



THE STREET

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/7

Singing Night

12/10

MTFFT

12/17

Teen Christmas Party

12/21

Singing Night

12/25

Christmas Day

12/31

New Years Eve



that was easy.

M.T.F.F.T

MIDDLE TENNESSEE FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On December 10th we will be playing Riverside and several other youth groups from around the area in the Middle Tennessee Flag Football Tournament.

Registration is at 8:00 and the first game Washington Street verses Riverside starts at 8:30. From there the schedule changes but I hope you are ready

for a day of fun and football. We will be getting together this Sunday December 4th for practice and to make our shirts for the game.



November in Review

Well I hope everyone had plenty of Turkey this past month. In case your still in a turkey coma here's what happened on The Street this month. We started the month with our first Sardine's Night it was a blast or a bunch considering it was sardines. After that we had our first Rake and Run, again thanks to everyone who showed up to rake we couldn't have done it without you. And lastly we had the 31 Girls LARP day. It was originally going to be LARP for the guys but since none showed up the girls LARPed instead. I have some great video of it. All in all it was a good month. This will be the last newsletter of 2011, so instead of see ya next month see ya next year in 2012. Until Next Year—Joel and Melissa

Teen Christmas Party

On December 17 we will be having our Christmas Party. We will meet at the church around 5:30. We will be doing a scavenger hunt around the church and around the town and afterward we will be eating and having our Dirty Santa gift ex-

change. Make sure you bring a \$5 to \$10 wrapped gift. We have some other things planned as well but I can't tell you or that would ruin the surprise. I hope everyone comes out for the party its gonna be a blast.





WHAT'S IN YOUR ROOM?

Blanket

When I was a little kid, I worried about the monster's in my room. I would lie awake many nights in fear of them. There was one monster that lived in my closet. He could only come out at night if I left the closet door open. Each night I'd make sure that my closet door was closed, to keep him from coming out and attacking me while I slept. But he wasn't the monster that I feared the most. The worst, most treacherous and most powerful monster lived under my bed. He was a greenish color, with glowing red eyes and long tentacles that could snag any arm or leg that hung over the side of the bed during the night. The monster could reach out and wrap one of it's tentacles around my ankle and drag me out of bed, onto the floor and under the bed where it would eat me for a midnight snack... Maybe I

watched too much TV as a kid. But there was one thing more powerful than all the monsters in my room. That one thing helped me sleep at night. That one thing saved me from a horrible death each and every night. That one thing was my blanket. There was something magical about my blanket—it formed a shield that no monster could penetrate. When I got into bed and turned the lights out, the monsters could prowl my room. But if I was in bed, tucked under my blanket, they couldn't touch me! As long as I was underneath that blanket, I could sleep like a baby. Now that I'm older, I realize that I had a overactive imagination when I was growing up. But even though I don't worry about finding monsters in my room anymore. I still worry about a lot of things. I'm not like Charlie Brown's friend Linus any longer. I don't carry my blanket around all the time for protection and comfort, but I do rely on God's protection. I wish I had memorized Psalm 121 when I was a kid,

hiding under my blanket for protection. A psalm is a very old poem or song that was written so that people could remember it and repeat it. This psalm tells me that God is my blanket of protection now and forever!

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121

Ways to Walk the Walk

"How can you say to your friend, 'Let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye'? Look at yourself! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. You hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend's eye." Matthew 7:4-5

Word:

We need to focus on our own faults before we blame others.

Walk It:

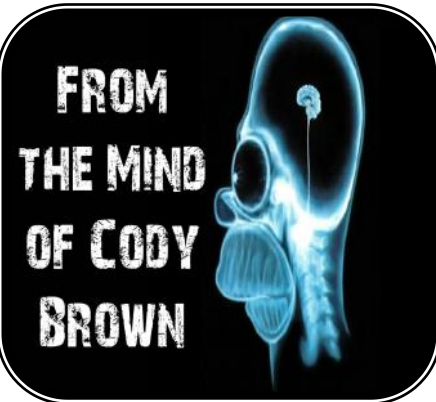
Take a look at your most annoying relationship—and change one bad thing you do that makes the problem worse.

