

News and Notes

Got Old Cell Phones?

Do you have an old cell phone just lying around in a drawer somewhere? Well believe it or not, WE WANT IT! Through the PhoneRaiser foundation, Streets is able to receive anywhere from 80 cents to 50 dollars per phone collected depending on whether it is refurbished or recycled. So, if you have one you would like to toss our way, please send an email to Richard@StreetsMinistries.org or just drop it off at our office.

Appalachian Trail Fundraiser Update

On March 10th, Matt McKinney departed on a 2,174 mile journey along the Appalachian Trail in an effort to help raise awareness and funds for Streets. If you would like to help, or just want to keep up with Matt's progress, you can visit him on our website at www.streetsministries.org/appalachiantrail.

More Frequent Updates

Want more info on Streets? Sign up for our monthly email. Just send your request to updates@streetsministries.org and type subscribe in the subject line. Please be sure to include your name in the body of the email.

Streets Ministries would like to thank Danka Office Imaging for their printing services.

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Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23

STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES

APRIL - MAY, 2005

Summers That Last A Lifetime

Summers are great, but some are more special than others. For most of us, summers mean vacations, ballgames, picnics and some level of rest from the hectic pace of September to May. However, would we consider our summers life changing? For kids in the inner city, summers mean boredom, oppressive heat and few opportunities beyond the local playground or corner. The next three stories speak to summers that radically changed the lives of young men who grew up in communities that provided little hope for their futures.

He has been begging me for three years to take him with us to camp. For three summers his heart has dropped as I knock on his door in Foote Homes to take his older brother to camp in North Carolina. Now, his time has arrived and he bolts passed me to jump into the awaiting van. That summer he engages with Christ at a cabin time, and his life is changed. During his high school years he lives, eats and breathes Streets. He goes on to play football and earn a degree in business at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He periodically calls from under a dorm room bed to ask questions about the faith. Now, happily married and gainfully employed, he is a leader in the local church he attends. His name is Nastus "Smokey" Beard, Streets newest board member.



He is a little guy with tons of energy who spends most of time on the local park basketball court. Life is a struggle as mom can not seem to make things work, and Dad is back in jail. He shows up at the Streets Center daily, but is a bit elusive when you try to engage him. Outreach camps do not seem to interest him, however an opportunity for me to take the Booker T. Washington basketball team to a Christian camp in Birmingham pops up. So, me, the little guy from Lemoyne Gardens and the rest of the BTW team head to Alabama. It is a great week for the kid and he begins to look at life through a different lens. The next few years are a struggle as home remains unstable, grades are difficult and life is a rollercoaster ride. Despite the ups and downs, basketball remains the constant. We often look back on the basketball camp experience in Birmingham and realize that was a pivotal point for change. Last week Antonio Burks was placed on the playoff roster for the Memphis Grizzlies.

Life has been tough. Mom dies at age eleven and dad is nowhere in the picture. A godmother takes the guardian role and provides a stable and secure environment for this young boy struggling to be a man. He realizes that he possesses a gift, but is not sure of an outlet. He is asked to interview for the Streets Summer Institute program and is accepted. Next, he is placed in an academic environment that encourages and nurtures his creative gifts in the area of writing. He recently received a young journalist award from USA Today and is poised to enter the journalism program at University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the Fall of 2005. The world opened up to Michael Russom one particular summer at Streets.

As we enter another summer please pray for us as we have camps, movie nights, Discipleship Boot Camp, Streets Summer Institute, vacation Bible schools, field trips and other activities.

Your Brother in Christ,
Ken Bennett

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The Importance of New Experiences

Streets Goes Fly Fishing: by Joey Collums

This past April, Gary Powell, a Streets mentor, put together something virtually no kid at Streets has ever had the opportunity to experience... a fly fishing trip!

Organized with the help of the Mid-South Fly Fishers Association, Gary and five other association members took ten kids from Streets out to a pond in Oakland, Tennessee for an afternoon of fishing and fellowship. For many of the kids, this was not only their first time to fly fish, but their first time to go fishing period. At first, many of the kids did not quite get the whole "patience" thing, but with a bit of instruction from Gary and the other Association members, everyone started to catch on. As a result, it was not long before we were reeling in some big ones. And while the "most fish caught" award went to LaQuita Ghoston with seven, what was really fun was seeing how excited everyone got whenever somebody caught a fish. Each time there was a new fish on the line, there was a clamor for the camera and shouts of encouragement from everyone around.

