

In Search of... Stuff

We are still decorating the rec. room, so if you have antique metal signs, a boar's head, old zoo banners, signs from now extinct Memphis professional sport franchises, a broken tuba or anything else that is so useless it would fit perfectly on our walls, please let us know. Please email Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org if you have any items you think would look "at home" on our walls.

In Search of a Truck

We are currently looking to add a full size pickup to our fleet at Streets. If you have a truck you'd be interested in donating, please contact Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org or 901.525.7380.

Donations Made Easy

In an effort to make life a little easier for our donors, we now accept donations by monthly bank draft directly from your checking account. You can save time (and a stamp) each month by authorizing us to debit your checking account. For more information and to receive the necessary form, visit our web site or contact Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org or 901.525.7380.

A Peek Inside Streets (continued)

Although it's a simple, tried and true format, club is never the same. The changing sea of faces and the drastic life circumstances these kids face always keeps me on my toes. Although fulltime ministry in this environment can be taxing, I consider it such a privilege to make a living spending time with these awesome kids. Our Monday night club is the most exciting and energetic time of the week, and I always look forward to it. We're currently looking for some volunteers (three men and one woman) to join us for Club each week and lead a Bible study just beforehand (5:30). Whether you're interested in that type of involvement or not, I invite you to come join us for one Club. I promise you it will be one of – if not the – most energizing and encouraging parts of your week, not because of anything I do, but because of what an amazing group of God's children we have here each week!

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

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The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 4:18-19

That's A Wrap

Every time we publish a newsletter, we try to build it around a central theme, so that you as the reader get a glimpse of some aspect of what we do. But this month's newsletter, the last one you'll receive in 2004, is a hodgepodge of "stuff" regarding Streets. Inside, you will find an article by Delvin Lane, our High School Coordinator, about High School Club on Monday nights. You'll also find a long list of "thank you's" to all the individuals and organizations who have donated their time and efforts by volunteering at Streets this year. We've included a BTW basketball schedule, a blurb on Streets' being featured in a new book, and a section on how you can donate your used car to our cause. The contents truly have no fluid rhyme or reason to them. In fact, we actually thought about scrapping the whole thing and starting over. That is, until I was reminded that Christ is *the* theme of all that we do, whether it all folds into a neat newsletter format or not. And yet, we still yearn for a theme. What a wonderful picture of Streets, and of the Gospel, this supposedly "theme-less newsletter" really is.



I often find myself feeling like there is no theme to my own life, except perhaps "busyness." If it isn't a deadline or financial pinch at work, then there is always kids' practices and performances to rush them to, not to mention Church, bills to pay and that leaky faucet to fix, and of course finding time to somehow read my Bible and pray more. There is just so much to do, and so little time to do it. Busyness, it would seem, has become a national pastime. Everyone is busy. You know it. I know it. Our pastors preach about it. And there is no shortage of books and instructional videos on how to "Simplify Your Life in Only 30 Minutes a Day." Some of the ads are actually starting to sound pretty good...if only I had thirty minutes a day to watch them.

The truth is we are all busy, and we all wish we had an extra thirty minutes a day. Maybe an extra thirty minutes a day would be just enough time to put together a "themed" newsletter at Streets. But herein lies the Glory. Though I strive to make it all fit, to find another thirty minutes so that I can make things perfect, I am reminded that God is perfect, and in his perfection and sovereignty, He is the One using us for His purpose. As Paul wrote in Romans 8, "All things God works for the good of those who love Him." Let that sink in for a minute. *All things*. That means the struggles at the office, the flat tire that made your kid late to practice...again, even the leaky faucet – it is being used *by God* for good and for His glory. Even Streets, a small ministry with a small staff in a small community is being used for good to His glory.

And so it is with pride, not shame, that I present this "themeless" newsletter. Though it has no central theme, it is not without substance or heart. In truth, this is what Streets is really like. We are a ragtag group of God's people working in an impoverished community. We are typically very busy, working with a hodgepodge of kids from Memphis' poorest zip code. And our days rarely have a theme, other than serving and loving on kids, but we rest assured in the fact that God uses it all, just like your life, "for the good of those who love Him." I pray that you too will find peace in God's promise that he uses all things for His good.

Your Brother in Christ,
Ken Bennett

- Ken Bennett**
Executive Director
- Joey Callums**
Education Specialist
- John Cowherd**
Middle School Coordinator
- Grace Halliday**
Education Specialist
- Delvin Lane**
High School Coordinator
- Rob Thompson**
Director of Development
- Quinhon Turner**
Recreation and Facilities Specialist
- Joyce Wilfong**
Administrative Assistant


STREETS MINISTRIES
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A Peek Inside Streets: Monday Night Club

By Delvin Lane: For the last seventeen years, Monday nights at Streets Ministries have been the most exciting night of the week for teens in Foote and Cleaborn Homes. Tons of high school teenagers, oftentimes over a hundred, pour into Streets' facility to have a fun night of singing, games and skits. These kids are diverse in attitude and behavior. We have everyone from the local drug dealer to the valedictorian of Booker T. Washington (BTW) high school.



