large as last year's, it still ranks second in overall enrollment. The freshman class in 2004 included 703 first-time freshmen, while this year has 671.

"Everything is larger than before, except the freshman class," Registrar Jim Knight said. "Every total is higher than it's ever been and it's still a very positive trend."

With such a rise, new housing arrangements are being made.

According to Vice President of Student Development Woody Webb, the freshman class has increased by about 150 students over the past five years.

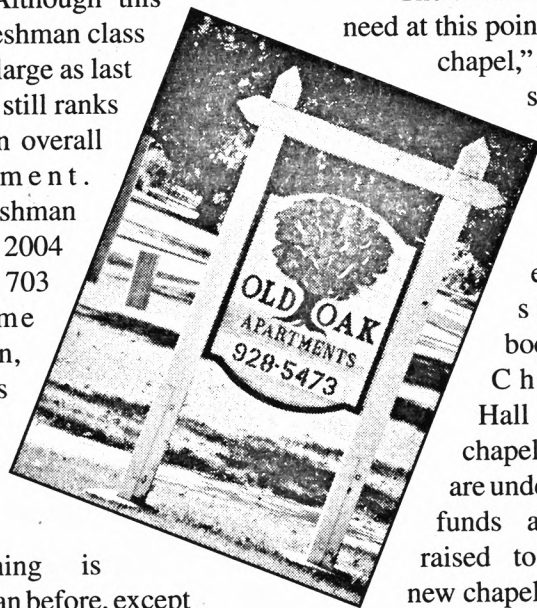
"As the class size has grown, we have converted traditional upper class housing to freshman housing," Webb said. "We now house freshman students in Chapman Hall, Williams Hall, Parrott Hall and half of Nesbitt Hall."

To house an additional 76 upper-class resident students

this year, the university bought Old Oak Apartments just outside campus. Overall, the university currently houses 1,905 residents.

With each class growing, other changes on campus will be necessary.

"The most important need at this point is a new chapel," Webb said. "We



cannot fit the entire student body into Chalfant Hall for chapel. Plans are underway and funds are being raised to build a new chapel."

Future plans may also include an addition to Ludwig Center and a new residence hall.

"I'm not aware of intent to put a cap on enrollment," Knight said. "The goal is to enroll 700 new freshmen each year. Last year carried on to this year, which will carry on and, in the end, eventually add about 100 more students to our undergrad program."

Meanwhile, 10 new faculty members have been hired this year to accommodate changes in the general education curriculum. The administration has been planning for this escalation.

"Olivet has been intentional about our growth," Webb said. "We have carefully planned to meet the growth with the right amount of housing and support services."

# Flasher faces bench trial

By **Rachel Buller**

News writer

Because of last year's crimes of lewd exposure, five Olivet girls met with Bourbonnais police and Director of Public Safety Craig Bishop to attend a bench trial Aug. 18 after alleged flasher Jason Sabo and his attorney retracted an earlier court date.

Arrested for three episodes of indecent exposure and disorderly conduct on Olivet's campus, 25-year-old Jason Sabo of Manteno will appear before a jury this coming winter. Sabo was a Plainfield Central High School volleyball coach.

The previous trial date moved when the defendant and his attorney disputed the increased number of charges.

The month-long investigation ended last December when Sabo confessed the acts during an interview with Bourbonnais Lt. Detective Greg Kunce. According to police, the female witnesses reported the incident early on and Sabo will most likely be charged with supervision, community service or counseling.

"A lot of credit goes to the students on campus," Kunce said. "It helps when

you have witnesses come forward."

Sabo would drive the parking lots of Gibson and Weber on his way to work out at Gold's Gym in Bradley. He would pull his car up and drop his pants, exposing himself to girls who presumed his car belonged to a fellow ONU student.

Investigators tracked Sabo when students supplied police with a license number from his Chevrolet Cavalier. Dorm meetings at Howe and Grand immediately followed where Bishop spoke out about safety procedures in light of the crime.

"We are trying to hold people accountable and keep campus safe," Bishop said. "We need to communicate amongst each other."

Sabo expressed regret for his actions in a written confession to police and also wrote that a rubber penis was used. Detective Jim Phelps later discovered the object in Sabo's vehicle. The defendant ascribed his actions to boredom.

The Plainfield school system has been notified of the charges, and Sabo is officially banned from Olivet's campus until further notice.

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## Olivet students experience Oxford

*Senior finds food less than appetizing, all else 'charming'*

By Janie Case

Variety writer

It's the 17th of September and, already, I've been in this country for two solid weeks. I live with 29 other students in a large Victorian house. Built in 1891, it sits on a hill and looks out over the city to the hills beyond.

England is beautiful. The sun has shined every day, save two; the way it plays with the leaves and the breeze is pure magic.

Oxford itself is vivacious and invigorating. Having never lived in a city before, I've taken time to learn the bus system, find the coziest cafes, and locate secondhand places that line the cobblestone streets.

Sadly, it's not all glorious exploring and mocha-consuming. I've really struggled with the British cuisine, and it makes me miss home acutely. Tips for those interested in coming: don't

try the salmon and cucumber sandwiches, don't buy milk (it spoils after two days), don't expect a salad to include lettuce, and don't trust their canned Spaghetti-Os.

The issue of food is the sole thing, I think, that frustrates me with this "almost" American place. Everything else is amazing.

Of the places I've been and sights I've seen, the most noteworthy include a 1,900-year-old Roman mosaic floor, Winchester Cathedral and the Cathedral at St. Albans. I had to be able to incorporate these into a paper on medieval cathedrals and how they shaped the English landscape.

Non-scholastic adventures include seeing the new *Pride and Prejudice* film, documenting graffiti dating back to the 1500s and watching the Australia vs. England cricket game on TV.

We've dined at the

oldest pub in England and the Eagle and Child, and even found time to visit C.S. Lewis' grave. I've attended a number of evensongs at Christ Church Cathedral — solo — and spent plenty of time in the Bodleian Library, the covered market, and the shopping district, City Centre. This place is full of so much history and new information.

Our first course has begun and consists of at least three lectures a day, two breaks for coffee or tea (both with milk and sugar), a history program that only a room-full of America's smartest Christian dorks would appreciate watching, day-long field trips, and massive amounts of paper-writing.

But of all these new experiences, the most interesting to me is the fact that, two weeks ago, I didn't know any of the people who I'm now living day in and day out with. They love to learn,



Olivet senior Janie Case goofs off behind a new friend in the quad of Christ College Church in Oxford, England.

hate to procrastinate, and thrive on debating. I've never been around so many people who, like me, know every line of *Sense and Sensibility*, have read *A Severe Mercy*, and listen to Iron and Wine.

On the other hand, the boys are a bit different here. Maybe I'll just say that the guy-to-girl ratio is the

same as Olivet's, only here, it should be called overzealous-philosophy-guy-to-girl ratio.

Nonetheless, I'm meeting great people and am savoring this quirky, charming and enlightening place called Oxford.

## First Oxford lesson: God's provisions are just enough for today



By Lauren Jackson

Variety writer

It's a typical Sunday afternoon in Oxford: cold, windy, and wet, yet there's an excitement bubbling underneath it all. Although someone wouldn't recognize it by my sweatpants and cup of tea, I really am more than ecstatic to be studying here.

I'm slowly but surely learning the way of the British: looking right before I cross the street, standing in "queues" instead of lines, and asking where to find the nearest "loo." It's taken me some time to get used to the culture. But once submerged, it's definitely sink or swim.

