



Crumb Donors Story Time

We are very grateful for each crumb donor. Your generous monthly donations keep this ministry alive and growing. We thank you and we still need you. Many of our crumb donors are also blessing us by joining the entire international Community of Christ by donating to the designated giving project (read more on our web page www.crumbdonors.net). 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. You are making a greater difference than you know...YO BUDDY for you all.

Our need for clothes is gone. We are getting involved in local community networks which will provide our ministry with clothes. During the past many years, our crumb donors have clothed literally hundreds of our children and adults. Thank you. Your response has been overwhelming. If a need for some specific clothes arise for us again, we will let you all know.

Our current most pressing need is for paper products. We need stuff like paper cups, plates, bowls & plastic silverware to feed our folks. We need toilet paper, napkins, paper towels & garbage bags. If you have any of these items or any ideas on how we can obtain them, it will be a blessing.

Many of you are asking about our need for school supplies. In early August, our Chattanooga Kids will return to school and YES we will need school supplies for them. We will try to put a list of needed supplies in our June & July edition. Thank you all for caring so much about our kids.

Some of you are asking if we are planning on taking some of our kids to SPEC again and if so, do we need help. Pastors Craig Hidy & Keith Dutton wants very much to take some of our teens to SPEC but in order for this to happen, we do need to raise the funds. Therefore if you have any ideas or extra cash for this purpose let us know.

On behalf of all our participants, members and leaders here in Chattanooga, we feel so greatly blessed by the generous gifts and donations from our crumb donors and the entire Community of Christ. As we grow and add new ministries and attempt to plant new groups, our costs continue to increase. The Great News for those who are being reached and yet to be reached by this ministry, we are able to move forward in faith because of our past experiences of knowing crumb donors continue to be generous. Thank you. You all are a great testimony of how great a difference people can make when we care & are willing to be generous. YO BUDDY is the best expression we have for how you makes us feel here.

Please remember, the designated giving project of the Community of Christ is giving our Kids a facility to grow and to learn peace making skills in their journey with Jesus. Our crumb donors provide us with the action ministry which cause the tires to hit the road and for the real gospel of Jesus Christ to touch real people. Together, a great and marvelous work is and will be taking place. Our cups here continues to overflow. Thank you again for caring so much. **Invite someone to become crumb donor!**

Chattanooga Urban
Ministries Crumb
Donors Newsletter
May 2007 Edition

Edited by the
Yo Buddy Gang

Special Notes:

- ☺ Memorial Day Weekend Reunion 2007 is Friday—Monday, May 25– 28. Theme: Walkin' It Out with Jesus! Staff & adults come in on Thursday evening!!!!
- ☺ Our Young Adult soft ball team is 0-3 but improving!!!

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www.crumbdonors.net	

My Happy Place.....story of Barbara & Jesus

Through the past years, the Community of Christ has been a giant blessing to me and my family. I have gotten many clothes for my kids and grand kids. My kids and grand kids has gotten school supplies there. My sons played basketball there when they were teenagers and I knew they were at a safe place. But as far as worshipping there, I have only done so a very few times. The worship style is quite difference. It is simple and done in a way that anyone can learn. It is a place which summons those who attend to be real and to be willing to accept any one. The main pastor claims no perfect people are allowed to attend but only people who knows that life is hard and unfair. Worship there requires a person to be common and to be just who you are. This is what I am growing to like about this church. There are no fashion shows. There are no lectures. There is no one their showing off their talents. It is just a place for people to come and be who they are. WE get to share our own story and views and are taught that Jesus is not some fancy suited judge but a Savior who is always on the scene with us. Jesus is a firm foundation here.

I live near the center. Our neighborhood has gangs. Even one of my own sons have gotten caught up in that lifestyle. I love my children no matter what they do. I try to help them and help my grandchildren. I work hard but I still get behind on my bills. A few weeks ago, I got laid off from work for a short period of time and I got behind on my rent. I've been wanting to move from the neighborhood to a safer environment but when you miss your rent, it is hard for you to be able to be accepted into a better place. My home has been broken into several times. I was at the end of my rope when one of my neighbors told me to go to the Community of Christ and asked for help. Asking for help is hard for me to do as I am an independent woman. But because of my past history with this church, I was willing to go and talk to Pastor Jimmy. I shared with him my fear of living in the neighborhood. I shared my fear for my son and his poor choices. I shared my need for rent money. He listened and then he had some ladies come in and pray for me. Their prayers was not anything to cause a person to be in awe but the true caring expressed was something amazing. During one of the prayers, I felt the desire to want to be more involved in the church but I am a woman with a hard past. I knew Pastor Jimmy understood about hard pasts but I was not sure about others who are there. But I got the courage up to share with Pastor Jimmy my desire to be a leader & offer more of myself to the church. As I shared my desire, it was wonderful to see Pastor Jimmy's eyes. I knew he would see to it that there was enough room there for me and my hopes. The prayers offered for me that night by the two ladies gave me a new hope. Pastor Keith helped me get my rent money. He called me to make sure I was ok. He invited me to go with the church to a camp later this month at no charge so I am going and bringing one of my grandchildren. I am feeling like I might be finding a place where I can belong and just be me. Pastor Jimmy have spoken to my son who is involved in some bad things 3 times already and progress is being made there too. At the Community of Christ, you can be you & be appreciated. They have patience for a person to grow beyond their past. It is a church that just want to help others, no matter what your past has been. They accept you when you walk in for the first time. It is becoming my happy place!!!