As you might imagine, the kids who come to Streets do not get to spend much time away from the concrete and chaos of the city. Positive new life experiences are few and far between, so it truly a wonderful thing to see our kids get excited about doing something they had never done before while taking in all the calmness nature has to offer.



Members of the Mid-South Fly Fishers Association pose with our group from Streets



Jessica Andrews, Topsy and Mrs. Judy smile for the camera after landing yet another crappie.

Pathways Visits Slave Haven: by Jenny Fratesi

This past semester, the middle school Pathways students have been studying the inner workings of underground railroad system. So, on April 22nd we decided to take everyone to a place on 826 North Second Street called *Slave Haven*. *Slave Haven* was an official stop on the underground railroad where slaves could hide in the basement of this house. During the tour our students, along with tutor Katie Jordan, were able to tour the house as well as explore all its secret tunnels and trap doors. So, in addition to this being a fun trip, it was a great way to solidify everything that we had learned during the semester.



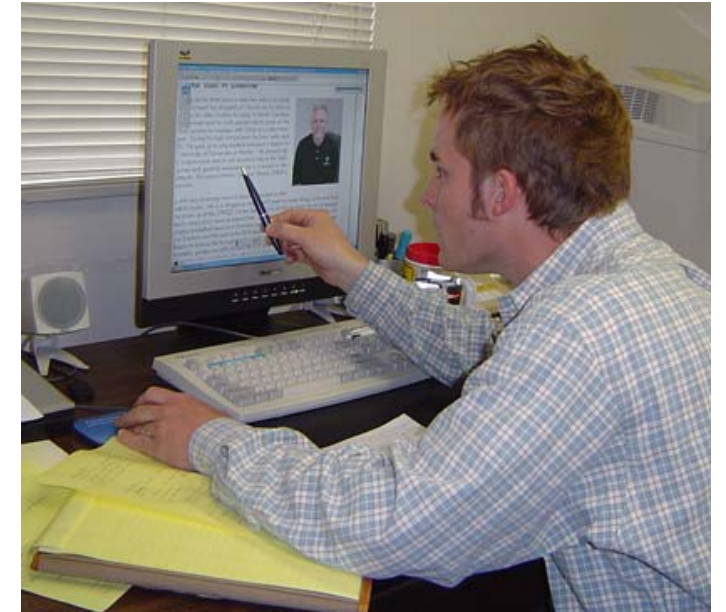
Streets on the front porch of Slave Haven

Staff Spotlight: Richard Vining

We are excited to welcome Richard Vining as an official member of our staff. For the past two years Richard has been behind the scenes here at Streets as he has helped develop a more consistent "look and feel" to our marketing approach.

Having come to us from Revenue Assurance Professionals, L.L.C., where he was Vice President of Graphics and Marketing, Richard has experience with putting together proposals that generate results. It is with this talent that he will be increasing Streets marketing presence in the corporate community on the local and national levels.

Now, as the full time Communications and Operations Manager, Richard will be working on building awareness of Streets Ministries to people whom might otherwise not know what we are all about. Some of his more immediate goals involve creating a more user friendly monthly email, keeping our web site current and searching for fits in the corporate grant world.



Richard hard at work putting together the Newsletter your are reading right now.

Spiritual Boot Camp: by John Coward

If you took a survey on what High School aged kids would like to do as soon as school lets out for the summer, spending two hours a day reading a book would most likely not rank very high up on the list. However, this, along with several other spiritual disciplines, are part of the curriculum that make the participants in Streets Spiritual Boot Camp so special.

The commitment each of the 10 kids make towards learning how to study the bible, memorize scripture and have a quiet time are part of what make this summer long experience leave such a lasting impression. Jerme Williams, a 9th grader at BTW who completed the program last year, said that "once you have the basics down, different situations can come up and you can know how to deal with them" After a brief pause he added, "in the right way." To Jerme, who deals with things on a daily basis most kids should never have to see or hear, this means knowing how to exercise self control with both his body and mind in a way the Glorifies God.

So, with this years edition of Boot Camp right around the corner, please pray for Jerme, this years participants and their instructors.



Boot Camp leader John Coward with BTW 9th Grader Jerme Williams and his "More Than a Carpenter" text.

