

LIVING IT ...

Frank Irace

Writer, actor and director Irace and his wife, AnnMarie, live in Palmyra and lead the Christian theater group, Impact Theatre. They have a son, Michael, 8.

Day job: Hotline support coordinator for Xerox for 26 years.

About Impact Theatre: It's a six-year-old Christian theater group that performs in the town hall in Palmyra. "We do it as an outreach of free theater, including coffee and desserts. It's mostly local artists, mime and musicians.

They'll do a total of 90 minutes, and some drama written by myself or a cast member. Once a year we do a full night of vignettes."

Common themes in his writing: "Social issues. We hand out a lot of free counseling materials in the lobby, and many deal with rape, spousal abuse and challenges people go through in their lives. I write a lot from where I come from. You don't walk in and get slammed with social issues — we do light-hearted stuff. I try to touch all the emotional buttons on any given night."

Most common misconception about his work: "When people hear 'Christian venue,' they think it's a half-baked, cheesy kind of thing. They don't think it's professional. Unfortunately, it's often done that way. We try to set a professional standard even though it's amateur theater. We tell the artists to bring their best. My prayer is that people have been blessed by it."

— Interviewed by **DEBORAH JEANNE SERGEANT**



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