

## Service Call: Our Foosball Table Receives a Facelift

You may remember a request we put out several months ago on this back page for some foosballs. At the time, the request was billed as "we have two perfectly good tables, but no foosballs." Well as is usually the case, you responded by stocking us up with what should be a several year supply. One man decided to deliver the foosballs he had purchased in person, and while here, he decided that our foosball table was in need of a face-lift. As a result, Ed Vining, an artist by trade, created what has to be the most over-the-top frame and scoreboard that has ever graced the cover of a foosball table. Made of solid oak, the cover has our logo burned into both ends and each of the letters in the word "MINISTRIES" make up the scoreboard. The detail is so exact that even all of the wood grain runs in the same direction.



Diego, goalie for the red team on "Table 2", now has a much improved facility in which to play.

What started out as a simple response to our of our monthly email ended up being an elaborate outlet for Ed to use his talents to serve others here at Streets. It is a perfect example of how God sometimes uses people in ways they do not always anticipate to further His Kingdom. As 1 Corinthians 12:7 states - "The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others." (CEV)

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Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4

## STREETS - BETWEEN THE LINES

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2006

### New Years Resolution: Take the Message from my Lips to my Heart.

*"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." Matthew 15:8*

It is the annual event in our lives: New Years Resolutions! We try to create the "new good intention for the upcoming year." We will spend an inordinate amount of time speaking about the new leaf we have turned over and how it is going to radically change who we are and how we are perceived. If you are anything like me, my talk overwhelms my walk. By the end of February, I have become defeated by my lack of action and I file away my intentions for another time.



This year, rather than your mind or body, consider a resolution of the heart. In the verse from Matthew above, God is saying to the Pharisees that they have abandoned the core of their beliefs and have made their faith fit comfortably into the culture of the day. God says that their faith is a lip service with no heart, and although the Pharisees know the word of God, it has not penetrated their hearts. In turn, their faith is labeled as hypocritical and powerless.

Similarly, when Peter approaches the crippled man in Acts he says, "Silver or gold I do not have. But what I have, I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Peter had a heart that was sold out to the Savior and was able to radically affect that man's life. In I Corinthians, God's word says that he will expose the motives of men's hearts. In the New Testament, there are 45 verses that speak about the condition of the heart.

Consider this: The human heart is a hardworking marvel. If all of the nerves were severed, it would automatically keep on beating. In a 70-year lifetime, it will beat an average of 75 times a minute, 40 million times a year, or two and a half billion times. At each beat, the average adult heart discharges about four ounces of blood. This amounts to 3,000 gallons a day or 650,000 gallons a year - enough to fill more than 81 tank cars of 8,000 gallons each. The heart does enough work in one hour to lift a 150 pound man to the top of a three story building. It exerts enough energy in twelve hours to lift a 65 ton tank car one foot off the ground, or enough power in 70 years to lift the largest battleship afloat completely out of water.

If our heart has this kind of strength on its own, just imagine how powerful it will be if given wholly to God. If God dwells in our hearts, then we will have the courage to act on His word. Most of the time, we use His word to impress those around us and reassure them that we are grounded in the faith. However, when the word penetrates our heart, then we have the courage to live a life in obedience to Him, which, in turn, will radically change the world around us.

*Cadet Prayer- Repeated every Sunday in chapel services at West Point*

"Make us choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be contented with half truth when whole truth can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when right and truth are in jeopardy."

My New Years Resolution: Because Jesus dwells in my heart, I have the courage to act on the bold words that so easily come from my mouth.

I pray you have a great New Year in service of Him!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Ken

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## Ready Readers is Underway: by Jenny Fratesi

From day one, it was apparent to me that most of our middle school students were not at an acceptable level of reading for success. While we have worked hard on bringing up their reading comprehension skills, the Lord placed on my heart an intense desire to start younger. Enter: Georgia Avenue Elementary.

With the restructuring of the Memphis City School System, Locke Elementary, a school Streets has served in years past, merged with Georgia Avenue Elementary. In addition, two new administrators were selected to lead the merged schools. Mr. Patrick Washington and Mrs. Raychellet Williamson are both strong believers and educators with a passion for changing the lives of over 800 elementary students from our community. From the start, they were willing and extremely helpful in allowing Streets to implement a new elementary reading program which we call Ready Readers.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, an incredible volunteer, Jan Vining, came on board to help develop our curriculum. She spent hours creating an impeccable curriculum that Mr. Washington, Mrs. Williamson and countless teachers are very excited about. The goal of Ready Readers is to take 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who are just below proficiency in reading and push them to better understand, speak and read the English language. There is a focus on phonetic building and comprehension, but all of this is taught in a fun environment.



As a part of the curriculum, tutors teach the sounds of letters.



Catherine Wilfong reading "The Pearl" to a Georgia Avenue Elementary Student.

Georgia Avenue Elementary has supplied Streets with our own classroom and a "blank canvas" to begin creating this program. We have taken the room, with help from the women of Independent Presbyterian Church, and created a "wild" learning environment. Our theme for the room is "Wild about Learning," and is exhibited by the swinging animals on the door, the wild animal print fabrics, a monkey hanging from the ceiling and a nine foot long papier-mâché jungle tree.

The Lord has blessed us with dedicated and loving volunteers who spend at least one hour a week with a student who needs our help, love and support. Our volunteers have helped teach the students how to enjoy learning, and in the process, have helped them improve their reading skills. Along the way, they have also demonstrated the hands and feet of Christ.

