



Crumb Donors Story Time

Hello crumb donors! This is Jared Munson. You will be hearing more from me again as I am back in Chattanooga furthering my education. During my last semester at Graceland, I encountered a serious bout with depression. Getting the necessary help with my depression and battling my learning disability caused me to fail a couple of classes. The result of this was my overall GPA dropped to 2.4 and I got suspended from Graceland. So I am back in Chattanooga attending school here. Some good news for me is I get to be apart of the Chattanooga ministry team again. I am excited about following & supporting the leadership of my new pastors and good friends, Craig Hidy & Keith Dutton. Being able to support my two **older** brothers in Christ in Chattanooga style of ministry is something I am looking forward to very much. Craig & Keith are doing a great job and I hope I can help them reach out to even more people. It is like a dream come true to work with other young adults in a leadership role. I am also looking forward to being able to support Brenda Lenfestey in our efforts to provide a more powerful ministry to young adults & adults in the Chattanooga area. Plus helping Craig Lenfestey and my dad with the Church Planting Center will also be exciting. Most of all, I am so excited to be able to just help the congregation of folks I grew up with continue into a new future. So with college and helping to support this wonderful ministry, I will be plenty busy and so glad to be back on mission here again. I know I will continue to struggle in my effort to get my college degree but I am determined. Any way thank you all for being crumb donors!!! I look forward to some great new adventures.

A humorous moment...*During our recent winter term here, one of the interns named Jeremy stepped in dog manure 3 times in 4 days. But to add to this, Larry & Sharon Norris came the following weekend here to offer ministry. Their suitcase also got drugged through some dog manure and gave a special odor to their room. So if you are of the opinion that we are "full of it" here in Chattanooga, it is true. Just ask Jeremy, Larry or Sharon. Yo Buddy for fun times!!!*

Chattanooga Urban
Ministries Crumb
Donors Newsletter

January 2007 Edition

Edited by the
Yo Buddy Gang

Special Notes:

- ☺ Graceland Winter term testimonies are inside this edition
- ☺ Our ministry team receives a gift of a mini-van from the Ash family..YO BUDDY!
- ☺ We acquired an additional building for our expansion

Inside this issue:

Yo Buddies	2
Second mile ministry	2
Winter Term Reflection	3
Winter Term	3
Winter Term	4
Winter Term	5

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

Yo Buddy in a giant way for Jim & Pam Ash who recently donated a great mini-van to this ministry.

Yo Buddy for every crumb donor who generously support this ministry and keep us growing.

Yo Buddy for Larry & Sharon Norris being our special guest ministers in January ..they were awesome.

Yo Buddy for the young adults from Graceland who was here for Winter Term 2007.

Yo Buddy for Peter Judd coming to be our special guest minister in February!

Yo Buddy for the Church Planting Center now being here & gaining the building next to our center.

Yo Buddy for the many future opportunities for gaining new people for Jesus in the future.

Yo Buddy for our full time staff Craig Hidy, Keith Dutton, Brenda & Craig Lenfestey & Mr. Jimmy.

Yo Buddy for new participants, new members and a great team of volunteer leaders.

Yo Buddy for all the great support we get from crumb donors, friends & church leaders.

YO Buddy for Don Barber who does a great job of managing our funds and keeping us moving forward.

Yo Buddy for the power of prayer and the power of invitation. Be an inviter and share in the victory.

Yo Buddy for everyone who supports this ministry....THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

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

We are very grateful for each crumb donor we have. Many of you choose to also be part of our "second mile ministry". To be on the receiving end of such generous support is a blessing so big, words cannot express it. Please, from the bottom of our hearts & souls, know we honestly appreciate you all so much. Thank you so much for giving to the Lord.

With the Community of Christ choosing Chattanooga as the new home for the Church Planting Center and ongoing local growth and plans for future growth, we have been in great need of some additional room. Without going into a lot of detail, by the grace & blessing of God, the old hardware store located right next door to the center became available. In late January, the hardware store became part of our church home facility. **YO BUDDY!** As we move forward **in faith**, we hope to be able to remodel the hardware store sometime soon to be use as addition to our current local and church-wide planting ministries. When we get ready through planning and funding, Craig Lenfestey our building committee chairman, could be needing some second mile ministry help from folks who have some manual labor, construction and other such skills. The old hardware store is in need of repair and remodeling so let us know if you feel you might be able to help us with this. We are not sure when we will be able to launch into the repairs & remodeling but we will let you know of our progress, but if you think you can be helpful, let us know.

Also, we just need your continual prayer support this month. Our staff have had a few extra challenges lately, with stuff like serious sickness in some of our families; friends & love ones fighting depression; growing pains; job challenges; physical illness and the high demands for daily ministry have made January 2007 a little tough. Jesus continues to be on the scene with us and blessings and growth keep flowing here. But we could use some extra prayer support for our team.

Currently our supply of food, clothing, school items, books and hygiene products are doing well thanks to all of you. Our food pantry get use almost daily but it is not empty yet. Brenda Lenfestey is our food pantry director and is working on helping find some local donors. So this month, our major need is your continue crumb donor support and your prayer power. God is opening doors for us in many ways. Our Pastors Craig & Keith are working extremely hard to keep us focus and moving forward. Your prayers and ongoing crumb donor support is and will be a great blessing.

The type of life I want to live....*by Jenny Klee, a winter term student*

I came to Chattanooga for a new church experience and to give ministry to others. It was an awesome experience and I received a lot of ministry myself. I loved getting to know the members and family of the Chattanooga Church. They all have great hearts. It really touched me how the kids here have gone through so much but they are so accepting and joyful every time they walk through the Center's doors.

I remember one night we was playing knock-out (a basketball game) and the girls was trying to beat the boys. I won the game and all of the girls rushed me and gave me the biggest hug ever. I could feel the joy pounding out from them. It made be feel so loved.

My prayer life has also been strengthened. I remember on a neighborhood prayer walk, a random guy stopped and got out of his vehicle and had us pray for him. It was really powerful also to hear the kids' prayers too and see how willingly they volunteered to pray. Praying for others is a giant part of this Chattanooga ministry.

I really love the ministry down here because you can truly see Jesus Christ working through people's lives and changing people's hearts. Everyone is always excited to be at church and that is a huge blessing. I love the message down here and how simple they make the gospel because many times we over-complicate things. I just can't wait to come back here again and see all of the awesome people that I have gotten to know. It's truly been a blessing and an eye opening experience on the type of life I want to live.

Prayer is such a big part of true ministry...*BY Amy Morgan, a winter term student*

God is good. He is so alive and I had an amazing experience in Chattanooga for winter term. I had the opportunity to come down last year for Memorial Day Reunion and I didn't know really what to expect. Right away the kids made me feel loved and accepted. I developed closer relationships with some of the teenage girls and the younger kids. The last day when everyone was going home, one of the girls was crying because they would never see me again....that is why I am here for Winter Term. God's unconditional love is so apparent down here and taught so well. This winter term definitely brought some challenges, but I learned so much about myself by trying to help others to overcome them through prayer and turning them over to God. Prayer is such a big part of true ministry. Words can mean and help so much more through God's blessings. One night we were having worship and I opened my heart and mind to God and prayed....it was an amazing experience. It was not just me saying the words, it was like God was speaking through me. What an awesome experience!

While down here I went on home visits and got to meet some of the parents and pray for them. We also went on neighborhood prayer walks. We walked the neighborhood and prayed for everyone who lives in the houses and work in the stores and for everyone we met during our walk.

One day we were having children's church and I was getting to know two of the boys. We began talking about baptism and I try my best to explain what baptism is. After we were done talking, we prayed and one of the boys said he wanted to be baptized!

I would love to stay down here for these kids and to continue to fellowship with them, but unfortunately I have to go back to school. I am so thankful for God's ministry here and Jimmy, Kathy, Jared, Craig, Keith, Mr. Craig & Brenda who all are doing great things in Chattanooga. It is my hope that more churches will humble themselves before the Lord like Chattanooga does. I know that while being here I have become more humble and God's love in overflowing in my life. I just cannot wait to share that love with others back at school and at home.

But I keep telling all the kids here.... "don't worry! I will be back!"

The gospel is not just for you, it's for others.....*by Brian Loving* *(Brian was one of 11 Graceland students who came here for Winter Term)*

The books written by Jared Munson were the inspiration for my journey here to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where the youth are in charge of what goes on. Experiencing first hand some of the stories Jared faced was important for my growth in ministering to others as well as becoming a stronger follower of Jesus Christ. Ever since I can remember, my attendance in church wasn't for anybody but myself. Going to church didn't mean I had to invite others, it just meant that I should get out of it whatever I could. That's not what the gospel is about. The gospel, as I have recently discovered since being here, is not just for you, it's for others. Before coming to Chattanooga I had thought I was a very strong disciple of Christ, but there's more to it than what meets the eye.

