

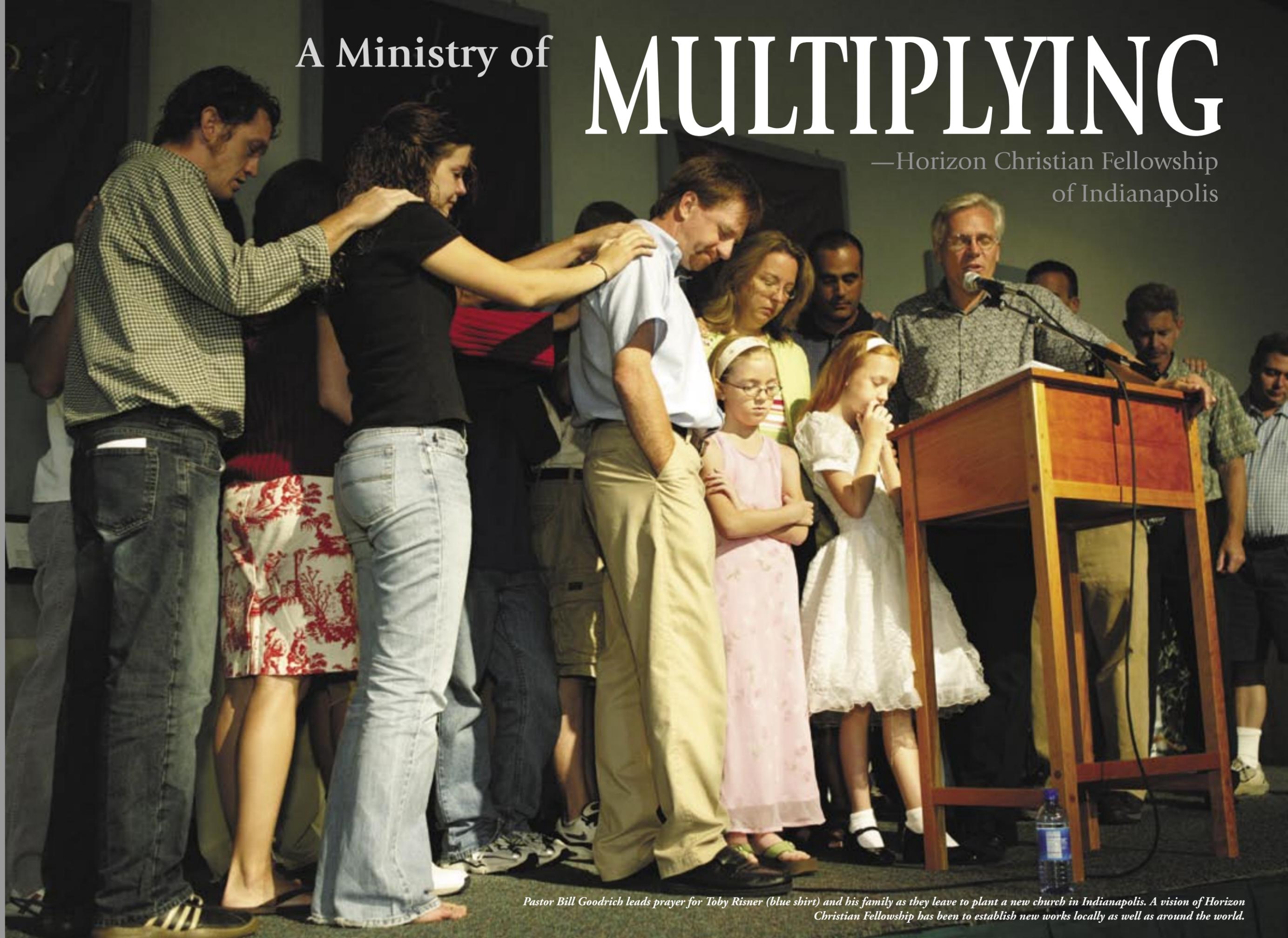
Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said,

