



## Splinter 2008 Ministry Report

Below is a collection of writings in no particular order, from some of our skate ministry partners about how their year has been and what God is up to:

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Other highlights for me personally were:

- A trip to South Africa to speak at a Skate Ministry Conference and visit orphan ministries where I shared a few tricks.
- The second annual Christian Skater conference in Huntington Beach, CA plus ASR trade show, visiting a new skate ministry in South Central LA, Seeing the Dream Center, Skid Row, Black Box distribution, Jamie Thomas, San Diego and meeting some amazing folks in skate ministry.
- Building new parks in TN, NJ, MO and especially in Jamaica. I was also able to revisit Metro Ministries in NY.
- Seeing Sidewalk Skate Ministry take shape from an idea to action and how amazing the churches we worked with were in implementing and catching the vision.
- Working out of ARC and enjoying the ARC family. Nathan Bemo is a great brother I shared several trips with. Plus seeing the DIY kits take shape and several new parks get built.
- Meeting and spending time with Nate Giarratano in Kansas City who is heading up FCA's launch into skate ministry. A gifted brother I hope to work alongside moving forward. Likewise I also enjoyed Andie and Dustin White in Moberly since they are close enough to visit also.
- Getting to know Jud Heald better and work on a number of projects with him.
- FCA's retreat and potential to facilitate skate ministry. Splinter will hopefully be part of this process.



**Sarcoxie** is a small town just outside Joplin, MO. We built a relationship with a church there who were open to Sidewalk Skate Ministry launching with their church as the first ministry partner:

Beginning in March, 2008, multiple organizations including Splinter Ministries, ARC, Untitled, and FBC Sarcoxie scheduled a series of ten skate demos for students in the Sarcoxie area. The demos were led by Mark Jannetta and other members of the Joplin Skating Ministry teams.

The skate park was set up and music was playing by the time that students arrived. The Bible Studies were led by Mark and others while the FBC Sarcoxie ministers observed and learned parameters that would help them to be successful, also. Spring time weather caused extreme fluctuation in attendance. On highly attended days, thirty students participated or watched the demo. On lowly attended days, fewer than ten students participated. No matter the attendance, these events attracted a population of unchurched students who had never been interested in any of the youth or children's groups' activities.

Furthermore, the Sarcoxie skating community consistently asked church leaders to bring the skate park ramps back. FBC Sarcoxie again hosted the skate demo during the fall throughout most of October and November. Several changes were implemented.



First, Splinter ministries had used the Spring semester to train the ministers of FBC Sarcoxie and were no longer needed to travel the thirty mile trip to Sarcoxie every week. Second, FBC hosted the event but asked students to set up the ramps and asked one of the students to provide appropriate music on his iPod. Generally, the skaters accepted ownership of the skate park and did not skate on church property when the park was closed. The skaters also showed respect during the Bible Study time. Third, the public school system offered further support by sponsoring Untitled Skating ministries to deliver a Red Ribbon week school-day program followed by a demo at FBC Sarcoxie that evening. Over two hundred people came to the church event and thirteen accepted Christ as their Savior. Twenty students commonly visit the demo throughout the fall sessions.

In the future, FBC Sarcoxie is planning to rent the ramps from Mark Jannetta for another season and are now expanding the number of people who will be able to minister at the demo in the spring/winter 2009. FBC Sarcoxie fervently believes that God has moved through the skating ministry and that the Demos are a necessary part to reaching and ultimately discipling the lost of Sarcoxie.

Tom Tabb  
FBC Sarcoxie Youth Minister"

Stephen King a missionary to **Jamaica** called me up out of the blue for support and we have been brothers ever since. I was able to join him and Untitled with the Palau team to build ramps and get his skate ministry dreams off the ground in Jamaica:

After months of fund raising and petitioning for product donations, I (Stephen King) was on my way back to Portland, Jamaica on the North East coast of the island to continue speaking with the local elders about Jamaica's first skatepark and youth program.

Almost a year ago today, I arrived back in Boston Bay, Portland, Jamaica in great anticipation for what such a program might bring to the youth of this small surfing community. Unfortunately after my first meeting with the board of directors of Boston Bay's community center it appeared as if attitudes towards such a program had changed. Many of the elders of the community we're very leery of the programs success due to the behavior of some of the local young adults who would be involved. Although there were other, unspoken, reasons for the board's final rejection of the project, ultimately it was all a part of God's perfect plan.

