



# Crumb Donors Story Time

## A Note about Our Memorial Day Weekend Reunion

Our reunion is less than a month away. Our co-directors Katie & Jared has been working hard to get everything organized. They need you to keep reunion in your daily prayers as they are also busy passing finals at Graceland University. If you got questions, you can email email Katie at [katie\\_carnahan@hotmail.com](mailto:katie_carnahan@hotmail.com) or Jared at [Little70@aol.com](mailto:Little70@aol.com). The theme this year is “I’ve Got Good News-I Just Changed My Life by Switching to Jesus”. Our biggest goals this year are to make sure **each** camper receives attention and love from all of our great guest staff and to make sure the regular Chattanooga staff gets a break and are able to relax and enjoy camp.

If you have any extra sleeping bags or pillows, please send them to us as often times our kids only have a little towel to use for a blanket and have no pillows. If you help us in this way, thank you

A few questions, we need to answer. There is no official registration forms, so just email us or call us or show up. The camp starts officially like **5:30 on Friday night** but staff get there on Thursday. Yes, there will be offering every day and a meal donation plate. Yes, you will be sharing a cabin with someone else as we will be over full and this is a great thing. Yes, we do need you to be here. We will have the Harlem Globetrotter with us on Sunday to share his amazing testimony of Jesus and it does look like we might have “camp t-shirts”. Our directors is busy working out all the details.

Please remember..... **1.** Pray for the camp daily. Pray for the campers, the guest staff, the weather (we need nice weather) and for the abundance of the Holy Spirit to be with us. **2.** Look at your calendars to see if you are free **Thursday May 25th (staff day)- Monday May 29th**. We would love to have you as part of guest staff team. We can definitely use *your* help! **3.** Check your pocket-books to see if you have any loose change lying around. We are trying to bring several new things to camp this year.

Thank you for supporting this ministry and we hope to see you at camp.

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Chattanooga Urban  
Ministries Crumb  
Donors Newsletter  
April 2006 Edition

Edited by the  
Yo Buddy Gang

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### Special Notes:

- ☺ 92 new people have attend church here so far 2006
- ☺ YO BUDDY for more crumb donors!
- ☺ 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 Jared, Greg, Jenn, Eric, Justin & Megan for volunteering to be our 2006 college interns.  
**Yo Buddy for Katie Carnahan being ordained a priest and for being our reunion director.**  
**Yo Buddy** for Memorial Day Weekend Reunion getting closer. **Yo Buddy** for every crumb donor!  
**Yo Buddy** for everyone who has promised to come and help at our Memorial Day Reunion.  
**Yo Buddy** for more first time attenders in April. **Yo Buddy** for everyone who comes to church here.  
**Yo Buddy** for Miss Sondee, Mr. Jim & Miss Jennifer cleaning the center each week. It looks great!  
**Yo Buddy** for summer almost being here and for the interns who will be with us this summer.  
**Yo Buddy** for all the things we learn about God and Jesus each week at church. **Yo Buddy** for you.  
**Yo Buddy** for our upcoming baptismal service in May. **Yo Buddy for God & Jesus!**  
**Yo Buddy** for those who drives our van and cooks our meals at church each week. **Yo Buddy** for love!  
**Yo Buddy** for Linda Booth, Steve Jones and Bob Slasor for being our guest ministers at our reunion!  
**Yo Buddy** for the young adults who comes here to help us all the time from many places.  
**Yo Buddy** for our adults at church who sacrifices so much for us and for being so patient with us kids.

## A local neighbor takes time to say Thank you....by Joyce

I want to say thank you to everyone who helps keep this church/center in our East Chattanooga neighborhood. It has improved this neighborhood. When I was a little girl, my grandmother said you can tell if people are truly sent from God by their love and kindness. Well, this little Community of Christ center must be sent from God because the people here are so loving and kind. They help me out with food, prayers, learning to read and so much more. If you need help, all you have to do is ask and you probably will receive. The bible says ask and you shall receive. Well, this is another reason why I know this church is sent from God because when you ask for help, you sure do receive it. Pastor Kenny and Pastor Jimmy keeps inviting me to church. I know I need to be in church and if I ever get back into church, I want to come to this one. I just always feel so guilty when I go to church or come into God's presence. I do not want to con God or fake my religion. I know the Community of Christ is for real and their pastors are truly God sent. So pray for me that maybe some day I can finally say yes to their invitation to church. But I am just so glad to have this church in my neighborhood. It make me feel like I am not alone and that I have a friend nearby. If I ever start praying again, I will pray for God to bless this church every day just like they bless us every-day in this neighborhood. Any way, thank you all for coming to us when God sent you all here.

