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# Crumb Donors Story Time

## Editor's corner

This has been a tough newsletter for us to get together. We think it is because our group has been going through some "I got the blues" time. Our leadership team has gone through some changes. Sister Faith Johnson had to move away and we really miss her. We have had some suicide attempts, victims of abuse, some of our folks have been arrested, our tutoring program had to come to a temporary slow down, some of our folks have change jobs forcing them to be unable to be here at church, and a host of other challenges. But God still continues to bless us with new people almost daily. We just keep praying and believing. But this has cause us to be a little late with this edition.

Now things are looking better and we have worked through most of our "blues". As crumb donors, you need to understand that you all lift our spirits and bring us hope each month. You are all amazing because you never give up on us. Some how each month our crumb donors blesses us with a special blessing. The Yo Buddy Gang wishes we knew each of you personally so we could hug your neck. Your willingness to believe in us is just so amazing. Thanks!

IN this edition, you will read a true story from one of our new adult members who got baptized in late January. You will also read two more reflections from Graceland students who came here for winter term...we think it is very important that our crumb donors know what young adults think about this ministry. You will also read another invitation to our Memorial Day Weekend Reunion...we hope you are planning on coming. On Page 2, you will learn how your donations during the months of March and April can give us a little extra blessings. Of course there is our Yo Buddies and our rocks vs. roses.

On behalf of all the kids and adults who are participants of this ministry, we hope you know we really do appreciate your ongoing support. YO BUDDY!

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** Crumb donors asks us about any special needs we have here. Our list from last month got fulfilled mostly due to you all being so generous. Here is a small list for this month: food for food pantry, school supplies, health & first aid supplies, tutors, board games, coloring books/craft supplies, people who will come and volunteer some time at the center, jump ropes, street chalk, belts, candy, computer games, sleeping bags, pillows, and the list just go on and on. We are so grateful for you caring about our needs.

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Chattanooga Urban  
Ministries Crumb  
Donors Newsletter

February 2006 Edition

Edited by the  
Yo Buddy Gang

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### Special Notes:

- ☺ 62 new people attend church here so far 2006
- ☺ Pastor Jared and a team of Graceland students are coming to Chattanooga for Spring Break to support this ministry...YO BUDDY!.
- ☺ Memorial Day Weekend Reunion is coming soon. Please plan on attending.
- ☺ Updated web page at [www.crumbdonors.net](http://www.crumbdonors.net)

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

**Yo Buddy** for the new "used stove" we got from the Birmingham Congregation!!!!  
**Yo Buddy** for the men from the Nashville church who came and did some work here. **Yo Buddy** for you.  
**Yo Buddy** for Pastor Jared, Katie, Greg & Lisa who is going to spend their Graceland Spring break here!  
**Yo Buddy** for upcoming Memorial Day Weekend Reunion/Youth Retreat. **Yo Buddy** for crumb donors.  
**Yo Buddy** for the 19 new first time attendees here in February. **Yo Buddy** for more baptisms.  
**Yo Buddy** for the representatives of Outreach International who is coming here for a visit.  
**Yo Buddy** for Matthew Alcorn (Pastor Kenny's son) coming here for a few days for a visit.  
**Yo Buddy** for everyone who supports this ministry. **Yo Buddy** for the brakes on the van being fixed  
**Yo Buddy** for Pastor Terry Williams who come here often to help us. **Yo Buddy for God & Jesus!**  
**Yo Buddy** for God's healing power and forgiveness. **Yo Buddy** for good food each week at church!  
**Yo Buddy** for "Grandpa Munson" being here and telling us stories about coal mining & Jesus!  
**Yo Buddy** for our summer intern program which will be starting up again at reunion!  
**Yo Buddy** for the adults and kids who attend church here each week. **Yo Buddy** for our while church!

## Crumb donations from March 1– April 30 will give extra help!

When you make a crumb donor donation during this time period, it will give extra support to this ministry in 2 ways. (1) Feinstein Foundation is giving \$1 million dollars to agencies who are fighting hunger. The crumb donors are one of the recognized agencies. The more you give to crumb donors during these 2 months, the more we will receive of the Feinstein money. (2) An anonymous donor will match our giving up to 2% for needed food items of what we receive during the next two months. The more we get in crumb donors donations, the more we will get for food from this donor. This donor is wanting to do this privately to help this ministry. Every month your donations blesses us more than you know. But during March & April, your crumbs can be even more helpful. Our crumb donors are so generous. You gain nothing from your giving to us and yet you keep giving. On behalf of this entire Chattanooga ministry, we thank you for your crumbs or food, clothes, service and of course money. You keep this ministry alive and going. Pastors Jimmy & Kenny says every time they get the blues for some reason, some crumb donor give something special and lifts their faith and spirits right back up. You are all awesome. Please know we all are very grateful.