While in Portland, still pushing for this program to take off, I wondered what God was doing as I was in high anticipation for three large Christian outreach events complete with a skatepark for demonstrations. The skatepark that would be used for these events would be donated to the program in Portland after the outreach was over. The concerning part for me was that I had just lost the land and the support of the local community I had spent two years of my life pouring into in preparation for the skatepark and program.



While in Portland, I also found myself being attacked spiritually as I finally began to realize the dangerous nature of pursuing this work alone. I was in the trenches of spiritual warfare with no local body of believers, accountability or Christian support network of any kind to come along side of me. During this time of uncertainty and spiritual warfare, I would often travel to the city of Mandeville mid-island in the parish of Manchester which was in the mountains. Many of my close Christian friends were located in Mandeville where they had just planted a vibrant new church comprised of young believers. I began traveling almost every weekend, 4 hours of taxis, busses and other local transportation to fellowship, pray and worship with these friends. Upon one of these particular trips I was pulled out of church by an older gentleman whose wife managed a Christian campsite just outside of Mandeville named Moorlands Camp ([www.morrlandscamp.com](http://www.morrlandscamp.com)). The man explained what the camp stood for and that their very purpose was to share Christ with the youth of the island! I soon realized that this is the

camp that one of my good friends worked with and had been telling me about for months. This man continued by asking me if I would be willing to build the park at the camp and if the ramps from the outreach could be left there to run the program God had placed on my heart! This had left me very confused as the ramps had already been guaranteed to the initiative in Portland. I left Mandeville that weekend simply telling this gentleman that I would pray and see how God leads.



As I arrived back in Portland the weight of Satan's presence and focus on me began to reveal itself that much more. I became depressed, was being taken advantage of by the youth I was working for and temptation was around every corner. After another failed attempt with the local community leaders I began praying about Mandeville. I awoke every morning in the Psalms. I continued to tell myself that, although I am alone

here in Portland and fighting a war spiritually... God was bigger than my situation and would protect me. However, each day seemed to get worse, even to the point where I felt I might be harmed physically. One morning while reading in psalms, I realized I had read the same few verses the day before; I read on and thought nothing of it. This same thing occurred a number of days in a row until I finally realized God was speaking to me: "I trust in the Lord for protection. So why do you say to me, "fly to the mountains for safety..." (- Psalm 11:1) After reading this, a friend from Mandeville wrote me asking me when I would come back to visit them in "the mountains". I tied up some loose ends and before I knew it I was on my way to Mandeville, to work at Moorlands Camp! Almost as soon as I arrived, confirmation came and I could feel a peace overwhelm my spirit... "For you have seen my troubles, and you care about the anguish of my soul. You have not handed me over to my enemy but have set me in a safe place." (- Psalm 31:7-8)

It wasn't until after my arrival that I began to see the perfection of God's move. The older man who had pulled me out of church and had now taken me under his wing at Moorlands Camp was also the vice president of the very company that was putting on the large outreach events that were now just around the corner. This is a company selling a secular product (farm goods and food products) comprised of Christian executives and employees who had chosen to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by inviting Luis Palau to Jamaica to reach out to the lost!



I began to work towards the events as I was put in charge of the skate and bmx stunt shows. I brought in Mark Jannetta from Splinter Youth Inc. (my sending organization) and Untitled Skateboards plus bmxers for the events. I hosted them at Moorlands camp where we spent a week building the ramps for the skatepark. The events took place in Jamaica's 3 largest cities with hundreds of thousands in attendance. The events were free and complete with international performing artists, kids areas, veggie tale characters, skateboard, bmx and motocross demonstrations and a giant invitation for all who wanted to know Christ!

After the events ended, we moved all of the ramps from the capital city, Kingston, back up to Moorlands Camp in Mandeville. There was only one problem... we didn't have a cement pad to place them permanently at the camp! We all began to pray and patiently wait on God. I was confident that the cement would arrive as God had brought me too far to neglect the last piece to the puzzle, even though this last element had a price tag of over \$30,000 usd. Summer camp was getting closer and we still had no park! Moorlands sees between 450 – 500 kids come through their gates for summer camp every year and this year we were booked long before the season began as the kids anticipated Jamaica's first skatepark. All of us at Moorlands and our local church continued to pray for cement. Two weeks before camp a donation of earth and heavy equipment came through to level off the area. Sure enough, the very next week 18 cement trucks came driving up the mountain from Kingston to pour our skatepark pad... two days before the first campers came to Moorlands the ramps were mounted on the finished cement pad and the park was finished! ([www.jaskate.com](http://www.jaskate.com))

