



Crumb Donors Story Time

Due to the generous support of our crumb donors, the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Community of Christ is being extended into communities beyond Chattanooga. Shown here is Church Planter/Pastor Craig Hidy & Seventy Jared Munson sharing in the confirmation of newly baptized church members from the Ooltewah & Cleveland church plants. Your support is helping this ministry to continue to grow in Chattanooga and beyond. YO BUDDY!



**Chattanooga Urban
Ministries Crumb Donors
Newsletter**

July 2007 Edition

**Edited by the
Yo Buddy Gang**

Special Notes:

- © 9 people from the Chattanooga area got to go to SPEC. Thanks to the Peace Chapel in Memphis for so generously supporting us!
- © Jenny Klee from Grace-land University spent July with us in helping with this ministry.

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Editor's Message

We want to thank each crumb donor for your ongoing support. Your support is honestly making a large difference in the life of many people. The ministry in Chattanooga continues to grow and reach new people. The impact of our outreach continues to reach **east Chattanooga** and extend into several **other neighborhoods in Chattanooga**. It is also extending the ministry of the church into new places like **Ooltewah** and **Cleveland**, Tennessee where weekly official worship experiences and other activities are taking place and growing. Baptisms are already happening among participants there. Ministry activities are also taking place in **north Georgia** and **Dalton, Georgia**. Outreach and contact making is being done in **Soddy Daisy & Hixson**, Tennessee. Plans are underway to begin to reach out in the **Harrison**, Tennessee area where activities will hopefully begin within the next few weeks. Outreach to the **University of Tennessee of Chattanooga (UTC)** is slowly getting underway. The outcome and success of all these efforts are of course still unknown but the faith driven outreach taking place is possible because of the crumb donors. We still need your generous support and in many ways need it more now than ever. Thank you so much for caring and being a part of this ministry effort.

Update on building project... Craig Lenfestey continues to do the stressful task of being chairman of our large building committee (25 plus people). Efforts continues to go forth in coming up with a plan to establish a recreational, worship and training facility for Chattanooga and the Church Planting Center. The actual building effort cannot take place until we see how much is raise in the designated giving project of the International Church and if our crumb donors giving remains strong to cover our programming cost. But daily efforts are being made to turn the dream into reality. Your crumb donations is a very important part of this effort. Remember our outreach efforts and building program dream in your prayers and your offerings.

In this issue....You will read testimonies from Jared Munson and from one of our summer interns from Graceland University. Hollie will share her reflections from being involved in this ministry for six weeks this summer. You will also see some pictures of church planting ministry taking place.



Is there room for troublemakers....by Jared Munson

This past Tuesday morning, I had just completed taking a challenging exam in one of my summer classes. I was preoccupied with my own thoughts of being concerned about how good my text taking efforts might have been and I gave a giant shove to the exit door of the building. The door flew open striking an older gentleman knocking a folder full of papers out of his hands. The paper went everywhere. Another student and myself did our best to help the man retrieve all of his papers. The gentleman did not say thank you but instead told me in a very angry voice I needed to watch where I was going. *I figure with my Munson luck, the man will probably end up being one of my professors in an upcoming math class.*

I then walk out to where my car was parked on the street. When I got to my car, I found I had received a parking ticket (the second one in 2 days). The campus police officer who wrote the ticket was near by and I mumbled something under my breath. The officer heard my grumbling and walked up to me. I showed the officer that I had a campus parking permit sticker on my car. He explained to me that my permit only allow me to park on the other side of the street on Mondays & Tuesdays. I grumbled that I felt it was a stupid policy. The officer responded that my opinion of their policy did not matter to him and I still needed to pay the fine or learn what side of the street to park on during Tuesdays. Another student, the one who helped pick up the papers moments earlier, also got a parking ticket. He listened to my exchange with the officer and then share in an exchange himself. After the officer left, my fellow student smile at me and jokingly stated, “Do you think there is any place on God’s earth, where **troublemakers** like us will ever fit in?” We laughed and got in our separate cars and left the campus.