## Rocks "Boo" and Roses "Cheer"

**Rocks for people who bad behavior gets them kick out of the center. Roses for forgiveness.**  
**Rocks for our kids who been suspended or expelled from school. Roses for tutoring program again.**  
**Rocks to folks who use to come to church but don't any more. Roses for new people at church.**  
**Rocks to increase in homelessness and crimes.. 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 people who threatens to harm our ministers. Roses to a new paint job inside the center.**  
**Rocks to alcohol, drugs, sexual abuse & evil causers. Roses for people who wants to gets involve.**  
**Rocks to loneliness. Roses for the people who listens to us and have time for us.**  
**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!!!**

## Crumb Donors do make a difference....by Pastor Faith Johnson

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*EDITOR'S NOTE: Faith Johnson was the Pastor of the Chattanooga Congregation until she moved back to Illinois but she wants everyone to know that this Chattanooga Ministry makes a difference. WE MISS YOU PASTOR FAITH!!!*

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Chattanooga, Tennessee is like no place on earth. You can spend just one weekend there and have your entire life changed forever. The way you see your world, your God and your role as a minister will never be the same.

The congregation in Chattanooga is an unlikely bunch of ministers. I should know, I used to be a part of them. For two years I lived and served with the children and adults of Chattanooga. I've been away from them for three months now, but I still feel the impact of my time with them. I now pastor a different congregation in Illinois, and because of my time in Chattanooga things are going great. We have more youth involved and Sunday attendance is up. If not for my time in Chattanooga first as an intern and then as a pastor I definitely wouldn't know what to do here.

Watching the kids (and adults!) in Chattanooga grow in their journey with Christ was one of the most joyous times in my life. I watched them begin to make better choices, or at least do a better job of trying. I watched some of them jump up and down every Sunday, just dying to be the one picked to say a prayer. And now I am inspired to infuse that same passion into a different congregation.

The Chattanooga congregation in what some would call a scary part of town changed me in ways that I don't ever expect to be able to adequately explain. I see outside my Midwestern, middle class box into a world dying to know my Jesus and my God. I am driven to reach out to those who have never been given the benefit of the doubt, I desire to share the Jesus I know with those who do not.

Without the help of the crumb donors I would never have been able to be an intern. Not the first summer and not the second summer. Without the support of people like you we would not have had the means to feed the kids when they were hungry, have activities for them when the streets weren't safe or give them school supplies when they couldn't get their own. Without the generosity of our friends who read this newsletter every month our little van wouldn't have gas in it to pick all of those kids up for church.

The kids get themselves up for church you know. Their parents don't wake them up and make them go. They WANT to go. They WANT to know more about God and Jesus. That could be what continues to touch me in the deepest part of my soul, even now, after I have left my church family there.

I want for my new congregation what my congregation in Chattanooga has... I want them to be so excited to go to church that one day a week isn't enough, I want them to be so pumped up that we have to have church 6 days a week like they do in Chattanooga. I want my new congregation to have even a fraction of the passion I've seen in 5 year olds in Chattanooga. Before I was in Chattanooga I didn't know that kind of passion existed in church. But now I do, and I'll never settle for less.

Graceland Winter Term Student's Reflection....by Jenn Slasor  
(*editor's note...Jenn has been here for 2 winter terms & one internship*)

You know the old saying "You never know what you really have until it's gone"? Well, every time I leave Chattanooga it hits me how much I've been receiving while I'm here. I'm writing this with one more church service to go before I have to make sure I'm all pack & ready to leave for the airport tomorrow. I have to be honest I've cried already & I'm sure I'll cry again before I leave. Another saying applies to how I'm feeling right now & that is "home is where the heart is" and every time I come down here I leave a little part of my heart behind.

The ministry that is provided down here is 2 ways. The kids are ministered to by the most giving, selfless people I've ever met in my life. The kids are provided a safe place to play and an opportunity to meet Christ in the most real way I've ever known. Their lives here in the inner city are full of hardships & constant temptations. It kind of reminds me of star wars in a sense, you have the dark side & then the light side of the force. The dark side is the streets that constantly calling them to be part of gangs, drugs, prostitution, etc. But at the same time, the light side is the life of being a follower of Jesus. You have the "Jedi Masters" as it were Jimmy & the team of leaders who the kids all look to for spiritual support and as a church family and just their family in general. The ironic thing about referring to Star Wars here is that the light side of the force truly is a force of God's presence here in Chattanooga.

I always go away with two notions in my head when I leave here, one is a sense of family, and the other is a lesson in faith and how strong it can be every day. I learn many lessons while I am here, mostly small ones about being strong, not giving into temptation and so on. But those two notions about family and faith are the ones that I think about the most. I think it is because I have a problem with trust in my every day life, while I have a loving family, both church and immediate it is just impressive how quickly a stranger can be folded into the Chattanooga group and really accepted for who they are. This is definitely a place where no one can hide behind facades, and if you try it'll be torn down and you probably won't even realize it is happening. I love that about here because as most people know when you start a new school, or new job, it's so hard to try and get into the groove of things and fit in, but here it takes about ten minutes for the kids to realize you are ok and they'll hug you and want to play games with you and it won't even matter that they only just met you. This is because they are so hungry for positive attention and eager to return it. That is what makes me feel like I am part of the family here. It is the acceptance and genuine love.