**"HERE AM I! SEND ME."**

Isaiah 6:8

# A Ministry of **MULTIPLYING**

—Horizon Christian Fellowship  
of Indianapolis



*Pastor Bill Goodrich leads prayer for Toby Risner (blue shirt) and his family as they leave to plant a new church in Indianapolis. A vision of Horizon Christian Fellowship has been to establish new works locally as well as around the world.*



*Pastor Bill Goodrich.*

**When Pastor Bill Goodrich followed God’s call to move from San Diego to Indianapolis in 1986, he thought he would simply continue the threefold vision of Horizon Ministries: winning, discipling, and sending people, through Christ.**

**He had no idea how far and how fast God would multiply that work.**

*story by Christmas McGaughey  
photos by Shawn Spence*



*The praise team leads Sunday morning worship. Their Calvary Chapel Bible College draws a youthful crowd.*

In the past ten years, the mid-sized Horizon Christian Fellowship of Indianapolis has birthed nine sister churches in the Indianapolis area and planted three churches in Eastern Europe. Twenty missionaries and their families have been sent out and supported.

“We’ve seen people won to the Lord, disciplined, encouraged, and then sent out to serve Him in other places for His purposes,” Bill said from his office. When the Lord moved them to the former retreat center in 1991, away from the I-465 loop and the main flow of the city, Bill wondered why. “Then the Lord showed me, ‘I want you to send out other churches.’”



*The youth group has a time of fellowship after services.*



*Meeting for prayer before the service.*



*Horizon Christian Fellowship has planted nine churches in the Indianapolis area.*

### **Birthing Other Churches**

Horizon Christian Fellowship of Indianapolis “is not a large church by any means,” Bill said. “I don’t think God will ever have us grow to be 4,000 or 5,000 people.” Instead, he said, “A lot of people have seen it more as a sending center.”

The nine other churches vary in size and are scattered in different parts of Indianapolis. “Having several smaller churches around the city means that the Word is being taught all over the community,” Bill said, and that’s just fine with him.

“I’ve learned to release the ministry into God’s hands,” he added. After giving their lives to the Lord in 1975, Bill and his wife, Vi, continued attending Horizon Christian Fellowship in San Diego, where Bill later served as assistant pastor for nine years. “I learned from Senior Pastor Mike MacIntosh to keep my fingerprints off the ministry—to keep a loose hold and to release it to be multiplied out.”

Citing Proverbs 11:24-25, Pastor Bill said that one who scatters, increases more, but those who withhold from God will be reduced to poverty; and “he who waters will

also be watered himself.” Rather than trying to keep a tight hold on the ministry, he has enjoyed watching God multiply His people and the teaching of His Word. And when the Holy Spirit leads in a new direction, Bill said he has learned to say, “Yes, Sir.”

Jeff Seward, assistant pastor at Horizon Christian Fellowship in Indianapolis, said Bill is a down-to-earth, Spirit-led man.

Having worked with Bill in San Diego, Jeff moved to Indianapolis in 1993 to pastor the first church planted from Horizon Christian Fellowship in Indianapolis. “Because I



*Youth group members perform the skit "Redeemer." The pantomime is used to show the love of Christ through language barriers.*

know that Bill is open to the revelation and direction of the Lord, I don't think he'll ever wind up in a rut," said Jeff.

Watching a new fellowship sprout up nearly every year for the past decade has been very exciting. Compared to the West Coast, the Indianapolis area is a more conservative, traditional area with a lot of 'religion.' People have enjoyed the verse-by-verse teaching that characterizes Calvary Chapel ministries.

"People appreciate the genuineness here ... the emphasis on having an intimate relationship with God and relationships with other believers," Jeff said. "I believe God is going to do new and wonderful things here in the body."

While the sister Horizon churches are independent, they often work together for local outreaches—like the Festival of Life outreaches, which have been held in several parks around Indianapolis.