As I drove home, the statement of my fellow troublemaker haunted me. His off the cuff statement hit close to home for me. You see, I relate to the experiences of the trouble-making Jesus more than I can to the peace-maker Jesus. I relate to the Jesus who made a whip and started turning over tables confronting the money-changers of the temple. I relate to the Jesus who called the affluent, high ranking, self serving Pharisees “vipers” (the Tennessee translation is “snakes in the grass”). I relate to the Jesus who told the rich and popular young ruler to go sell all he had and give it to the poor then get real and come follow Jesus. I can relate to the Jesus who hung out with sinners causing great frustration to the religious sects. I relate to the Jesus who meets in the shadows of the dark night with a nervous seeker who boldly tells the seeker that he must be born again to be truly a part of the peaceable kingdom. I could go on with citing examples of the trouble making side of Jesus but I hope you get my meaning. Well, being that I relate well to the trouble making side of Jesus, at times I seriously wonder if I still fit into a church who is always talking about being peacemakers and the peaceable kingdom. Even though I do have my moments of wondering if “there is any place in God’s” *Community of Christ*, where a **troublemaker** like me will ever fit in, my searching always bring about the same answer....**of course there is a place for us troublemakers** who seek to follow Jesus in bringing about his peaceable kingdom. The styles may be different. The view of how to bring about changes which will cause true peace and justice may be different. Some views may find more popular support than other views. We may not always be on the same page or maybe not even in the same book but it is the same God who beckons us to be inviters and courageous witnesses facing all our fears. One of the many core values which I have learned during my 21 years of my faith journey is that in God’s house there really is room for everyone. Here in the Chattanooga ministries, we have many troublemakers but we are very appreciative of the Community of Christ who also have room for us. I still struggle much of time within myself wondering if my discipleship to a trouble making Jesus will ever bring me much acceptance among the group of witnesses we call “the church”. But I have no doubt of being called by Jesus to go and be a troublemaker for Jesus in the streets, highways and byways where the lost, the forgotten, the unaccepted and the broken heartened hides in the shadows of the night hoping for someone to share the good news of how to find the Way, The Truth, and the Life. I know there is room for even troublemakers like me to serve God. There is no doubt that in God’s house there is room for everyone. YO BUDDY!!! I want each crumb donor to know that your generous support continues to make room for people in Chattanooga & in surrounding areas to find their place in God’s big big house. Thank you!

What I have learned...by Hollie Petrie, a summer intern

I had no idea the kind of ministry I was about to take part in this summer when I decided to be an intern in Chattanooga. This has been a tremendous inspirational life-changing experience for me. The Munson family have huge hearts and great courage that provides real true ministry in the lives of so many people. I have only been here a short while but already have learned so much. **I have learned here that it is what is in your heart that matters to these people, not what is in your head.** I still think the head can be important but has to be used in the right way. Graceland religious courses have taught me to think only with my head and I have lost a lot of the devotional side of me to the scholarly critical perspective. Being here has helped me start to realize that a lot of the head crap I make so important isn't so much and that I need to focus on the heart and the lives of those in need of Jesus. I came here thinking I had a testimony of my past that would help me relate to the hard living folks in Chattanooga (Drugs, Sex, Violence) but I had no idea how hard core these folks are. I feel my testimony has helped some but is not as effective as it would be where I come from. **I have learned that what works everywhere else does not work here.** It's been a struggle in that way because we have to come up with new ideas to try to capture their attention and a lot of time fails to do so. With these folks you have to earn their trust before they will open up. At first it was more of a struggle for me to interact with the teenage group. We had a picnic on a Sunday morning and I wanted to interact with them more and so I pulled out my camera. We all had a great time taking funny pictures. I feel I have gotten a lot closer to them in this last week. We had a girl's night with Vaughsia, Brianna, Lauren, Brandi, and Courtnee last night. It was good bonding time. They are good girls. We are going to have another one tonight and I am really excited to get to know them more. I had the opportunity to pray for them.

I have met a man named Terrell. He is a very sweet person and I have enjoyed hearing his life stories. He has been through a lot and I admire his courage and strength. I have not talked to one person here that has had a good family life. It makes me thankful for my family but very sad for them. **It shows me that because I am blessed with a supportive family that I am called to be family and support those who don't have what I have.** I wish I could fix everything for these people but sometimes all anyone can do is listen, pray for them, give them your time, and love them.

