



Short Term Mission = Life Change?

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"BENCHMARK prepared our team to face positively some of the unforeseen challenges that awaited us overseas."

--comment from E-TEAM 2009 high school short term trip participant

This summer our staff had an opportunity to be involved with eight (8) different missions trip preparation events and / or re-entry processing with 160 junior high, high school, college students and adults. These groups had experiences in Philadelphia, PA, Amarillo, TX, Chicago, IL, St. Croix, Japan, Honduras, Bulgaria, France, Spain, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico & Central Asia.

There's great value in missions trip preparation & re-entry processing with BENCHMARK! As a result of their time with BENCHMARK, these groups tell us that they were better prepared, traveled with greater thoughtfulness and returned with deeper insights.

"It prepared me for the experience, gave me the tools needed for the experience, and now I'm different from the experience."

-- Derek Altom, Oklahoma youth pastor

Staying Connected

Like many other non-profits, BENCHMARK is feeling the pinch of the current economic situation. Yet, we are very thankful for every group we get to serve and for every dollar our small group of dependable donors contribute to make fulfilling our mission possible.

Due to the costs involved with direct mail, we have not published the BENCHMARK News newsletter since April 2008. In an effort to use our resources wisely, we are slowly moving most of our communications to electronic formats; direct e-mail or through the website.

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Our desire is to continue relationships with those who have expressed an affinity for this ministry and its mission of spiritual growth and leadership development. That connection point may be a personal contact, e-mail, website or Facebook. But moving to electronic formats has its own challenges and we are steadily working through those.

Help us use ministry finances more wisely by receiving our ministry updates & BENCHMARK News via e-mail. Visit BENCHMARK.org and click on "Sign Up Here!"

If you have not been receiving the BENCHMARK e-mail updates you requested, please e-mail us: more@benchmark.org.

In the Future

While our forte is customizing experiences for groups, BENCHMARK does offer events that you can join. See the latest info including costs at www.BENCHMARK.org > Upcoming Events (button)



October 8-11, 2009 15th Annual Chuck Wilson Memorial Backpack for BENCHMARK Fall Funding Hike

Intense small group Appalachian Trail backpacking experience; Virginia Highlands, Mount Rogers area near Damascus, VA ~ 50.3 mile demanding hike with incredible rewards.



November 13-15, 2009 Discovery Hike Weekend Backpacking Trip & Funding Hike

10th Annual Beginner Level Backpack – learn the basics in Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness, up to Martha's Pretty Point with a side trip into Bridgestone / Firestone Wilderness, Sparta, TN. ~ Mileage: 8 miles plus exploration

Use these fall hikes not only to benefit yourself but also to benefit BENCHMARK by raising funds on a per mile or flat rate basis.

January 8-10, 2010 BENCHMARK Staff Training

Come and improve your leading and learning skills by joining this full weekend retreat of hands-on training. BENCHMARK is looking for those who will benefit from an intense spiritual experience and then have a willingness to share themselves with those we seek to serve.

Spring 2010 - TBA Appalachian Trail Outreach - Georgia

Stay the whole time or come for the weekend. Our third year of service and sharing life with thru and section hikers in the beginning miles of the Appalachian Trail.

Contact us for more information about any of these events:

james@BENCHMARK.org or 615-972-9033



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I experienced BENCHMARK and it changed my life!

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www.BENCHMARK.org

Fresh News @ BENCHMARK.org

- > look for new 2009 event photos
- > sign up for our e-newsletter & ministry updates
- > find out more about upcoming events
- > stay up to date through the BENCHMARK Community Page