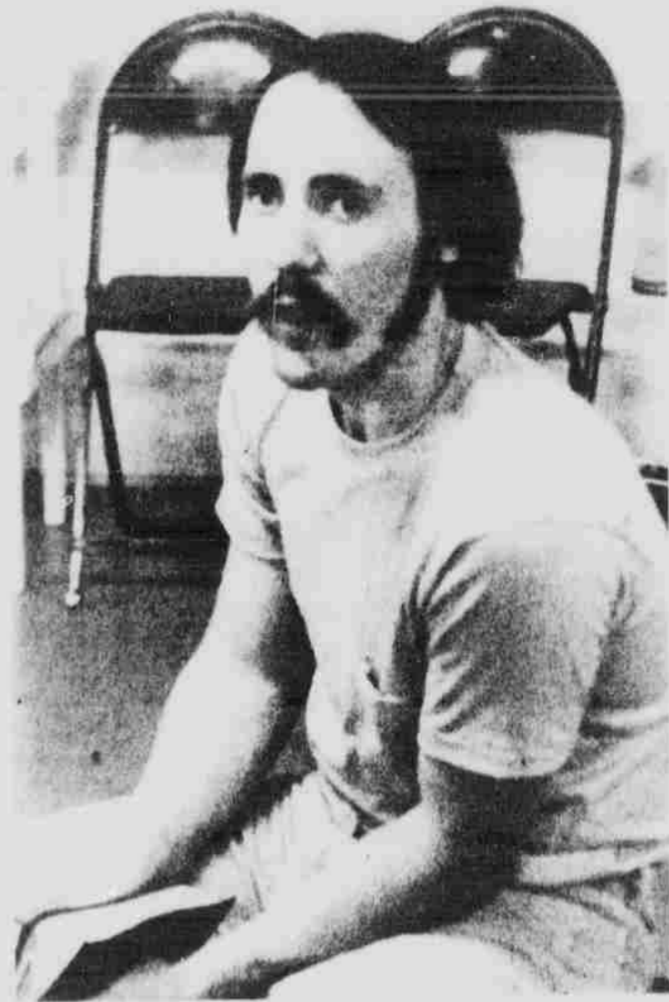


f in God



It's an old building that could use some paint on the inside, as well as a few nails and a ceiling panel here and there. At night it's rather dimly lit for the people who gather here, with its high ceiling and old-fashioned lighting.

The aisles and the area beneath the pews are carpeted, which seems a little out of place. In the daytime the stained-glass windows let in colored light, and the clear panes make the light translucent as it passes through the layers of dust. A journey into the "choir loft" (it's not used for that - it gathers more dust) reveals more chipping paint and loose panels.

But to the congregation, the physical condition of Christ Temple Mission, on the corner of 25th and S streets makes no difference. To them, it's the house of God, where they can join in praising Jesus Christ for His redemptive work on earth, and where no one is called a stranger.

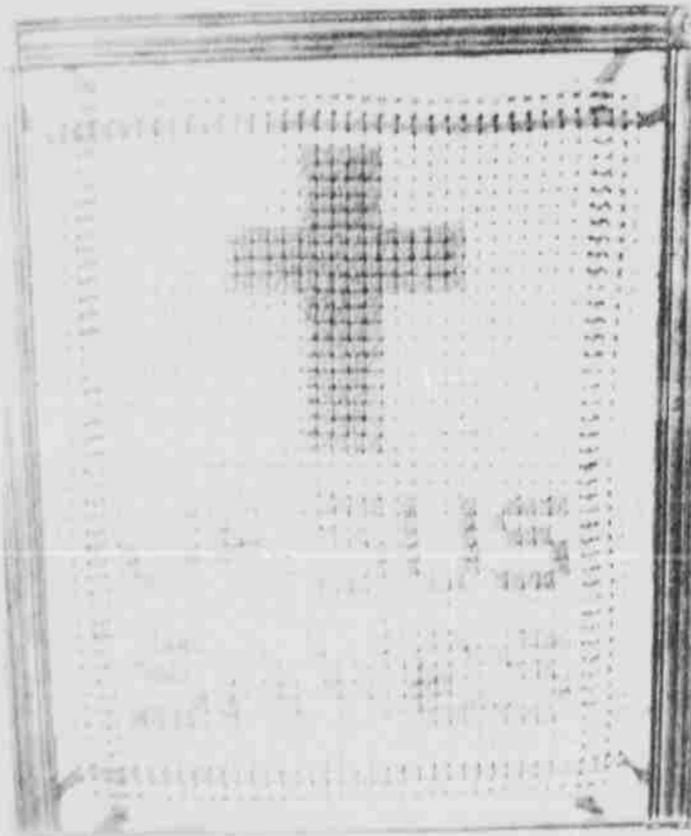
The members of this church are young and old, black and white, Chicano and Indian, sighted and blind. They have one thing in common - a firm belief in the practice of Christianity.

On Friday evenings, and twice on Sunday, services are held. Songs like "How Great Thou Art," "I'm Glad He Did (die for my sins)," and others are sung by soloists with the accompaniment of drums, tambourine, electric guitar, organ and piano, or by groups of two, three, or the whole choir.

During the services, everyone is encouraged to "speak up," giving a personal testimony on how good God has been to him, or to make a comment on God's greatness or the importance of Jesus Christ in his life.

The services rarely last less than an hour. No one is anxious to leave - they love it. Toward the end a collection is taken and visitors are led to introduce themselves.

Their belief centers around the Bible. The mission preached at Christ Temple boasts no official denomination, just a belief in Christ.



*Photos and story by
Harry Baumert*