I spend my days in

lectures and seminars, learning more about Britain's past than any American needs to know, but it's exciting! I walk on cobblestone streets where historic scholars once trod, eat in pubs where literary greats C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien took a break from writing, and visit cathedrals that the Normans built with their own hands. How could I not be excited?

I randomly go into town and observe people. Here's what I wrote the other night in my journal:

*I love the social life in Oxford: you're not isolated if you choose to go out alone, but, instead, you're respected. Many a time have I seen two friends, or perhaps a couple, enjoying their time together and only using words if necessary. I've noticed the English are very keen about their limits;*

*enough is just enough. You're given just enough food to edge off the hunger (a very sobering lesson for an American), they talk just enough to get their point across and they want just enough to make a living.*

*Americans, on the other hand, or maybe just me, are extremely overindulgent. We eat too much, we drink too much, we want too much. We're never happy with just enough. Am I looking for more than I need here? Every morning, the Lord gives me just enough of everything to get through my day, yet I'm always looking for more.*

There have been bad days amongst the adventure: the "I lost my bus pass, the library is closed, and my eight-page paper is due tomorrow" days. In the end, the good outweighs the bad.

God has done a tremendous work in me since my arrival, mostly in my acceptance of His will, and

I'm excited to find out where He is going to take me.



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# Josh and Jill: Married, but individuals

*Newlyweds at Olivet maintain separate identities as they begin their lives together*

By **Rebecca Hughes**

Variety writer

Holding his hand gently, she gives him a sheepish smile and asks, "You wanna take this one?" He returns the smile, looking deep into her eyes, and responds, "Of course," preparing to tell me when he knew she was "the one."

Jill (Swanson) and Josh Niemi are one of many couples who meet and eventually become engaged while they are students at Olivet. Though engagements often occur while couples are still enrolled, actual marriage ceremonies don't usually take place until after graduation. Jill and Josh, however, tied the knot even before they started their junior year in college. The couple has also taken the extra step of remaining very involved on campus.

How do these two people manage the commitment of marriage, while attending school, holding jobs and maintaining their individual identities?

While some couples end up having to compromise their dreams, goals or passions, Jill and Josh shared many of the same interests for their future even before the engagement.

"We both want children and have agreed that

I will not be working once we start a family," Jill expresses. "Before that, we will go where his job takes us, and I will be a schoolteacher."

The couple also talks openly about how their spiritual views are in sync, implying that the marriage would not work without a focus on God.

"We knew we were supposed to be together and God made that very clear to us," Josh says.

"Even when we had worries about finance or support from family and friends, together, we trusted in God, and He took care of it. We are very

blessed that the ones closest to us have been supportive and the money we need has been coming," Jill adds.

Agreeing on views and plans for the future is one thing, but sharing everyday life together is a completely

separate issue. While they both agree they had to adapt to the unique living habits they discovered about each other, they both spoke positively of the other person's will to do things for him or her.

Josh adds.

Despite the fact that living together comes with some challenges, things have worked out nicely for Mr. and Mrs. Niemi. But they still have to juggle their involvements as

students and with friends. The biggest concern is time. The couple relates that instead of each of them hanging out with his or her friends separately, they all hang out together, allowing for Josh and Jill to see more of each other in their busy schedules.

"We think it is important to spend time with our friends every once in a while," they agree.

However, for these two, being around other people is never a problem. It is making sure they have time together *and* alone.

"I get time alone almost every day, because I

get out of class earlier than he does," Jill says.

But this is not the same for Josh, who says he rarely has alone time because of his schedule.

Their individuality is easily maintained due to extracurricular activities and difference in classes.

"She has her time on the cheerleading squad, and I have mine when I lift and work out with my buddies," Josh says. "We don't see each other the entire day, so we are definitely our own people."

"The busy day makes us appreciate our evenings alone together. It is nice to at least have a few hours a day with each other," Jill says.

With all the complications of marriage, especially when the partners are still in school, Jill and Josh seem to be handling and even enjoying their life as a couple. Jill may have better described marriage by saying, "Marriage is dangerous and risky, but it is also a blessing. I recommend it to any couple who thinks they are ready and God has a huge part in it."

Josh knew three months into their dating relationship freshman year that Jill was "the one," but God knew it all along.



Josh and Jill (Swanson) Niemi were married July 22, 2005, just a month before they started their junior year of college. Despite adjusting to married life, the couple remains an involved part of Olivet's campus and trusts God to fulfill their needs.

"Since I have a lighter load, I usually cook and clean, but he definitely helps me out when he can," Jill says.

"We even help each other with homework and help each other find the best way to handle certain situations,"

## Katt/Mouse by David Moore



## Katt/Mouse by David Moore





## Broadway hits come to ONU stage

Among featured musicals will be *Rent*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Monty Python's Spamalot*

By **Olivia Hodges**

A&E editor

When most Olivet students were busy socializing, going to the movies or dining on pizza late last Friday night, the sounds of Broadway classics could be heard trickling out of Kresge Auditorium. Nearly 35 students were inside, socializing, singing and trying to prove that, yes, Nazarenes can learn choreography in preparation for Olivet's annual production of Broadway Revue.

As choreographer and Olivet senior Annika Bellinger intensely watches the movements and facial expressions of 20 students on stage, marching to the beat of the *Lés Misérables* classic "Do You Hear the People Sing?", director and Olivet sophomore Colin Aumiller smacks his hand against the stage, serving as a human metronome for the singers.

Broadway Revue, an annual Friends and Fam-

ily weekend classic, is a revue or collection of hit song-and-dance numbers from Broadway classics. A completely student-run affair, the show is directed and choreographed by Olivet students, and features musicians and actor-singers from virtually all fields of study.

While it is a yearly event, the audience can expect to hear new songs belted out from the stage.

"The director chooses the songs," said sophomore Emilee Foxworthy, assistant director, "but we try to choose songs that haven't been done in at least the past four years, so they aren't the same ones the audience has heard."

Foxworthy said that this year's production will feature many new songs, as well as some returning favorites that were done five or six years ago.

For many people, the performance of the *Rent* classic "Seasons of Love" is high-



Director Colin Aumiller (left) rehearses "Masquerade" with his brother Dan on Monday.

ly anticipated.

Aumiller said the song may be the best in the Revue.

"It has a really powerful message," he said, "and our

two soloists are incredible."

Foxworthy said other highlights include the 1980s youth dance anthem "Fame" from the musical *Fame*, as well

as "Knights of the Roundtable" from the recent Broadway hit, *Monty Python's Spamalot*.

See **BROADWAY** › PAGE 6

## Audio Adrenaline to play Olivet Sept. 24

By **Rachel Buller**

A&E writer

This Saturday, Olivet Nazarene will roll out the red carpet for more than just prospective students considering the university. In McHie Arena at 7 p.m., Grammy Award-winning band Audio Adrenaline and opening bands Pillar, Superchic[k], Sanctus Real and Kids in the Way will perform, making a stop in Bourbonnais on their 20-plus-city major market tour.

Audio Adrenaline is touring in support of their highly anticipated, ninth studio album entitled "Until My Heart Caves In."

Known for their energetic and explosive feel, Audio Adrenaline remains one

of today's hottest touring musical attractions.

Lead singer Mark Stuart wants fans, however, to understand the deep spiritual truths within the new album.

"It is about living for God until your body collapses; it's about never giving up," says Stuart. "We should be worried less about the nice clothes and plastic personas and more about getting on the edge, living with authentic and real passion. This upcoming tour will challenge attendees to live like warriors and to be genuine in their relationships, faith and lifestyles."

The concert is sponsored by WONU-Shine.FM, who has partnered with top musical talent in the nation to

give ONU and Chicagoland a great concert experience.

