

## **JESUS SEEN AT MALL**

Jesus went to the mall recently with the youth group from a church in Des Moines, Iowa. He was welcome wherever he went and didn't even have to pay to go to the movie "The Nativity Story." The youth group took turns pushing a cardboard Jesus on a two-wheeled handcart as an exercise designed by their pastor to help them learn about living their faith and "taking Jesus Christ with them everywhere."

Pastor Steve McElroy talked to his students about the challenges of living as a Christian. The discussion became more real when McElroy brought in a cardboard cutout of Jesus and asked the youth group if they would take Jesus with them any time they were together. McElroy said, "It's one thing taking Jesus around local places it's more difficult to be a good Christian when you're hauling him through the mall crowded with shoppers. It's a good test." On the trip to the mall, some of the teens admitted they felt self-conscious fear about meeting someone they knew. Twelve year old Colton Toney said, "I'll just tell them our pastor made us do it." Sixteen year old Agnes Armstrong saw things differently. She said, "It's a chance to show people we are Christians and we're not embarrassed about it. We want people to know what we believe in and that we take the Christmas season seriously."