



Crumb Donors Story Time

Editor's corner

Hello everyone this is Jared Munson. I have been home here in Chattanooga on Christmas Break & Graceland University Winter Term. I wanted to take this opportunity to say hello and again say THANK YOU for being a crumb donor. Your generosity continues to make a giant difference for good here. Each time I am home from college, I can tell our love for Jesus here is increasing but so are our challenges for our kids to beat the streets. From my heart, I want you each to know that without your ongoing help, the miracle of beating the streets will not happen for our kids and adults. You are needed and you are making a difference. YO BUDDY for each of you. Pastor Faith Johnson is moving back to Illinois due to several circumstances. Her leaving will add a major burden on Pastor Kenny and my dad (Jimmy). You can help ease this burden by continuing to be a crumb donor and helping them not have to worry about funding to keep the doors open. During my time at home, we saw 43 new people come to church. We blessed 14 babies and baptized like 8 people. We saw miracles happen but we also saw the heartache of the street life winning folks and bringing them back into bondage. This ministry is truly the only hope for several hundreds people and we must keep it alive and growing. Thank you for helping and please do not stop. IN THIS ISSUE, you will read testimonies from 3 of our 12 winter term students. We feel that as many of you have never been here that hearing the impressions of young adults who came here for 3 weeks would be helpful. In upcoming issues, other winter term students will be sharing. In this issue is also information about Memorial Day Weekend Reunion. We need volunteers so please sign up. You will also read a special thank you to Faith Johnson for her leadership here the past two years. Once again, THANK YOU for supporting this ministry. Your caring is so appreciated and yet so needed. CRUMB DONORS ROCKS!!!!

SPECIAL NEEDS: Each month, crumb donors asks us about any special needs we have here. Here is a small list: food for food pantry is very low, school supplies, electrical work is needed, our stove has only one burner working, our walls are crumbling, kitchen sinks, health & hygiene supplies, tutors, board games, coloring books, people who will come and give a year of their life here, craft supplies, blankets/sleeping bags, pillows, and the list just go on and on. We are so grateful for you caring about our needs.

Chattanooga Urban
Ministries Crumb
Donors Newsletter

JANUARY 2006 Edition

Edited by the
Yo Buddy Gang

Special Notes:

- © 43 new people attend church here in January
- © Baptisms - confirmations, Baby Blessings, an ordination, administrations, the Lord's Supper, & a wedding highlighted our ministry during the past 30 days..
- © Faith Johnson ordained an elder. Jared Munson accepts a call to office of Seventy.
- © Updated web page at www.crumbdonors.net
- © More new crumb donors join our support family

Inside this issue:

Yo Buddies	2
Special thank you	2
Rocks & Roses	2
Melissa Diddles reflects	3
Eric Jones Reflects	4
Rachel Bradford reflects	5
Reunion information	6

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

Yo Buddy for the Graceland University Winter Term Students who spent January with us!!!!
Yo Buddy for all the baptisms which took place here this month. **Yo Buddy** for 14 baby blessings.
Yo Buddy for funding already being available for summer interns. **Yo Buddy** for crumb donors!!!
Yo Buddy for the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend Reunion/Youth Retreat. **Yo Buddy** for you.
Yo Buddy for Faith Johnson being ordained an elder. **Yo Buddy** for 43 new people already in 2006.
Yo Buddy for Pastor Jared Munson accepting his call to office of Seventy this month.
Yo Buddy for our church van that brings us to church daily and for people who keep supporting us.
Yo Buddy for Mr. Jimmy's dad, the old coal miner, coming to Chattanooga in February.
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 Jay & Diane who made our wooden church benches. **Yo Buddy** for our whole church!
Yo Buddy for the entire Coffman family who work hard to keep us all healthy. **Yo Buddy** for You!!
Yo Buddy for Katie Carnahan & Jared Munson being co-directors for our church reunion this year.

Thank you to Faith Johnson for 2 years of service!!

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 Pastor Faith Johnson. Pastor Faith is having to move back to Illinois to live. We will miss her. She has been our Pastor for the past 3 months and served as an assistant pastor for nearly 2 years before that. Her leadership here has increased our attendance, our membership and our spiritually. She helped start and organized several of our important ministries. Her leaving will leave a giant hole in our leadership but her love plus dedication will continue to strengthen our ministries. Sister Faith, there are no words available for us to expressed how much the Chattanooga Urban Ministries love you. Thank you for all your support and hard work. We wish you the very best as you move forward on your journey of service to Jesus Christ. The positive difference you have made here will continue to be a blessing for years to come. We know you will continue to support us and be a voice for us even from Illinois. God has blessed us through your time here and we know you will be a blessing to others in Illinois. Thank you for all that you have done and will still do for Jesus. We love you Pastor Faith. God bless you!!!