Something I think is cool especially with the younger group is that one day I could just say "hi" or talk a little bit to the kids. That day I talk to them they don't seem very responsive but the next day they run up to me and give me a big hug and instantly I am their new best friend. These kids are so attention starved and I wish I could be there for them more, but I am only here a short while. I intend on coming back to visit every so often and visit my church family here.

I like the importance of baptism here in Chattanooga. I was born into this church and so it's expected for me to be baptized but the kids here were not and so I see it as a miracle every time a person here wants to be baptized and give their life to Jesus. These folks know what baptism is about. It is about giving your life journey to Jesus. It is not a game or just a religious act. It is much more than that here.

Planning services are meaningful and have helped me strengthen leadership skills, but I feel like **the real ministry takes place outside of church** like during home visits. My home congregation does not have home visits and does not have a youth group. Being here has inspired me to want to change that and when I get out of college I will be pursuing something like that. I've also learned here real ministry takes place 24 hours a day. The staff here are called upon all hours of the day and night for ministry outside of the church and they never fail to respond. It is very hard but the staff is also very called.

The kids play basketball here a lot which has been a fun activity for me and for the kids. When I first got here I felt out of my element, it was hard and still sometimes is to know how to reach some of these kids. Before I came here I was not used to praying out loud and in a group. One of the first days I was here Craig, Josh and I went to streets around the center and prayed for them. I had never prayed for

a street before and so it was an experience I will always take with me. We saw some drunks while on our prayer walk that we also prayed for. This was also a challenge because we would just meet someone know very little about them and then be asked to pray for them. **Before I came here I was struggling with the importance of prayer.** I got this idea that God had a will and it didn't matter if I prayer because either way it would be Gods will. When I came here I was so focused on saying the right words when praying that I could not feel the spirit. I felt like I was being forced to pray and I didn't like that but something has changed in me. I still do not understand the whole Gods will thing but **I do know that prayer is important.** I am trying to not get caught up with the right words and feel it from the heart. I have been on a spiritual low for over a year now and I feel that getting back into praying has helped me feel closer to God. Over the years I have realized that when I take myself out of the picture and focus on the needs of those around me and the hunger for Jesus in this world is what life is all about. It's hard for me to put my own selfish desires aside and really true give like Jesus would want. I have a lot to learn when it comes to real ministry. I hold back a lot. There is a door within myself (hypothetical) that I have not yet opened. I feel it needs to be open for Jesus to truly work in my life so I can be a true servant to him and to others. I admire every person here that does this ministry every day. It is not easy, more than I know. I hope to find my calling in life and where God wants me to do my own ministry.

I have heard some things before I came here about their being some problems with management in the past. Of course there are always little conflicts when you go anywhere but I understand where they are coming from. The Munson family has been here from the beginning providing real life ministry and have made significant changes in a lot of lives. The interns and new staff that come in and out of here are here to learn, grow, and become better ministers. **What better way to learn than from the real life ministers themselves.** I feel our staff worships have been really meaningful and brought us all closer together. I am blessed to have met all the staff here: Mr. Jimmy, Ms, Kathy, Jared, Keith, Craig, the Coffman's, Brenda and Craig and the interns Autumn, Eric, & Josh. The Coffman's have been very generous in letting us stay at their house for six weeks. We didn't get to see them much but I am blessed for knowing them. They have amazing hearts. **I have grown to love the people here and I am proud to call them my family.**

School Supply List

Many people have asked what type of school supplies do we need this year. Well, due to a great supply gathered last year and to some great crumb donors making specific cash donations for school supplies, our list is smaller this year. We will place the list here at the bottom of the page. We appreciate so many wonderful people caring about our kids getting a fair chance to do good in school. Thank you in advance for your great help. Here the list and we still need these supplies for about 60 kids.

- *Boxes of Kleenex
- *bottles of hand sanitizer
- *paper towels
- *reams of copy paper
- *sandwich bags (2 sizes...quarts & gallon)
- *pocket folders
- *3 ring binders/color pencils
- *book bags
- *index cards (white & color)
- *pencil top erasers
- *construction paper

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**Our victory lies within our
invitation. INVITE SOMEONE**



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