

## The Winrock 6

By Don Kimbro

There's a movie theater in my neighborhood called the *Winrock 6*. Well, there used to be a theater by that name but I found out it just closed down. The *Winrock 6* was an innovation for movie goers when it first opened up in the shopping center about twenty or so years ago — well before the home video craze. That's probably what did it in.

They had six individual mini-movie theaters under one roof that seated about 150 people each. I remember how cool it was that you could actually go to one location and have your choice of six different movies like, *The Mask of Zorro*, *There's Something About Mary*, *Armageddon*, *Godzilla*, *Lethal Weapon 4* and *A Perfect Murder*. Depending on the mood you were in at the time, there was something for everybody: mystery, comedy, drama, action, science fiction, romance. In fact, you could even go together as a family and then split up and go to the movie of your choice and if you were patient, still go home together. Sure beats the old double features of yesteryear — even the drive-ins with their bouncing ball sing-a-longs were no match for the *Winrock 6*!

I must say I was saddened when I read the sign on the door announcing the closing. My first thought was, "Where are we going to go to the movies now?" Oh, they were careful to direct us to another venue they claimed would be just as good — but it won't be the same. The *Winrock 6* theater had a lot of character — in fact it had six individual characters and over the years I had experienced them all. I'm really going to miss the *Winrock 6*.

Then I got to thinking, "I wonder what they're going to do with that building now?" The lobby was so bright and cheery, the individual theaters were so warm and colorful with those soft seats that you can lean back in — and each one of the auditoriums had that great stereo sound system that always seemed just a little loud at first — until you became so engrossed in the movie that you didn't notice anymore. They had a raised stage up front and that giant screen . . .

Then the inspiration hit me! It was so clear that at first I thought that it must have come straight from God. "Let's make it a church," I thought. A church that would satisfy everybody. A church just like the old *Winrock 6* movie theatre. We could have six different mini-churches under one roof that would delight every taste. We could all meet in that beautiful lobby and then scatter to the church of our choice. What a novel idea! I began to get excited as I thought of the possibilities. Just think about it, if someone wasn't happy with one church, they could just go to the one right next to it. No need to drive all over town church hopping, er . . . I mean church shopping. And if they didn't like it at that one, they could just go across the hall to another one. Surely, in six venues they could find a group of people who thought exactly like they did.

You could have a church for those who don't like contemporary music. We could call it our "Traditional Hymns Only" church.

At the same time we could have a church for the youth in another mini-theater — a "Teens Only" church. No parents allowed, of course — or anyone over 19. They could just "hang out" together and do fun things during their church, even go to the mall across the parking lot.

Then we could have a "Casual" church for the crowd who don't believe in dressing up for church — or any other time for that matter. They could wear their sweats or tees and shorts and sneaks. This one could even double as our "Seeker" church.

Another venue could be a contemporary service with upbeat music played by musicians that sincerely believe that God is deaf. We could call this group the "Louder Is Better" church. Of course we'll need to put them at the opposite end from the "Traditional Hymns Only" group, to keep the tension down.

How about a "Charismatic" church in space number five? They could raise their hands and jump around without somebody always staring at them.

Now I believe that leaves space for just one more group but that's my dilemma. I know it wouldn't be good stewardship to leave that remaining space empty but is there another group out there that I've missed in this multifaceted, aim-to-please, all-things-to-all-people, soon-to-be-a-megachurch? We don't want to overlook anyone or leave even one person who might feel left out.

Then I got that inspiration again — how about a church for those who can't get along with any of the others? Why we could put them all together and they could moan and groan and complain and bicker and argue about everything — and none of the rest of us would have to listen!

So what do you think, dear reader, of my idea? Don't you think that God would certainly be pleased with this new type of church? Everyone would get their own way and we would be closer to becoming the perfect church. I wonder why I didn't think of it sooner?

"Wait a minute," you say. "This all sounds a lot like the people in your church now?" You mean you have people who only want the old hymns; where the young people won't worship with the rest of you because they say they can't relate; and the sneaker crowd is stretched out all over the sanctuary; the hand clappers want you to stand up all the time and crank up the volume on the bass guitar; and the charismatics keep wanting to pray out loud and the last group just sits there and scowls and writes nasty notes to the church leaders?

Come to think of it, that's kind of like my church, too. And I thought I had a great idea. Maybe God has a better one like, "*one body and one Spirit . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all . . .*" Maybe He wants us to learn how to get along together under one roof right where we are. Didn't Jesus say something about loving one another and . . . "*by this all men will know you are my disciples?*" What a novel idea. I guess we'll have to add another room for that one. How about in our hearts?

Thanks, *Winrock 6*. You've just given me a great idea!

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