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January 2008

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we begin 2008, we look back with gratitude for all that God has done through Lifeshape in 2007, and look forward with excitement to what He will do in the coming months. We are thankful for your partnership in these ministries and hope that as you read this newsletter, you will find more ways in which you can be involved, stay informed and be specific in your prayers.

A great find for the Kingdom



Toni Branyon, Director of Communities in Transformation (CIT), shares a story of how God used a yard sale bargain, basketball, and the openness and obedience of His children to form a ministry that is bringing young people to Him.

"Knowing my passion for using basketball to get kids off the street caused a pastor in another city to give me a call several months ago. He called from a yard sale where he had found basketball jerseys going for one dollar apiece! I told him to pick up 100 and I would reimburse him. I wanted to be a good steward of this great find, so I cautiously waited for God to show me who should receive them. The answer soon came. They were to go to Morrow, GA, where CIT had encouraged some small community churches to open up their unused gyms and team together to begin a basketball ministry reaching the unchurched youth in their community. We came up with a plan for each church to host basketball one Saturday a month. Eight young people came to know Jesus the first week, and there has been growth ever since! What fun to serve such a creative, generous, and loving God!"

A Complimentary Retreat



Have you ever thought about leading a friend to a place of rest and renewal? Do you know ministry leaders who would benefit from a time of retreat? Maybe you can help.

Those of you who have visited The Summit understand the peace, clarity of vision, and deepening of relationships that can be experienced with just a few days away. We want to give you the opportunity to help make this kind of experience possible for someone you know.

In the upcoming days, we are planning complimentary, invitation-only getaways for ministry leaders who give so generously of themselves yet rarely experience the refreshment of being served. We'd like to be an encouragement to these leaders by inviting them, along with their spouse, to a complimentary retreat at the Summit.

If you know of ministry leaders who need to escape their busy routines for just a day or two, please send their name, organization, title, phone and email address to The Summit's Guest Coordinator, Amber McPherson, at TheSummit@Lifeshape.org.

Help us give some solitude and silence to those who need it most!

IMPACT 360's new website



We are very excited to announce the launch of our new web design. Improvements include more than just fancy artwork and Flash animation,

although these are quite amazing. The new IMPACT360.net site includes photo journals, links to guest professor interviews and an entire section for parents. Please take a moment to

explore the new and improved 2.0 version of www.impact360.net

Prayer Requests

Communities in Transformation:

- Pray that God will send the churches that He wants to partner with Communities in Transformation in ministering to the youth of the community.

The Summit:

- We are thankful and excited that Kathy Farmer joined The Summit team part-time as a Hospitality Assistant on December 3rd! Kathy is married and has two sons, one at Fort Payne High School and one at Samford. Please pray for Kathy as she joins our team to exercise her gift of hospitality.
- Continue to pray for God's wisdom and direction as we seek a fulltime Facilities Manager as well as multiple people to assist with serving dinners to our guests.
- Pray that The Summit will encourage many Christian leaders in 2008, and that our sphere of influence will grow.

IMPACT 360:

- Pray for IMPACT 360 students as they depart January 11 for their month long International Experience in Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Moldova, and Poland.
- Praise: the new mobile kitchen has arrived on our campus! Pray for the right person to fill the position of Food Services Coordinator.
- Ask for wisdom and discernment for the I360 staff as they seek to identify and enroll the right students for the 2008-09 program year.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Sincerely,

John & Trudy White
Lifeshape Foundation Inc.