## Rocks "Boo" and Roses "Cheer"

**Rocks for our sound system not working. Roses for the Graceland kids who are coming in March.**  
**Rocks for our television being broken. Roses for the peace and love of Jesus Christ.**  
**Rocks to people attempting suicide. Roses for people who helps other people. Who are in need.**  
**Rocks to our neighborhoods not being safe again. Roses for kids who works hard to beat the streets.**  
**Rocks to our food pantry being nearly empty. Roses for all the people our pantry help to feed.**  
**Rocks to the mirror on our church van being broken. Roses to our church family who cares about us.**  
**Rocks to alcohol, drugs & sexual abuse. Roses for people who wants to help and gets involve.**  
**Rocks to loneliness. Roses for the people who cleans the center and sets it up each week.**  
**Rocks for excuses we use to not be more involved. Roses for the strength we receive through Jesus.**  
**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!!!**

# I was baptized and became cleaned again....*true story of Miss Freeida and Jesus*

Most people who looks upon me see my current struggles or judge me base on my past sins and failures. They see me as an addict, a thief, a chief among sinners, or a crazy old woman. They see me this way because that who a large part of me really is. But my Jesus and my new church family, the Chattanooga Community of Christ, sees me differently than most people. Jesus and my church family sees me as a hard worker and a person who just wants to serve others. They offer me daily, another chance to become better. They offer me unconditional love and believes in me. They see the God in me. They see the person I once was and hope to become again. They help me when I am in need but they trust me enough to allow me to help them too. They inspire me to not to listen to all the voices of doom and judgment but to believe in my Jesus and myself. I am so blessed to have this church in my life.

In January, a group of college students from Graceland University came with pastor Jared to spend time with us. These young people changed by life. They accepted me. I knew the leaders at our local church accepted me but these students was from many places and they accepted me too. They invited me to be baptized because they said they loved me and wanted me to belong to the same church. I pray to Jesus and asked him if it was right for me to be baptized into this church that the college students would come and asked me again. They did. I was baptized and became cleaned. I am now a working disciple in the Community of Christ. I still have a lot of baggage but I believe God has a purpose for me and I am happy again. It is so wonderful to belong to a church that sees people through God's eyes.

I am a mother and a grandmother. I love my children and grandchildren. But God has now opened up a new family for me to love. I now have new children and grandchildren in Jesus to love. It is in my understanding that the readers of this are the people who sends this ministry money monthly. Thank you so much for what you are doing.

This is a ministry who is trying to help kids and some of us thrown away adults. Here at this church, we are taught about living life Jesus' way instead of the street ways. This lesson is so needed. In this ministry, the leaders are trying to help turn our nightmares into dreams. They work hard to teach us the need to respect ourselves and others. Even our own people have given up on us but this is a church who never gives up or gives in. They know we already live in hell so they walk right into hell with us and take us home again to Jesus.

I am a sinner. I want to become more than that. I usually struggle to just pay for my lights and heat. I don't have any money to give but I am going to keep trying to do better and give God more of my time and attention and help our church grow and become even better.

In the neighborhood, other churches said our church is ghetto because we are poor and goes to church in an old bank building. But I been to all of the other churches in the neighborhood and I want you to know our old bank building church has more Jesus in it than all the rest put together. I do not mean to speak against any church but I am very proud of the Chattanooga Community of Christ. They invited me into their doors and into their family. I was baptized in January by Elder Craig Hidy and got confirmed by Pastor Jared Munson. I have not been alone since. Every day Jesus is blessing my life and my church family continues to care about me. I am grateful for all this church does for so many and I am so glad to be a member of it. Please keep supporting these kids. They need our church. I need our church. Please pray for me that I can stay healthy more and serve our church better. Thank you.

# Graceland Winter Term Student's Reflection...by Jason Titus

I had been looking forward to visiting Chattanooga since my sophomore year when I first attended Chattanooga church on Graceland campus. Time and time again people came back with life changing stories of real ministries with real people, and I wanted that experience for myself as well. As I sat in the CAP center at school, finding out that I would need the extra hours of a winter term to meet graduation requirements, I knew precisely what I wanted to do. In some ways I already expected to have some sort of profound experience while in Chattanooga, which in most cases when I expect anything I am let down, but sure enough the lessons I have learned in Chattanooga have already affected my way of life.

When I first arrived in Chattanooga I was a week behind everyone else, and for the first few days struggled to gain a sense of belonging and find where I fit with the other "winter termers". I was really worried that I would feel the same way when I went to the center and met the kids, but instead I learned my first great lesson of Chattanooga.

## Lesson 1: Everyone is accepted

No matter where you are or where you came from everyone is accepted and loved inside the center in Chattanooga. Kids will fight, pout, scream, and throw random objects but they will never stop loving each other or the ministry team around them. Maybe this is due to the hardships of their life, or the lack of love by mentor figures, but whatever it might be, it is what I believe is the closest feeling of Zion I can imagine.