The strengthening of faith comes from watching these kids come back to church every time we have the center doors open even if the day before they got into big trouble for cussing or fighting or not listening. They might have gotten sent home that night, but the very next opportunity they get they are running towards the open door ready to learn more about God and to spend time with their church family. I do have faith in my God, but my faith is strengthened when I see kids here work so hard to fight off gangs, to overcome prostitution, to live with parents and siblings who are in prison. Even with the Chattanooga congregation living very hard lives, they are still hungry to know more about Jesus Christ. This doesn't always mean they are sitting around reading a bible and studying theology. These are hard living folks from hard core lifestyles and so their learning about God usually comes from a bible story and how that story applies to their every day life. It is extremely difficult for them to say no to the numerous temptations of the streets, but they have learned that when you have Jesus Christ and God on your side, you can do anything.

(continue on next page)

(GRACELAND REFLECTION CONTINUES....JENN SLASOR)

I keep their smiling faces in my mind and in my prayers every day when I am at school or at home. It helps that I have pictures and am in constant contact with someone from this ministry team who keep me up on what's victories and challenges the folks are having. But their success in school (passing a grade is almost as big a deal as it was for me to graduate high school), excitement about sports, dancing, and growing closer to God, all this is what keeps me wanting to come back here and share in their lives. I see more Jesus in these hard living kids than I think I ever have seen before and it is a blessing for me to come down here. I get to take some of their stories back with me and use their testimonies to help someone else find Jesus Christ and know that Jesus is there for them also no matter who they are or what they have done.

I hear great excitement from these kids when we or someone else come down to be with them. Each time you come here they are going to minister to you more than you will to them. But you being here is always a ministry even if you do not know it at the time. I want so much to help this ministry grow and I want to help the kids know how much I love them. I wish I could get them to understand how much I appreciate their real faith of action and how proud I am of them for fighting the fight daily. They really do try hard to walk in the footsteps of God.

It's humbling for me, someone who was blessed to grow up in the Community of Christ who's father is an elder and grandfather is a well know retired appointee in the church (both whose footsteps I consider a challenge and a privilege to try to fill or even be recognize as having the same shoe size) to come here and meet so many people who have never even heard about Jesus. The folks from the center are so willing to invite their friends without fear and never worrying about do they know enough. They just invite and share from their hearts and people respond to their inviting every day. It is a privilege for me to come down here for two to six weeks at a time just to try to help out with this ministry in action lifestyle. The folks in this ministry are called hard-living but they also have a hard to beat faith. I am glad God has called me to pray for them. I feel like I am honestly doing God's work when I am here and learning so much about being a disciple and reaching the lost. I learned how to take religion and to get it down to the nitty gritty truth which changes people for the better. I can forget about what society tells us to think and I can just focus on God and His children. So I am very thankful for this opportunity and I feel very privilege to know about the Chattanooga ministry. I am so thankful for those "Jedi masters" of Jesus like Jimmy and Kenny and Kathy and Jared who works every day for the biggest force there ever way. The force of God's love.

I am thankful to Graceland University for helping me have this opportunity and I look forward to when I can come back here again. Until I get the privilege of returning here, I promise I will do anything I can to support this ministry. I promise to pray for the kids of the center everyday. I also now know that I must pray for the lost everyday and pray for workers who are strong enough to go out and look for the lost.

I want to thanks the crumb donors who help this ministry stay alive each month. You are honestly doing a good thing. Thank 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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## **My life has gotten better.....A True story of Reggie & Jesus**

I was riding home from church last night and it became clear to me how my life has gotten better since I started coming to church and got baptized into the Community of Christ. I still have lots of problems especially with school, but my life has changed so much. I know the change is because of God. I do not get into as many fights any more. I use to be angry all the time and now I am happy most of the time. I used to cuss everyday and always be selfish. But now I like to help people. I love going to teenage church and helping with little kids church. Don't know exactly when God changed my life but God has. I think maybe the test of a good church is if that church makes your life better and causes you to become a better person. Because this church will make your life better if you will listen and give God a chance. I use to think that I would end up in prison or dead before I am 30, but I not so sure about that now. If school was not so hard and if I did not still do so many stupid things, I believe I could live a long life and be able to do many things. I would like to be a pastor or a minister like Jared some day but I am not sure I can be that good for that long. But my life sure is a lot better because of church. I just need to remember what I learn there when I am at home and school. Anyway if you give God and this church a chance, your life can get better too.

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