

## Church

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Hall, who has been making the trip for 14 years, said she usually calls ahead to local stores to learn what food they carry and what she will need to bring with her.

She said this year they had to bring turnip greens and black-eyed peas.

The women are also responsible for keeping the workers water supply filled with water, tea, and Gatorade. Josey said typically the group will drink over 50 gallons of liquid a day.

"This is a reality check for us," Hall said. "We learn here you don't have to cross an ocean or go to another country to do missionary work. There's work that needs to be done in our own country."

Although the workers will work hard for two weeks, they generally return home with an added five pounds Josey said.

Corley said he also has received more rewards during his 16 years of working with the project than he had originally expected.

"I don't know these people well enough to be able to give this much away," Corley said. "That's not a judgement against them but I just can't give this much away. God called me to do it and it's something I have wanted to do."

Corley said it was also God's calling which helped New Covenant get selected over six other congregations to receive a church.

In October of 1995 25 members of Brookwood's congregation met at Corley's house to review the responses each congregation gave in asking for a new church.

Corley said there were many penetrating answers the congregation had to give based on its "spiritual standpoint."

"We're not here just to build a building for people to enjoy," Corley said. "We want to build a building that the congregation can use as a 'Tool of Ministry'. If they can use this tool we want to be sure they have it."

Although Corley has never seen any of his finished projects, he has kept in touch with the people from the congregations he built churches.

A church Brookwood helped build in Cleveland has doubled its congregation size after the building project and is now adding a major addition to the church.

And the congregation from last summer's project in Marlboro, Mass., has had a 40 percent increase in congregation since January.

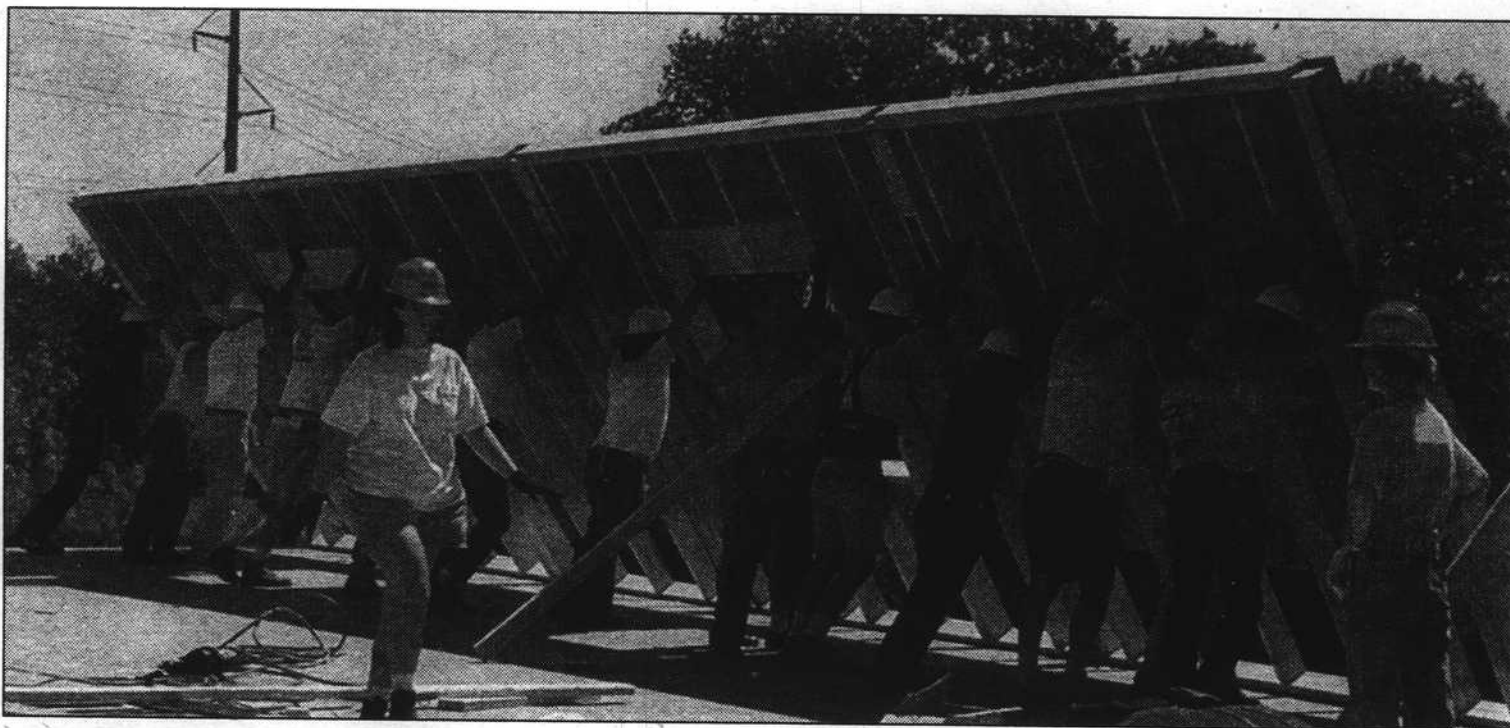
"All the churches we have built are self sustaining at this point," Corley said. "Plus many of the congregations we have built churches for have been part of the building missionary the following summer."

