

Christian Partners

From Christian Appalachian Project

FALL 2008

Introducing Christian Partners!

Dear Friends in Christ:

This issue marks a new look and name for our newsletter: Christian Partners. The name reflects a new Christian Appalachian Project program that will introduce you and your church to ways in which you can continue to serve the people of Appalachia by traveling here or from your home.

In truth, Christian Appalachian Project has had “Christian Partners”—churches and individuals of faith committed to Appalachia—since its inception. With the new Christian Partners program, we are seeking to formally recognize what we have known for years: without the support of churches throughout the United States, Christian Appalachian Project would not be able to touch more than two million lives each year.

Church support comes in many ways. Our goal is to engage churches in year-round partnerships and cooperative ministries to meet as many needs as possible. Specifically, your church can support Christian Appalachian Project’s work in a number of exciting ways, including mission trips, “at home” mission projects and financial support. We have been so blessed by our work in Appalachia, and we have no doubt God will bless you as well!

This issue outlines the various ways Christian Partners such as your church can deepen your involvement with our ministry. In future issues, you will read about how our Christian Partners are making a significant impact on the lives of those in need in Appalachia. If you would like to receive a packet with more information about how to get involved with any of these projects, please contact us at 1-800-755-5322 or christianpartners@chrisapp.org.

Love in Christ,
Bill Mills, President



BILL MILLS



Real impact; right from home

Mission trips are a wonderful way to see the impact of your service, but it is not the only way. Christian Partners offers several projects in which churches can collect needed items that Christian Appalachian Project volunteers and employees will deliver directly to those who need them most.

SCHOOL READINESS BACKPACKS

Back to school means another year of learning, reading, writing and arithmetic, but it also means back-to-school expenses that place an extra burden on Appalachian families who are already struggling with daily expenses.

Christian Appalachian Project’s **School Readiness Backpack** program provides new school supplies and other necessities parents might not be able to afford. Children can then return to class with pride, added enthusiasm for learning and the tools necessary to succeed in school.

Your church family can make a real difference in educating the children of Appalachia. Create a backpack full of supplies or send a monetary donation to help us complete backpacks for those who need them most. No matter what you do, you are giving a child the chance for a better education.

COMPASSION BASKETS

Christian Appalachian Project knows that being the sole caretaker for disabled family members, managing multiple health issues, and

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strained budgets are realities of life in Appalachia. Our Compassion Basket program allows the elderly, those with disabilities and children to receive much needed basics. Not only do these supplies



fill their immediate needs, they also fill their hearts with hope and love.

Everyone wants to feel loved and important, and what better time to reach out to someone than now? Show a deserving individual or family that someone cares about them by providing them with not only basic essentials (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, tissues and feminine products), but also with items that give them comfort and hope (stuffed animals, bibles, blankets, washcloths and books).

You can help by sending a complete package to help an elderly person, someone with disabilities or a child and their family, or you can send a mix of items to help a number of people. Monetary donations are also appreciated to help us acquire items needed by our participants.

FOOD BASKETS

Nearly 60% of the children living in Christian Appalachian Project's service area are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches because of their income level, but one meal a day is not enough. Children may get a hot lunch at school, but the rest of their family does not.

Christian Appalachian Project's Food Basket program allows hungry individuals and children to get nutritious food so they can go to bed having had a satisfying meal that day. With the abundance of food in our country, no one should have to go without.

Your generosity and thoughtfulness allows us to keep our food pantry shelves stocked so no one who is eligible leaves empty handed, and it puts the minds of our participants at ease.

The food Christian Appalachian Project's participants lack is what their bodies need the most. Canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, rice and soups can help feed an entire family while giving them needed nutrition. You can also help by sending packages of dried or prepackaged foods to help us fill cupboards and shelves.

To learn more about any of our "at home" mission projects, contact the Christian Partners Program at 1-800-755-5322 or christianpartners@chrisapp.org.

Your next mission trip

In 2007, more than 100 groups shared their time and talents with Christian Appalachian Project. And with nearly 15% of the poorest Appalachian counties in eastern Kentucky, all groups make an incredibly positive impact on the people who live here. As a Christian Partner, your church can send a group to Appalachia at nearly any time throughout the year to serve a week with families who need a helping hand.

ADULT GROUPS

Imagine the joy of a homeowner whose house has been reconstructed in a matter of days instead of taking months, or years, for the owner to do it on their own—if they are financially and physically able. Volunteer groups mean so much to our participants, because of the amazing amount of effort—and care—they are able to provide. CAP's mission groups build additions and porches, replace rotten roofs and floors, add ramps and widen hallways for those with special physical needs, and show

the love of Christ to people whom many in this country have forgotten. The needs are countless, but just one group of people can make an incredible difference—one family at a time.

