



April 2008

- 2 Boundary Waters Men's Paddle & Fish
- Developing Leaders...continued
- BENCHMARK Needs
- 3 Help Us With....
- Organizations We've Served
- 4 In the Future
- Email, please

BENCHMARK: Developing Leaders

For 10 years, BENCHMARK staff has taken time to learn together, be stretched together and to prepare for upcoming ministry. January 11-13 found 18 of us learning about each other and how to be more effective instructors. Those who attended were asked to evaluate the weekend, share their impressions, tell us about something they learned or was especially meaningful to them, and about how the events of the weekend may impact their life and future ministry. Get to know more about BENCHMARK and some of our staff through their comments below:



Sarah's Comments: *About the staff training...*

1) *Enjoyed it a lot!*

2) *I thought that the way you modeled what you wanted us to be doing (elements of surprise and challenge, directions, observe activities, step-in when necessary, debrief at end) was the best way to prepare us to do it.*



Sarah Portell from Calgary, Canada has served as an English teacher and language student with English Language Institute/China (ELIC) in Lhasa, Tibet for four years. Currently on home assignment in Nashville, TN, she with here husband Craig, hope to return to Tibet this summer.

3) *Enjoyed how we did church on Sunday - with Sam and Jane Johnson - that was particularly meaningful to me. I felt encouraged through their words that God will provide what we need and our job is to trust him and hold our plans loosely. I need to remember that daily and let things happen, not make things happen!*

4) *Got really excited about some activities we could adapt to a second language learning environment.*

Craig and I are glad to be able to be a part of this ministry!

Continued on page 2



BENCHMARK
Adventure Ministries, Inc.™



BOUNDARY WATERS MEN'S PADDLE & FISH

AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME



Kinley, Keith, James & Sean from the 2007 Boundary Waters trip at the close of an unforgettable journey

JULY 8-13, 2008 OR SEPTEMBER 8-13, 2008

Come paddle mile upon mile of beautiful lakes, improve your portaging skill, fish for smallmouth bass and northern pike, and gain a fresh perspective on how to balance the demands of your life.

Spend 4 days and 3 nights in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) near Ely, MN. This pristine wilderness area is known for great canoeing, fishing and quiet solitude. These trips are planned for **8 men only**, post-college age and older.

NEED MORE INFORMATION???
info@benchmark.org or 615-972-9033

Developing Leaders

Continued from page 1

David's Comments: 2008 Benchmark Staff Training:

Being involved with Benchmark for several years as a student, I have come to really appreciate the ministry. It is an awesome opportunity and privilege for me to be a part of the staff, and be involved in the ministry that has been a direct influence on my life, so I can hopefully have that influence on the lives of others.

The weekend turned out to be great. It was fun and challenging, but in the end, I gained a lot of experience and confidence, which will not only help me for future Benchmark events, but also for my future ministry on the mission field. I look forward to my continued involvement with Benchmark. Thanks for giving me this opportunity.

David Gibson, from Florence, SC is a college junior studying missions. This summer, he'll intern with Free Will Baptist International Missions in France with his sites on career missions.



BENCHMARK Needs...



- Referrals to groups who would benefit from our services
 - ~ corporate teams
 - ~ short-term mission teams
 - ~ youth groups
 - ~ other church groups
- \$1500 a month increase in financial support
 - ~ become a monthly, quarterly or annual contributor to BENCHMARK
 - ~ donate on-line @ www.BENCHMARK.org
- Grant writer for funding partnerships
- Join our ministry team
 - ~ practice and develop your personal leadership skills
 - ~ work part-time, intermittent
- Promotional and Marketing expertise
 - ~ grant writing
 - ~ new ministry brochure



Help Us Upgrade

Would you help us to improve our technology in the BENCHMARK Office? One very generous donor has already purchased \$1200 worth of new software for BENCHMARK's use.

- Adobe Creative Suite 3 Design Standard, \$425.00 - already donated
- Adobe Creative Suite 3 Web Premium, \$550.00 - already donated

Could you help us with these additional significant software and technology upgrades?

