

## CHURCH: Accessible to all

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decade ago. He's been a pastor for 11 years.

"I've seen both ends of things," he said. "I've had lots of money and I've been on skid row."

But this church is something new. Arnopoulos says he's never been so excited. "It's like getting back into my old thing but not doing it." Instead, he says, he's helping other people get through the things he battled. He wants to serve those in wheelchairs, so the church is building ramps. He's also opened his doors recently to homosexuals.

His forum is a church that some neighbors describe as warm and friendly—although a bit garish with its three bright red-orange doors, golden domes and elevated crosses framed by concrete Stars of David. The area's alderman, Van White, says he's impressed with the effort by members of the congregation to renovate the building and the role the church is playing on the north side.

The nave is a pastel blue with numbered folding wood theater seats—all freshly varnished—and

a cross backlit with red Christmas lights. Stained-glass windows have been replaced and there's room and equipment enough for three bands on the stage.

Every week members of the congregation make 1,000 tapes of Arnopoulos's message, which are sent to Africa, to prisons and to other destinations. Arnopoulos is also on radio station KUXL every day from 1:30 to 2 p.m.

It's a hefty schedule, but Arnopoulos says his Greek background gave him a gift for organization. Right now, though, he's trying to raise money for a computer to keep things straight. With that, he said, he'd have a ready list of people in need when items became available.

Last week, for instance, he was scrambling to find people who'd like a shipment of pig tails and backs that the church received. He'd also like to use the computer to set up a day-labor operation to find jobs for people.

All of these activities are accomplished with about eight full-time volunteers and occasional get-togethers by the entire church—for

instance, to bag a donation of 200 bushels of apples. About \$2,300 a month comes from church members.

On Sunday, Arnopoulos said, about 300 people show up for services in a building that will accommodate about 1,100. He'd like to see all the seats filled and would like more retired volunteers who could run errands, such as picking up bread from bakeries and stores in Bloomington and Richfield.

Arnopoulos said the church gives away all of these things without asking questions or checking people out.

"I feel," he said, "if a man will take something, he needs it. With all of the questions that could be asked, you get to the end and that man will say, 'Gee, I feel kind of sick. I really don't want it.' There are one or two out of 100 who really don't need it so that's 2 percent wasted, and that's not bad."