At the beginning of a typical club, the Streets staff shows a video of the kids from the previous week. The videos include everything from football game highlights to kids being silly in the hallways of BTW. The kids really enjoy getting a chance to see themselves on the big screen. After the video is done, we crank up loud 'hype' music to get the kids excited. Next, we sing songs that the kids enjoy. Both Christian and clean secular songs are used at club. After hyping the kids up with music, we play crazy games with them to expose both the kids and the staff to points of vulnerability. We play games like musical chairs, name that tune, and pin the tail on the donkey. Some of our extreme games are Chocolate Apple (the kids are told they get to eat a chocolate apple, which is really an onion) and Coin Head (we pour water down their pants). The kids love it.

After all that excitement, we sing slow songs to get them ready for the next part of club: skits. In our skits, we allow the kids to dominate the stage, where they have an opportunity to "show their stuff". Although we sometimes perform serious life-lesson skits, most of them are foolish

in nature. Our kids love showing off their many talents. We allow the kids to show their talents by giving them a role and letting them perform it to the best of their abilities. In the life-lesson skits, or role-plays, the kids present different real life situations to the audience. This is presented with the hope that it will help the kids in the audience make better decisions in life before something drastic happens. After a role-play, I will often have kids come up and tell me the problems they are facing in life. This presents a unique opportunity to pray with kids about the difficult things going on in their lives, whether it be the typical things teenagers face, or the not-so-typical things that kids face, like gang wars, drug dealers and rather troubled home lives.

After all the games and skits are finished, I play a slow, encouraging song to make the kids think about the seriousness of knowing the Savior, usually *Light the Fire* or *All in All*. Lastly, I give a club talk from God's word and open the floor to questions. This is my favorite part of club, because the kids usually ask some really tough questions. I, along with some of my more mature Bible study kids, open our Bibles and begin to share the truth they seek.

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Calendar: What We've Been Up To

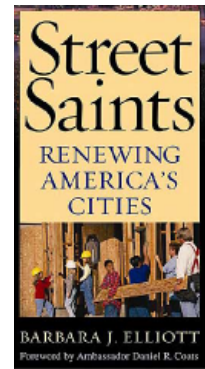
- Our elementary-aged reading enrichment program, **Streetsmart** began on **September 15th**. Each Wednesday eight 2nd graders from Locke Elementary spend the afternoon with volunteers Carrie Ligon and Jenny Azima, along with Carrie's Bible study girls from Germantown High. Their activities have included making care packages for hurricane victims in Florida and learning of God's provision and love in times of trouble.
- **Pathways tutoring** started back up on **September 20th**. We are excited to welcome eight new mentors to the program this year. A few of our Middle School Pathways students are participating in a new pilot program that focuses more on creative learning in tutoring sessions with their mentors. They started a weekly study of the Underground Railroad beginning in November.
- Streets held a **three-on-three basketball tournament** on **October 11** using our half-court behind our building. The kids had a great time competing and just hanging out and listening to music.
- **High School Bible studies** started on **October 20**. Each of our four Bible studies began with a series on leadership development. We are currently looking to add several more Bible study leaders. Times are available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, depending on the age group and gender. All the materials and necessary training are provided. If you're interested, please contact Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org.
- **October 25th** was the **Streets Fall Bash Dance** at Streets. Kids from the community enjoyed a great night of fellowship, refreshments and dancing.
- The **High School Girls Bible Study** put on a play at Streets on **November 1st** that they acted, produced and choreographed themselves.
- BTW students Armondo and 'BCA' are using their incredible artistic talents to help Streets **decorate the homework lab** with drawings of influential African Americans.

2004-2005 Booker T. Washington High School Varsity Basketball Schedule

November 22	Middle College	Home	January 20	E.C.S.	Home
November 23	White Station	Home	January 21	Westwood	Away
December 1	Frayser	Home	January 25	Carver	Away
December 3	White Station	Away	January 28	Oakhaven	Away
December 7	Holly Springs, MS	Away	February 1	Southside	Home
December 13	Frayser	Away	February 3	Middle College	Away
December 15	Manassas	Home	February 4	Hillcrest	Away
December 18	Ursuline Academy	Bronx, NY (Girls Only)	February 8	Mitchell	Home
January 4	Oakhaven	Home	February 10	Sheffield	Home
January 5	Manassas	Away	February 11	Westwood	Home
January 7	Southside	Away	February 15	Carver	Home
January 11	Hillcrest	Home	February 18	City Championships	Mid-South Coliseum
January 13	E.C.S.	Away (Boys Only) JV	February 21-26	16A District	B.T.W.
January 14	Mitchell	Away	February 28-March 3		8AA Region
January 18	Sheffield	Away			

Streets In Print

Streets and Ken were recently featured in *Street Saints*, a new book by Barbara Elliott. *Street Saints* is both a book of motivational stories about unsung heroes and a sociological study of the “faith factor,” documenting faith-based programs that are treating social maladies in America. The book is based on eight years of hands-on experience and more than 300 interviews, and takes readers on a tour of communities and institutions where faith-based initiatives are making a difference. Streets is featured as a part of Elliott’s larger study of Memphis and the Memphis Leadership Foundation. The book is available online at Amazon.com and at major booksellers.



