



# Crumb Donors Story Time

**“This will be the best Christmas I ever had,”** said 10 year old Jimmy last Sunday after our Chattanooga Christmas party. When asked why he felt that way, he said, **“Because I got baptized this year. I got cookies to eat. I got a ball in my Christmas basket. My mom and dad has been to church here with me two times in the past month. I got people here at the Community of Christ who I can hug and they will hug me back. Yeah, it is going to be a great Christmas. God knew what he was doing when he sent us Jesus that is for sure.”** He then runs off to torment his younger sister with a new excitement.

For those of us who serves Jesus in Chattanooga daily, it is so easy for us to know the wonderful difference this ministry is making and why our crumb donors are so awesome. We wish each of you could experience the excitement of changed lives and new hope which happens here in the Chattanooga Community of Christ family daily. Please allow us to be witnesses to each of you, your crumb donations are making so many small miracles occur in the lives of so many people, of all ages, who has the odds for a good life stack highly against them. Please understand your gifts and donations are what gives this ministry our life and our strength to try our hardest to reach out to many children, teenagers, parents, and others who fight the street lifestyle. Please know you are appreciated so much.

**In this issue:** we mainly want to wish you all a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy New Year.** You will read a Merry Christmas wish from our co-pastors Keith & Craig. Our Team members, Craig & Brenda Lenfestey will share their story about choosing to join our team here. A young adult, Justin DeLong, returned to Chattanooga for a visit this month and you will read his reflections. Our Yo Buddy Team will share their wish for all our second mile ministry team to have a Merry Christmas. In short, this issue is about letting you know we appreciate you and we need you. **MERRY CHRISTMAS for real!!!**

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Chattanooga Urban  
Ministries Crumb Donors  
Newsletter

DECEMBER 2006 Edition

Edited by the  
Yo Buddy Gang

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## Special Notes:

- ☺ Graceland Winter term begins here in January
- ☺ New crumb donors join our team this month!
- ☺ Larry & Sharon Norris are our special guests next month.
- ☺ Merry Christmas

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## Inside this issue:

Yo Buddies	2
Second mile ministry	2
Pastor Keith shares	3
Pastor Craig shares	3
Justin's reflections	4
Coming to Chattanooga	5

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

**Yo Buddy** for All the crumb donors who made our Christmas in Chattanooga great.  
**Yo Buddy** for our former pastor Faith Johnson and her youth group in Illinois for 75 Christmas baskets.  
**Yo Buddy** for Justin DeLong from Ohio for being here for 10 days of his Christmas break!  
**Yo Buddy** for Larry & Sharon Norris coming as our special guest in January during winter term.  
**Yo Buddy** for the 13 young adults from Graceland who will be here during January!  
**Yo Buddy** for the possibility of expanding our ministry into new areas, neighborhoods and cities.  
**Yo Buddy** for our upcoming baptismal and confirmation service at the end of January!  
**Yo Buddy** for Christmas and celebrating the gift of God's son to be the savior of the world.  
**Yo Buddy** for Pastor Jared coming home for Christmas and being here for several weeks.  
**Yo Buddy** for the crumb donors who send us funding, clothes, food, gifts and help us survive and grow.  
**Yo Buddy** for increase in our number of participants and for running out of class room space again.  
**Yo Buddy** for Craig & Brenda Lenfestey being married for thirty years this month. **YO Buddy Jesus!**  
**Yo Buddy for everyone who supports this ministry....THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

## Thank you to those who support this ministry & our Second Mile Ministry

*"If someone compels you to go with him a mile, go with him a second mile." Matthew 5:41*

Our crumb donors continues to fill our cup here to overflowing. From our school supplies campaign to our Christmas campaign, you have blessed so many and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. With your help, dozens of families have been provided with clothing, health supplies, and food. More than 100 children has been given a Christmas gift, and for a few their entire Christmas has been supply through you. Your generous support is making a great and marvelous difference. We want to thank everyone of you. Some of you give your crumbs and some give much more than your crumbs. But no matter what you are sharing to support this ministry, please know it is so appreciated and is making a great difference. The difference being made is not just in material ways but also giving hope and giving our folks a positive testimony of God's love and involvement in their lives. Thank you again.

When the YO BUDDY Gang met about this issue and what to list for our second mile ministry, one of our young editors said, *"It's Christmas. There second mile should be making sure they are spending time with their family and worshipping Jesus."* So there you have it. Our request for the second mile ministry for December is that YOU will take extra time with your family and make sure you go to church some place and worship Jesus. We are not asking for anything this month, belong your regular crumbs donations, because what is most needed by our kids is for them to know our crumb donors is celebrating Jesus and enjoying your family. There is your second mile ministry assignment....go to church and worship plus spoil your family.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR SECOND MILE MINISTRY TEAM**

## Blessings of the Holiday Season By “Co-Pastor” Keith Dutton

The holiday season is a blessing to us all in one way or another. Unfortunately some of us don't all receive the same blessings. Some of us don't have a Mother or a Father to open presents with. Others know that after we open presents, we will eat dinner not only with our parents but also with our grandparents. Some will have many gifts to open while others will have only one or two if any.

The blessing we all do have is the blessing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My honest prayer for this holiday season is that everyone realizes the blessings that we do have in our lives whatever those may be.

This Christmas season is different for me because rather than just walking down the hall to celebrate Christmas with my family, I will be driving through several states to see them. But I thank the Lord for showing me the blessings I am receiving daily through this minor inconvenience.

One of my many blessings is the opportunity to spend this holiday season with the youth in Chattanooga, seeing the excitement in their faces. I see excitement before but their excitement is so much more full of life and hope. Doing activities with the youth and watching them grow daily here in Chattanooga is another one of my many blessings.