Summer camp was a huge success. Youth from all ages and all kinds of social backgrounds recommitted their lives or made the choice to follow Christ. The skatepark was a huge draw for both male and female campers alike. Now, almost four months after camp, the local children from the surrounding community are progressing in skateboarding, meeting, getting to know and enjoying new relationships with their creator. It's only been a year since God moved me to Moorlands, but I know He has me in the right place, but it is still such a mystery to me that God has chosen to use me and such a funny thing such as four wheels and a piece of wood to build his Kingdom! God is so cool and He must be a skater.



In His hands,

- Stephen A. King

I was fortunate enough to visit Michael Pigg in **Borger TX** on our way home from the first Christian Skater Conference. His park is the Stealth design which became the basis for the DIY kits we offer with ARC. He has a neat set up including a shop: a perfect model of skatepark ministry.



In the past year and a half we have had over 350 waivers signed and met over 1000 people as a result of the skatepark. The ministry has never had to even borrow a dime from the greater congregation and continues to go above and beyond the skate ministry by paying peoples electric bills, purchasing food for families in need, we have even

helped people purchase their prescriptions. This thing is looking more and more like the Kingdom everyday. There is virtually no segregation between the skaters and the other students in our youth ministry. We know that our schools and community are divided and segregated according to all kinds of criteria but the skatepark, the youth ministry and the church as a whole have all been positively impacted and are being unified through this ministry.



The Holy Spirit sanctifies and unifies us daily to the Lord's will. We have been seeing skaters on Sunday mornings for some time now and I have been asked several times in the last month about baptism and church membership by skaters. The Lord is changing the hearts of people on both ends of the church spectrum and He is receiving the glory for all he is doing in Borger, Texas through Splinter Skate Park.

Sincerely,

Michael Pigg

Kathy Murphy in **Sparta, NC** was a project I worked on through an ARC lead. She is a wonderful example of a community working together to establish a place for skater to call home. We need more folks like Kathy behind our skaters.

Great things are happening with The Razors EDGE (Empowering Developmental Growth Experience) Skatepark Project. After receiving our skatepark ministry kit from Splinter and American Ramp Company we completed Phase I of the skatepark (street course) and held our grand opening event on June 21<sup>st</sup> (Go Skate Day). We had 3 riders from Untitled Skateboards come and do a demonstration and give their testimony. We held a competition in the afternoon which they stayed for and judged. We have had several other events at the skatepark since its completion.



On September 20<sup>th</sup> we had a “Super Sweet Sixteen” Skate Party for Coalbey (my son - the driving force behind the project – his Eagle Scout Project). It was a day filled with fun, food, and fellowship.

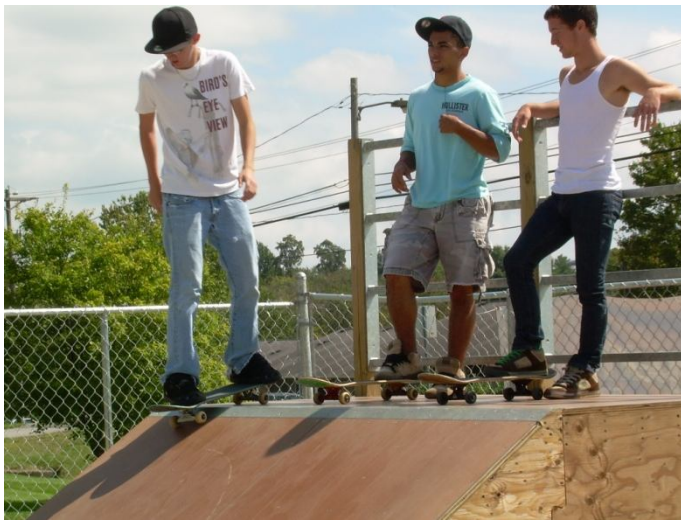
On October 4<sup>th</sup> we held a fundraiser coordinated by Sami Todd (Coalbey’s sweetie) for her Senior Project. It is a requirement here to graduate. You have to do a senior project – it has to be something you have never done before, you have to

spend a minimum of 15 hours completing the project, and do a presentation to include a PowerPoint to a review panel. Before beginning the project you have to do a research paper that relates to the project but is not about the project. Sami wrote hers on “Is skateboarding really a sport?” (well of course it is!). Anyway we held a skate competition and sold concessions and merchandise. There was only one draw back – we had our first official injury at the park – the principal of the high school had volunteered to participate – he probably had not skated in 30 years – needless to say he saw the young kids dropping in off one of the ramps and thought it looked easy so he tried it – all was going well until he hit bottom and fell backwards off his skateboard – broke his upper arm in 3 places – we had to rush him to the emergency room – he later had surgery on his arm and has just returned to school this past week. The best part is we got it all on video – I am sure it will show up on YouTube before it is over with. I am attaching a copy of our newsletter telling about the event.

