

## Who Would Have Thought: Continued

Op-Act was an after school program for disadvantage and underprivileged kids. I was there for five years and during this time, I got married and began to think about starting a family. It was then that I realized that working in ministry and being able to provide financially for a family was going to be difficult. So I decided to seek out other employment that took me away from working with kids. After a year of trying and being miserable, I came to the realization that serving the Lord, heeding His call, and trusting Him to provide was more important than working at a job that did little more than help me make ends meet. The rest is history. Who would have thought that twenty years later, that shy guy who sat in the back of the room that night is now the "goofy dude" singing songs, leading "Club", teaching Bible Studies, and taking kids to Windy Gap. My wife and I now have three beautiful children. God has richly provided indeed!

*Kenny is the Site Coordinator at Streets, Highland Heights*

[kenny@streetsministries.org](mailto:kenny@streetsministries.org)



**Now Open:** Kenny, Site Coordinator at Highland Heights, stands out by the new sign welcoming students.

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



This seal is our pledge that your gifts are used as you planned.  
Thank you for your support of Streets Ministries.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MEMPHIS, TN  
PERMIT NO. 583

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**STREETS MINISTRIES**  
P.O. Box 42181  
Memphis, TN 38174-2181

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

## Don't Just Bring Back Lunch

*Come see a man that told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?*  
John 4:29

### Victor Lightning

I remember taking Vic to John Wilfong's summer basketball camp. He was a long skinny neighborhood kid that lived right around the corner from the old Streets building. We made fun of him because he always wore long blue jeans to camp. His response was a good natured smile and a nod. Eighteen years later he is standing at half court of the Streets Center Gym, joking with some kids, and displaying that same vibrant smile while voicing words of encouragement. At the end of free play, he steps off the court and walks into his office. After six years in the military, he has come back home to Streets to be our Recreation Coordinator.



### Terrance Young

Terrance was not the typical kid that came through the center on a daily basis. He was very inquisitive and had an incredible passion to taste everything that the Streets had to offer. He ended up in the computer lab on most days. While others played games or did tutorials, Terrance desired to know how those computers did what they did. As a result, he was the heart and soul of our computer lab and quickly became known as the "answer man" for kids who needed help. Now a happy newlywed and college graduate, Terrance pulls onto the Vance Middle School campus every morning by 7:30 to greet students and to make his way up to his third floor office where he is a member of our incentive based program, Mission Graduation.

### Kenny Pendleton

Twenty three years ago, when I was on Young Life staff, a young man named Kenny used to come and sit at the back of our outreach club meetings and not say a word. Over time we became good friends and he was one of our "core kids". Kenny came to weekly clubs, joined a Bible Study group, and went to summer camp. On February 5, 2009, Kenny helped us launch our new Highland Heights facility on Faxon Avenue as the Site Coordinator.

As we read about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, a couple of things become very clear. After Jesus tells her everything about herself and lets her know that He is the Messiah she refers to, she heads to town. Earlier in the passage, the disciples had gone to town and brought back lunch. The Samaritan woman at the well had gone into town and brought back the whole town to Jesus.

At Streets, we realize that our investment in leadership development is key to the future of the ministry. Vic, Terrance, and Kenny won't just bring back lunch. They will bring kids to the foot of the Cross while empowering them educationally. In the next couple of pages you will read more intimately about their individual journeys. As you read, ask what is your personal response to the One who died on the cross for us. Are we just bringing back lunch?