FROM THE MIND OF CODY BROWN

Ephesians chapter 6 explains the whole armor of God. The belt of truth, a breastplate of righteousness, feet fitted with the gospel of peace, a shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit. God has given us this armor, an indestructible armor. With this armor we are fighting a battle day in and day out. A battle that Satan has won too many times because we just give up. Folks its as simple as saying, get

behind me Satan. But that's easier said than done but if we our God is with us then who can stand against us? Nobody! The bible says this armor is able to put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one, not some not one but all of them. Don't drop your shield, and if you have pick it up, shine it up and join up. Join me on the battle field and lets fight Satan together.

Your Brother Cody



HAPPY DEATH DAY

There is a layer between us and Jesus called the I'll do it tomorrow layer. I'll start worrying about my reputation when I'm an adult—after I've had some fun. I'll enjoy life—after I get enough money, I'll follow Jesus—later. Any of these cross your mind lately? "A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth." Ecclesiastes 7:1 Sounds pretty depressing. But know that Solomon wrote 8 times in Ecclesiastes that we should enjoy the life we have. Here's some valuable info to help understand this verse. In He-

brew the word for name is *shem* and the word for perfume is *shemen*. Solomon is making a play on words. Possibly to get our attention. Kinda' like if I were a popular mushroom, I'd be a fungi. Or maybe not. Anyway, Solomon is saying there are two days in your life when your name is prominent—the day you receive your name, and the day your name shows up in the obituary. What happens between those two days determines whether your name is a sweet smelling ointment *shemen*, or stinky and forget-

table. If you die with a good name, you can no longer do anything to screw that up. But the day you get your name, the day you are born, you have an entire life ahead of you that is yet unwritten. Looking back on a life well lived is better than looking forward to a life unlived. Therin lies the layer. Your *shem* started when you were born and doesn't take a vacation while you're a teen. They type of odor your life emits includes what you do with it right now.

BURN: IGNITE A NEW LIFE WITH GOD

Whiplash part 1: Words of Death

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

"Words from the tongue have bruised and stung, and curses can even kill you."

Which of these statements do you believe? What are the things we can cook up with our tongues? Have you ever been in that awkward situation where you are with a group of people and you say something that is totally inappropriate, offensive, clueless, or otherwise just plain dumb? Even as you hear the words slip from your mouth, you try to snatch them back—but it's too late. Then either your ears are on fire with embarrassment or your friends are on fire with anger. Oops! —**No man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.** | James 3:8 When it comes to your tongue, you've got a tiger in your tank, so be careful. There was a time they would use a skull-and-crossbones marking to label a bottle containing poison. It seems some people need that kind of symbol tattooed on their tongues! Pure poison can come from our mouths. We have the power to kill someone with our words. We have a loaded weapon on us all the time—it's called the tongue—and we can be completely casual about

it. Unfortunately, our casualness leaves a lot of casualties. There are several warnings throughout Scripture on how our words can be dangerous. Here are a few examples: —**Reckless words pierce like a sword...** | Proverbs 12:18 —**... a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit...** | Proverbs 15:4

—**Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell!** | James 3:5-6

James had a lot to say about the tongue! He also wrote: —**If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight reign on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.** | James 1:26 —**With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men... My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?** | James 3:9-11

In fact, this should be just as impossible as trying to speak German and Spanish at the same time! (Warning: Do not try this around your parents or friends—you'll end up in a straightjacket.) It's time we put the gun down! But

how? What are some ways we can keep a tight rein on this weapon of mass de-struction? 1. Be aware of how powerful our words are, and do not take them lightly. Remember, the old "sticks and stones" poem was a lie. Those names we are called really do hurt.

2. James says we need to be —**quick to listen, slow to speak!** (James 1:19). Stop and think before you go spraying flippant words around like a drive-by shooter spraying stray gunfire!
3. Pray as David did: —**Set guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips!** (Psalm 141:3)

Continued in Whiplash part 2: Words of Life



EVERYTHING COUNTS

Wabbit Season. Duck Season. Fire!