Part of that experience includes a show by Barlow Girl, who will make an appearance at Olivet for the first time Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

The group, consisting of sisters Rebecca, Alyssa and Lauren Barlow, played backup for their father's band for two years, before Lauren, who was the keyboard player, discovered drumming. Soon after, the girls formed their own group and have been gaining popularity for the past 3 1/2 years under the Fervent record label.

In Barlow Girl's new CD *Another Journal Entry*, issues such as modesty, sexual purity and the pursuit of Godliness continue to fill the band's lyrics and musical platform.

Their CD is scheduled to release the night of ONU's concert and will be made available for only \$10.

While the Barlow Girl concert is free of charge, general admission to see Audio Adrenaline costs \$20 for an individual ticket and \$25 for tower seating, located within the first 20 feet of the stage. Groups of 10 or more cost \$17 a ticket.

Justin Knight, sta-



Audio Adrenaline is one of five Christian bands that will perform in McHie Arena on Sept. 24. The others are Pillar, Superchic[k], Sanctus Real and Kids in the Way.

tion manager at Shine 89.7, expects a large turnout from both the Olivet and the Bourbonnais communities.

"We are expecting between 300-500 ONU students at the Audio Adrenaline concert show on the 24th," he said. "Kathy Jewell and the Office of Student Development have been able to se-

cure a great discount price to most concerts for ONU students. Typically, Olivet students account for 20 percent of the overall attendance."

With the exception of Pillar, all of the bands playing on Sept. 24 have appeared in Bourbonnais before.

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## BROADWAY REVUE

◀ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"I think it's a song that a lot of the guys in the audience will enjoy," she said.

In addition, the Revue will feature songs from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Godspell*, *Wicked*, *West Side Story*, *Jekyll and Hyde* and *The Producers*.

While the performance has always featured student performers, this year will bring added ONU musical talent.

"We used to have a small, basic backup band every year," said Foxworthy, "but this year, we have even more instruments." All music for the performance has been scored by Olivet 2005 graduate Phil Smith.

As with any theater production, difficulties such as commitment have surfaced.

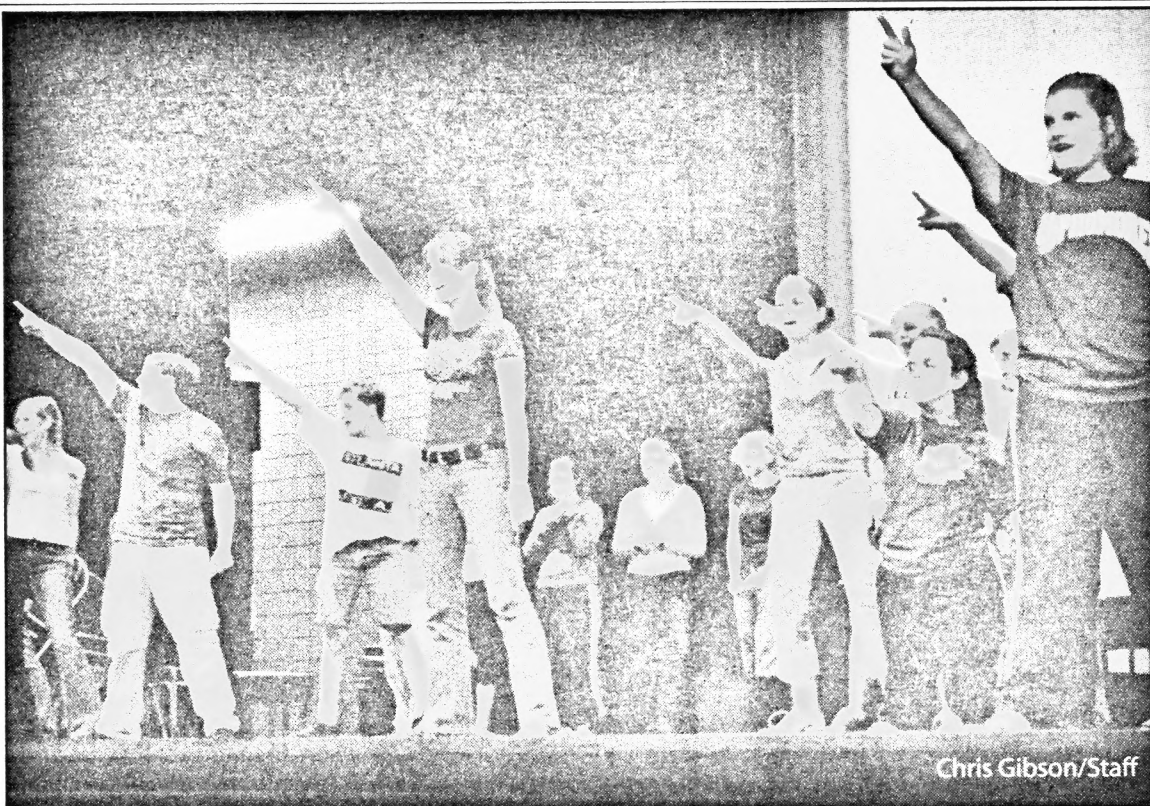
"We've had some problems with commitment,"

Foxworthy said. "Because it's the beginning of the year, I think it's been hard for people with everything else going on. ... We've had about seven people drop out."

That said, the production has been steadily improving. On Friday evening, Foxworthy and Aumiller were unsure if the song "Masquerade" from *Phantom of the Opera* would be ready for performance. But two hours later, the singers showed immense improvement in music and lyric memorization, and the song is still slated to be in the show.

Due to even more progress, all involved are confident the end result will be worthy of top-notch reviews.

"We have so much potential, and so many great singers and actors. We're doing really well," said freshman Megan Ralston, a performer



Performers from Broadway Revue rehearse the finale from the musical "Fame."

in "Seasons of Love" and "Do You Hear the People Singing?"

"We have a lot of great talent," Foxworthy said. "Broadway Revue is awe-

some, fun and affordable. Every year, you hear people talk about how fun it was, and it's going to be the same way this year."

"It's going to be the

best Broadway Revue ever," Aumiller said.

Tickets for Broadway Revue are \$3 and will be available at the door.

## Behind the laughs with S4F

By J. Swigart, O. Hodges

A&E writers

On Wednesday, Sept. 9, Olivet's improv comedy troupe, Spoons4Forks, treated a packed house to an evening full of laughs for their first show of their fourth season.

Due to overcrowding in the Red Room last year, the performance was held in Wisner Auditorium, though the attendance problem continued to persist, as all the seats were full, leaving students to sit on the floor or find any available standing room.

Despite a full house, the show went on. In fact, the large crowd worked to the advantage of the performers.

"The more people that show up, the better our shows are going to be," said junior Matt McMahan, troupe co-leader.

McMahan's words held true for freshman Sarah Neidel, who was impressed with her first glimpse of Spoons4Forks.

"They were all really talented and it's awesome that they can perform like that," she said.

Senior Ellen Chodzko, a longtime fan of the troupe, felt the group had improved since last year.

"They had some better quality acts," she said. "They seemed to be a little bit more into it. ... They were really energetic."

While co-leaders David Moore and McMahan hope to improve even more over the

coming year, McMahan is confident in the troupe's ability to provide clean, humorous entertainment for the community.

"We're all very confident in the caliber of funny that we can deliver each and every night," said McMahan.

Helping to raise the caliber are this year's new members, Catherine Haynes, Matthew Lyle and Tristan Riddell. Selected from a pool of over 20 students who auditioned earlier this semester, they will join seven returning performers.

"I'm completely ecstatic," Moore said of the new members.

"We had so much talent to choose from in the auditions, and we definitely have some excellent performers."