The church also places a strong emphasis on missions and has sent two missionary families to the Ukraine to plant two churches there. The church now supports nearly a dozen missionaries in that country. "We have focused many of our efforts in the Ukraine since 1991," Bill said. The church also supports more than twenty missionaries and their families in Costa Rica, Hungary, Mazatlan, Mexico, Peru, Scotland, and Zimbabwe.

## A Time of Wilderness

Following God's call is always good, but it's not always easy, according to Bill.

When he and Vi moved to Indianapolis, they weren't sure what the Lord wanted them to do. For a year, Bill took a regular job and waited on God's direction.

"It was a time of wilderness wandering, a time of breaking, and a time of preparing," Bill said. "It turned a lot of my hair gray," he added, chuckling. Reflecting on what he learned during those 12 months, Bill said the Lord prepared him for being a pastor in Indiana. "The Lord took us out of California, and then it took a year to get California out of us." The Midwestern mindset is different than that of Southern California. "In California, you put a shingle out that says Calvary Chapel, and the ministry booms," he said. "Here, it has been a work of steady plowing and steady growth." They held their first home Bible study in July of 1988, then met in a Baptist church for three years until moving to their present location in 1991.

Some guiding Scriptures in Pastor Bill's life are Acts 20:24 and 28: "But none of these things move me, nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ... Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

These Scriptures "have been my anchors; they have been the ones that have kept me," Bill said, reflecting on the time God called him in 1986 through to the present.

"There's always discouragement in life, and that's true for pastors as well," he said. "At times you may think, 'You know, God, surely someone else can do this better than me.' But these verses help me to remember that He called me here, and He hasn't called me out."

And, if the Lord desires, Bill said he would stay there for the rest of his earthly life. "For



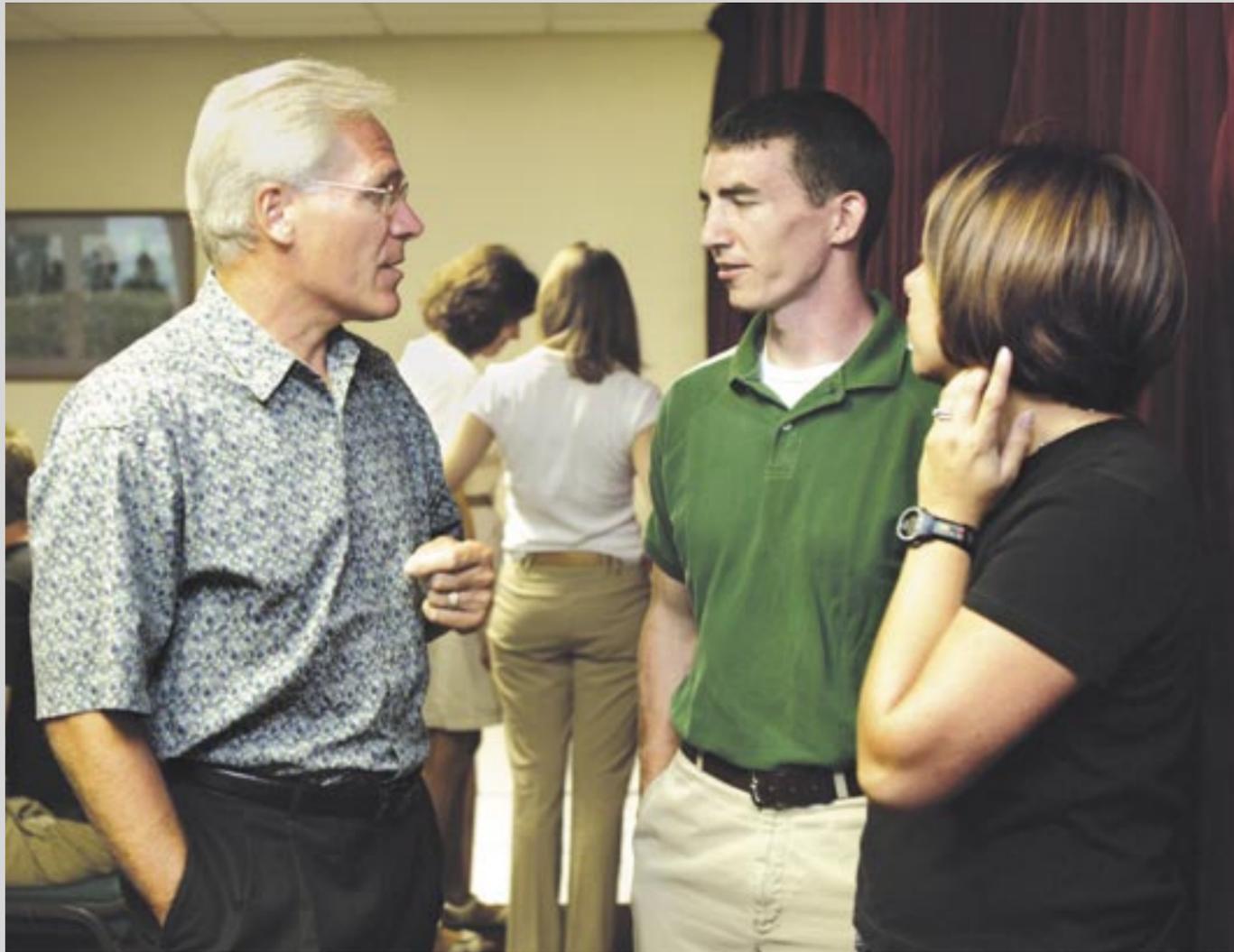
*Barry Titus leading worship during children's church.*