\$7.10 is making a big difference in my life.....*story of Rueban & the Chattanooga Community of Christ*

I told Pastor Jimmy in sharing my story I wanted to go by my given name Rueban instead of my nick name due to some personal reasons for needing to remain somewhat unknown. For the past six months, I have come to the Community of Christ center asking once or twice a month to be able to do something to earn \$7.10. The ministers there are people who are always willing to help. Few months ago, I saw a bunch of people from this church walking through the neighborhood doing prayer walks. I met Pastor Craig Hidy during this prayer walk thing. I told him I needed some money but did not want a hand out. He walked with me to the center and gave me a garbage bag to pick up trash. When I was done, he came back and handed me the cash I asked for but then he gave me something else. He said a prayer for me and I was moved by the generous words this young minister said for me. Since this time when I need my \$7.10, I come to the church. The ministers give me a job when I complete my work they pay me exactly \$7.10 and take a few minutes to chat with me and then they always pray for me. The prayer is not something I earned or asked for but something they do for me. The prayers I can feel it very sincere and comes from a firm belief the ministers hold that I need God and that God can and will bless me. I always feel uplifted and encouraged after our meetings. I am not a prayerful man but am glad other men are. Men needs to teach their families to pray.

To make a long story short about the \$7.10, when I was growing up in Alabama my family was very poor but my parents worked hard. One day, my dad fell off the back of a truck he was loading and ended up in a coma. While he was in the hospital, my mother had a minister come to pray for healing for my dad and he said God promises to give us what we ask for if our faith is strong. I prayed as hard as I knew how but God did not heal my dad. Instead my dad died. I think I still may hate God for this. I was only 11. Since I was the youngest of 6 kids, my mom sent me to live with an auntie in Tennessee. After living with her for 6 years, she died from cancer and I was shipped off to another relative in Atlanta. There I got involved with a tough crowd and ended up in prison for 10 years for transporting illegal drugs. While I was in prison, I found out that I have fathered a set of twin girls before my arrest. I decided if I got out of prison I was going to learn how to be a real dad and be a dad to my girls.

In July of 2006, I got released and moved to East Chattanooga to be close to my girls. The court required that I keep a steady job and pay child support to the girls for 6 months before I could even see them. I now get to see my girls twice a month when it is ok with their mom. The round trip cost of a bus trip to the place where I get to do supervised visits is \$7.10. Since I have paid child support and never missed a supervised visit, I now get to see my girls alone. I am so thankful for the help the Community of Christ gives me because of their help, along with the help of several others, I am getting to start a relationship with my daughters. Thank you all for allowing this church to help me. My visits are now unsupervised as long as I keep working, paying my support and never miss a scheduled visit. Your church is helping me.

Pastor Jimmy asked me if my story could be shared with his crumb donors. I felt it was a small thing that I could do. No, I do not attend church and not sure that I ever will but I feel as if I have a church home at the center if I ever need support. Craig was the first minister I ever allowed to pray for me but now I look forward to the prayers of the ministers at the church. It is a church here in East Chat to just give whatever help it can to whoever needs it. They are not concerned about being taken advantage of or what their public image is. They are just people who serve others. If they can help someone, they do it without expecting anything in return. I think they do it because they honestly believe that is what Jesus would do. If they cannot help you, they tell you so. This church is a great asset of honest goodness and light to a very strenuous neighborhood. Thanks again for helping me get to my visits with my daughters. I very much appreciate you all. The \$7.10 is a big blessing to me and my girls.

A reflection on the rich young ruler from Pastor Jimmy.....Read Mark 10 17-23

I grew up in a family where we struggled to have enough money. My dad worked in a coal mine 6 days a week to make ends meet. Sunday was the only day we saw him. My mom also had a job. My two sisters & I never went without something we really needed, but there wasn't a lot of money for extras.

So I find it quite hard to identify with the man in the story. He was rich – he had great wealth. If he needed something, it wasn't a choice between food and clothes – he had both. He possibly owned land and property. He had many possessions.

Today, compared to when I was young, I am relatively rich. I still have to be careful with my money. If I need a new pair of shoes because the others have fallen apart, I can find the money to buy them – even if it means juggling things until next pay day. Ministering in East Chattanooga, we deal with the poor. The rub is that if you look around at most churches, few people in them would be counted as poor.