As Spoons4Forks continues to increase in popularity, ideas for new types of shows are being discussed.

One idea is a long-form improv show, similar in style to ImprovOlympics, consisting of a 45-minute series of mini-shows strung together to create one show with a continuing theme.

Also being discussed is the possibility of a "Mystery Science Theater 3000"-style show in which troupe members would "jokingly make fun of a bad movie in front of a live audience," as well as a sketch comedy show in the style of "Saturday Night Live," which Spoons4Forks introduced last year.

Due to success on

campus, Spoons4Forks is touring more frequently around Kankakee County and neighboring states.

"Churches will call us up, and we rarely decline," McMahan said.

When performing at churches, the troupe does not skew the material to religion.

"We offer an alternative, not a message," Moore said.

"The tone of improv is not serious," added McMahan. "We juxtapose social constructs, and when you bring religion into that, the result isn't too good."

Instead, the group of-

fers clean, "Olivet-appropriate" material, while still delivering laughs.

For Spoons4Forks members, each performance is a labor of love.

"We like to be on stage," Moore added. "We all like improv."

"Everyone on the troupe loves to hear people laugh," McMahan said.

The group members hope to draw large numbers when they play at a Manteno church in early October, as well as in a campus show tentatively scheduled for Friday, Oct. 14.



Scott Karalis, Matt Stone, Matt McMahan, David Moore, Landon DeCrautos and Tyler Mowry, six of the returning S4F members

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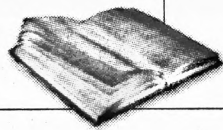
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## Student reflects on past revival

*Mulieri gives insight on the need for revival on campus*

By Simone Mulieri

Spiritual Life writer

*"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed"*

Romans 13:11

I have always wondered why, if Christ came to give abundant life and to free us from the bondage of sin, Christians don't take full possession of His riches, taking Him in and expressing Him out. I look around me and even within me, and I see comfort, conformity and acts of the sinful nature (like pride and jealousy) obscurely hidden. Is this what Christ intends for us? To be saved, and yet rage against the desires of the sinful nature? By no means!

He became the life-giving Spirit in order for us to overcome the cravings of this world. Charles Finney, one of the most widely known revivalists of the 20th century in America, made conversion the pivotal element of a transformed life, but conspicuously held that revival was necessary for a soul who sought to foment a deeper understanding of what it meant to live a Christian life.

It was then that I understood that apart from Him, I could be nothing, I could do nothing, I could

see nothing. Many were the factors that led to the sense of this seemingly new discovery. Last semester, I started reading books and biographies of people who fully surrendered their lives to Christ.

Rees Howells, just to mention one of them, influenced my life in a pragmatic way. Through his testimony, the Lord showed me that the only way to be revived was through prayer.

Toni Smith, my resident director at that time, supported a prayer group composed of seven girls, and we started to pray and seek God's face every Thursday night. Soon enough, our own lives had been vivified and we were found thirsting for more and interceding for this campus with groans that words cannot express.

This wonderful woman of prayer was one other decisive factor that pointed me to the victorious Christian life. And a victorious Christian life is, after all, what revival is all about: living in victory day by day. "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed daily," according to 2 Corinthians 4:16.

Jonathan Edwards once said, "If those who are lost do not cry out for their own souls, then I must." The Lord placed a burden within the hearts of my prayer group to cry out for this campus and



Chris Gibson/Staff

Marcus Winn, Katie Sifferd and Jordan Bumgarner close up Sunday night's revival service at College Church as students kneel to pray at the altar.

our community. Prayer begot revival in our lives and, at the same time, revival begot transformation. It did not matter if we were tired or if we had to study; the Lord took over our lives and everything else seemed meaningless when we entered in His presence.

I want you to understand that I am not writing to boast about something that we have done. On the contrary, we have done nothing besides seeking and obeying. We simply knocked and the doors of heaven opened up. We just asked and it was given to us.

We sought and we found!

This is why I write: to invite you to knock, seek and ask! What you will find will not be just treasure in heaven one day, but an imperishable reward here on earth: the power to overcome this world through His Holy Spirit!

## Festival of Ministries

By Emily Davis

Spiritual Life Editor

Olivet's ministry teams came together Wednesday, Sept. 14, during the annual Festival of Ministries chapel to share the new opportunities open to students for ministry and spiritual involvement on campus.

The Festival of Ministries chapel is held every fall to allow the ministry teams on campus to share their specific ministry and program with the student body and allow those students interested to get involved.

Vice President for Spiritual Life McCartha McKenzie acts as the representative of the ministries

to both the student body and the administration.

"Festival of Ministries is about our council's vision of this campus committing to the work of the Lord, abandoning our own agendas and picking up the cross of Christ," McKenzie said.

Each ministry is designed to focus specifically on either "Inreach" programs or "Outreach" programs. "Inreach" programs focus primarily on the spiritual health and growth of the Olivet student body, while "Outreach" programs desire to reach beyond Olivet to the youth, impoverished, elderly and others with special needs in the surrounding communities.

"We go to the unwanted places, the outcast areas, and touch the forbidden areas of need," McKenzie said, "All of the ministries have different parts in the body of Christ, different gifts that work for His glory."

Students were also introduced to the various traveling ministries available at Olivet, which offer those students with vocal and dramatic talents opportunities to travel to regional churches and share God's Word.

Students interested in campus ministries can continue to sign up for any of the teams by contacting the McKenzie at SpiritualLife@olivet.edu.



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# Spiritual Life VP sets goal for students

## McKenzie shares personal struggle to accept God's plan

By **McCartha McKenzie**

Spiritual Life writer

Have you ever felt like everything you were sure of in life kind of became one big "I don't know?" Just a few days back, while reading 2 Timothy 1:6-7, I was taken back to a time this past summer that filled me with this same uncertainty.

The Scripture reads, "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

It is natural for Christians to want to see God work definitively. This summer, I only intended to spend my summer preaching the gospel, regardless if it was in a mission field abroad or scattered throughout my local surroundings. However, this was not the case. Amazingly, I had many offers to work inside of camp, conference,

team-building and leadership settings — all of which I was more than ready to take on, but God would not allow me peace concerning any of these things, and all that was forced didn't work out. I felt as though God was telling me my work was at home.

My home church was in the midst of a spiritual battle filled with turmoil and separation, and I was often content to simply worship and never speak out. I could not understand why God had brought me home if I could not find the words to soothe the situation. On top of all this, I had expected to assist my father in his duties as a youth pastor; however, he seemed to have more use for me at his pest-control business (tuition has to get paid somehow).

I quickly realized that I would come back to school and my fellow students would be hungry to see what the young man they had elected to be a student spiritual leader on campus had done all summer

— and I wasn't feeling comfortable about anything. So, I began to pray whenever I could. I knew my gift had to be

**"I have learned that life is not all about me, but about denying me to find out the specific agenda of God and what His purpose is in you, not just for you."**

» **MCCARTHA MCKENZIE**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF  
SPIRITUAL LIFE

flamed, but how? I didn't feel fearful; I just felt powerless.

So, more prayer came everywhere: in the back seat of a pickup truck during work; before, after and during church; on basketball courts; and in my bedroom. Before long, I began to feel encouraged. But why

was this? I discovered that I was mostly lifted, as well as found joy, in times of prayer and in times of intercession. So, I focused on those things and God soon revealed to me His fool-proof plan.

