

TODAY'S PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL

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NATHANIEL'S HOPE

Son's death inspires couple to start ministry

Ordained Assemblies of God minister Marie Kuck and her husband, Tim, had every reason to despair after their special-needs child died nearly two years ago. In-

stead, the Orlando, Fla., couple found hope — Nathaniel's Hope.

They started the ministry in honor of their son who was born with multiple birth

of Christ with special-needs kids and their families.

"We felt a clear direction from God that the purpose of our son's life would be fulfilled through the establishment of Nathaniel's Hope," says Tim, 45, who serves on the board of Orlando's Evangel A/G Church. The challenges and knowledge gained from caring for their son have borne fruit in the lives of others.

"We feel we're on assignment to bring hope, encouragement and help, as well as respite care to special-needs families," says Marie, 39, director of Evangel Women's Ministries and a former youth pastor. The Kucks, who have two daughters, say NH also seeks to encourage and educate the community to assist special-needs families, as well as to complement

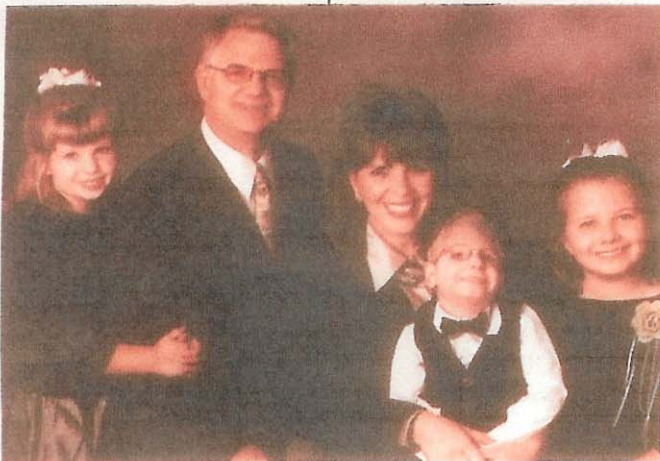
the work of the local church with tools, training and resources that equip pastors and laypeople.

NH officially launched in June with Make 'm Smile, an event that attracted about 650 people, including more than 400 representing special-needs families.

Chris Maxwell, Evangel's pastor, says 50 people from the 220-member congregation took part in the outreach.

"Their ministry is definitely God-inspired," says Maxwell, 43, who mentions NH in his new book, *Beggars Can Be Chosen*. "Like Jesus, they're becoming attached to people who have needs. And they're wanting the rest of us to get involved, which is what Jesus would do."

— Eric Tiansay



Special inspiration: The Kuck family found Nathaniel, on Marie's lap, to be a blessing.

anomalies and overcame many health challenges before he died in 2001 at age 4. NH seeks to share the hope