Rocks "Boo" and Roses "Cheer"

Rocks for Pastor Faith having to move back to Illinois. Roses for our winter term students.
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 dropping out of school. Roses for kids who keep working hard to beat the streets.
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 center needing so much work done on it. Roses for people who wants to help.
Rocks to sickness. Roses for God's healing power and the hope his love always brings.
Rocks for suicide and depression. Roses to those who hold on to the hope we have in Jesus Christ.
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!!!

Graceland Winter Term Student's Reflection....by *Melissa Diddle*

CHATTANOOGA! The church without a face. A place few dare to go, but once you've been there your life is changed forever! I want to take you through my experience at the Chattanooga Community of Christ.

Erase all you know and have learned about church from your mind. Many of these kids come from broken homes, their parents are in jail, their mom is turning tricks and street gangs are their family. They live and breathe by the streets. A life many of us cannot even imagine and one that most of us don't even want to believe is real.

These kids struggle with being apart of a gang and coming to church, yet, most of them are there every Sunday. They even attend the activities during the week. As you walk into the Chattanooga church you will most likely find mostly children and teenagers running around, playing basketball and having a good time. They are dressed in blue jeans and t-shirts mostly. Yes, they dress this way even for Sunday church.

Here in Chattanooga you are not a stranger even if it is your first time. The children will greet you with a hug and ask your name. They don't know you, but they love you already. Watch them as they fight over who gets to pray or how willing they are to share their life story from the depths of their hearts. These kids come to church for one reason, **THEY LOVE JESUS!**

I have never seen kids who trust and love complete strangers, yet live in a world of violence, hatred and abandonment. Their behavior isn't the best, but they try really hard. They are a family. They look out for each other and know immediately when you are not being real with them. They live in a life of fear, but God is always on their side. Many people would be ashamed to step into church after the week these kids have been through, but they come anyway. They understand that God forgives them and still loves them.

It's amazing to see how much these kids **WANT** to come to church. No one makes them get up on Sundays, instead they are calling Pastor Jimmy or Pastor Kenny to find out when they will be picked up because they can't wait to get to church.

The Chattanooga Community of Christ is no longer faceless to me. Each child has an unique personality; each has their own story. The ministry they bring is unlike any other I know of. You have to experience it to even begin to understand the impact it has on the whole community and everyone who enters the church.

Graceland Winter Term Student's Reflection...by *Eric Jones*

This winter term has been a life altering experience because I understand now what life and true ministry is all about. You see I have grown up in the Community of Christ my entire life. I have been a pastor's kid for most of my life. I made the assumption for a long time that my life was worse than everyone else's because nobody's parents could be as strict as mine. However, when I came down here to Chattanooga my eyes were truly opened.

During this winter term experience, I have been a witness to things most people don't even dream about or even what to know exists. I have stood in a dangerous and fallen down neighborhood where children are abandoned. I have been in homes with no electricity and no beds in them where children are left alone because their parents are either turning tricks or getting drugs. This is their reality in the neighborhoods where the Chattanooga Community of Christ works everyday and night. I do not say this to make anyone feel guilty or to make anyone else look good. But this experience has caused me to ask myself, "How can we call ourselves Christians, if we do not live like Christ?"

As Christians, we sometimes get so caught up in our own lives and so wrapped up in our problems and dreams that we forget about others. We forget about the "lost". WE argue about what restaurant we want to eat at but the children and people here wonder if they will even eat at all today. This experience has implore me to become a voice for us to have compassion, to soften our hearts and to listen to the Spirit of Christ. WE must become more involved in the service of God to each other and especially to the lost and downtrottened.

I have grown so close to these kids and the people here in the Chattanooga ministries. My life has been changed. The people here, despite of their hardships, have ministered to me in so many ways that writing them down would not do it justice.

I ask myself, when is it going to change? When are we really going to pick up our crosses and follow Christ into the neighborhoods that need us the most? I am now really ready to do that. Yes, I am afraid but we cannot let fear keep us from living like the Christ. Is not all of the trials and struggles worth it if just one child or one person comes to know who Christ really is?