There are two things that accompany fanning the flames of the gifts we have been given. The first I came across further in 2 Timothy, verse 12: "That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day." I wasn't completely entrusting God with what He had given me. We must avidly search the way God plans to use us as open vessels for His kingdom. I originally thought the only way for me to serve God was through words, but, later, I found that my walk — as well as my secret talks — with the Father was effective. My prayers were being heard, and God was blessing the land

around in ways that I could not initially see. Secondly, the Word tells us that since we are the set-aside people for God, that we should lay aside every weight and sin that so easily distracts us. It is easy to pay attention to sin, but what about the weight? Our sins are not the only things that hold us back; sometimes, it's us and we become the weight. That's why God says that any man that wants to follow Him must first deny himself, and then he can pick up his work to take on and follow Him.

I have learned that life is not all about me, but about denying me to find out the specific agenda of God and what His purpose is in you, not just for you. Who will let go to pick up the cross? This is my devoted and committed work for the year. I am on assignment by God to direct and inspire this campus toward the agenda of the Lord. Who else will step up and take confidence in the Lord with me?

# Reflections on the gift of grace

## Junior chaplain shares thoughts on the idea of 'earned' love

By **Eric Paul**

Spiritual Life writer

"Grace is not fair." Read it again, but slower. "Grace ... is ... not ... fair." These were the words spoken by our president in the first chapel, and they cannot go unnoticed. They demand our attention if by no other reason than the fact that we, finite beings, can hardly understand them.

We spent most of our lives as children and now as college students with the mindset that we must earn love. Just think about it. In elementary school, we got checkmarks for being quiet or good. Ten check marks would get me a candy bar.

Almost all of us probably had a sense of earned love in our home. I remember having to always measure up to what my older brother did academically. I noticed that, eventually, my parents stopped noticing the A's I brought home, but when my younger



Photo submitted

Eric Paul is a religion major from Richmond, Va., and is serving his second year as class chaplain.

sister brought home C's and B's, they would praise her for such a good job. I thought to myself, "What do I have to do to earn their attention?" What could I do to earn their love?

We all have our own stories of trying to gain love. The sad part, though,

is that we take our lives and experiences and relate them to God. We feel that we have to earn God's attention and favor, but nothing is further from the truth. When Jesus defended a woman caught in the act of adultery, He showed her grace. By Jewish law, she deserved, she earned, death by stoning. It was not fair that she got to go free, but Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and leave your life of sin." Jesus dispensed grace not because of who she was, but because of who He is. He does the same today.

Some of us may have seen a movie released a few years ago called "Summer of Sam." It's a movie based on a true story of man in the '70s who went on a killing spree in New York. David Berkowitz was given several life sentences and is still in prison to this day. God dispensed His grace upon the "Son of Sam" and he now leads a Bible study within the prison walls.

One day, he, along

**"We feel we that we have to earn God's attention and favor, but nothing is further from the truth."**

» **ERIC PAUL**  
JUNIOR CLASS CHAPLAIN

with President Bowling, a fellow man touched by grace, will stand in ceaseless praise to the One who ceaselessly loves.

Grace is an amazing gift given to every wretch of the world. Some of us have yet to receive it, but to those who have received it, it's not quite fair.






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# Tigers regaining strength



Olivet faces off against St. Francis in a recent home match. The Tigers won 3-0.

By **Michael McIntire**

Sports writer

Due to multiple injuries, the women's volleyball squad has yet to take its full team to a tourney — and team members feel it has affected the team significantly so far this season.

"We have a tough national schedule once again, so it's hard not being able to take a full team to the tournaments. Some of our losses have knocked us down mentally, which really affects how we go out and play every match,"

said head coach Brenda Williams.

As of now, the team stands with an 8-7 overall record, 2-0 in CCAC play, and is currently ranked No. 32 in the national poll.

"Soon, we should have everyone healthy and will go out and prove ourselves on a national level," said assistant coach Nick Griffin.

Last weekend, the team split four matches in the Lee University (Tenn.) Tournament. The two losses were handed to the Tigers by na-

tionally ranked opponents, No. 18 Lee University and No. 16 Georgetown.

So far this season, senior Emily Lindquist leads the team in kills (151), with freshman Michelle McFadden right on her heels (150). Sophomore Amber McKean comes in next with 110 kills.

Other statistical leaders include junior Megan Gullickson with 499 assists, junior Andrea Dykstra with 24 aces and sophomore Cyndi Rucker with 194 digs. Lindquist and McFadden also

lead the team with 78 blocks each.

This weekend, the team travels to Indiana to compete in the University of St. Francis (Ind.) Tournament, where the Tigers will play three matches, two against nationally ranked opponents.

"We have a lot of talent on this team. ... We have some great upcoming competition, and I believe we will do well."

» **BRENDA WILLIAMS**  
VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH

ent on this team; they just need to start believing in themselves and trusting one another," said Williams. "Due to injuries, they have yet to find a consistent chemistry on the court. We have some great upcoming competition, and I believe we will do well."

## HOME GAMES

**ONU Home Games**  
9/23 through 10/6

### FOOTBALL

9/24 Urbana (Ohio) 1:30  
10/1 Trinity Int'l 6:00

### VOLLEYBALL

9/30-10/1  
Holiday Inn Express  
Tournament  
10/4 Judson 7:30

### MEN'S SOCCER

10/3 Cardinal Stritch (Wisc.) 4:30

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

9/24 Ferris St. (Mich.) 2:00  
10/3 Cardinal Stritch (Mich.) 2:30  
10/6 Bethel (Ind.) 3:30

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

10/4 Lewis (Ill.) 3:00  
10/6 Robert Morris 3:00

# Road woes end Tigers' winning streak at two

By **Jimmy Street**

Sports editor

In what proved to be a couple weekends of roller coaster-style football, Olivet crushed the No. 7-ranked team, became ranked itself, and proceeded to be crushed by the No. 24-ranked team.

Saturday, the No. 22 Tigers (2-1) traveled to Canton, Ohio, for their first away game of the season, and fell to No. 24 Walsh (Ohio) (2-1) 24-14.

After having an easy time offensively against their first two opponents, the Tigers struggled to find the end zone and suffered tremendously from three second-half turnovers.

At the outset of the contest, Olivet scored at the end of a five-minute drive, which eventually led to a 4-yard touchdown run by tailback Jon Lochner.

However, following

the fast start, the Tigers would slow down considerably and fail to find the end zone again until the 4:55 mark in the fourth

**"... We out-gained them, out-hit them and had them holding onto their hats for a win."**

» **GARY NEWSOME**  
FOOTBALL HEAD COACH

quarter when Billy Lawrence ran for the final Olivet touchdown.

After the initial score, Walsh's Rob Lash returned Matt Soulia's kickoff 95 yards to quickly tie the game at 7-7.

Walsh would stick

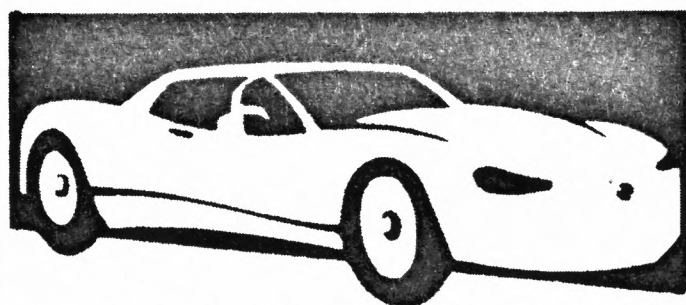
to the big play for its second score of the first quarter, as Antwain Reine' bolted for an 86-yard touchdown run, which would prove to put the Tigers down for good.

"The long TD run put us in a hole from which we never recovered, but certainly could have without the red-zone turnovers," said Olivet head coach Gary Newsome.

After the half, Olivet held Walsh to just a field goal. While the defense stepped up, there just wasn't enough gas left in the Tigers' tank after the long trip to Canton to muster a comeback.

