

"BEAUTY FOR ASHES"

In the spring of 2004 Denbigh Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia, made a commitment to begin LOGOS in the fall. The program did begin that October—but getting there was a journey requiring trust, faith and hope.

Just prior to going to LOGOS training, our church was vandalized and set on fire, but with minimal damage. As our leaders returned from LOGOS training, the arsonist struck again. This time our building and all of its contents were not going to be useable for six months.

As the reality of being a church without a building sank in, we questioned if we should begin LOGOS or wait for our building. Inspired by the community of believers that surrounded us, we made a plan to be a congregation in three places. Our office would be useable in one month, worship services would be at a neighboring Presbyterian Church, and LOGOS would operate out of a neighboring Catholic Church. God had provided!

We met at the Catholic Church all summer to train our workers and prepare our program. Then word came that repairs could be shifted from the sanctuary to the kitchen and education wings so that the LOGOS program could start in our own building by October.

In three months time, the first night of LOGOS began with 60 youth and as many adults in our own church building. We were a family—laughing, eating and in *relationship*. *We knew that we all were Children of God.*