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# Crumb Donors Story Time

## Editor's corner

We sincerely hope each of you know how grateful we are for your support. Without you, we could not be attempting to do the ministry our team sense a deep call to fulfill. In truth, we feel each crumb donor is a part of our team here. You all are helping a group of hard-living/hard-core people feel loved and accepted for real for the first time in many of our lives. We have a lot to do yet but your support for us keep us going and moving forward. It is our goal each month that this small newsletter can help you understand that your generous gifts of crumbs are deeply appreciated. Our adult leaders continues to struggle to find the energy and time to keep this ministry alive and growing, but your supports uplifts them. Us teenagers continue to fight hard to lift ourselves up above the streets to live our life in a way pleasing to Jesus and believe us it get hard some times, but your support is a great hopeful encouragement to us. Our children struggles to stay safe and happy with so many pressures, but your support grants them security. Without all of you, we just would not survive so please give yourself a giant hug on our behalf.

We again apology for the lateness in getting this out to you. We hope your Thanksgiving was a blessing. It is also our hope that as we enter December that your Christmas will truly be merry and the new year will be happy for each of us.

**IN THIS ISSUE:** You will read an article from a local mother expressing her thankfulness. You will also read a plea for prayer support from one of our teen leaders. You will also find a letter thanking us for the opportunity for someone to be a crumb donor. On page 2 you will read a little special thank you to a young girl who supports this ministry. On page 6, our own Mr. Jimmy will share his joy of getting real. There is just no words to express how much we appreciate your willingness to support us. So we made up a word here to describe being so happy you cannot explain it...Chuckledelicious.

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Chattanooga Urban  
Ministries Crumb  
Donors Newsletter

November 2005 Edition

Edited by the  
Yo Buddy Gang

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### Special Notes:

- ☺ Crumb Donors have provided Christmas gifts for each of our kids. Thank you!!!
- ☺ Remember to buy the Munson's books from Herald House .
- ☺ Dr. Art Coffman is ordained an evangelist. Yo Buddy
- ☺ Updated web page at [www.crumbdonors.net](http://www.crumbdonors.net)
- ☺ More new crumb donors join our support family

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# Yo Buddy! (Chattanooga's way of Praising God)

**Yo Buddy** for Dr. Art Coffman being ordained an evangelist this month. **Yo Buddy** for YOU!!!!  
**Yo Buddy** for Apostle Linda Booth, Seventy Bob Kyser and Bishop Steve Jones being here as guests.  
**Yo Buddy** for gaining several new crumb donors this month and for keeping the old donors.  
**Yo Buddy** for Otis Hardy being ordained a Seventy this month. **Yo Buddy** for Thanksgiving!!!  
**Yo Buddy** for the upcoming Christmas season. **Yo Buddy** for Pastor Jared being home for a short visit.  
**Yo Buddy** for the upcoming Graceland University Winter Term students who will be here soon.  
**Yo Buddy** for opportunities to invite new people to church each week. **Yo Buddy** for those who invite.  
**Yo Buddy** for having new people at church weekly and for our attendance always growing.  
**Yo Buddy** for Pastor Terry Williams & his friend Rusty Stuck coming to sing for us this month.  
**Yo Buddy** for new friends. **Yo Buddy** for having a great church family. **Yo Buddy for God & Jesus!**  
**Yo Buddy** for our center/church which keeps us safe and closer to God. **Yo Buddy** for good food!  
**Yo Buddy** for Pastor Faith's grandma coming here to make pies for us. **Yo Buddy** for our whole church!  
**Yo Buddy** for the entire Coffman family. **Yo Buddy** for Pastor Kenny driving the van each week.