In fact, most churches have this idea that God looks after those who look after themselves – if you are careful with your money, God will bless you. God will provide – isn't that what the Bible says? So we work, earn our money, become middle class and respectable. Some people even look upon it as their **right** to have possessions and wealth, calling it a sign of God's blessing. It has been that way since Old Testament times- the more you had, the more righteous you were as wealth was a sign of God's favor.

But Jesus turned people's ideas upside down. Jesus broke the mold – he didn't seem interested in money. This must have seemed very strange to the devout Jews of his day, who saw money as a sign of spirituality. "Blessed are the poor" is not a statement that gained friends among the rich in society. Jesus lived a life with no property, no credit cards and no paycheck. I bet Jesus' disciples were a bit upset at having no money, and having to go fishing to find the money to pay their taxes. Really, it can be quite uncomfortable being a real follower of Jesus.

This rich man comes along, seeming very devout, knowing that Jesus was a good teacher who knew a lot about heaven. It's not surprising that he asks Jesus, "Am I doing the right things? Am I going the right way to inherit eternal life? I keep all these commandments – is there anything else I should do?"

But Jesus' reply is totally different to what we would expect. Instead of, as I probably would have said, "Yes, you're doing what God wants – keep it up!" He looks at the man and knows what is at the center of his life. You see, the commandments listed are all to do with observable actions – it can be seen whether we have kept them. But the key is not what we are like on the outside but on the inside. Perhaps that's why the rich man knows even keeping all these commandments isn't enough – "what more can I do?" Perhaps he knows that it is the tenth commandment that causes him trouble – coveting wealth rather than looking to help his neighbors.

So Jesus gets real & points out where the man's real heart is– what has a hold on his life - his possessions. Does our search for God, our desire to please him, touch us at the point where we actually are, or where we kid ourselves we are, or we would like others to think we are? Jesus looked at the man and knew that he did want to please God – but there was something stopping him from following God closely. He had his possessions in a clenched fist instead of on an open palm.

Now it is very possible to be rich **and** a follower of Jesus – in fact, the disciples were dependent on the

wealth of some followers or their own crumb donors. Jesus never criticized wealth. The real issue is our availability to Jesus. Am I holding on to anything else as well as God? If God wants me to move somewhere to follow him, am I willing to leave things behind to do that? If God wants me to give up my lifestyle so that I can help others, will I do that without complaining? In other words, what do I trust – **God alone**, or God & my money? **God alone**, or God & my possessions? What do I think of as my treasure? Is it what I’ve made of my life, or what **God** can make of my life?

Many of us want God and something. God & my financial security. God & my job. God & my family. Now, all those things may be quite legitimate, but if they come before God then they could prevent us from following God completely. The only way we can be sure that we are fully available to God is when we can truthfully say, “*One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord forever, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.*” If we “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,” then all the other things we need will become available to us. Of course God will provide for his children. That’s his nature. So we need to take stock. What am I holding on to as well as God? Is it my relationships? Is my faith dependent on being surrounded by other people – or will it stand alone? If everyone else were to let me down, would I still follow God? If other people hurt me so much that I couldn’t bear to be with them, would I still hold on to Jesus? Or is it my possessions? What would happen to my faith if my house burned down and I lost everything? If the bank went broke and I lost all my savings, would I still trust in God to provide?

Perhaps it is our status in society or the church that we want to preserve. We want others to think well of us – so we avoid situations where we might become unpopular. Do you desperately need others to approve of you, so you work at moving up some imaginary ladder of success. It is easy to lose sight of the reality that our standing is in Christ alone, and no earthly acclaim matters one bit. Or maybe what we are holding on to is our dreams. I want to become something different, or I want my life to take a different direction. I set my attention on my future – and lose sight of God, the great I AM who is here and now.

Jesus faced the issue of people fearing that they would lose out by following him. He told the disciples, “You can be sure that anyone who gives up home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or land for me and for the good news will be rewarded. In this world they will be given a hundred times as many houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and pieces of land. And in the world to come they will have eternal life.”

Of course there will be a cost in following Jesus. It’s not only in the pursuit of physical greatness that we are told, “No pain, no gain”! We have to be ready to hold everything on an outstretched palm, for God to do with it as he wants, because if we keep it clasped tightly to us we will either come to depend on that rather than God. You remember the story of the man who wanted to catch a monkey? All he had to do was put a paw size hole in a coconut and wait. The monkey came along, put his hand in the coconut & grab the candy. His clenched fist was too wide to get back out of the coconut, so because the monkey wasn’t prepared to give up the candy he was easily caught. We can get trapped in holding on to our possessions, our status, our dreams, our relationships – and miss out on following God. We are faced with a choice, just like the rich ruler. We have to search our hearts to see if we are loving God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength – or if we are trying to hold on to God **AND**....!

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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

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