## Lesson 2: You are always making a difference

On what must have been my third day at Chattanooga we were playing in the center with all the younger kids, and we were all having a blast. I found myself in a one-on-one game with a boy named Alonzo. As we ran back and forth, sometimes dribbling, sometimes traveling, and then eventually dunking on a basketball goal that was maybe four feet tall, you could really tell on both of our faces that we were having a great time and had connected. After the hour of dunking pandemonium Jimmy instructed us to separate into one on one questioning about ourselves and our perception of a bible verse. Due to the recent bond, Alonzo and I raced to the movie room that had the most comfy couches, and began to talk. After finding out each others favorite colors, we were asked what makes us happiest. For me it was easy, a few mountains, a castle, and a lot of love and I am set for life, but it was his answer that has stayed with me with every step I take. He said he liked his family, playing basketball, and being with his best friend. Quite curious I asked him who is best friend might be, expecting the name of another boy or maybe even Jesus, but instead he said it was me. I was quite shocked relating my relationship with my best friends that I had known for years to how he felt about me. I then realized that the hour of basketball was more than just basketball to him, it was his joy of attention and affection that he hadn't really felt before. I knew then that I was going to make a difference here in Chattanooga, whether I knew I had or didn't.

## Lesson 3: The only reason to give nothing is because you have nothing to give.

Time and time again I witness Jimmy going out of his way for all the people around him, sometimes lending money, sometimes giving rides, and always sharing his heart. In one instance the group had just finished eating ice cream and pushed through the rain towards the van. As we reached the van a homeless man stopped us, and asked for us to pray for him. Standing in the rain, praying for a complete stranger with an ailing heart, I could feel God working through us. After the prayer we gave the man a ride to a shelter, and asked him to call us and let us know how he was doing. Sure enough, the man called later stating that he was fine, and thanking us for our willingness to help.

## Lesson 4: Religion vs. the Gospel

The final lesson I learned in the one I deem the most important. Too many times in church we lose sight of the gospel, and we focus everything on religion. Religion is the studying of the three books, the hang-ups on the specifics, and the all around use of your brain for God. Religion is a very important tool of education and structure, but it is still not the gospel. The gospel is found in your heart and soul, and is your passion for Christ. I believe that Christ leads and touches us individually through the gospel, knowing that our individual relationships with the father and son are unlike the emotions and experiences than anyone could ever feel.

## Graceland Winter Term Student's Reflection....by *Craig Hidy*

It's hard to put in words my experience here in Chattanooga during Winter Term, because words do not tell the story of my heart. It is a story of having your heart broken by love. I say love because the people and children of Chattanooga have touched my life and my soul.

You would think that I would be filled and would be overflowing with God's love after being accepted like I have in Chattanooga, but I am not. I am not because I have now seen the personal lifestyles and circumstances these kids live in every day. Seeing their hardships is why my heart is broken. Mothers pulling tricks to make ends meet. Teenagers trying to take their own lives because they lost all hope. Drugs taking control of brothers and sisters. Sweet young kids losing their lives and their souls to the streets of the inner city.

My heart breaks. It breaks even more when I think of the name of our church; the Community of Christ. As a young adult, now I have some new questions for our leaders and our members. If we really are to be the Community of Christ, why are we not reaching out to the poor, neglected, abused and broken hearted more? Why do we allow other things to get our focus and become our priorities? Why isn't it our true priority to strengthen the weak, nourish the hungry, and be a voice for those who cannot speak? Isn't those the main priorities of the gospel? Isn't a true community always caring for its people and is concerned about the well being of all people? Isn't a true community always expanding because everyone is embraced with love and acceptance?

During my few weeks in Chattanooga, I have seen a true Community of Christ and I have seen the real gospel being shared. In the Chattanooga Community of Christ, I have seen a community that loves unconditionally. They reach out to those that nobody else wants, those thrown away by society, and are called the "lost". Jesus accepted the degraded, the poor, the unclean and the unwanted. Jesus embraced them with love and grace and gave them a new life. Well, Jesus Christ is still doing the same thing in this ministry in Chattanooga. Jesus is embracing those that has been called lost and is giving them a new hope and life. Chattanooga is really living out the name of our church.

No, the ministry here in Chattanooga will never be known for the amount of tithes they contribute or the number of delegates they send to World Conference. They will be known for the gospel of Christ which they share with a great passion and the acceptance they have for all people. One thing that I realized while I was in Chattanooga, that I cannot ever be satisfied until all of God's children are loved and cared for.

I can no longer go about my everyday life thinking of just myself. Every person we pass is an opportunity slipping through our fingers so we must be ready to witness. So I challenged everyone who will ever read this to not be satisfied but to become driven with a passion to spread God's love and acceptance to everyone that crosses your path. Only then do I think, we will really begin to become a Community of Christ. I have been blessed richly here in Chattanooga and I hope that God will bless each of you.

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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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## **I GOT GOOD NEWS is our Theme for 2006 Chattanooga Reunion**

"I GOT GOOD NEWS....I just saved my life by switching to Jesus" is going to be our theme at the 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. 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. Apostle Linda Booth, Bishop Steve Jones, Evangelist Art Coffman & Evangelist Bob Slasor is our team of special guest ministers. 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, a solid rock café (Chattanooga style) and many surprises. In addition to our team of special guest ministers, we are building up a strong team of camp pastors, counselors, song leaders, cell leaders, and great supporters. Please plan on coming and share your Good News with the others campers. Come and do a church camp with "Chattanooga Style" at Booker T. Washington State Park.

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