

# CONSTRUCTION COMPANY SPRINGS OUT OF COMMUNITY-BASED CHURCH

By R.C. BOIRNEA  
Columbus POST Staff Writer

**EARTH TEMPLE BUILDERS** is an outgrowth of Earth Temple, a grassroots, non-denominational church and community service organization. Earth Temple Builders is a group of licensed contractors that performs general improvement maintenance, remodeling and refurbishing.

The contractors are all bonded and insured. The group includes a master electrician and master plumber. They can also do masonry, cement finishing, drywall hanging, trench digging, and perform other duties.

Anthony Hodge, founder of Earth Temple, got the idea to form Earth Temple Builders while he was in the area.

The company does work for individuals, corporations, churches and community groups. Earth Temple Builders attracts business through advertising, spots on Earth Temple's twice-weekly ACTV broadcast, and a sign in Hodge's front yard.

"We're primarily interested in contracts over \$500, but we make exceptions for senior citizens and the handicapped," said Hodge.

The construction company is a non-profit entity that funds Earth Temple's programs, Hodge said. "Traditional funds are not available to us because of our non-conservative stance. We intend to become a major part of the social service community in central Ohio as a privately-funded agency."

drive for underprivileged children and a program for substance abusers, Operation Get Off Drugs (G.O.D.). Upcoming projects include an African-American/Native American intercultural exhibit "where we will teach about the history and cultural interactions among the Black man and the red man," said Hodge.

Also in the works is an ecumenical Unfaithful Crusade to teach "Christians how to get along with people better and love their neighbors better," said Hodge. "Many of the world wars have taken place over religious disputes."

Hodge, who has a background as a criminologist and private investigator, said the construction company also funds ongoing investigations of crimes and



**ANTHONY HODGE**, founder of Earth Temple, a grassroots church and community service organization, operates Earth Temple Builders.

Earth Temple has plans to build its own pyramid-shaped house of worship one day. "We're a church doing business," said Hodge. "At the same time we're beautifying the community. We keep people busy who need jobs and provide an athletic workout. We employ ex-cons, recovering addicts and people with handicaps."

Hodge said he makes sure none of the construction company's employees are a security risk. "As a private investigator, I make sure nothing in their private life is going to jeopardize what we're trying to do."

No job is too big or small for Earth Temple Builders, said Hodge. "We urge other churches that need work done to call us. If you need rooms painted, a garage built, maintenance service, janitorial service, leave it up to us. If I worked my way through Central State doing janitorial work and pest control, I ain't too good to do it now."

For more information on Earth Temple