**"It was a time of wilderness wandering, a time of breaking, and a time of preparing. It turned a lot of my hair gray."**

Pastor Bill Goodrich



*Children eagerly answer questions from the Bible in Sunday school.*



*Pastor Bill spends time chatting with Brian and Jodi McKenna on Sunday morning.*

these people, I'll bury my bones here, if that's what God wants." One thing he believes is essential to ministry is that a pastor is committed wholeheartedly to the work with which God has entrusted him. "For a pastor, I don't think anything else works." Looking for bigger and better opportunities is distracting.

Another important element in his personal walk with Christ involves mentoring: both being a mentor to a new believer in Christ and being mentored by someone who has walked with the Lord for many years.

Among his personal mentors are Mike MacIntosh, Chuck Smith, and a man named William J. Willis who was saved in the Welsh Revival of 1905. Willis walked with the Lord for more than eighty years before he died. He had a tremendous impact on Bill's dedication to prayer.



*The gymnasium is transformed into the sanctuary as chairs are brought in.*

## Every Member a Minister

"Ministry is not just for those on staff at a church," Bill said. One of the mottos at Horizon Christian Fellowship in Indianapolis is printed on their bulletins: "Every member a minister." He encourages everyone in the body of Christ to serve as the Lord leads and directs.

Some of the ministries in which people serve at Horizon include outreach to children and teens at "Camp Indy"—a recreational Christian camp sponsored by the church—as well as home Bible fellowships, local street evangelism on Friday nights, and short-term mission trips. Some people work or volunteer at two schools on the church grounds: the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade Horizon Christian School and a full-time Calvary Chapel Bible College extension.

"I think if Bill wasn't the pastor, he'd be an usher or greeter," said Assistant Pastor Jeff Seward. "His favorite thing to do is stand at the door and be the first person to greet people as they come in. He just loves that."

Bill Goodrich is the founder of Horizon International Missions, the international arm of Horizon, spreading the Gospel throughout the world through outreaches, relief work, street evangelism, and sports. ☞

# CCBC Indianapolis

Indiana

Since 1993, more than 200 people have graduated from the CC Bible College (CCBC) extension campus at Horizon Christian Fellowship of Indianapolis. The college initially began as a one-year program focusing on evangelism, then became affiliated with CCBC in 1996. Along with the church's senior pastor, Bill Goodrich, other pastors from area Calvary Chapels and Horizon fellowships also teach classes, leading students through the two-year curriculum required for the main CCBC based in Murrieta, CA. Students who graduate from the Indianapolis campus receive the same diploma as those who attend the larger Murrieta or European campuses.

Many Calvary Chapels around the country offer Bible College classes to students through live teaching or videotape. "We're a little different in that students live here on campus," Bill said. Students take classes from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every day, in addition to working four hours a week at the college. "Most work off campus to pay for school, which keeps them connected to reality," said David (D.C.) Moxi, director of CCBC. At the end of each school year, students go on a mission trip to the Ukraine or England to work with missionaries.

"It's been tremendously fruitful," Pastor Bill said. "The majority of the staff here and people whom we've sent out on the mission field are people who have gone through the Bible College."

Recent graduating classes number more than twenty students; most are college-aged and live on campus, though some married students live off campus.

"The Bible college here has the same emphasis as the one in Murrieta—teaching the Word," Bill said. "Another big part of it is outreach. We're very missionary-minded." Every Friday morning, students go out to minister in the community, including visits to area jails or street evangelism.

Bill cites 2 Timothy 3:16–17 as a Scripture that characterizes the college: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." It has definitely fulfilled that vision.

**"People appreciate the genuineness here ... the emphasis on having an intimate relationship with God and relationships with other believers."**

Jeff Seward, assistant pastor

# Festival of Life



*Jay Hartman and Ed Brown provided music during the festival.*



*A 40-foot climbing wall is located on the grounds of the Bible college.*

For the past decade, Horizon Christian Fellowship of Indianapolis has hosted or helped to host nearly twenty-five outreaches, called Festivals of Life, in the United States and around the world.

Designed to be a family-centered, evangelistic event for the local community, the festivals are usually held in public parks or inner-city neighborhoods. This year, for the first time, the church hosted a festival on part of its 95-acre campus on the outskirts of Indianapolis.

“It was really a blessing,” Senior Pastor Bill Goodrich said. “We had a wonderful turnout, more than I expected.” While numbers are not important, Bill said he was pleased to see hundreds of people come. “It was very well-received in our community,” he added. “We are seeing people now coming to church after going to the festival three weeks ago.”

The September festival included recreational activities, such as a 40-foot climbing wall, a 250-foot zip line, pony rides, basketball, and swimming. Free food, live music, and other children’s activities were also offered. “When the festivals are held in the Ukraine or in the inner city, free clothing is often handed out,” Bill said. International festivals in poorer countries also offer free medical treatment or carpentry work.



*Volunteers cooked hundreds of hot dogs and hamburgers.*



*Face painting was very popular among the children during the festival.*

Allowing church members to volunteer and serve at the festivals has been another tool that’s been tremendously fruitful in helping the church to grow and allowing its members to utilize their spiritual gifts.

“A lot of people from the fellowship get involved in serving; it’s been really good for them that way,” he said. And it fulfills part of the “win, disciple, send” vision of Horizon.

*photos above by Wes Kandel and Wes Hoff*

*Under the direction of Pastor Mike MacIntosh, Horizon Ministries began as a home Bible study in 1974 in Southern CA. Pastor Chuck Smith had asked Mike to consider traveling from CC Costa Mesa to San Diego to see what the Lord might do. Since then, more than 100 churches and para-church organizations have come out of that original Bible study.*

**Horizon Christian Fellowship**  
7702 Indian Lake Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46236  
Phone: 317-823-2349  
Fax: 317-823-2396  
www.horizonindianapolis.com



*Indianapolis is the capital of Indiana.*



*Pastor Bill Goodrich, his wife Vi, and their youngest son, Brett.*