



September 2007

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Teaching On Target: BENCHMARK Invests In Students



From: Curt Gwartney
Date: Thu, 26 Apr 2007
To: "James H. Evans"
<james@benchmark.org>
Subject: Re: Locust Grove Youth Retreat

Thank you so much for coming to participate in our Spring Youth Retreat. You [James] and Sarah [Hodges] were such a blessing to our student ministry! The thing I appreciate most is that you did EXACTLY what I asked you to do - develop and train leaders! Your goals for the weekend were my goals! You had no hidden agenda. I am already observing positive results in the lives of our students.

Your teaching was right on target. You allowed the Word of God to speak for itself and didn't try to make it say things it doesn't say. We will long remember the lesson about being a Servant, Priest and Pilgrim! Thanks for your investment in the lives of our students! It is much appreciated!

Thanks also for the CD of pictures you sent. The students enjoyed seeing them in my PowerPoint announcements last night.

As I told you, I didn't get to speak to Sarah [Hodges] before she left. I was quite impressed with her!

God bless you, buddy,
Curt Gwartney
Youth Pastor



Youth
from Locust Grove Free
Will Baptist Church
involved in active
learning.



BENCHMARK
Adventure Ministries, Inc.™



Ministry Stuffsack: Moving Toward Life Application

by James H. Evans, President and Senior Instructor



Without content, teaching doesn't happen, ... let alone discipleship and life change. Some leaders come up short by not helping their students and participants consider how the lesson can be applied to life.

Do you have a retreat or other group experience this fall? Make some time at that next ministry event or right after to help those under your guidance to make application to their daily life. This series of questions might be helpful in leading your participants in the direction of life change. Give them time to talk through the questions. It takes time for all of us to learn.

- What part of the weekend was most challenging / most difficult for you?
- Was there any part of this experience that moved you emotionally? Were those emotions positive or negative?
- How did you respond to this experience?
- In light of Biblical principles, what would be a better way to respond? If you had it to do over again, what would you do differently?
- Based on this experience, what do you need to remember and how will you live differently? ▲

Ministry Partnerships



We collaborate with organizations to plan discipleship experiences. BENCHMARK provides a side of ministry most organizations cannot do themselves. We can help you plan an event just for your group. Let us add some adventure.

Recent Partnerships

- May 4-6** Trinity Free Will Baptist, Greenville, NC, Youth Wilderness Trip
- May 4-5** The Donelson Fellowship's Men's Ministry Leadership Retreat
- June 4** Woodmont Hills Camp SONrise
- June 5-11** E-Team Youth Missions Trip Prep & Re-entry Free Will Baptist International Missions
- June 13** Kazakhstan Team Missions Trip Prep
- July 10** Bulgaria Team Training
- July 10-19** Boulder Mission in Colorado Crestwood Baptist Church of Louisville, KY

Upcoming Partnerships

- September 20-23** Global Purpose Seekers Free Will Baptist International Missions Middle School Conference
- September 28, 29** Belle Meade United Methodist Youth Climb & Rappel
- October 25-26** Pleasant View Christian School Girls JV Basketball Team development ▲

Skilled Help Needed

BENCHMARK designs experiences to help people develop as leaders and grow toward a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ. Here are some specific ways you can use your gifts and skills to accomplish this mission.

- ▶ Promotional and Marketing Needs - help us create a God-honoring presence on:
 - YouTube
 - Facebook
 - MySpace
- ▶ We also could use some donated experienced help with:
 - ▶ Graphics Layout and Design
 - new BENCHMARK brochure
 - BENCHMARK News
 - ▶ Web design

Financial Matters

We Need...

- ▶ \$2500 a month increase in financial support
- ▶ Referrals to groups who would benefit from increased communication and unity
- ▶ Monthly, quarterly or annual donors - donate on-line @ www.BENCHMARK.org
- ▶ a grant writer for funding partnerships ▲





Boulder Mission: Crestwood Baptist Church

On the morning of July 17th, a small group of us prayed with Ismael. He and his two girls, ages 8 and 10, had attended the Block Party on Saturday. Others in our group had spent time with him then. He drives a garbage truck and does the pickup in Boulder Ridge, the trailer park where we had been working. On his normal pickup day, he saw a group of us working on a deck with our bright green shirts and stopped to ask us to pray. His wife died 5 weeks earlier after a long illness. Those had been difficult days for him with temptations and bad dreams. As I heard him share some of his story, my eyes moistened over his loss. I was asked to lead the prayer as we gathered around him to pray for his needs. What a privilege it was to share life with this Hispanic brother and to see his brightened face. He smiled and waved as he drove away.