Despite the loss, there were bright points for Olivet. Newsome said, "We won in every statistical category except the scoreboard, where it counts the most. We out-gained them, out-hit them and had them holding onto their hats for a win."

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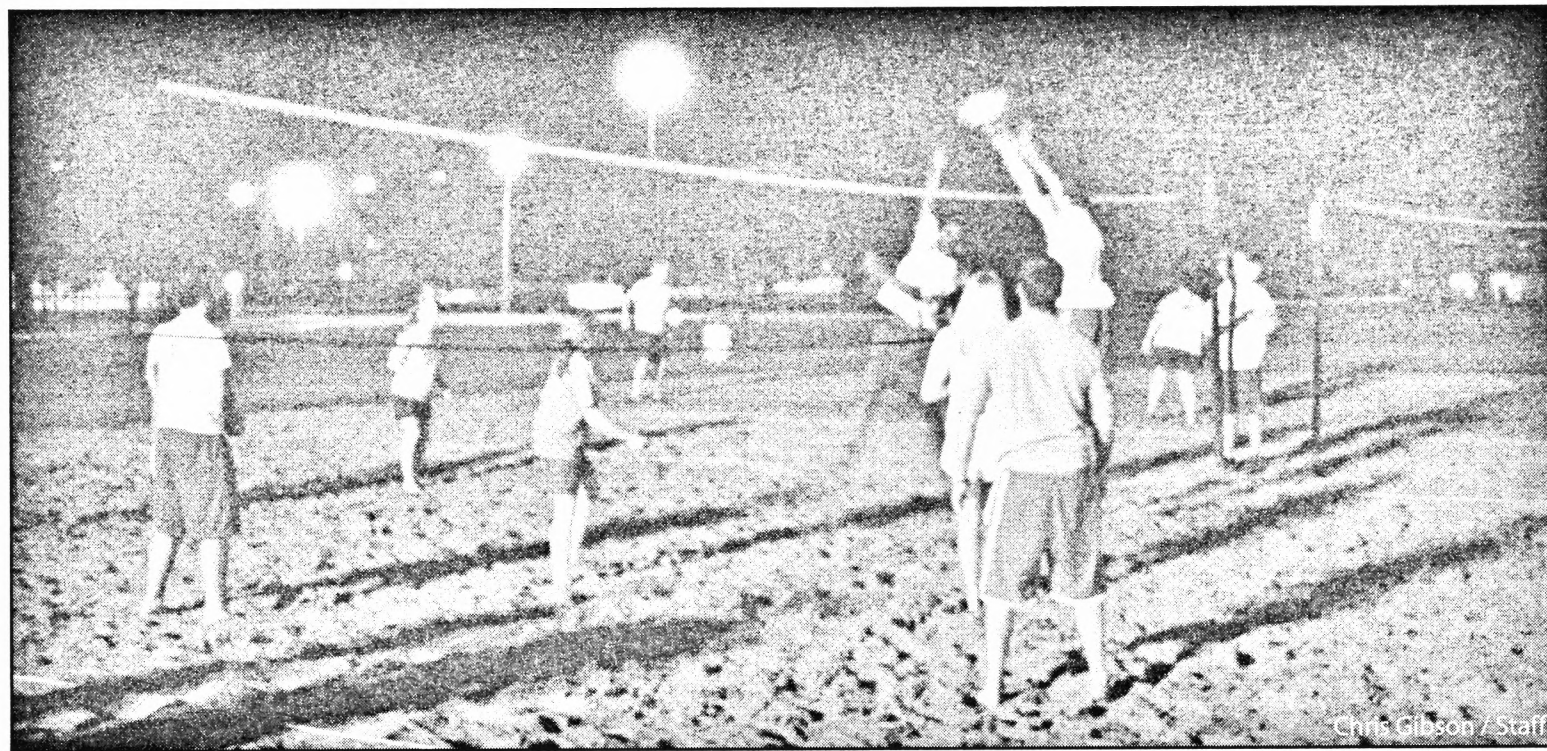
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# Finding a way to escape

*Intramural programs give students a healthy way to get away from the pressures of heavy academic workloads*



Olivet students participate in a game of co-ed sand volleyball on campus. Sand volleyball is one of over 40 activities offered by the intramural program as it continues to expand seemingly every year.

By **Jimmy Street**

Sports editor

During the academic week, students often find themselves submerged in a pressure-filled environment with deadlines and due dates constantly looming over their heads. However, some students are taking advantage of a temporary escape from the chaos: intramurals.

"I like intramurals because they provide me with opportunities to get away from classes and studying, while allowing me to play the games that I love," said senior Shane Cournia.

According to Olivet's intramural Web site, intramu-

ral programs are offered to promote "health, skill, social development, recreation and participation."

**"We have found that over 60 percent of the campus student body is involved in intramurals..."**

» **BOB KRING**  
DIRECTOR OF  
CAMPUS RECREATION

Bob Kring, director of campus recreation, heads up the program, which offers stu-

dents a wide variety of activities to participate in.

"We have found that over 60 percent of the campus student body is involved in intramurals, which puts the total number over 1,000 individuals," said Kring. "This is very high for any school and it is my privilege to be a part of a university that thinks so much of their students that they would hire a full-time director of campus recreation."

Olivet offers more than 40 competitions, ranging from sports to electronic gaming. Among fall offerings are flag football, Past spring offerings have included wallyball, dodgeball and volleyball.

Aside from the regular on-campus activities, Olivet implemented an extramural basketball team which participated in a tournament at Georgia Tech University last spring.

This year, Kring has plans to start extramural women's volleyball and men's flag football to complement the extramural basketball team and the men's club volleyball team.

For more information regarding intramural activities, visit [www.olivet.edu/campuslife/studentlife/intramurals.asp](http://www.olivet.edu/campuslife/studentlife/intramurals.asp).

## FOOTBALL

◀ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

See **FOOTBALL** PAGE 3

Joe Boseo threw for 222 yards on 21-39 passing. Boseo also threw one interception in the game. Jon Lochner took the majority of the running game on his shoulders and racked up 73 yards on 18 carries.

Defensively, Jeff Byrne and Jeremy Robinson led the team with nine tackles each, while Nate McNeese pitched in eight tackles for the Tigers.

"We will be back!" said Newsome.

The Tigers will indeed be back in action this weekend at home to start a two-game

homestand, starting with Urbana (Ohio) at Ward Field. Kickoff is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Last Saturday, Olivet (2-0) proved it belonged with the best and defeated seventh-ranked Lindenwood University (Mo.) (0-2) 23-7.

Lindenwood ran the table in 2004, ending the season at 11-0 to attain a high early-season ranking, but the Tigers simply manhandled the Lions to keep last year's powerhouse looking for its first win of the year.

Just as the Tigers did in the first game against Anderson, Olivet struck first by scoring at the end of an 85-yard drive on a 2-yard touchdown run by Billy Lawrence, as the

Tigers took the early lead and ran with it.

The Olivet defense gave an impressive showing against the highly touted Lions.

Lindenwood had trouble holding onto the football, fumbling six times. Three of those fumbles were recovered by the Tiger defense. Justin Carmean recovered two fumbles, while Eric Peterson fell on the other loose ball.

Lindenwood answered when quarterback Brent Hodgkiss connected with George Mumphard midway through the second quarter to cut the Tiger lead to 10-7.

After the Hodgkiss touchdown pass, the Lions would fail to score again, as

the Tigers ran away with the game and headed straight into the NAIA national rankings.

Kicker Matt Soulia converted on three field goals to aid the Tigers in the win. Soulia's kicks were from 20, 27 and 39 yards out.