Another blessing for me this holiday season is seeing the willingness to share that all the crumb donors and others have in their hearts. Your sharing has provided clothing, food, gifts, and a ray of hope for dozens of our folks here in Chattanooga. We thank you for making this holiday season memorable for us and the Chattanooga congregation.

## Christmas is a season to be joyful By “Co-Pastor” Craig Hidy

Sometimes we get so caught up in the holidays that we miss the importance of Christmas. Yes, the holidays are a joyous time but sometimes we need to be reminded why we have the season. This December Keith Dutton and I, took a few of the kids to the Chattanooga Parade of lights. We didn't know what to expect since this is our first one here for us, but figured it would be something the kids would enjoy. The parade took off with lights, marching bands, twirling batons, and even Santa. People walked down the street with pride spreading the joy of the season.

As we were watching this all take place, Petey, a little 6 year old boy, that was sitting on my shoulders yelled out, with a little lisp but with all his heart, “Merry Christmas.” My heart was filled with joy as I was reminded that the true meaning of the season is about bringing the love and joy of Jesus Christ into the hearts of others. Petey brought the joy of Christ into my heart and for that I am truly thankful.

I hope that wherever you find yourself these holidays that you are reminded of the love and joy that we have in Christ Jesus. Life is so interconnected and just a few small words can touch the deepest parts of a person's soul. So be intentional with your words and express the love you have as you bring joy to others this season.

**On Behalf of the entire Chattanooga Community of Christ Family, we wish every crumb donor a very sincere THANK YOU for supporting this ministry and a giant**

# Merry Christmas!!

**A message from a Young Adult Summer Intern who returned to Chattanooga this month ...By Justin De Long**

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Justin DeLong is a 19 year old young adult who served several weeks this summer as an intern here in Chattanooga. He is attending college in Ohio and came back to Chattanooga this month to spend part of his winter break as a volunteer minister here. This is his message to our crumb donors.)*

Returning to Chattanooga made me realize how much this ministry really affects the lives of the people in the community. Seeing all of the kids again, and seeing new people here touched my heart. It again showed me how important this ministry really is to the community. The power of Jesus is alive down here and is affecting people daily.

Chattanooga is blessed with a great team of young adults and a dedicated leader and mentor. They are dedicated to their work, and have so much faith. I've again learned a lot in the week that I was down here just by being with them and sharing testimonies, and talking about God. I've also had the privilege of sharing in so many ministry moments with them, during my visit here. We go on prayer walks, pass out flyers, pray daily, make home visits, and other activities that let the community and the church members know that they are loved; and that they will always be loved by the team and the church. This church is giving them the love and support they need to know that Jesus Christ is with them always, and that he will always be there with them. While talking with the kids, you get to know them better, and you learn about the kind of life they live and it saddens my heart. This church is honestly bringing hope to their life, and is giving them a safe place to play and worship with each other.

Christmas is just around the corner. I know that there are people in the community that have struggles, and the kids suffer from that. This ministry is bringing the community a Christmas gathering that will be open to the kids and their families. The kids will get presents, and will get to participate in a nativity scene in front of the congregation, and will get to have a Christmas dinner. This is a time where the kids can come to church with their families, and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ united as a family. This is all possible due to the generosity of all of the Crumb Donors. You are making a difference in the lives of the kids. You are giving them the chance to have a Merry Christmas like they deserve. In their young lives they have been through so much, and I thank you from my heart for caring for these kids, and being a part of this ministry to help make a difference. God Bless and Merry Christmas.. Yo Buddy!

## Coming to Chattanooga by Craig and Brenda Lenfestey

*(Editor's note: Craig & Brenda, along with Co-Pastors Craig & Keith, said "yes" to God's call to relocate to Chattanooga and become part of our leadership ministry team in September. Good things are already happening and we are blessed to have Craig & Brenda share their lives, hearts, experience, faith and leadership with the Chattanooga Community of Christ family! This is part of Craig & Brenda's story)*

Brenda and I were asked to be prayerful about considering options for continuing ministry within the Community of Christ. Coming to Chattanooga was one option. As we continued to seek God's guidance in regard to this very important decision, we were continually drawn to Chattanooga as the place we should explore. We were invited to come and visit the Center for a couple days in May of this year, and to also attend the Memorial Day reunion later in the month. As we were introduced to the many youth attending the Center, we began to get excited about the possibility of being a part of this ministry. The reunion experience only magnified the excitement. We felt God asking us to take a step in faith, and make the move to Chattanooga. Since moving here in September, we have encountered God's Holy Spirit moving in many ways. It is not uncommon to be surprised by the Spirit when you least expect it. This only adds to the excitement and hope for the future. Our ministry is beginning to expand already, as we are focusing on adults as well as youth. Some good things are beginning to happen through small group ministry.

One of the roles Craig has as Church Planting Center Coordinator is to assist Chattanooga with the expansion of the existing facilities. This is underway at present, as we have a building which adjoins our existing property under contract for purchase and renovation. We are desperate for additional space right now to meet our existing needs. Our classrooms are not large enough for our current attendance. We are "busting at the seams", which is a good problem to deal with. We are excited about expanding our ministries once the additional building is acquired. Our food pantry ministry is on track to expand in the coming year.

All this is a huge financial undertaking for Chattanooga, but we have the faith that people will continue to generously respond as we expand our outreach efforts to our community. We are continually amazed at the generosity of our Crumb Donors which make this ministry possible. To all of you who so generously give so others may be blessed, we extend our heartfelt thanks!

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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 return address below**

**Merry Christmas & a  
very Happy New Year  
to each crumb donor**

***Crumb Donors  
C/O Don Barber  
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