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." | 2 Timothy 4:2

Here's a shocker. Ready? You're not always going to feel like working for God. Big surprise! There are days when you'd rather roll over and stay in your nice, warm bed than go out and face another day. Nobody said this was going to be easy. It's those days when you'd rather be doing anything else that it's most important for you to get up and do it again. Those who say they give 110% to God 24-7 are kidding themselves. God knows better. Some days all we can give is 60%. It's amazing

that God can take our 60% and use it for his glory. The real proof of a relationship with God is that I will do my best whether I feel like it or not. **When the Spirit of God gives you a time of inspiration and insight, you say—Now I will always be like this for God.** | No, you will not, God will take care you are not. Those times are the gift of God entirely. **You cannot give them to yourself when you choose... If you make a god of your best moments, you will find that God will fade out of your life and never come back until you do the duty that lies nearest, and have learned not make a fetish of your rare**

moments. Just between you and God, ask God for determination, whether you feel like you need it or not. If you have it—you can call on it when the bed seems warm and cozy, and the outside world is a mud puddle with your name on



Whiplash part 2: Words of Life

While words can be used to tear down, they also can be used as a powerful tool for good. God's Word spoke all things into existence. Jesus was described as the Word who became flesh (John 1:14). Honesty is described as "keeping your word." Parents brag over "baby's first word." We "hang on every word." We "spread the word." In the 1980's, we would say "Word to your mom" (that was a good thing). Words are the tools by which we define and understand all things. And picture this: words can be spoken, written, e-mailed, text-messaged, drawn, signed, sung, symbolized, tattooed, painted, sculpted, plastered, and even swallowed (ever had to "eat your words"?) Words are unforgettable. Can you recall times in your life when something was said to you that made a huge impact? How many times? Positive or negative? Maybe words of

advice that changed your direction? Words from an authority that affected your destination? Words from a friend or enemy that changed your character or self-esteem? Words play an undeniably important role in our lives. For this reason, we need to be skilled in using them properly. In various places the Bible says our words have the power of life and death. It's up to us to choose which one. —**For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** | (Hebrews 4:12) Our words are like a two-edged sword also: we can overcome or destroy others, and ourselves, by what we say. But we also have the power to save someone's life, sharpen each other, and fight off the enemy with the words we speak. Picture one person you look up to, someone you really respect and like being around. Chances are this person is someone who encourages you, makes you feel good about

yourself, and enables you to do good. Witness the power of words! There are many examples in Scripture of how words can produce life-saving results; including: —**Encourage one another daily... so that none of you may be hard-ened by sin's deceitfulness!** | Hebrews 3:13 —**We overcome by the words of our testimony!** | Revelation 12:11 In the book of Acts, a man named Barnabas was an encourager to the Apostle Paul. Barnabas's name literally means "son of comfort." He encouraged and enabled Paul in many of his travels. Matthew says that —**out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks!** | Matthew 12:34 Did you know you speak a foreign language? Even if you have never taken a foreign language class, you still speak such a language—it's the strange and sometimes hurtful words that too often come from our mouths! Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. We all need heart surgery so our mouths do not speak foreign words of death, but rather words of life. What do you speak to those in your world? Life or death? Jesus said, "I am the life," and you must have him in your heart to speak words of life.



Radical Faith

"Do to others what you want them to do to you. This is the meaning of the law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets." Matthew 7:12

This verse has been called the "Golden Rule." It's as valuable as gold and it'll work every time you use it. It's been quoted and misquoted for years. It isn't just about being nice; it's a lot more than that.

Look at what Jesus says leading up to this. Love people who are against you; pray for the person who's mean to you; if someone wants to borrow something, give him more than what he asks for and don't ask him to give it back. You wouldn't dare ask anyone to treat you that well—you'd feel like you were using him—but you'd like it if he did, right? Jesus isn't telling you to be a doormat. He's showing you how to follow his example. His whole life was about two things: pleasing God and helping other people. He wants you to be more concerned about others than you are about yourself. Look out for others and trust God to look out for you. Always think about how you'd want someone to treat you. That's the heart of the Golden Rule.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Caught!

"No one sir,' she said, 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'" John 8:11

Is there a more beautiful scripture in the Bible than the one you just read? I don't think there is. This verse is one of the most quoted in the Bible, for good reason. It is the culmination of a dark episode in the life of a nameless woman. The Bible writers must have forgotten to mention her name, or more likely, her behavior was so revolting that her name was not worthy of print. Whatever the case, she forever wears the nondescript, generic moniker of "woman caught in adultery." Her predicament was dire. In the Middle Eastern culture of her time women didn't fare well. Men had a final say in every facet of a woman's life. She was expected to care for the home, perhaps sow and harvest crops with her children in the field, and fetch water for the animals. It was a long,

grueling life. Some men valued their animals more than they did their wives. Life wasn't easy for women. It follows then that someone with such a low status had very little protection from the law, since—you guessed it—me wrote the laws. At the time, adultery was a capital offense punishable by death to the woman. The man was to be punished equally, but this was hardly the case. Author Ellen G. White writes, "With all their professions of reverence for the law, these rabbis, in bringing the charge against the woman, were disregarding its provisions. It was the husbands duty to take action against her, and the guilty parties were to be punished equally. The action of the accusers was wholly unauthorized". The system of punishment was by no means fair or equitable. That is what made Jesus' response to this moral crisis so earth-shaking. Jesus was about to overturn hundreds of years of Jewish law, and He didn't even flinch. How many of would have the guts to stand in the middle of an angry jury of our

peers and declare a murderer free to go and sin no more? That's sort of what Jesus did. The crime of adultery carried the stigma and abhorrence that murder does today. Yet our Lord was undaunted by the odds against Him. There was a good chance that His intervention could cause His own death. Remember, the woman was dragged before Jesus in a failed attempt to trap Him. The Pharisees and scribes had trotted out the Law of Moses, which allowed but one cure for the disease of adultery—death. They wanted to know what Jesus thought, since He seemed to have no regard for their laws. But Jesus saw in the woman's plight an opportunity to make a statement on the one need that we all have—to be forgiven. As he bent down in the sand, calmly writing, Jesus was sending a message to all future generations. He seems to say, "I know that the one you brought to Me is worthy of condemnation, but so are you. I take no special pleasure in seeing sinful people destroyed, and neither should you—especially given the sins you are committing." Jesus felt compelled to save the adulterous woman, and His quiet rebuke of the Pharisees and scribes was an opportunity for them to be saved.

Girls Ministry

The Pearl Necklace

The cheerful girl with bouncy golden curls was almost five. Waiting with her mother at the checkout stand, she saw them: a circle of glistening white pearls in a pink foil box. "Oh please, Mommy. Can I have them? Please, Mommy, please!" Quickly the mother checked the back of the little foil box and then looked back into the pleading blue eyes of her little girl's up-turned face.

"A dollar ninety-five. That's al-most \$2. If you really want them, I'll think of some extra chores for you and in no time you can save enough money to buy them your-self. Your birthday's only a week away and you might get another crisp dollar bill from Grandma." As soon as Jenny got home, she emptied her piggy bank and counted out 17 pennies. After dinner, she did more than her share of chores. She went to the neighbor, Mrs. McJames, and asked if she could pick dandelions for ten cents. On her birthday, Grandma did give her another new dollar bill and at last she had enough money to buy the neck-lace. Jenny loved her pearls. They made her feel dressed up and grown up. She wore them every-where--Sunday school, kindergarten, even to bed. The only time she took them off was when she went swimming or had a bubble bath. Mother had told her that if they got wet, they might turn her neck green.

Jenny had a very loving daddy and every night when she was ready for bed, he would stop whatever he was doing and come upstairs to read her a story. One night when he finished the story, he asked Jenny, "Do you love me?"

"Oh yes, Daddy. You know that I love you."

"Then may I have your pearls?"

"Oh, Daddy, not my pearls. But you can have Princess--the white horse from my collection. The one with the pink tail. Remember, Daddy? The one you gave me. She's my favorite."

"That's okay, honey. Daddy loves you. Good night." And he brushed her cheek with a kiss.

About a week later, after the story time, Jenny's daddy asked again, "Do you love me?"

"Daddy, you know I love you." "Then will you give me your pearls?"

"Oh, Daddy, not my pearls. But you can have my baby doll. The brand new one I got for my birthday. She is so beautiful and you can have the yellow blanket that matches her sleeper."

"That's okay, Honey. Sleep well. God bless you, little one. Daddy loves you." And as always, he brushed her cheek with a gentle kiss. A few nights later when her daddy came in, Jenny was sitting on her bed with her legs crossed Indian-style. As he came close, he noticed her chin was trembling and one silent tear rolled down her cheek.

"What is it, Jenny? What's the matter?"

Jenny didn't say anything but lifted her little hand up to her daddy. When she opened it, there was her little pearl necklace. With a little quiver, she finally said, "Here, Daddy. It's for you." With tears gathering in his own eyes, Jenny's kind daddy reached out with one hand to take the

prized necklace. With the other hand he reached into his pocket and pulled out a blue velvet case.

What are you holding on to?
-Author Unknown

Will you settle for imitation pearls of this world



Or wait for the genuine pearls of God





Truth: Seeing Black and White in a Gray World

The World Says: "No one will know."

God Says: "I see all things."

"He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations—let not the rebellious rise up against him." Psalm 66:7

Who hasn't been freaked out by the lyrics to this Christmas song? "He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake." Having good ole Saint Nick watching you at all times almost seems like some B-level horror movie. It's creepy. We Americans value our privacy. We want the freedom to do things that "no one will ever know." Unlike Saint Nick, God really does see all and know all. The Bible tells us that "even the hairs on your head are all numbered" (Matthew 10:30). He sees when every sparrow falls (see verse 29). He knows your every need because He sees your every circumstance. Nothing you do escapes His gaze. Now, this would be creepy and scary if God wasn't completely good. If God was unjust, He could exploit your flaws and sins to humiliate or embarrass you or cause your ruin. But He has no mean streak, and He uses His knowledge of your greatest secrets for your eternal good. How can He do that, you might ask? Well, if He sees you in need, He can meet your need. If he sees that you have sinned (and He sees everyone's missteps—everyone), He can make a way out of it so that you don't have to face punishment for it. (Remember, He is good and wants nobody to perish.) On Judgment Day, God will expose our every deed, good and bad. If we are a Christian, our misdeeds will be deferred to the crucified Christ, who died on our behalf. If we are not a Christian our exposed sins will die with us as face eternal separation from God. God sees your every move. It's both a terror and a comfort. Thank God He is altogether good.

"The LORD watches over the way of the righteous." Psalm 1:6

PIERCING PROVERBS

Experience Him!

For then you'll be ready to see God for who He really is and you'll begin to know and experience Him. And that's when you'll start to understand what He's really all about." Proverbs 2:5

Have you ever actually seen God with your own eyes? Is it even possible? We understand that He's a spiritual being—so wouldn't He be too huge, too awesome, too totally incredible, to be seen with our mere earthly eyes? And besides, wouldn't it just blow our minds to really see Him? I mean, how could we ever see anything again—at least, in the same way? And yet we can experience God's presence in thousands of ways. Like we

see His creativity displayed in nature every day—trees, flowers, animals, newborn babies. And just watch a group of mischievous monkeys—or your friends in the cafeteria—and you'll see God's humor at work. And, of course, we can witness His magnificent glory in a majestic mountain peak, a colorful sunset, or the thundering surf of the sea. So He does reveal Himself to us in lots of ways—but we only see Him if we're paying attention, if we have eyes that are able to see. And we can experience God's amazing love and mercy when we look to the Cross. For as we envision God's very own Son laying

down His life for us, we begin to understand how loved and forgiven we really are—we begin to experience God in a very real and personal way. So maybe it is possible to see God. And as we see Him, we begin to know Him. And as we know Him, we begin to experience a relationship, relating to Him on a real and personal level. And we start to understand what His awesome love and incredible mercy are really all about. And then we have found Him! But that's just the beginning.



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to

obey everything I have commanded you”

Matthew 28:19-20

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DECEMBER 2011

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Singing Night	8	9	10 MTFFT	11
12	13	14	15	16 Elementary Age Lock-In	17 Teen Christmas Party	18 Vantage Point
19	20	21 Singing Night	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM NOVEMBER

Curt Cannon

Austin Bagby

Jesse

Mullins cousin Trazel

Ben's Knee

Joe Allen's Knee

Kati Faith

Jacks Wrist

Payton—Belmont

Brannen's Friend

Tammy Moyer

Steve's Ankle

Nicole

Tamia

Amanda Massey

School

Youth Group

Cody—Military

Ray Scott's Family

Jerry Johnson

Jacob Pigg's Arm

Emily's Wisdom Teeth

Jessie's Foot Surgery

Shannon Alcorn

Riley's Papa

Officer Beavers

Officer Raby

Maddie Stone's Family

Noah's Mom's Back

Zach's Dad

Sports

David Ferguson Family

Andy's Cousin and Wife

Man who shot the cops

Hannah and Baby Cole

Donyae

Amanda's sister Tori