Your Brother in Christ,  
Ken

**Ken Bennett**  
Executive Director

**Delvin Lane**  
Assistant Director

**Sarah Lawrence Allen**  
Mission Graduation Advisor

**Andreana Brown**  
Mission Graduation Director

**Carmen Coleman**  
Education Director

**John Cowherd**  
Middle School Coordinator

**LaToya Dansby**  
Mission Graduation Advisor

**Whitney Hale**  
Development Coordinator

**Lindsey Hughes**  
Mission Graduation Advisor

**Sharon Key**  
Elementary Coordinator

**Vic Lightning**  
Recreation Coordinator

**Crystal Neal**  
Elementary Coordinator

**Jessica Prielozny**  
Middle School Coordinator

**Kenny Pendleton**  
Site Coordinator

**Kevin Tompkins**  
Mission Graduation Advisor

**Tujula Tuggle**  
Mission Graduation Advisor

**Richard Vining**  
Business Director

**Grace Walker**  
Education Coordinator

**Emmabeth Weaver**  
Education Coordinator

**Joyce Wilfong**  
Administrative Assistant

**Terrance Young**  
Mission Graduation Advisor



**STREETS MINISTRIES**  
(901) 525-7380  
[www.streetsministries.org](http://www.streetsministries.org)

---

## What We've Been Up To

- As a reward for either not starting or being in a fight for an entire semester, students from Vance Middle School participated in a "Fight Free Friday" celebration at Streets to start the spring semester.
- From December 27th through January 2nd, Carmen took five Booker T. Washington High School girls on **Independent Presbyterian Church's** 19th Annual "Total Disregard for Your Body" Ski Trip in Winter Park, Colorado. A good time was had by all as the girls took ski lessons, celebrated the arrival of the New Year, and participated in nightly "Club" talks.
- January 9th, Delvin spoke at the **IPC Men's Luncheon** as a part of their monthly "Making the Difference" series.
- On January 12th, **Darius Miles** of the Memphis Grizzlies donated forty iPod nano's complete with iTunes gift cards to students at Streets.
- On January 15th, the **Memphis Grizzlies**, in conjunction with **Samaritan's Feet**, donated 100 pairs of new tennis shoes to students at Streets. As a part of the program, several members of the Grizzlies came to the Streets Center Gym and washed the feet of students prior to passing out the new shoes.
- January 22nd, Richard spoke to 7th and 8th grade students from **MUS** and **Hutchinson** participating in CoEdge's "Facing History" program about his personal career path to Streets.
- January 31st, Delvin put on a tux and represented Streets at the annual **Carnival Memphis** banquet. During the course of the evening, Streets was recognized as one of three grant recipients for 2009.
- On February 5th, Streets opened its doors to students for the first time at the Highland Heights sight. Over 150 students came by to play in the gym, enjoy the new video game room, and work in the homework lab.
- February 6th, members of Streets' direct ministry and education staff attended **Dr. Ruby K. Payne's** "Understanding Poverty" workshop held at **Crichton College**.



**Ski Trip:** Carmen enjoys some "base time" with Booker T. Washington students Laquita, Tia, and Skyler in Winter Park, Colorado.



**Washing Feet:** Rudy Gay of the Memphis Grizzlies washes the feet of Shanicka as part of the Samaritan's Feet program.

- On Tuesday, December 9, the **Valero Energy Corporation** hosted a breakfast at Streets' facility as a follow up to it's annual Blues City Charity Golf Classic. During this time, company officials announced that Streets had been selected as a grant recipient for the upcoming year.
- With programming now underway at the new Highland Heights sight, plenty of volunteer opportunities are currently available in our **Pathways** mentorship program. And with attendance swelling to over 1,500 students a week at the Vance sight downtown, there is also a need for additional **Mission Graduation** tutors in the afternoon, **Ready Readers**, and **Room Adopters**. If you are interested, please contact Whitney at (901) 525-7380 or [whitney@streetsministries.org](mailto:whitney@streetsministries.org).



## What's Coming Up

- February 18th, Delvin has been invited to speak at **Riveroaks Presbyterian Church's** annual missions conference dinner about Streets and its mission to students in the Memphis metropolitan area.
- March 15th-19th, the "Navigators" from **Boston University** will make the trek to Streets for a spring break service project. Once in Memphis, the group of 13 students will listen to Delvin share his testimony, take a tour of the neighborhood, tutor students in both our Mission Graduation and elementary programs, as well as assist with work projects at Vance Middle School.
- February 20th, Delvin, Vic, and several members of the Recreation Staff will be packing their sleeping bags for the evening as they host a lock-in for the high school boys. During the lock-in, the boys will attend a Grizzlies game, watch movies, play video games, cook out, and play lots of basketball.
- February 26th, members of Streets' staff and board will be attending the annual Henry Logan Starks Scholarship Dinner for **Memphis Theological Seminary**.
- This past January, the **Memphis Grizzlies Charitable Foundation** selected Streets Ministries as one of its community partners for 2009. This year, the organization is putting an emphasis on mentorship opportunities and will be providing lots of freebies for Pathways students and their mentors including Grizzlies game tickets and free passes for field trips.



**The one that didn't get away:** Lakita had little difficulty landing this brim during last year's Pathways fishing trip.



**College Tours:** Booker T. Washington juniors Lashrrica and Terria enjoying their visit to MTSU during College Tours 2008.

- Beginning March 5th, adult members from **Hope Presbyterian Church** will host their annual "Urban Plunge" at the Streets Center. During this time, the group will eat and sleep at Streets, tour other ministries in the neighborhood and participate in various service and work projects throughout the community.
- On March 15th, Streets will be taking 55 sophomores and juniors from Booker T. Washington and Treadwell High School on the 2009 edition of "College Tours". This year's tour will include trips to nine colleges and universities throughout Tennessee, Arkansas, and Kentucky, and promises to be a motivating trip for the participating students. Pray for their safety!
- In what has become an annual event, a group of Streets Pathways mentors will be taking their students to Eads, Tennessee for a fly-fishing trip courtesy of the **Mid-South Fly Fishing Club** on May 2nd.
- From May 9th-14th, Streets' Mission Graduation program will be taking 30 Vance Middle School 8th Graders to Washington, D.C. While there, the group will tour the Smithsonian, Pentagon, United States Holocaust Museum, Lincoln Memorial, and the International Spy Museum. The students will also take a tour of the White House and have breakfast with Tennessee Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander.



## Back Where I Started: by Vic Lightning

As Ken said, I was a long skinny kid who lived directly around the corner from the old 769 Vance Avenue site. But I also remember when Streets was just a one room operation in the basement of Mount Olive CME Church. As a longtime "Club" kid, I was stuffing marshmallows in my mouth yelling "chubby bunny" on a weekly basis long before Streets even had a gym.