On Halloween we held our second annual “Skaten’ not Satan” event in conjunction with the Town of Sparta’s Trunk or Treats at Crouse Park. We gave away treats bags which included candy, Splinter stickers, Christian Skaters stickers, and King of King Skateboard stickers. The Halloween event at Crouse Park was a great success – not so much because we raised a bunch of money (not) but because there was a great turnout. We did sell almost everything we had food wise and since most of it was already paid for from Sami’s Senior Project it was mostly all profit. We decided to sell everything except chips (\$.50) for \$1.00 as it was more about having a fun

event then making money. We had over 100 kids participate in our habitat toss game and a line remained until after 7:00 - we stayed until we had given away all of our goodie bags. Included in each bag was candy, gum and stickers, including my favorite "Christian Skaters - Jesus walked on water – what's your best trick?" I also used some of the stickers John received from "King of Kings" skateboards and some we received from Splinter. This will help in promoting the skate ministry. Many of the parents commented on how they liked our game because it was educational and the kids earned their treats.

We have submitted our second request for a grant from the Tony Hawk Foundation for \$13,000 to purchase Phase II (the half –pipe kit). This is the last time we can apply for this grant so keep us in your prayers – should it be God's will that we receive this much needed funding. We should hear something in early December. Also, we recently met with the Alleghany



Ministerium to gain their support of the skatepark ministry – although we have been working with them some and fallen under their umbrella for financial purposes (grants – tax exempt status) the skate ministry was not an official organization of the ministerium. All in all I think it went pretty good – a couple of the skeptics that gave us a hard time about the name were not there. I think Thom (our skatepark committee chairman and former president of the ministerium) likes to think outside the box – his church is pretty calm and this will give him a chance to have some fun and spread the good news all at the same time while helping kids in the process. I think we have a great bunch of

motivated people – we got the skatepark built and like John (our finance chairman) said if we could accomplish that we can do anything as long as we keep our faith strong! I think by having the support of the ministerium we will be better equipped to receive funding. With there now being 29 churches involved we will have more resources to pull from. The first thing we need to do is work on getting the youth council up and running again with youth and adults. Then we can start planning our next event. We need to have input from the youth so we can make sure it is a fun experience for them. We also need to be sure to have plenty of supervision to ensure a safe Christian atmosphere is maintained. Our goal now is to get the Skate Ministry really up and running. I have saved a copy of your manual and printed out one for Thom – the driving force for our skatepark ministry.

If you want to learn more about the Razors EDGE Skatepark Project and skate ministry you can visit our website at: [skaterazorsedge.com](http://skaterazorsedge.com) This site is an Eagle Scout Project of Andrew Eller – he has been working on a video of the skateboarding demonstration by Untitled with the help of a video production specialist (Linda Goodwin – a great friend of ours). I talked to him yesterday and he said it was complete and he hopes to have it on the site soon.

Kathy A. Murphy

Alleghany County Planner

I visited South Town Riders near Charlotte in **Fort Mill, SC** and was amazed at what they have accomplished. They have a hugely successful Wake Boarding Ministry and branched out to cover the skate scene too building an indoor park.

This has been one of the most difficult years of ministry that SouthTown Riders has experienced. What started as some inner turmoil among the staff of the ministry resulted in a long and tedious process, mitigated by our elders, to bring about a solution to the issues. The result of many many hours of counsel, prayer, and meetings is that the company is being split into two separate companies. The wakeboard side of the things is going one way, and the skate side another. . . And to perhaps help you read between the lines, a parting of ways for two brothers. Even though this has been a dark process for us to walk through, there are definitely some redeeming things that happened as a result. For David and I

personally, the Lord has used this past year to sort of rip us apart (each internally, not in our marriage) and put us back together in a way that resembles Him more closely. We have learned more intimately the ways of walking in the humility of Christ, of forgiving and operating in grace. We have also had lots of time on our faces, fasting and praying and seeking the



Lord's face over the situation. And in return, we have been refreshed with a completely new vision, new opportunities and a refined sense of what ministry really is. We also have had to cling to our local body of Christ, who have represented Christ to us in ways we didn't realize a body could- just loving us despite the turmoil we were going through. And loving us enough to call us out in the places that we needed to see things differently and change. We had our family in Christ helping to hold us through the despair and our truly dark nights.