## Thank you to a special friend and crumb donor!!!

We try to use this space to say thank you to a special crumb donor each month. All of our crumb donors are special & we wish we could express appreciation to you all in some special way. This month we want to say a special thank you to Kelly Gibson of Kentucky. Kelly is 8 years old & attends a Lutheran Church with her grandmother. She learned about our ministry here in Chattanooga from a cousin she was visiting who was reading the book "Courageous Witness". Kelly got a copy of the book and shared it with her grandmother. They spoke to Kelly's Sunday school teacher & now their class are crumb donors. Even though they live in a different state & attend a different church than our Community of Christ, they still support us. Kelly send us a note recently and it says *"My Sunday school class loves the same Jesus you do in Chattanooga. Our class is lucky cause we have a big church with lots of classes and a gym. None of us are ever hungry or homeless. We did a dog wash this Saturday for your church in Chattanooga. We also made paper wreaths and sold them. Here is our crumbs for your church. We love you. Write us back and tell us more about your alive church. Love, a friend of Jesus too, Kelly Gibson (Yo Buddy)"* We want to say a big special thank you to our friend Kelly & her class. She now has new pen pals here.

## Rocks "Boo" and Roses "Cheer"

**Rocks** for having a big water leak at the center. **Roses for money to repair the leak.**  
**Rocks** for violence, drugs and abuse on the streets. **Roses for the peace of Jesus Christ.**  
**Rocks** to people having to be homeless. **Roses for people who helps other people. Who are in need.**  
**Rocks** to hard tests in school. **Roses for tutors who help us past hard tests.**  
**Rocks** to bad language and cussing. **Roses for the scriptures that teaches us a better way of living.**  
**Rocks** to our food pantry never being full enough. **Roses to people who work hard to help feed others.**  
**Rocks** to our hot water heater not working at the center. **Roses for living in warm houses.**  
**Rocks** to sickness. **Roses for God's healing power and the hope his love always brings.**  
**Rocks** for people who loses their tempers. **Roses to those who turn their other cheek in peace.**  
**Rocks** to war and violence of all kinds. **Roses for those who are called to be peace makers.**  
**Rocks** for all the bad news we hear daily. **Roses to the Gospel of Jesus which is Good News.**  
**Roses for all of those who generously give without expecting anything in return!!!**

## A local mother says “thank You” .....*story of Cheryie & Jesus*

As a mother of 4 kids and the auntie of another 6 kids who all attend church at your center each week, I just want to say thank you for all the things your organization does. My children and nephews & nieces love coming to church there. You cannot believe the change in their attitudes and cooperation since attending. I see a big difference in them and I just cannot thank you enough. They are still very much far from perfect but the changes are nothing short of a true to life miracle. I never thought my children would love going to church and want to pray and read from the Bible nightly. I am very grateful to our Heavenly Father and to the Community of Christ. You all are doing a great work and I want to make sure you know it.

I worked three part time jobs in trying to keep this family in clothes, food and school. On the few occasions when I have had the time to attend church with the kids there at the center, I had to fight back tears when I see my children raising their hands to pray and to answer questions about God. I know they are learning so much about love, respect and the Holy Spirit. They are learning things, I am unable to teach them because I never been into the whole going to church scene. I just again want to thank everyone who helps this ministry stay open for our kids. Thank you for truly loving our kids and caring about them.

If it was not for you all having this church open as much as you do, my kids would probably be in trouble more at school. They would be hanging out at home fighting with each other or hanging out on the streets getting into deep trouble. I know there are lots of churches in this community but the center is a very special place. This church is a church anointed to help at risk kids. You are able to help kids believe in themselves and love themselves. I wish I was able to help out more but you being willing to pick up my kids and bring them to church at the center, give me a peace of heart and mind. It gives me time for just me and this helps me not to become so worried and stressed out. Even my attitude is better.

I do not want anyone feeling sorry for our family but we have been through a lot of hard times, I mean real had times. We have lived through murder, suicides, prison terms, addictions, fatal illnesses, abuse, violence, and the lists of hard times goes on. But the miracle for my family is that God gave us a silver lining in our storms of clouds and a spark of light at the end of our tunnel of darkness. This silver lining and shining light is your church. My family talks about having a future and my kids talks about becoming ministers, professional athletes, teachers, coaches and other things. This too is a miracle because a short while ago, my kids would talk about ending up in prison or being shot to death. As a mother and an auntie, it is so heartwarming to hear my children talk about becoming something better. I do not believe this hope has came to them through our school systems but I know they are changing because of God and the center. I am a giant sinner and I use to doubt that God heard my prayers but God is definitely hearing my prayers for my children. I do not want to sound crazy but I believe this church is God’s answered prayer for me. Thank you so much for all that you do for my families and other families like my. It is so wonderful to know my kids have a place to go where they will be safe and loved.

## **God, please find me...story of Jesus & Yo Buddy TEAM MEMBER**

Hello. I am one of the Yo Buddy Gang and many of you know me. Therefore, I asked Mr. Jimmy not to include my name in this. I am a teenager and many people looks to me at the center as a leader. I know when you get the newsletter, you like the testimonies of all the good things happening. This time, I just want to “get real” with you all. Thank you for caring about us. I really need your prayers. I feel like I am lost, not all the way lost, but still lost. The center is a great place and a place where I always find God. We have the greatest finders of the lost there. Mr. Jimmy, Pastor Jared, Mr. Kenny, Miss Kathy, Miss Faith, Pastor Tom, Dr. Art, Miss Judy and so many others who really find the lost daily and bring us to God. The problem is even once we get to God, the voice of the streets keeping calling to us. This is what is happening to me. I keep wanting to chose “Jesus Way” instead of the street way. I know how to do it and why to do it but I just cannot get it done. The second I am outside of the center, I begin to get lost again. I keep looking for God and I do find God at the center almost every time but I have found myself making excuses not to be at or stay at the center. I keep getting lost. I been praying for real to God, “God, please find me. God come and find me soon. Please hurry!” Every time I leave our center, I lose God again. My pain and my anger and my fears keep coming back and the streets call to me and I begin to drift away from God. But God keeps pulling me back through the people at the center.

During the Thanksgiving weekend, I was trying to keep away from the streets but the streets surrounds me. I try to sing songs from church. I repeat our slogans from the center. I think about my mentors from the center. All this helps me from not totally going to the streets but it does not last long. This Thanksgiving weekend, I was going to do something bad. I was going to commit a bad crime. But here I was already to commit a crime and God kind of came to my rescue. Mr. Jimmy and Mr. Jared pulls up in the church car right into the parking lot I was hanging out at. They pulled up and just rolled down the window and talked with me. I got in the car with them instead of going with some other gangsters and they took me home. If they did not come by at that very moment, I would have returned completely to the streets. After getting home, I felt that God was with me and sent them to get me. So I went to my room and did something I have never done. I got on my knees for real. I mean I really got on my knees and I prayed hard. I begged God to please come and find me. I cried because I felt like I was not alone but like God was with me in my room. It was such a great feeling but it just did not last for long. I left my room and called Mr. Jimmy. I told him how I was feeling and how scared I am that the streets will win me in the end. Well, as the result of that phone call, this is being written. I need to share with all of you who helps us keep our center open and that we need your prayers crumbs just as much as we need your money crumbs. I believe with all my soul, that the only way I will not become totally lost again is through God and so far the only place I have really ever found God is at the center. But I know it is not enough for us to be found by God only at the center. We got to have God with us always and I know God is with us always but I need God to come and find me again. My heart and body is ready for God but I think my spirit is not willing to come to God yet. So pray for me and do whatever you can to help our center/church continue to help us not to let the streets win. I want to serve God. I really do but I just feel so lost so much of the time. I need God to come and find me. I am thankful that I have a place like the center. It is a place where I know I can go and at least find God for a little while. Before the center, I never even knew there was a real God. Now I know that God is but I am feeling so lost and I am struggling to find God’s voice when the street’s voices seem to just keep getting louder and louder. Please pray for me that God will come and find me again. I am being real here. I am scare that one of these days, I will run to the streets and run so far and so deep into the arms of the streets that not even God will be able to find me. The center gives me hope and keep me from running full speed into the streets but I need God to come and find me. Please ask God to come and get me. I again want to be found.