This event is just one of the many stories that could be told regarding the 2007 Boulder Mission.

From July 10-19, the whole Evans family, from youngest to oldest, traveled with members of Crestwood Baptist Church, Louisville, KY to Boulder, CO in an effort to support the on-going work of Mountain View Baptist and LifeSong Churches.

Since God connected us in January 2006 to now... a lot has transpired. I am grateful to be able to call you brother. Thanks for frustrating our mission team!
~ Mark

The days were full, some of them long, most joyful. The team numbered 41 people over a 10-day period. Involved in activities including soccer clinics, feeding kids lunch, baseball clinics, a block party, home repair, building 5 decks and stoops, handing out church fliers, the team also had opportunities to share the gospel message in words.

In addition to working on decks, I (James) led three hikes to celebrate God's work of creation:

one hike with mostly teenagers to Royal Arch above Boulder, another 2.5-mile summit hike of Mt. Evans (a 14,000' peak), and an afternoon hike with adults into Eldorado Canyon State Park.

The Crestwood people not only invested themselves fully in the outreach activities, but many ministered to my family and showed us much kindness. The church and its membership were very generous with their time, energy and resources. Their example of passionate service is impressive. It was my joy to be a partner with Crestwood and the Boulder Mission. △

Thanks so much for the hike. It really opened my eyes up to the wonders God can create. May God always watch over you!
~ Emily



It has been great working with you. You are a wonderful guide and leader. I'll help you build a deck any day. It has been a blessing having you on this trip!
~ Nicole



I love you and your family!!!! Thank you, brother, for making this trip all that it was. If it had not been for you, I probably would have hitch-hiked back to Kentucky! It was a joy serving with you and having you lead us to the summit of your mountain... well, God's but named after you! I look forward to the opportunity to serve with you again.
Your brother in Christ.
~ Roger



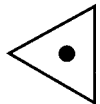
Thank you for all your hard work and for what you've done to enable us to enjoy God's creation. You are so encouraging to be around and so evidently full of joy! I appreciate your kindness, laughter and smile, even early in the morning at breakfast! I hope that the rest of this trip is an encouraging time that deepens your faith. Oh, and by the way, your family is so sweet! Thanks for everything.
~ Bobbi Jo



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TO ENHANCE YOUR MINISTRY
AT A SITE NEAR YOU.**



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Learning Links

A recent AP/MTV survey has been released with some interesting insights about families. The first is an article and second is a commentary. Follow these links to see what your kid may be saying:



http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070819/ap_en_ot/youth_poll_happiness

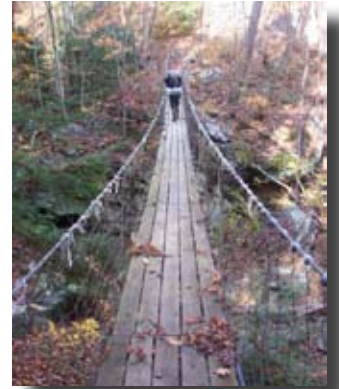
<http://www.salisburypost.com/opinion/313471682568297.php>

Consider BENCHMARK's climb and rappel, November 17th.

In the Future

Come hike with us. Raise funds or pay a fee. You'll remember this hike for a very long time.

Make a significant impact in the life of someone else by sponsoring a hiker. Every dollar matters.



October 18-21, 2007

13th Annual Chuck Wilson Memorial Backpack for BENCHMARK Fall Funding Hike, 43.2 miles on the Appalachian Trail

November 2-4, 2007

Discovery Hike and Funding Hike (8th Entry Level Funding Hike) +/- 20 miles in the Bridgestone Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA

www.BENCHMARK.org



Spend some time with your family during a day of climbing and rappelling with BENCHMARK.

November 17, 2007

Climbing & Rappelling Trip
\$60 per person

January 11-13, 2008

BENCHMARK Staff Training
Come and improve your leadership skills. You may even want to become part of our ministry staff.



July 2008

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Men's Canoe and Fish
It was a great trip this year, an experience of a lifetime. Next year we're going back. You should join us.

Ladies, BENCHMARK can plan one just for you, too!

For more information about the schedule of upcoming BENCHMARK events, check out www.BENCHMARK.org or call us at 615-972-9033.