- MacBook White, 2.2Ghz, 2GB / 120HD / Super Drive - \$1375.00
- Microsoft Office 2008 for Mac \$150.00
- MYOB AccountEdge Upgrade \$160.00

Tax Refund?
2008 Economic Stimulus
Package Check?

Contribute a portion at
www.BENCHMARK.org
DONATE

Organizations We Served in 2007

Belle Meade United Methodist Church, Youth Climbing Trip
 Brentwood United Methodist 6th Grade Confirmation Retreat
 Crestwood Baptist Church, Louisville, KY to Boulder Mission, CO
 Free Will Baptist Bible College Uruguay Team Training
 Free Will Baptist International Missions
 Bulgaria Team Training
 E-Team Leaders & Students Training & Missions Trip Prep
 Global Purpose Seekers Middle School Conference
 Kazakhstan Team Missions Trip Prep
 OA Retreat, College Mission Program Training
 General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church
 LifeWay's Reclab Church Rec and Sports Ministry Conference
 Locust Grove Free Will Baptist Youth Retreat, Locust Grove, OK
 Pleasant View Christian School Girls JV Basketball Team
 The Donelson Fellowship's Men's Ministry Leadership Retreat
 Trinity Free Will Baptist Youth Wilderness Trip, Greenville, NC
 Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, Camp SONrise

2007 BENCHMARK Sponsored Events

BENCHMARK Staff Training, 9th Annual
 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Men's Canoe & Fish
 13th Annual Chuck Wilson Memorial Backpack for
 BENCHMARK Fall Funding Hike
 Discovery Hike and Funding Hike, (8th Entry Level Funding Hike)
 BENCHMARK @ Bee Rock, Rappel

Get Out & Go with BENCHMARK...

Find our upcoming adventures on page 4 of this BENCHMARK News or contact us & create your own adventure!
info@benchmark.org or 615-972-9033



The 2007 Chuck Wilsom Memorial Hiking Team on Max Patch, NC at Sunset



info@BENCHMARK.org

Email, please

If you only receive this newsletter twice a year, there's more to know. Get regular information by signing up for our email blasts. It also helps us use resources more wisely.

Email us at info@BENCHMARK.org.

BENCHMARK E-mail Update
weekly updates

BENCHMARK NewS in PDF
twice a year

If at any time you'd like to be removed from any email list or our address book, just let us know.

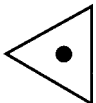
You have our commitment not to sell or trade your email address.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 380

Return Service Requested

BENCHMARKTM
Adventure Ministries, Inc.

150 39th Avenue North • Nashville, TN 37209-4962
More@BENCHMARK.org • 615-972-9033 • 800-615-1538



In the Future

April 2-7, 2008

BENCHMARK's Appalachian Trail Outreach
Learn more at www.BENCHMARK.org



July 8-13, 2008

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Men's Paddle & Fish near Ely, MN

September 8-13, 2008

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Men's Paddle & Fish near Ely, MN

Sept 26-28, 2008

East Tennessee Backpacking Trip
20.5 miles from Spivey Gap to Indian Grave Gap on the Appalachian Trail

October 16-19, 2008

14th Annual Chuck Wilson Memorial Backpack for BENCHMARK Fall Funding Hike ~ 41.9 miles across Roan Mountain from Indian Grave Gap to Campbells Hollow Road



October 31 – Nov 2, 2008

Discovery Hike and 9th Entry Level Funding Hike: Location TBA, within 3 hours of Nashville

September 21, 2008

The Ten Essentials: A hands-on workshop preparing you to experience creation. Useful skills for anyone in the outdoors. Led by BENCHMARK in Nashville, TN. \$50

November 17, 2007

Climbing & Rappelling Trip,
Spend some time with your family during a day of climbing and rappelling with BENCHMARK. \$60 per person, ages 11 and up



Contact us for more information about any of these events:

info@BENCHMARK.org or 615-972-9033