Christian Appalachian Project welcomes groups of all sorts and sizes. Depending on the size of your group, you may stay in one of the many volunteer houses, camps, local churches or a recreation centers. It doesn't matter if your group



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Called to serve: INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

Our individual volunteers are men and women of faith who have given generously, participated in mission trips, seen or heard of the poverty in Appalachia—and have been called to act.

Each year, more than 200 individuals leave jobs and families to volunteer for Christian Appalachian Project and serve those in need as Jesus did. Christian Appalachian Project's Volunteer Program strives to fulfill the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of residents throughout Appalachia. Some of the most distressed areas in the country are in this region,

with a high concentration in eastern Kentucky. Volunteers can and do make a difference in people's lives—they are the heart of our programs and services.

Volunteers can serve as they are called: mentoring children, empowering disabled individuals, visiting the elderly, repairing homes, aiding in disasters and teaching are just a few of the service options available. Volunteers and participants alike are amazed as to how they have been forever changed. Our Volunteer Program is diverse and

flexible - our volunteers are of all ages, denominations and backgrounds and you can



volunteer when and for how long it is convenient for you. Individual volunteers serve one week to a year or longer, and they may choose to live in a volunteer house in intentional community or live independently.

As a Christian Partner, we hope you will encourage members or your church to consider individual volunteering. If you would like more information or a Volunteer Program representative to visit your church, please contact our Volunteer Program at 1-800-755-5322 or volunteer@chrisapp.org.

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has five members or 50, veteran volunteers or first-timers...all we ask is for the will to serve!

YOUTH GROUPS

Though we accept youth groups year-round, Christian Appalachian Project offers a special "alternative spring break" opportunity for your youth ministry.

At YouthFest, high school students from across the country encounter Christ through service to others. Instead of sleeping in, playing video games or lounging around the house during their spring break, many teens choose to spend their week in eastern Kentucky, giving deserving families encouragement.

Youth hang drywall, paint, clean and assist in larger repairs to homes that owners cannot fix themselves, due to financial or physical challenges. Through YouthFest, young people get a "hands on" way to live out the Gospel, learn about Appalachia and truly make a difference in the lives of the people they serve. Youth will surely be changed by

the experience as well.

There is no need for previous volunteer experience or knowledge of home repair or building. Students leave YouthFest with new friends, new experiences and new outlooks on life in addition to the satisfaction of providing safe and comfortable homes for our participants.

COLLEGE GROUPS

Does your church have a college ministry? If so, WorkFest may be the perfect way to engage your students in an "alternative spring break."

College groups are welcome throughout the year, but WorkFest gives students to interact with students from colleges from around the country. During the day, WorkFest groups replace siding, repair roofs and perform other household repairs for deserving homeowners unable, but not unwilling, to do the tasks themselves.

In the evening, students take part in cultural, educational and devotional activities which immerse students in the cultural and economic realities of Appalachia and challenge them to respond as Christ would.



Students leave WorkFest with the satisfaction of having provided a home that is safe and functional, all the while giving those who live there a sense of love and acceptance. Students leave WorkFest forever changed, and many return to CAP as camp or long-term volunteers.

To learn more about any of the above group opportunities, please contact our Mission Groups program at 1-800-755-5322 or groups@chrisapp.org.

Your giving counts

MISSION PROJECTS: INDIVIDUAL GIVING

Financial support will continue to be critical to our future, and we thank you for your continued support. Your church's monetary contribution helps provide shoes for a child, respite for a disabled person and their family or transportation for the elderly.

No gift is too small – every offering is as important as the next. Our solid base of support truly reflects the image of the widow's mite, and we continue to rely on the compassionate support of churches to help us meet the immense needs of our Appalachian brothers and sisters.

To contribute or learn more about donation options, please contact the Christian Partners program at 1-800-755-5322 or christianpartners@chrisapp.org.



CONTACT US:

1-800-755-5322

christianpartners@chrisapp.org
www.chrisapp.org

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CHRISTIAN PARTNERS
4192 NORTH WILDERNESS ROAD
MT. VERNON, KY 40456



Help move Mountains

Each time a church agrees to support our work, you help move mountains in someone's life. Please fill out the form below to join us in this ministry that changes lives.

- Enclosed is our love offering to help move a mountain.
- Send more information on how we can become more involved.
- I would like for a CAP representative to speak at our church or group.
- Send information on volunteering in Appalachia.
- We will serve as a Prayer Partner to pray for your work in Appalachia.

Mail to:

CHRISTIAN APPALACHIAN PROJECT
P.O. BOX 55911
LEXINGTON, KY 40509

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____