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Thursday, July 25, 1996
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Minister's dream takes flight on wheels of passenger bus

ROSSVILLE—A converted passenger bus is bringing good news to struggling people.

The bus is part of Morning Star Ministries and is part of a traveling ministry headed by the Rev. Jim Lloyd, ministry leader and pastor of New Bethel Fellowship church in Rossville.

The touring bus is named for the ministry, but also for the mural of a train on the side of the bus. "We call it the Morning Star Flyer, but it's also known as the 'Soul Train,'" Lloyd said.

Two or three times each month, Lloyd and "anybody that will help" travel the Midwest to witness about Jesus.

The bus has made a stop at Parkview Court and a Danville housing project, where workers ministered to children. "We had games and prizes and snacks and a Bible lesson," Lloyd said.

While those stops were aimed at children, "their parents got the wave effect from it," Lloyd said. At the Danville crusade, "by the time we were done, people were handing out windows listening to what

we were saying."

While children have been the focus of local crusades, the ministry is not limited to young people. "If they're alive and breathing, they're a target," Lloyd said.

The ministry limited to "good" people or areas in a city.

At a Danville crusade nearly a month ago, ministry workers visited an area known for drug and gang activity. "We set the bus up right in front of where the activity was going on," Lloyd said.

Another recent crusade was in Gallatin, Tenn., a town which, Lloyd said, also has drug and gang activity. The bus has made other trips to Racine, Wis., and Peoria, and workers plan a trip to St. Louis next month.

Workers witness to children and their parents, but also to dope dealers, prostitutes and gang bangers.

"We're taking the gospel into areas other churches haven't been reaching," Lloyd said. "It's where the

See BUS on other side

Police shoot tires to stop armed robbery suspects in Watseka

WATSEKA—Two men were arrested here Tuesday after leading police on a two-county chase.

Darrell Lodge, 30, of Baton Rouge, LA., and an unidentified man, were being held Tuesday in the Iroquois County jail after they allegedly held up the Paxton Amoco gas station.

The men were stopped south of Watseka after police shot the tires from the black Ford pickup truck the men were driving.

According to Illinois State Police at Ashkum, the men held up the gas station, then fled on Interstate 57. A state trooper saw the truck and tried to stop it, but the men

evaded the trooper, then left the interstate, heading eastbound on Iroquois County roads.


Police tracked the truck through Milford to County Farm Road near Watseka, where the truck struck an Iroquois County police car.

Police said the license plates on the truck were reported stolen from Louisiana. A Secretary of State squad car was also damaged, police said.

Police agencies assisting state police included the Iroquois County Sheriff's Department, Gilman, Watseka and Milford police, Secretary of State police and the Illinois State Police helicopter, Air 1.

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McFerren Park
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Bus continued from other side

mission field is a viable harvest field.”

Some think it strange that Lloyd and his group do missionary work in the United States, a country known for sending missionaries to other countries.

However, “a minister once told me we fly over the mission field to get to the mission field,” Lloyd said. “We have other countries sending missionaries to the U.S. That’s kind of frightening.”

What’s not frightening is dealing with people often considered the dregs of society. “You’re not the least bit frightened because you know you’re doing something God wants you to do,” Lloyd said. “It’s not me (being brave) because I’m not a brave man. You’re not doing this under your own power. You’re doing this under the power of God.”

Lloyd is not the only member of the ministry unafraid of witnessing to people. “I’ve seen a lady tell a gang banger with a gun in his belt that if somebody pulled the trigger on him, he was going to hell,” he said. “She got right in his face and said that.”

Morning Star Ministries began approximately two

months ago, but is the culmination of something much older.

“It was birthed out of something that the Lord gave me a long time ago,” Lloyd said. “Someday, I knew I’d have a traveling ministry.”

What Lloyd credits as God’s calling was strengthened three years ago after Lloyd went to Los Angeles for a “Hope for L.A.” crusade with Dwight Thompson.

Lloyd stayed at the Victory Outreach Center, which offers a Christian 12-step program for prostitutes, gang members and others.

After finishing crusade work at about 7, Lloyd and other visiting pastors would eat, then hit the streets of South Central L.A. or the Watts area to witness until 3 or 4 a.m.

The experience deeply affected Lloyd. “When I came back from L.A., I was a changed man,” he said. “I have such a compassion, such a hunger to reach the lost, it’s almost insatiable.”

When Lloyd told church members of his experiences “some of them caught the vision.”

And while Lloyd is pastor of New Bethel, Morning Star is not part of the church. “I don’t want the churches to think it’s a ministry of New Bethel,” he said. “We’re not out there trying to get everyone for ourselves. It’s a universal church thing.”

Lloyd connects with churches in the crusade areas

In the hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
July 23, 1996

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

Thursday Trivia

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between 8 and 8:30 a.m. today to win!
The winner will receive a FREE Whopper™
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Meal must be redeemed Friday.

Today’s question: What was the first state
readmitted to the Union after the Civil War?

Last week’s winner: no one

Last week’s answer: Marilyn Monroe’s character
in “The Seven Year Itch” was called “The Girl”.

Police News



Mary A. Coonce, #33 Baer’s Trailer Court, reported Tuesday that someone scratched her 1984 Hyundai while it was parked at her home.

Charles A. Bolin of 3211N 1000W, Williamsport, Ind., reported Wednesday that his license plate, 86a880, was stolen from his 1984 Chevrolet while the vehicle was parked at 219 W. Elm.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High in the mid 80s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 60s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 84, low near 58.

so that those whom they minister to can have follow-up contact with a church.

Lloyd hopes other churches will hop on the bandwagon - er, bus - and begin their own missionary work. “It’s a tool we use to evangelize, but not every church does because they don’t have the means or they don’t know how,” he said. “We can help them.”

The ministry is funded solely by donations from businesses and individuals. Those who wish to donate to the may do so at Morning Star Ministries, 204 S. Chicago St., Rossville, IL. 60063 or by calling Lloyd at (217) 748-6195.

Lloyd admits a bus ministry is not for everyone, but it suits him. “I’m a rebel with a cause,” he said.

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RUMMAGE SALES

836 E. Thompson, Hoopeston. Saturday, July 27, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Pots, pans, dishes, linens, furniture and lots of miscellaneous.

525 E. Main, Hoopeston. Saturday, July 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Child’s bike, clarinet (like new), lots of miscellaneous.

Moving sale, 418 E. Seminary, Hoopeston. Friday and Saturday, July 26-27, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Something for everyone.

Rates: