

## A Courageous Move

In 1983, the First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California, was in the headlines. Pastor Leon Thompson had convinced his 500-member congregation to purchase the pornographic theater adjacent to the church.

The community was thrilled by the church's courageous move. The only catch was that the theater proprietor still had several months remaining on his lease. For the better part of a year, First Presbyterian Church was the landlord collecting rent on a theater that showed X-rated adult films.

Willing to be misunderstood and criticized, the church took the heat in order to guarantee that the theater would be closed down. Within two years, the old Galaxy Theatre became the Presbyterian Community Center. Where once degrading sexual fantasies flickered on the big screen, Bible studies and recovery groups now met.

This story is particularly appropriate for the Christmas season in which we are now engaged. In the actions of First Presbyterian Church, we see a reflection of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. To battle sin head on, He entered into a sinful world, risking rejection and being misunderstood, in order to pay the price of our redemption.

That is real cause for celebrating as Christmas 2005 draws close.

--Beecher Hunter