*"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:7-8 (NIV)*

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the Ready Readers program at Georgia Avenue, please feel free to email Jenny Fratesi at [Jenny@StreetsMinistries.org](mailto:Jenny@StreetsMinistries.org).

## Boys "Out of the Hood": by Delvin Lane

After taking several serious wipeouts at this same time last year, and getting stuck in the mountains for several hours due to lack of courage, I can vaguely remember making myself a promise to never go skiing again. Nevertheless, here I am for the second year in a row on a bus headed towards Winter Park, Colorado. As I watch the kids around me play with each other's hair, listen to CDs and watch DVDs on the bus' television, I think to myself how far the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King has come. Dr. King envisioned a country where "little white boys and white girls would be able to join hands with little black boys and black girls." Even though not at a very high level, this part of Dr. King's dream is happening on the bus as I speak. Beco, Cleo, Jeremy and JJ are playing a fun group game with kids from a totally different socioeconomic background. Kids who, if God had not made this trip possible, would not even get a chance to speak to one-another. Many people complain about this grueling bus ride, but I appreciate it because of the blessing I get from seeing two cultures slowly bridge the gap that has been made over the years through ignorance and the lack of God's love.

We've made it to the mountains and completed several days of great skiing. I am so excited because I am still in one piece. The guys have done an awesome job on the slopes and at staying attentive during "Club". Last night, we had a great cabin time where we discussed digging in to our faith. Bill Johns has been great at presenting the



In a rare upright moment, Cleo, JJ, Delvin, Beco and Jeremy prepare for another downhill run.

Gospel clearly to us every evening. All the guys have made commitments to strive harder at growing in the Lord when we get home. On the way back to our extremely nice condo, I asked Jeremy and Beco what this trip has meant to them. Jay asserted, "Coming skiing is one of the most exciting things I have ever done in my life. At first, I was scared to come because it was too high up and I had never done it before. I thought it would be too cold, but with all the warm clothes we had, I got hot. The ski lift scared me a lot because it swayed from side to side. While on the skis the first day, I fell every two feet, but by the ninth or tenth fall, I caught on. Mike (one of our leaders) took me to the top and taught me how to ski down the blues. Overall, I am having a wonderful time and the speaker is good too. It really is a 'Total Disregard for Your Body' Ski Trip though." Beco stated, "To me, this trip is something I know that I would not have been able to do without Streets and the people that support it. It is like a Christmas vacation for me. I get to meet new people and learn more about how they live. I also get a chance to leave home, have fun, and learn God's word."

For me, this trip gives them a chance to be kids and experience life outside of "the hood." It also blows all of us away to see God's powerful hand through His mountainous creation. Thanks to everyone for making this trip possible.



Beco makes sure Jeremy knows what snow tastes like.

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## What We've Been Up To

- On Saturday, December 17th, members of **Independent Presbyterian Church** assembled over 500 Christmas Baskets for Streets. Each basket, which was loaded with 40 pounds of food and cooking supplies, then made a trip to Streets where volunteers were paired with a student as they delivered the baskets in the community. The annual event was once again an engaging time for all involved and a tremendous ministry to the community we serve. A special thank you to everyone who participated.
- On the last day of school before Christmas break, Carl Fox of **Fox Design** met with BTW Junior BCA for a career shadowing day. A gifted artist himself, BCA spent the afternoon talking about logo design and publishing as well as the various requirements necessary to become successful in the graphic design field.
- The week before Christmas, Jenny hosted a lock-in with fifteen 8th grade girls. They made cookies, tree ornaments, watched movies and ate lots of food. The following day, Megan Powell of **Creative Memories** came by and taught the girls about faith journaling as a way of teaching how much God does for his princesses. Later, a scrapbook was put together by the girls that chronicled the entire weekend.
- An end of the year party for the girls and boys Bible study groups was held on December 20th and 21st. As in years past, Bible Study Leaders brought their families for an evening of food, music, games and fellowship.
- And speaking of Bible Study groups, attendance continues to be at an all time high as this semester's topic, Back to Basics, takes students and teachers through the book of John.
- Delvin kicked off this semester's "Club" with a huge dance party that included over 100 kids from BTW.



Over 80 Volunteers from IPC assemble 500 Christmas baskets for distribution into the Streets Community.



Middle School girls at the end of the year Bible Study party.



Elizabeth shares a bite with her students Tyiesha and Nicole.



## What's Coming Up

- In honor of Black History Month, every Middle School "Club" this February will feature a video clip that highlights African American achievement in the field of education.
- High School "Club" will have a similar theme this February as it glances at the past through the eyes of four African American historians. Each week the lives and ideals of George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells and Frederick Douglass will be celebrated.
- All season long, Streets will be taking groups of 11 kids to every regular season **Grizzlies** game played at the FedEx Forum. So be sure to look for us in **section 250 rows R and Q**, and feel free to come by and say hello. PS - Bring some more popcorn on your way up.
- The "Majestic Eagles" of Vance Middle School are flying high as they make their way through the city basketball tournament. Interest is at an all time high since eight of the ten players on this years team regularly attend Streets.
- Current photos of the new Streets Center are posted below. Scheduled to open its doors to the community on May 6th, we are now in the final stages of the "Proclaiming Freedom" Capital Campaign. So, if you are interested in playing a part, now is the time. Please contact Rob Thompson at either (901) 525-7380 or [Rob@StreetsMinistries.org](mailto:Rob@StreetsMinistries.org) to find out more.



Eric, an 8th grader at Vance Middle School, soaks in some of the pre-game action at the FedEx Forum.



All of Foote Homes can be seen from our new roof.



The West entrance tower under construction.