And yet in the midst of all that chaos, the Lord has continued to use the skatepark and those of working at it to connect with kids and parents. . . I have had several opportunities to pray with moms who were in my office crying over different situations in their lives. David, along with the other guys on staff at the park and on the team, have been able to provide friendship and unconditional love to the many students who walk through the doors of the park. In the Bible study that David

leads with the skate team kids, there has been huge spiritual growth! And just one story here: Chris is a kid who was new to town this year. He became friends with the kids on our team b/c he is a skate kid. He came out to one of the demos the team did at a local church, and David felt pressed to give an altar call for salvation. . . Chris locked his eyes in on David's and gave his life to the Lord! Chris has since become completely involved with the skate team, and David has been able to really lay down a foundation of Biblical knowledge to empower Chris on his journey with Christ. It has been so amazing to watch Chris grow in His walk for the Lord- that yearning for more, and also to see the skate team guys around him, encouraging Chris in his faith!



So, this year has definitely been a defining point for David and I in terms of ministry. But we are extremely excited, and chock full of vision and hope for the new ministry that the Lord has placed on our hearts. The word is not completely out and about yet, but I will spill the news here for you! The new ministry name that we will be taking on is The Cinder Project. The skate park will be Cinder Skate Park. This name captures the image of the embers that get carried away from a fire to light new places on fire, and this is what we expect to see happen. Inside of the new ministry, there will be many different projects that will appeal to a larger scope of people than just skaters (although this is our base, we are happy to stay heavily involved in this scene, and still feel specifically called to that population!), like developing a music school (something very close to my heart!), and starting a "fringe" church (as David terms it). One that will be very evangelical in nature. We also will turn the park into a concert venue at times. . .

The future is bright- we see God directing us and leading us and connecting us to new and exciting people that are getting behind this renewed vision. We are very thankful for how HE has brought us through this year, and the lessons that we have learned, and are still learning. We are thankful for the way that He is patient with us as we pursue Him and those He has placed in our paths!!!

Meredith

While visiting South town Riders I was also able to meet up with an older but avid skater named Steve who lives and ministers to youth in **India**. While still in the planning stages we have been able to talk often and he see's huge potential for skate ministry there. Although it will have to be much more covert (because of the present spiritual climate of things) there is also a lot more freedom to skate places since it is such a new and interesting thing people have never seen up close.

There are so many things shaping up, or "on the horizon" but for now what is actually happening is...



These days I am working on getting a skate club going at a local International school. Most of the kids I skate with on the weekends are from this school and we have been skating around the city at different "hot spots" for the last two years. At the school I am starting to build our first quarter pipe, and then plan to add a grind rail, maybe a box... all the kind of stuff that could be easily moved and/or

transported if we need it to be. Our city is absolutely huge, with the greater population being somewhere around 30 million. Our little group makes up most of the skaters in this city... and most of the kids are beginners. They learn fast though and enjoy the adventure of exploring new places. I see a mobile skate park as a strong possibility in the future... please be praying for this!

One of the more difficult things here is that you can't find any real skate equipment or parts here. There is a big pink fat Barbie board, and another with a movable handle bar (for the timid) and one that from a distance looks like it might be a real board but when you flip it over it has narrow roller skate trucks and wheels on it. So, we are dependent on skaters from the USA donating their used boards, and/or donating new stuff too. Right now I just let kids borrow the boards I have for no set amount of time, telling them to give them back when they don't think they'll use them anymore. I have only had one returned as of yet. Maybe someday we will open up a skate park with a shop... any aspiring business men out there? We have the largest, most concentrated, number of young people than anywhere in the world... and get this... **NOT A SINGLE SKATE SHOP!**

Some people talk about "brain storms" but I like to think of them as "heart storms". A few of mine are below.