Yearend Giving: By Rob Thompson

With Thanksgiving a few weeks away, the Christmas season is right around the corner, and that means we’re about to enter our busiest fundraising season of the year at Streets. Over the last two years, we have raised almost 40% of the annual budget in months of November and December alone. While the process of raising capital every year can sometimes be challenging, it is certainly worth it. Our staff’s compassion and energy is outmatched only by their zealotness to bring kids to Christ and empower them with the Gospel.

2004 was a significant year at Streets. We saw many students come to know Christ, we expanded our Summer Institute program to include a residency week at St. Andrew’s School in Sewanee, we added several new part time staff members, and we are in the process of expanding our Pathways curriculum. Of course, all these new programs and personnel come with a price. Our annual budget increased by almost \$60,000 in 2004, and it is slated to increase again next year.

Streets was started when God called Ken to serve this community, but it has sustained and prospered over the last 17 years largely because of the generosity of all our supporters. As we approach the end of year, I would like to invite you to participate in helping Streets prosper and continue to reach out to young people for Christ. Whether it’s your first gift or you’ve been supporting us since 1987, and whether you give \$10 or \$10,000, your tax-deductible gift plays a vital role in all that we do at Streets. For that, we thank you. May you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Donate Your Used Car or Truck to Streets

Are you about to buy a new car, but don’t want to lose money in a trade-in? Do you have an old car that you need to sell, but just don’t have the time - Then consider donating your car, truck, or van to Streets. All we need from you are the keys and the title. We will take care of the rest, including re-titling the car, filing the necessary documents with the state and IRS, and selling it. The best part is, you can write off the fair market value of your vehicle, which is often well below the trade value a dealer will give you.*



All of the proceeds from the sale of your car will be used to support Streets – who would have thought your old car could have been put to such good use? But you’ll have to hurry: Tax law changes in January, limiting your tax write off to the amount Streets sells the car for, rather than the fair market value. If you’re interested in donating your vehicle to Streets, please contact Rob Thompson at rob@streetsministries.org or 901.525.7380.

** This statement should not replace the advice of a licensed accountant. Please consult your accountant before making any tax decisions.*



Streets Volunteers: 2004

Streets would like to thank all the people and organizations who gave of their time this year, whether as a weekly tutor or providing in-kind services. Streets is able to reach kids because of the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, and we thank you.

High School Club / Bible Study

Carmen Coleman, Carrie Evans, Rosalyn Terry

Gift In-Kind / Service Projects

Bellevue Baptist Church
BTW Football 'Feeders' - Josh Davis,
Bruce Hillyer, Scott Fleming and George Leavell
Christ United Methodist Mission Blitz
Charlie Cleaves and the 7th Inning
Ron Campbell
Josephine Covington
Danka Office Imaging
First Evangelical Church High School Youth Group
First Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale High
School Youth Group
For the Kingdom
Glenn Terhune Plumbing
Highpoint Church
Hope Presbyterian Church
Humphreys, Dunlap, Wellford, Attorneys at Law
Tom Hutton
Independent Presbyterian Church
Lehman Roberts / Memphis Stone and Gravel
McNabb, Bragorgos and Burgess, Attorneys at Law
The Memphis Grizzlies
The Memphis Riverkings
The Memphis Redbirds
Montgomery Martin Contractors
New Song Baptist Church
Robert Vaughn Construction
Second Presbyterian Church
Josh Spickler, Attorney at Law
University of Memphis Basketball
Venture College Ministry
The Women of Christ United Methodist
The Women of Independent Presbyterian

Pathways Tutors

Neal Aguillard
Nat Akin
Elizabeth Barnwell
Matt Boeving

Pathways Tutors (con't.)

Emily Campbell
Carmen Coleman
Robert Covington
Katie Garrett
Drew Gibson
Aaron Gray
Catherine Habashy
Allen Halliday
Jeff Hannah
Frederick Holmes
Michelle Hope
Jonathan Hulgán
Elizabeth Jones
Katie Jordan
Ken Keach
Lucy Kuykendall
Sam Kuykendall
Chris Lareau
Bethany Lindaman
Mark Mazzone
John Moore
Gary Powell
Celeste Pryor

Bob Smith
David Spence
Josh Spickler
Michael Stewart
Tyler Strobel
Stephanie Summers
Norfleet Thompson
Brandon Tidwell
Robert Vaughn
Brenda Wilkerson

Read-to-Succeed Program

Beth Diaz
Renee Donovan
Paddy Harris
Shannon Joseph
Joan Swihart
Toula Toulitatos
Marcia Weaver

Street Smarts

Jenny Azima
Carrie Ligon



Volunteers prepare lunches for our summer work crews.