## BELIEFS Values

# Promise Keepers: a stimulating experience

As I joined the sea of men that flowed into the Pontiae Silverdome for the Promise Keepers conference last Friday night and Saturday, my senses ignited, sparked by the energy of excitement and anticipation that saturated the atmosphere. The emotional energy that can be generated by 70,000 men is something that something that something that must be experienced to be comprehended. There are few things that can compare with the emotion I felt as I joined my voice in harmony with that diverse crowd as we sang "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty."

Each year, more and more men sign up and block time out of their busy schedules in order to attend. I am no exception. I have been to four events so far. What is it compels us to return year after year, bringing our fathers and sons and friends? Not all agree on the answer to that question. There are those who believe that the success of Promise Keepers is a symptom of our entertainment-driven culture that, even in matters of faith, prefers style over substance. There are others who believe that the movement has been generated and sustained by God, working among his people. Still others chalk the whole thing up to fanaticism or political support of the property of the support of the supp thing up to fanaticism or poli-

associations of the constant o

For my part, I don't believe that the authenticity of the movement should be established by the events themselves, either for the attenders or for outside observers, be they cynical or sympathetic. My case in point is the biblical story of ancient Israel. After God led them out of Egypt, he took them to the base of Mount Sinai to make a covenant with them. There, they had a convention that would make Promise Keepers look sing-along, Besides, the three-million attenders, there was smoke, lightning and blaring trumpets. Everyone committed themselves to keeping the promises that they made to God. After all the fanfare, God left the camp. It was in the silence that followed that the true character of the event was tested, and the Bible says that the people were unable to keep their promises for even 40 days.

We who attended Promise Keepers also have made promises to God. We have committed ourselves to breaking down the walls of racial and denominational prejudice. We have agreed to care for our wives and raise our children responsibly. Still, 70,000 spiritually charged, sweaty, cheering men are not necessarily Promise Keepers. The men who attended the event may believe it has changed their



Brotherly gathering: Jon Enright, associate pastor at a Troy church, was among the 70,000 men who joined spiritual ties by taking part in the second Promise Keepers conference held at the Pontiac Silver-

dence is not to be found in the excitement at the Silverdome but in the silence that remains. The authenticity of the move-

ment will be proved by what happens behind closed doors after a hard day's work, or in the cyes of a child who is longing for her dad to notice her. The dopth of our commitment must be judged by the way we respond to the struggles that we, our fami-lies and our society fare, not by how loud we cheer at a Promise Keepers conference.

Now that the shouts and cheers have faded into silence, there is a son who has been waiting to go fishing. There is a wife who needs to be listened to There are dishes to be washed. There is a neighbor who is hungry. There is a church class that needs a teacher. There is someone who is different than you who is looking for a friend.

(810) 229-5000

(313) 728-9600

## COMMUNITY MESSENGER

willCommunity Messenger fea-tures spiritual announcements from Oakland County religious institutions. Write: Community Messenger, Bellefs & Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

#### MAJOR FUND-RAISER usan Citrin of



Susan Citrin of Birmingham and Oscar Feldman of Biomfield Hills will serve as chairpersons of the 1997 Allied Jewish Campaign.
Citrin in crecutive director of the Birmingham/Bloomfield Hills-based Jewish Federation of Metropolitan

Birmingham/Hioenthield Art.
Association. She is a member of
the Bloomfield Hills-based dewish Federation of Metropolitan
Detroit's board of governors and
Escacetive committee. She's
vice president of the United
Jewish Foundation and is active
with the national United Jewish
Appeal. She is a board member
of the Oak Park-based Yad Ezrakoaher food bank and past president of the Southfield-based
Jewish Family
Service.
Feldman is an
attorney at
Butzel Long,
Birmingham
He has served in various
leadership
roles for the
Allied Jewish
Campaign,
Jewish Federation and United
Jewish Foundation. He is a
trustee of the Detroit Medical
Center and the Southfield-based
Levish Foundation. He is a
trustee of the Detroit Medical
Center and the Southfield-based
Jewish Foundation. He is a
trustee of the Detroit Medical
Center and the Southfield-based
Jewish Foundation, trustee of the
Willium Davidson Institute at
the University of Michigan
School of Business Administration and member of the U. of M.
President's Advisory Commit-

tee. The Allied Jewish Campaign is the Jewish Federation's fund-raising drive that supports 60 agencies in metro Detroit, Israel and overseas.

#### HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME
Rubbi Charles Rosenzveig of
Southfield, a Polish hobonust
survivor who spearheaded construction of the Holocamust
memorial Center in West
Bloomfield, is one of the new
inductees into the International
Heritage Hull of Fame that's
managed by the Detroit-based
Friends of the International
Institute.
For more than two decades, he
pushed to erect the memorial,
which has attracted millions of
visitors since it opened in 1984. In apite of resistance to his concept of chronicling Nazi Germany's extermination of six-million Jews during the World War
II era, Rosenzveig had always
been sure that a holocaust
memorial would help make certain that the horror is never
repeated. In recognition of his
humanitarian achievements,
he was named Michiganian of
the Year in 1995.

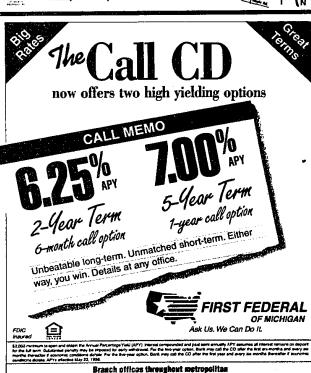
### FIGHTING HUNGER

FIGHTING HUNGER
Since February, customers of Jax Kar Wash have raised \$1,400 in an ongoing fight against hunger. Donations help Southfield-based Forgotten Harvest recue perishable food for soup kitchens and shelters throughouthe tri-county area. Customers can make donations to Forgotten Harvest at any of the eight Jax Kar Wash locations by simply adding \$1 to their cash register total. Contributions to the nonprofit charitable organization ore tax deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information on Forgotten Harvest or to find a Jax Kar Wash near you, call (810) 350-FOOD.

DIXIELAND JAZZ
The Salt City Dixieland Jazz
Band will perform in concert on

See MESSENGER, A19





Datroit, Lansing, Kalamazoe and Owesso.

Extended hours weekdays and full service Saturdays at most branches.



(313) 583-1900

(313) 427-7310