1) I want to see local MK's do a "180" in their lives and begin to see themselves as KM's and how they can creatively reach out to the lost kids in this city, nation, world. I have a growing group of youth that I call the "180 Contingent" or "180 Cons" for short... and they range from around 7 years old to 17. I haven't yet presented the whole 180 Con idea to them clearly, but am planning on doing it soon. I want it to be a relational discipleship setting that encourages them in their life as a whole, being followers of Jesus, integrating skateboarding into opportunities to serve others.

2) Some of the projects I see on the horizon would have to do with taking 180 Cons to do ministry around the city, in orphanages, other schools, coffee shops, different slum areas that are teeming with children, and the train stations, where there are many homeless kids living and barely surviving on the streets and platforms. This last month I started teaching at a little two room school for really poor kids and introduced skateboarding to them... they have found a new love... and are also learning about Jesus' love for them. We skate on the rooftop for now, but I look forward to taking them to smooth places nearby. They are learning fast!

3) Another possibility I am exploring is taking skateboarding into some of the local Indian schools as part of an AIDS awareness/prevention program... using skateboarding as a way to get kids interested and excited, using it as a relational platform to be able to speak into their lives. In a weekly skate club setting there would be a built in time to teach truth to the kids that points them to the Savior.

So, there are some ideas...

Do you know of any believing skaters who have a heart to serve as a modern day missionary using skateboarding (or anything that is kind of along these lines) who would be willing to come out here and live and work for any amount of time? It's not that I am dying out here... but it is just that I see such a huge possibility of what can be done and I need some help. I need someone (or some people) with fresh



energy and excitement about doing skateboarding ministry. If there was someone, a young couple, who were thinking long term I would be out of my mind excited! All I am saying is that I need to find a way to start getting Christian skaters flowing in and out of here. I need some help. You can contact me at:

[180CON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:180CON@GMAIL.COM).

Adios brother, Steve

Kevin Metcalfe lives in **Niceville, FL** and I almost went to live and work alongside him. He is a dynamic visionary, who manages to fit in skate ministry despite a full time job and family. I don't know how he does it all.

Here's a snapshot of our local ministry:

- Contributed to the growth of youth and regular services for Destiny Worship Center. Recent report indicates youth attendance increased by approximately 30 youth since June 2008 and enabled them to sustain attendance of over 100 weekly for their Wednesday night program.
- Established presence in Niceville, Destin, and Fort Walton Beach (all in Northwest Florida). Over a thousand kids have attended our pocketsk8park since June 2008.
- Teamed up with several businesses and churches during month of October for two events (October 18th Uptown Station and October 31st Destiny Worship Center/Silver Sands) that recorded over 1000 people at each event.
- Teamed up with Celebrate Recovery, a small group in Destin that enables individuals and families to recognize and overcome their issues (drugs, lust, etc) through Christ.
- Assisted several "at risk families" with mentoring their children through our conflict management and mentoring/buddy program.
- Created two sponsorship teams for leading and mentoring other skaters to Christ. "A" Team has 4 members and "B" Team has 1 rider. All have helped others connect to Christ, become leaders in the community, and strengthened their relationship with Christ.
- Developed website for promoting local program via pocketsk8park.com.
- Invited to Austin Texas to discuss evangelism and youth outreach through our program.
- Contracted to run pocketsk8park, competitions, gaming system, and several youth bands for Christmas event on December 20th at Uptown Station in Fort Walton Beach.
- Led two (brother and sister) youth whose father recently died in a car crash this past summer to Christ and connected them with our local skatechurch and youth program.
- Led a youth to Christ whose parents divorced and had no one to care for him while his father worked. Provided childcare services and molded him into a responsible youth with a new-found relationship with Christ. Father was thankful for our program and what we've done with his son and although a non-Christian, the seed was planted.
- Contributed to the development of "South for the Winter", a local group of youth (Christian and non-Christian) that have played at one of our events, have continued to develop their relationship with Christ and others at our pocketsk8park, and have enabled us to connect with several youth bands in the area. Check out [myspace.com/xtremeawakening](http://myspace.com/xtremeawakening) site.
- Working on new video for representing how our program has impacted a local church, businesses, and families in the area.
- Working on monthly newsletter for disseminating information (past and present), promoting Christian music, discussing conflict management, promoting members (bands and businesses) in the community, and the importance of prayer, God's word, and relationships.



The Power2Bless! Kevin

JD is the model of sacrifice and determination. He has given up a lot to establish a truly anointed and growing skate ministry in **Kallispeil, MT**. This is the real thing.

