

Nazarenes Serving Citizens of San Antonio

The San Antonio '97 project, "One Heart...Many Hands," was officially launched last Friday and continues through June 20. This grassroots lay-initiated project is bringing together some 2,000 Nazarenes who are volunteering their time to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy citizens of San Antonio.

"With thousands of Nazarenes coming here for General Assembly, we thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to show the people of San Antonio that Nazarenes are willing to put their love in action," said project organizer and Nazarene physician Gary Morsch. "The volunteers are paying their own expenses and lending their hearts and hands in one of the largest Work and Witness projects ever organized. I believe this project will not only impact the people of San Antonio, but it will also make a profound impact on the whole spirit of our General Assembly."

Participants are involved in a variety of projects designed to reach all ages: repairing and renovating homes, holding sports clinics for youth, coordinating Vacation Bible Schools for children, and helping construct a Habitat for Humanity home.

"One Heart...Many Hands" includes a conglomeration of volunteers," said Ron Sylvester, San Antonio site director for the project. "Some are teens as young as

13 who are experiencing service to others, possibly for the first time, and some are senior adults who long ago dedicated their lives to helping a neighbor in need."

During a special commissioning service last Sunday at Municipal Auditorium, hundreds of participants joined together in praise and intercessory prayer, thanking God for bringing them together to serve and asking for His blessing on the entire project.

The project is the brainchild of Morsch, who also is chairman and co-founder of Heart to Heart International, an organization that has coordinated relief efforts to Russia, Albania, and most recently, China, as well as



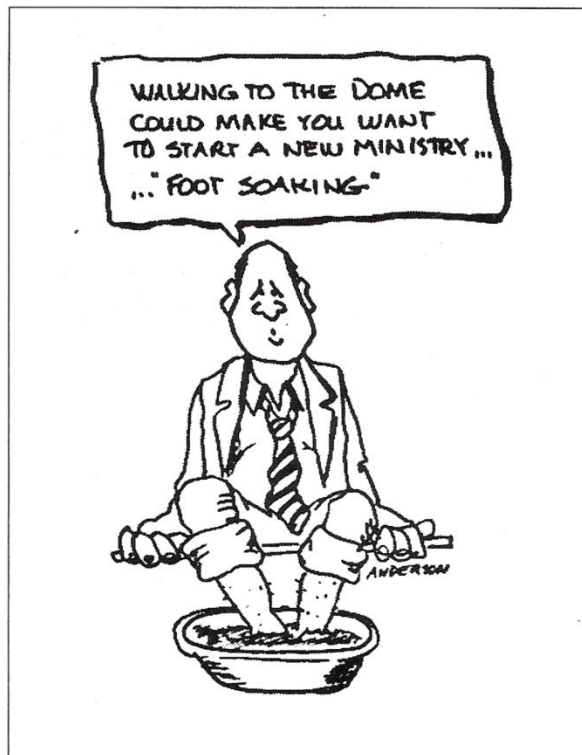
A "One Heart...Many Hands" volunteer repairs a roof at a project site.

projects in the U.S. Morsch says the idea for the "One Heart...Many Hands" project started when NYI organized a one-day service project for teens at the 1985 General Assembly in Anaheim. "We've simply expanded the NYI model into a week-long service project that includes not just teens, but people of all ages and positions who are working side by side to improve


homes, churches, and schools in the inner city," he continued.

Other key Nazarenes involved in "One Heart...Many Hands" include Ron and Laura Sylvester, Bo Cassell, and Lori Kenny, administrative director.

Volunteers, many of them teens, have come from 27 states and Mexico. The project runs through Friday.



Stan Toler



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