Joe Boseo was nearly perfect for the Tigers, as he converted on 21-27 passes for 222 yards and a touchdown. Boseo's favorite target for the evening seemed to be Drew Bufford, who led the Olivet receiving corps with six catches for 97 yards as well as a touchdown.

The Tigers' solid defensive effort was led by Peterson, who tallied nine tackles. Chris Bjorkland added eight tackles and Jeremy Robinson

## SCORE BOARD

ONU Scores and Results

### FOOTBALL

Lindenwood (Mo.) W 23-7  
@ Walsh (Ohio) L 14-24

### VOLLEYBALL

@ Wis.-Parkside W 3-0  
Calumet Coll. of St. Joseph (Ind.) W 3-0

#### @ Lee Univ. (Tenn.) Tournament

Faulkner (Ala.) W 3-0  
Georgetown (Ky.) L 0-3  
Lee Univ. (Tenn.) L 0-3  
Spring Hill Coll. (Ala.) W 3-0

### MEN'S SOCCER

@ Ind. Wesleyan W 4-3  
@ St. Xavier L 0-2  
@ Ill. Inst. Tech. W 3-2

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Saginaw Valley St. Univ. (Mich.) L 1-3  
@ Spring Arbor Univ. (Mich.) L 0-4  
@ Ill. Inst. Tech. W 5-1  
@ St. Xavier L 0-2  
Coll. of St. Mary (Neb.) L 1-2  
Trinity Int'l L 1-4

### MEN'S XC

@ Bradley Univ. (Ill.) Open fifth place

### WOMEN'S XC

@ Bradley Univ. (Ill.) Open second place

### GOLF

@ Robert Morris Invit. third place

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

@ Quincy Univ. (Ill.) Tourn. first place

Elmhurst (Ill.) W 9-0  
Bethel (Ind.) W 5-4  
St. Francis W 8-1

Scores courtesy of [olivet.edu/athletics](http://olivet.edu/athletics)



## PARISI: 'SELLING JESUS FOR THE MASSES'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

Texas, Georgia and Illinois all boast a large number of them, and attendance at some of the largest organizations can reach past 30,000 per week.

What is it that draws such large crowds to hear the gospel preached? Putting the inherent work of the Holy Spirit aside, product branding and image marketing play a key role in drawing people to the altar on Sunday mornings. Megachurches are famous for stadium-style sanctuaries, rock 'n' roll bands, graphically savvy bulletins and in-house coffee shops. Each of these elements provides an overall "experience" that has the capability of drawing a crowd time and time again.

Yet I cannot help but wonder why it takes Broadway-style drama and Olympic-sized recreation fields to draw Americans to Jesus. We could easily blame American capitalism for developing a society dependant on excess consumption, but I believe the answer lies beyond economics. An honest look at reality reveals the Church's increasing

refusal to live a life wholly dedicated to the entire gospel message it so desperately tries to sell. And those who come to church hungry because they smell the fragrance of fellowship and fun are never fooled when they leave still starved and sorrowed.

**"Putting the Holy Spirit aside, product branding and image marketing play a key role in drawing people to the altar on Sunday mornings."**

» SARAH PARISI  
FORUM WRITER

Megachurches clearly advertise a gospel message of abundance. Yet, Jesus informs us in Luke 14:33 that any disciple who "does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple." Clearly, this is a petition for the Church to

humble itself in its expenditures and use wisely the economic gifts of the Lord. Too often the cost of discipleship is seen in the expense of multiple plasma screen TVs for the youth room, and plush carpet for the sanctuary, causing the real cost of following Jesus — that of living minimally and giving generously — to be overlooked.

Furthermore, and perhaps more disappointingly, megachurches foster the belief that the Christian lifestyle requires minimal commitment. Attendees can slip in and out unnoticed, resulting in a community whose members lack any accountability. Consequently, the Church produces only entertained audiences rather than trained disciples.

The intentional building up of disciples after Jesus' own heart defines the purpose of the Church. Jesus commissions His followers in Matthew 28:19 to "go and make disciples of all nations." Unfortunately, Church history reveals that after Christ's death,

His bride became more focused on settling theological disputes, building fancy cathedrals and fighting religious wars than on following His commands. More recently, the world watches as the Church continues to tout false advertisement of the Christian message.

After centuries of false advertising, megachurches of today must resort to colorful

**"Too often, the cost of discipleship is seen in the expense of multiple plasma screen TVs for the youth room and plush carpet for the sanctuary."**

» SARAH PARISI  
FORUM WRITER

brochures and hip videos to draw a crowd of converts. Yet I cannot help but think that the Church of today needs to go back to the drawing board. While advertising depends on

propagating lies and deception, what if the Church intentionally decided to sell truth? What if the Church focused on creating Jesus followers who authentically lived as Jesus did rather than Jesus followers who simply amused themselves to death with the latest media technology?

If the Church really wants to expand the Kingdom of Heaven, we must abandon the tried and failed strategy of branding Jesus and rely instead on the transformative power of Jesus living within us. I believe that if God's people were to live such genuine lives of faith, the physical manifestation of God's Word would be enough to attract the masses to follow Jesus — and sales of truth would skyrocket.

But, living such a life requires more work than simply developing an ad campaign and designing a savvy logo. But who was Jesus to take the easy road?

*Sarah Parisi is a junior art major. Comments may be sent to [sparisi@olivet.edu](mailto:sparisi@olivet.edu).*

## STINNETT: 'DILUTING CHRIST'S MESSAGE'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

and no longer followed Him." Simply put, was Jesus seeker-friendly?

Some churches have diluted the gospel so much that all a person has to do to receive salvation is say a prayer and Jesus takes care of the rest. Where is the realization of sin? Where is repentance?

It's simply, "Repeat after me and Jesus will come into your heart." People parrot the sinner's prayer and continue in sin, never intending to obey God's commands. So, did they get saved? 1 John 3:6 says, "Those who keep on sinning have never known [Christ] or

**"People parrot the sinner's prayer and continue in sin, never intending to obey God's commands."**

» DANIEL STINNETT  
FORUM WRITER

understood who He is." My question is, does the size of the Church have anything to

do with the message that is preached?

Some megachurches preach the gospel in its fullness, commanding people to repent, turn from their sin, and turn to Christ. Such preaching doesn't attract the media, but it does produce genuine Christians. And, over time, the Church grows.

Other megachurches, however, market themselves by preaching a neatly packaged message that says, "God has a wonderful plan for your life. Jesus wants to give you love, joy, peace, happiness, and life-fulfillment." Again, questions arise. How does that jive with the Scriptures of John 16:33: "In this world, you will have trouble" or John 15:21: "People will hate you for being my followers." And then there's always Romans 3:23: "The wages of sin ...".

Assuming you are a college student (or at least in a college setting), entertain the following scenario for me. One of your professors gives you the book for his class and tells you, "This book is going to give you love, joy, peace,

happiness and life-fulfillment." Gratefully, you accept the book and start the first chapter. As you begin reading, though, you become confused, frustrated

**"My question is, does the size of the church have anything to do with the message that is preached?"**

» DANIEL STINNETT  
FORUM WRITER

and angry. Why would the professor mislead you? The book brings you none of the things he promised. In fact, reading it only adds stress to your life. So, you sell it on e-Bay. Unfortunately, when you take the final exam, you fail.

Extending this metaphor a bit more, suppose the professor informed you from the get-go that there would be a test over all the material and you would need to study the book to pass. How different would your response be then? Putting

your frustration aside, you would study it, knowing it is your only hope to receiving a passing grade, even if it meant sacrificing some of your time for fun.

Moving from figurative to literal, here's the explanation: Jesus is the book, the class is life, passing or failing is heaven or hell, the professor is the Christian, and what the professor told you about the book is the

message about God. Some professors have eight students. Others have 600. Both of their courses have the same final. How well you do on it won't be determined by the size of your class, but by the message you believed.

*Daniel Stinnett is a junior biology major. Comments may be sent to [dstinnet@olivet.edu](mailto:dstinnet@olivet.edu).*



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# Megachurches: How big is too big?

*In 1970, there were 10 megachurches nationwide. Today, there are 740. Researchers define them as non-Catholic churches with consistent weekly attendance of at least 2,000 persons. They are attracting an increasing percentage of America's church-going population, ushering in a new business-savvy approach to religion in an era when smaller-sized churches are losing members. But how and at what cost are they doing this? Two students critique the phenomenon of megachurches.*

By Sarah Parisi

Forum writer

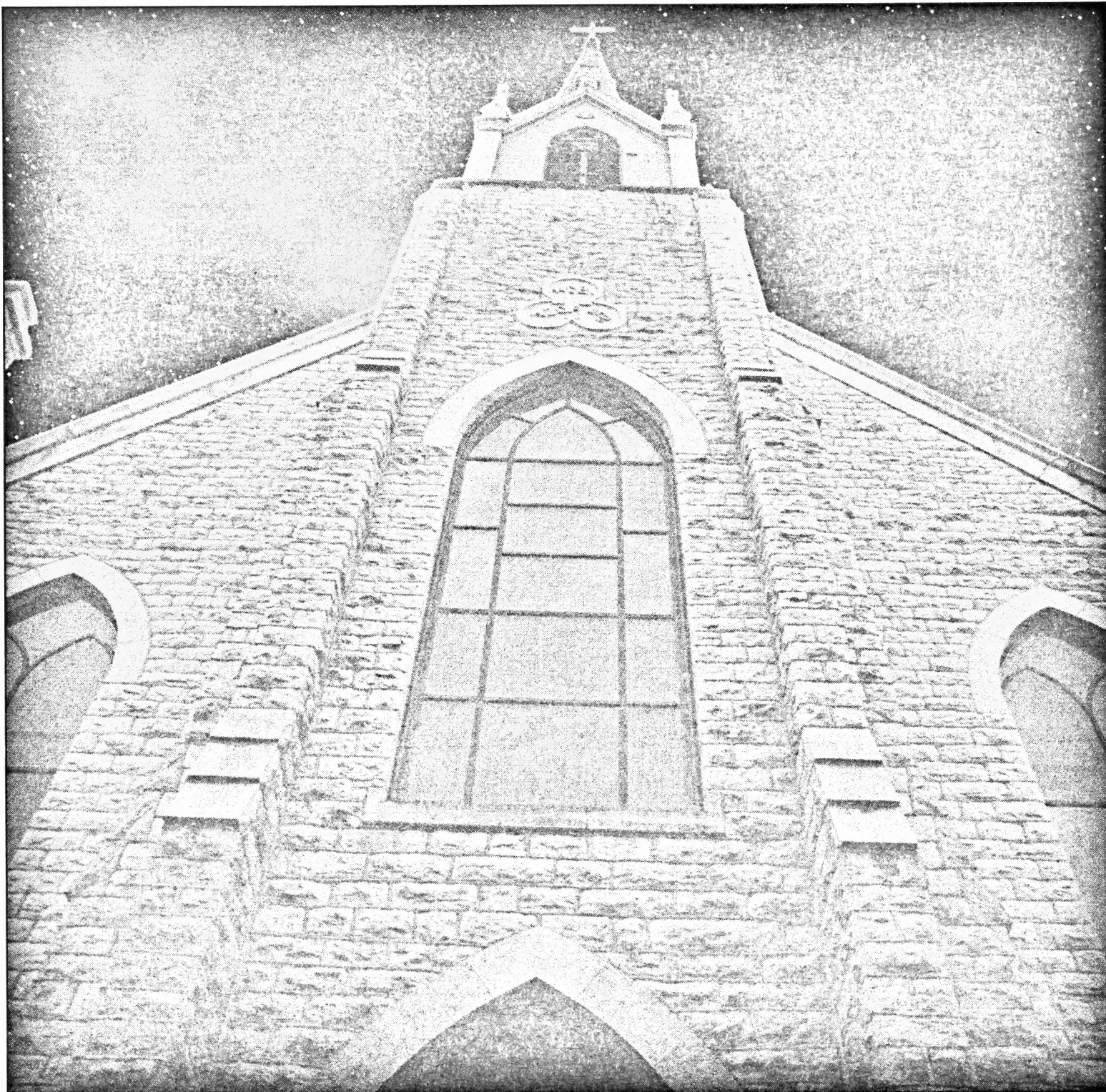
I love advertising. As shallow as it may seem, I love perusing the grocery store aisles to analyze different package designs. Store window displays admittedly entice me to the cash register. And for me, Super Bowl Sunday is not about great football, but about great ads.

But if the whole truth be told, I hate advertising. I hate the idea that it thrusts unnecessary products to an American society already drowning in piles of excess "stuff." I hate the visual vomit excessive billboards create when driving on the interstate. I hate advertising's sly method of creating needs so demanding that contentment never exists.

And I hate being a member of the American Church where Jesus is seen as a brand rather than as a Savior and salvation as a product

**"I hate being a member of the American church where Jesus is seen as a brand rather than as a Savior."**

» SARAH PARISI  
FORUM WRITER



Graphic by Chris Gibson / Staff

rather than as a gift of grace.

Persuasive speaking in the Church is not a new phenomenon. In fact, Paul spoke quite eloquently to the Romans for the distinct purpose

of leading them to Christ. And yet, while Christian evangelism has always centered on making truth desirable for the unsaved, the recent flowering

of so-called megachurches has brought the union of marketing and ministry to a new level.

Megachurches are defined by John Vaughn in

*Church Growth Today* as any non-Roman Catholic fellowship with a weekly attendance of over 2,000. According to Vaughn, these

churches have sprung up in increasing numbers since the 1970s. The states of California,

See **PARISI** PAGE 11

## *How churches are putting the 'mega' in megachurch*

By Daniel Stinnett

Forum writer

As I thought about megachurches, I first had to come up with a working definition of the concept. This was my first thought: A megachurch is a body of believers with X number of people.

So, is that good or bad? Can this working definition be categorized as such?

I decided to consider the early Church in hopes

of contriving some form of an answer to that question. Reading Acts, I knew that 3,000 people were added to the Church at Pentecost. Where did they meet? They went to the temple (which is equivalent to the churches of today) and also gathered in homes, eager to hear the 3,000-and-something number of apostles teach. With leadership numbers reaching the several thousand mark, the church in Ephesus was able to draw in 30,000

to 70,000 members! That's a megachurch by any standard past or present — and it's in Scripture.

But I couldn't stop there. I had too many questions.

Does it make a difference which message a church preaches in order to become a megachurch? I'm a biology major who hasn't studied preaching, but I have read what Jesus did in the gospels. What kinds of things

did He say to unbelievers, and

**"Does it make a difference which message a church preaches in order to become a megachurch?"**

» DANIEL STINNETT  
FORUM WRITER

how did they respond? Did

He ever tell them how much He loved them? Or, were His words more confrontational? "Repent. ... Turn from your sin. ... The Kingdom of God is at hand. ..." Did Jesus change His message for those who would be offended by it, even for those closest to Him? John 6:66 would suggest "No," detailing the reactions of some disciples who "turned back

See **STINNETT** PAGE 11