## **A Crumb Donors says “Thank You”....*story of Jesus and Jamie***

I wanted to drop you a quick note to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to become a crumb donor. Each month someone thanks us for being generous and for helping the Chattanooga ministry through our crumbs. This time I want to say thank you for being so generous with your life stories. Becoming a crumb donor has been a delightful opportunity.

I became disillusioned with religion and stopped attending church services a few years ago. One day my grandmother gave me a copy of your newsletter. It touched me so deeply. I sat down and wrote out a small check. But it also caused me to reexamine some of my views. My brother was at my home one afternoon and picked up the same newsletter. He too is now a crumb donor. He too has been inactive church wise.

As we sat there that afternoon, we began to reminisce about our youthful days at youth camps and other youth retreats. We decided to maybe give church another chance. We began to make some inquiries about the church. Before we knew it, we started attending church again. We found a new spirit in our old church. We found out that our church has been doing some community service projects. Now we are active again in church. We give our offerings to our local church and still remain as crumb donors. Some of my family have recently been baptized into the Community of Christ and they are crumb donors too.

One more little story I like to share. My cousin who is in the 5th grade is severely ADD. As a crumb donor, I became aware of a book written by Jared Munson from the Chattanooga ministry. I purchased a copy of it and read it. Reading about Jared's struggle with his ADD, I knew my nephew would like the book. He loved the book and gave a report on it at school. The teacher asked for a copy of the book and I gave her one. It is my understanding she has placed the book in the classroom library so other students might read it. My nephew has started attending church after reading the book. His Sunday school class are also crumb donors. The impact of the Chattanooga ministry reaches beyond Tennessee.

I want to say thank you for sending us the newsletter and for giving me the opportunity to share my crumbs. It was an instrument of God to bring my family back into fellowship with church again. It is my hope to someday be able to get down to Chattanooga and meet some of you in person. I also hope you know the wonderful difference becoming a crumb donor is making in the lives of many people. You are doing a very good job of saying thank you. It is now my turn, as a crumb donor, to say thank you for allowing me to become a part of this ministry in my small way. Of course I wish I could do more than just giving crumbs but I am thankful that I can share what I am able. On behalf of some of us crumb donors, “THANK YOU for letting me take part.”

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Our victory lies within our  
invitation. **INVITE SOMEONE**



**Crumb Donors donate \$10 or more a month to support this ministry. Please remember to send your donation this month and every month. Invite someone to become a Crumb Donor. Send donations to the following address:**

**Crumb Donor**

**C/o Don Barber**

**1029 Cedar Creek Village Road**

**Mt. Juliet, Tennessee 37122**

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## **“Getting Real” with Pastor Jimmy**

I love my job. I love this ministry Jesus Christ has called me out to do. The ministry here in Chattanooga is hard & heartbreaking. We fail in our efforts to win the lost much more than we ever succeed. We deal with crisis after crisis. It makes us tired & irritable a lot. But being able to see the peace of Jesus Christ impacting the lives of people daily who have so many odds against them is so exciting. Every day of my life is full of adventures. I see the gospel really come to life in people daily. God keep doing all kind of neat stuff in a very hard core world. I know these powerful changes I get to witness comes about simply because real people, like you, put their real faith in the real Jesus. I love witnessing Jesus do mini miracles every hour of the day which results in giant miracles. Every time I am asked to “get real” with our crumb donors, I shy away from telling you all how lucky I am to have been called to plant a church ministry in Chattanooga for the Community of Christ. God is awesome. Your support for our kids is awesome too. I wish you all could witness all the neat stuff God is really doing here. Thank you for supporting us. Our kids are so blessed through your sharing. God is blessing their journey one step at a time. From my heart, your crumbs are making a difference. YO BUDDY!!!

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