The one big decision I had made since attending Graceland was to be a living example of Christ 24/7. That's not hard, instead of being a Christian only when I'm in church, I'll spread my ministry and kindness to everyone. I was missing something though, the invitation part, where you invite Jesus into the lives of anyone and everyone you see. It wasn't until here, in Chattanooga, that I realized I had no idea what I was living. Inviting someone to learn about Jesus Christ, could change their life, and all you have to do is ask, not caring about getting rejected or feeling unwanted, because Jesus was cast off before anyone else. Since the beginning of this trip, I've realized that no matter how good or bad you have it, there is somebody else around the corner that could use your ministry.

Although the pastors and students don't always see eye to eye, we often find our way again after realizing what the big picture is, glorifying God. Working through hard times, and struggling together has been a key point in our experience even if it's not what we want. Things don't always go our way, and we can either pout and be angry with each other, or we can forgive and forget as Jesus would do.

People here in Chattanooga may not have the best homes, the nicest cars, or the most money, but they do have some of the best ministry I've seen. The church here, also known as "the center", is looking for the people that have been rejected by families, thrown out of other churches, hurt on the street, abandoned, or forgotten about, because nobody is ever lost to God. They realize that here, if anyone is lost, they'll find them and bring them back to the Father. The prayer walks, the home visits, the hard life ministry that goes on here is real. The desire to help those that seem hopeless is what drives these ministers. This is where the real ministry is at with kids inviting other kids, every week, putting growth in our church even in the darkest streets of Chattanooga. This experience in Chattanooga is life changing, and a journey that no person should go without. My hope is that one day; we will all learn to invite God into the lives of others for the gleam of inspiration to change their life, just as the kids here in Chattanooga are able to.

This experience is one that will be in my heart forever.by Zach
(one of 11 2007 Graceland Winter Term Students)

I didn't know what to expect. I had no idea what we would be doing down in Chattanooga but I did know that we would be interacting with kids that have had or are going through a pretty rough life. A life that I never had to deal with as a kid. A life that I didn't even know existed when I was a kid. My reasons for coming to Chattanooga were partly selfish. One, I promised Jimmy last year that I would come down here for winter term and one trait of my father is not being a man of his word and back in the day I found myself starting to do the same so I really try to stick with what I say now, and two, I came down here for the memorial day camp and I really struggled with connecting to the kids in Chattanooga. I have never seen or been around the Chattanooga Culture so I honestly just didn't know how to interact with these kids.

When you get to Chattanooga there is no standing on the sidelines or simple observing. The minute you're here you become one of the ministers. Whether you're planning worships, going on prayer walks, or doing house visits, there is no time for hesitation, and I love it. Its makes you uncomfortable and forces you to go outside of the box but to me that is what's needed to reach out to people. I've never heard of someone doing great things and staying in that comfort zone the whole time. So for me I made the choice to get out of my box and try something new, something uncomfortable.

Every time I had the chance to interact with one of these kids I would. At first I thought I was ministering to these kids but in all reality they are ministering to me. To see these kids be so willing to pray and how real they are with each other was mind blowing. I don't know about you but at my church you had to pull an arm and a leg to get someone to pray and right after the service everyone was in their cars worrying about the rest of there day. There was one day that really hit me hard though. It was a Friday night and the center did a open gym for all ages. As a whole the winter term group was pretty wiped out from previous days and this night seemed like we were just baby sitting these kids. After taking the kids back to their houses Jimmy sat us down and said tonight we stopped a drug deal from taking place, we stopped a kid from beating the life out of another kid, and we created a place for them to come and be safe from the streets. Jimmy's words really put into perspective what the center does for people. Whether we are in small group discussion or just letting the kids shoot hoops we are creating a safe space for kids to relieve themselves from what the streets have to offer.

This experience is one that will be in my heart forever. To know that I was talking to a kid that would be dead if it wasn't for this inner city ministry is very powerful. I am forever grateful for Craig, Keith, Jimmy, Jared, Brenda & Mr. Craig for having us down here and letting us be apart of something so amazing. This place has given me a new hope and motivation to go and reach out to the people that society does not. We are all people and every person should be given the chance to accept God in their lives. So why not be that person to give them that chance.

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invitation. INVITE SOMEONE**



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