What We've Been Up To

- The 2005 edition of **College Tours** kicked off his past March 14th as Joey, Delvin, Jenny and super-volunteer Carmen took 24 High School sophomores, juniors and seniors via charter bus to 7 different colleges over 4 days. During the run through The University of Tennessee-Martin, Austin Peay State, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Tech, The University of Tennessee, The University of Tennessee-Chattanooga and Middle Tennessee State University, 3 seniors filled out formal applications and are currently making plans to enroll after finishing High School.
- Middle School Bible Study leader Lee Henwood has been volunteering his Saturday mornings this past April to teach baseball to Streets kids. Every Saturday from 10:00 till noon he has been giving 30 or so minutes of instruction and then organizing practice games with kids.
- Streets and Youth from **IPC** went on an April Fools roller skating party. A huge crowd met in the IPC gym and ate pizza before heading to the Cordova Skating Center.
- 11 kids from Streets attended a lock-in at **IPC** that started at 10:00 pm on **April 8th** and roared deep into the night. Kids played Fear Factor, had a bull ride and participated in a cricked spitting contest.
- On **April 14th** the band from **HeartSong** came by and took the stage for some practice time. Afterwards, they stayed around and led our weekly Club with songs of praise and worship.
- During the same Club meeting we also finished up our semester long "American Idol" contest. Shuntay Mobley won the single elimination event with her stirring rendition of a Destiny's Child song.



6th grader Alvertis 'Woo' King tests out the velcro suit during a Streets / IPC lock-in.



HeartSong leads a group of 60+ club kids with songs of praise and worship.

- **Pathways** finished up **April 22nd**. A **year end party** for all the tutors is in the works so keep in touch.
- Delvin spoke to a group of BTW football players attending the **Football, Faith and Fellowship** conference hosted by the University of Memphis on **April 23rd**. Several current Tiger players, including DeAngelo Williams, were in attendance and participated in a flag football game afterwards.
- During an **April 27th** assembly of the entire **Briarcrest** student body, Delvin shared his amazing testimony as well as a brief education as to how the gang system in Memphis operates.



What's Coming Up: Spring and Summer

- **Middle School** and **High School club** will be finishing up the semester the week of **May 2nd**. Please pray for these groups as we head into summer.
- **Germantown Baptist** is bringing a group of 20 or so volunteers to Streets **May 7th** for a facilities work day that will include everything from lawn work to paint!
- **Graduation!** BTW Seniors walk on Saturday, May 14th while Vance Middle students graduate on Friday, May 20th.
- **Streets Summer Institute** starts the week of June 27th. During this time, students will come to Streets each day for classes for four weeks. The fifth week will be spent in Sewanee, Tennessee at a boarding school. Here, students will complete term papers and participate in classes as well as several (hopefully) perspective-expanding experiences like white water rafting, hiking and camping. Though the cost is not insignificant (about \$1,500 per student for the summer), this provides a very unique, educationally significant and sometimes life-changing experience for these promising young students. If you are interested in helping to sponsor a student this summer, please contact Rob Thompson at Rob@StreetsMinistries.org or 901.525.7380.



Taurean and Anthony share a piece of pizza during a recent middle school "Club" meeting.

- Delvin will be taking **High School** students to **summer camp** for a week at Young Life's SharpTop Cove property in North Georgia **June 27th**.
- John and Jenny will be taking 30 **Middle School** students to **summer camp** the week of **June 20th** for a five day stay at the Memphis Leadership Foundation's camp in Raleigh, **For the Kingdom**.
- The **Memphis Xplorers** are having their best season ever and Streets has had 10 tickets to every game! The season runs thru the end of July, so John and Delvin will be taking kids to the Desoto County Civic Center for all the action this summer.
- **Hope Presbyterian Church** will be having it annual Urban Plunge at Streets again this year. During this time, 15 to 20 youth members will be eating and sleeping at Streets while they lead a Vacation Bible School down the street at the **Emmanuel Episcopal Center**.
- **Volunteer Opportunity:** Do you have the "need to feed" over 40 people? If so do we ever have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you starting this June. For the past three years, Streets has hosted a movie night for both the Middle School and High School kids each week. On these nights, we provide movies, popcorn, drinks and air conditioning! Both nights average about 40 students per week, so if you are interested please get in touch with Rob Thompson at 901-525-7380 or Rob@StreetsMinistries.org.