Brett Yohn, Director of UNL Christian Challenge and an elder for New Covenant, said the church is already making plans to work on a building missionary next summer.

Yohn said New Covenant's congregation is

Left: Bob Sartain adds canned peaches and homemade chocolate chip cookies to his lunch plate. The cookies were sent by volunteers who couldn't travel to Lincoln. Right: During lunch, Lawrence Corley, the project coordinator, tells volunteers how their work builds a church and spreads the message of Christ.

Photos by Tanna Kinnaman/DN



Members of the Brookwood construction team raise an outside wall of the new church. The volunteers hoped to have the walls and roof done by the weekend so internal construction could begin.

Mami Speck/DN

mainly made up of college students and 30 to 40-year-old businessmen.

"There are no deep pockets in our congregation," Yohn said. "We could not continue what is happening in Lincoln without their help. And we really want to keep reaching out to people."

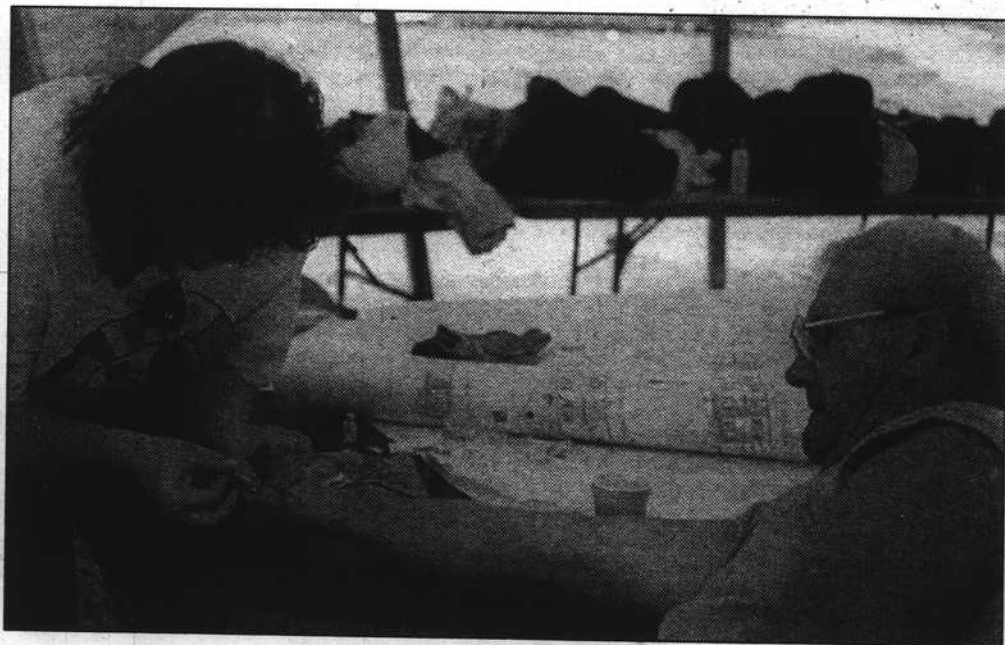
Since New Covenant started in Lincoln in 1985 its congregation has grown from just 30 members to over 400 in worship attendance. Last year 54 people were baptized in the church, most of whom were adult conversions.

Yohn said the new church will provide New Covenant with greater visibility and accessibility. For the last six years the congregation has been renting a Seventh-day Adventist church for Sunday services.

It is a humbling experience, Yohn said for him to watch the people work on building his congregation a church.

"This is inspiring because it makes you want to do more and give more," Yohn said. "It's a very inspirational effect."

"We had construction people out here on Monday who said the volunteer's work is exceeding anything they have ever seen. I think it's because these people are working with their hearts instead of just their hands."



Karen Smith, a nurse from Tampa, Fla., gives Walter "Buck" Jones shots of anesthetic. Jones, a retired fire chief from Eustes, Fla., received two stitches after cutting his hand on a piece of metal.

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