When you're up to your rear in alligators, it's hard to remember your objective was to drain the swamp! But all of that being said, God has moved powerfully in Kalispeil! We began 08 still skating in my 18x24 garage at my house averaging 25 skaters. By July we hosted our 1st skate comp at the local Boys and Girls Club utilizing a 3000sq ft pole building. We saw 13 kids come to faith that day alone! We liked where we were and continued to skate at the Boys and Girls club facility

was getting cold indoor place, we wrapped the pole building with tarps and prepared to spend the winter. Then the management decided that we could not have a heater in the tarped building. While the skaters would've been happy to have



averaging 45 skaters. By October it and with no prospects in sight for an



a cold, dry place to skate, they could not concentrate on the Word while trying to stay warm, so we prayed....ALOT! I had found a building that would be perfect, not far from my house but like most ministries, we had no money to rent it. (\$3000 per month) I laid hands on the building and prayed "Lord, if this is the place for us

deliver it into my hand." October 30th a new Four Square Gospel "plant church" called Church 29, called and offered us 1 night per week to skate at that very building! By November 5th, we negotiated 3 nights per week and they even gave us an office!... with a small retail space! Best of all, our rent is \$0! After many hours of work our 1st Sk8 Nite on November 14th we had 105 skaters attend! The next day at our 1st Saturday afternoon skate session we had 58 show up to skate! This year we have seen over 40 skaters ask Jesus into their hearts and we are seeing them growing in Him! God is good, all the time! We began SJJ in July of 07 and have seen this ministry grow from 4 to over 100, from a garage to a 7000 sq ft indoor park! I can't wait to see where God will lead us next. After all it is His ministry not ours! We've learned to get out of His way and let Him have His way with us!

JD

Serious JuJu Skate Works

Andie White works for a pioneering church that truly has a heart for its community with all sorts of outreach. Most appealing to me is its kids ministry like the one I worked for in NY. They bought both the DIY ARC kits and I supervised their build inside their youth facility on main street **Moberly, MO**.

Skatepark 41 launched its official grand opening on October 31st, 2008. It was an amazing night! Held in conjunction with our annual Rocktoberfest, we drew an estimated crowd of over 3000 to our downtown location. Along with free food, games, prizes and a ton of candy, we showcased three live bands and a skate demo. A team of skaters from Small Time Skate came in to do a demo and show off a little. Mark and Annalise were also on hand to help out - Mark was skating and sharing technique with younger skaters and Annalise was a huge blessing at the waiver desk!



Skatepark 41 was built in July of 2008 with the help of Mark and a team of volunteers from Family Life Fellowship. The ramps were fully assembled and in place in one day - one LONG day! We were initially open to youth who had received skate passes by attending church on Sundays or Wednesdays. Since the grand opening, we have seen an increasing number of skaters from around the community come and enjoy the facility.

At Skatepark 41 we do not charge for skating or rentals, everything is free. We initially planned to charge a small fee, but really felt prompted to make this more of a ministry. Since that decision was put into place, we have seen increase - not only in the skate ministry, but in all of the ministries as a whole. It is so true that when we pour out blessings to the left, God brings in abundance from the right. He is so faithful! I look forward to what He brings in 2009!

Andie White



Tracy is the pastor of a church here in **Joplin, MO** and originally contacted ARC for ramp rentals at an event. I asked if he was interested in running Sidewalk Skate Ministry for a few weeks leading up to the event. He caught the vision quick and I'm excited to see how far they go.

We took our first steps in skateboard ministry this year and we accomplished most of our objectives: we worked together as a church in a ministry focused on youth, neighborhood youth participated and enjoyed the experience, and we established a baseline to move forward. Our church is positive in reflecting about the benefits from this experience and are interested as we move forward.

Our plans for next year are ambitious—we plan to build ramps early next year which we can haul on a trailer or with our moving van. Our vision is a ministry on wheels, moving to various sites in the Joplin area over the summer, with each site providing folks for event support. We have our registration process down pat, as well as the audio gear.

Our hope is to obtain a grant from the United Methodist Church in Missouri so that we can provide a small stipend for two college-aged youth. They will take care of getting the equipment to the sites and setting it up and doing the street ministry during the events each Saturday. We have one interested student so far and we are looking for another.

We have one church interested in participating so far.

So all we need to do is build some ramps, get some funds, and make it happen!

Grace and peace,

Tracy