I really cannot understand how the church can raise millions of dollars for an information center at a historical church site while there are living children who are going hungry and are alone at night. This winter term has caused me to wonder if our priorities are backwards and if we focus too much on material things instead of helping people. I wish you all could see the looks on the Chattanooga children's faces whenever we talk about Jesus. Here, they really understand who Jesus is. I think maybe a lot of us do understand who Jesus is but then we start thinking too much instead of feeling. We must be a people of compassion.

Please do not get me wrong, I do not want to sound like I am giving anyone a lecture but my heart is now full of compassion due to this winter term. I want to help others to see that these people in the inner city are children of God just like the rest of us. They have lives and they feel like we do and they also get hurt. It is my hope that I might help others understand and my new found compassion will help cause others to get involved and do something. May God bless and keep you and may you take the living Christ to the lost.

Graceland Winter Term Student's Reflection....by Rachel Bradford

As I looked at the Graceland University's list of Winter Term options, I clicked Yoga in Lamon, Iowa. Who wouldn't want to spend a couple of hours relaxing each day? Well, what I want and what God wants for me are two different things.

Right before I left college for Christmas break my life changed drastically. My world fell apart. Just as I thought I had hit a life time low, God stepped in and changed my plans and showed me the path I was suppose to take. Without hesitation, I dropped Yoga and bought my plane ticket for Chattanooga, Tennessee. I know that God sent me down here to minister to His precious children but in the end, they gave me more than I could ever give them.

When I first stepped off the plane in Tennessee I was so focused on myself and the pain and struggle I was going through. But as the days progressed I quickly put aside my own issues and focus on the Chattanooga kids. I thought I had a lot to deal with until I learned about the struggles these kids face everyday of their lives. Struggles such as getting shot, being abused, no family to go home to, drug and alcohol addictions, parents in jail, prostitution, teenage pregnancy, no food, no clothes, and no shoes. But no matter what issues they face, they all know how much God really loves them. They know they can always find God in the safety of our church center in the heart of Chattanooga. They are always so excited to worship God that they get themselves up every Sunday to spend time with God to get to know God better. It is so amazing.

They worship in a different manner than my very traditional home congregation in Independence, Missouri, but that is what they need. It is what I need and quite honestly it is what churches at home need in order to reach out to people who don't know God and to build up the future of our entire church. I think all our churches need a little of the Chattanooga experience in them.

This experience has completely changed my life and I will never be the same. I will definitely never think of ministry the same way. This experience has required me to step out of my church comfort zone. I think the only way to bring real ministry to the ones who do not know our amazing God is to step out in faith and do things we wouldn't usually do. My comfort zone here was expanded in everything from praying with a homeless man in the pouring rain to walking in a bad neighborhood and praying on every corner.

We have all become so comfortable in our own faith that we have lost touch with the ones who need it the most. It is the ones who need Christ the most that actually strengthen my faith when they finally see God. So to sum up what I learned during this winter term.....

***Prayer works and miracles happen if you pray without ceasing.

***I believe God has a plan for each and everyone of us. We just forget to listen sometimes.

***We are called to be uncomfortable because when we are comfortable there is something we aren't doing that we should be doing.

***Most importantly God loves everyone no matter what they have done or will do!!!

2428 N. Chamberlain Ave. in
Chattanooga
Mailing address: 6309 Celtic Drive
Chattanooga, TN 37416

Phone: Kenny Alcorn (pastor) 423-
240-4490 or Jimmy Munson
(outreach minister) 423-344-9858

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

You are invited to 2006 Memorial Day Reunion

We need & invite every crumb donor to attend our 2006 Memorial Day Weekend Reunion/ Youth Camp here in Chattanooga on May 26-29. The cost of the camp is covered through free-will offerings and crumb donors. Katie Carnahan & Jared Munson will be serving as co-directors. Our theme is: "I GOT GOOD NEWS.....I just saved my life by switching to Jesus". Among our lists of special guests and special ministers will be Apostle Linda Booth, Bishop Steve Jones, & Evangelist Art Coffman. One of our goals this year is to allow our Chattanooga Leadership Team an opportunity for some renewal by being able to be campers instead of leaders. They work 24 hours a day 7 days a week and we want them to have some time to just receive. In order for this to happen, we need our friends to volunteer to come and help. If you are willing to be a volunteer at this year reunion or to register for camp, please call Katie at 816-582-9982 or email Jared at little70@aol.com. Among our wide range of activities, we will include an all day Teen sporting/worship day, a children all day bible school adventure, and a spiritual renewal day for our adults. We will have great food, exciting worship, a baptismal service, small groups sharing, special events, swimming, a talent show, and many surprises.