I came to know Christ at an early age as I attended church regularly and hung out at Streets. At that time, I did not know where I wanted to go in life, but I knew that God had a plan for me. I also knew that I one day I wanted to impact the lives of kids the same way that Ken and Streets had impacted me. So around six years ago I prayed that the Lord would give me some direction. The next morning I found myself standing in front of a Navy recruiter. Eleven days later, I was shipped off to boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago. The Navy taught me a lot about myself, but I still felt empty. I felt like I was wasting precious time and not truly making a difference in someone's life. As a result, I chose not to re-enlist for a third tour and my focused shifted to a career in law enforcement. At the time, I thought that being a police officer would be my calling to bring about change. So I packed up and headed back to Memphis to start pursuing my new career. After passing the test, there was a waiting period before being called up to the academy. During that period, I started to wonder if I had made the right decision and started to pray for more guidance. The Lord answered.



**Back Where He Started:** Vic spending time with students after school in the Streets Center Gymnasium.

Late the next evening, I got a call from a good friend of mine in Delvin Lane. We talked for a moment about the neighborhood kids and laughed about old times. He asked about what my future plans were, and I explained to him that I was about to join the police force. He encouraged and supported the idea, but had another offer that he wanted me to listen to first. Over the next hour, Delvin explained how he wanted me to join the Streets team as the Recreation Coordinator.

Now every kid that has ever come to Streets has dreamed of working there one day. Even though I had spent countless hours thinking about how I could help kids, I have to confess that in my mind I would have never guessed that this opportunity would arise from the very place I had started. As we discussed the position further, Delvin made it clear that Streets would not be able to pay what the MPD was probably offering, but at that point the money did not matter to me. The Lord had answered my prayers and was calling me to work for Him. Now I serve my community, help kids grow in the Lord, and live out the true meaning of Christianity all while being led back to where I started here at Streets.

*Vic is the Recreation Coordinator at Streets*  
[vic@streetsministries.org](mailto:vic@streetsministries.org)



**One-on-One:** At 6'5", Vic has an on court presence, but it is his one-on-one skills with students off the court that make the largest impact.

## Sharpening Instruments: by Terrance Young

Arriving at Covenant College in 1998, I remember my first thought being "everything's about to change!" It was the most beautiful place I had ever seen, and while I had not made any friends yet, instead of being afraid of the challenges a college freshman faces, I was just grateful for having survived the ride up Lookout Mountain.

After a year and a half of trying to adjust to a new life at Covenant, my "old" life began to get the best of me. Family problems back in Memphis weighed heavy on me and I lost focus at school. Mother's drug addiction resurfaced and she was making decisions that had me constantly worried about her well-being. I had to go back home.

While back in Memphis, I enrolled full-time at the University of Memphis and, along with working at Streets, Structure, and the Finish Line simultaneously, I began taking care of my mom. No one in her house was earning any income and I refused to allow her to live on the street. I worked to pay off her bills and get her back on her feet. It was hard, but the relationship to God that I developed was worth the trial. God had taught me the importance of love and grace through this struggle.

This past May was an exhilarating time full of wonder and amazement. I graduated from the University of Memphis (a family first), and got married. The fruits of God's work in me had bloomed, and I knew where I belonged for the first time in my life. I prayed that God would provide me



**Mission Graduation Advisor:** Terrance spending time on campus with Vance Middle students enrolled in the Mission Graduation program.

with a career where I could help others understand the love that Christ has in store for them. That place is Streets. Since joining the Mission Graduation staff, I cannot fully express the marvelous ways that God has worked to touch the lives of the students that I am around. It is amazing how God sharpens the instruments He uses to draw others into a loving relationship with Him.

*Terrance is a Mission Graduation Advisor at Streets*  
[terrance@streetsministries.org](mailto:terrance@streetsministries.org)

## Who Would Have Thought: by Kenny Pendleton

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11

My sophomore year at Manassas, a list was going around the lunchroom about attending Young Life. My friends and I signed it and decided to give it a shot. Being new and not knowing what to expect, we sat in the back of the room that first night. Then out comes this goofy white dude named Ken singing crazy songs and talking about God. I enjoyed that night and found myself going back each week. Eventually I got more involved and joined and Bible Study. As years passed, Ken and I came to know each other personally by hanging out, going to games, and eating at McDonalds. Being an urban youth kid that was

used to just hanging out in the neighborhood with his friends, this was different for me.

One summer I had the opportunity to go to Windy Gap for camp. It was a trip that changed my life. The site, the people, and the atmosphere were all an eye opening experience. Everything was so refreshing and new, and that summer I gave my life to Christ. The next year I went back to Windy Gap, but this time it was not as a camper, but as a part of the work crew. I stayed involved with Young Life throughout high school and even afterwards as a volunteer leader. Later, I began working full time for a non-profit organization called Op-Act (Operation Action).

**continued on back panel**