



Small Wonder



Dribblin' Dynamo



Steve's Wreck

Worship In New Mexico



As the holidays approach, I want to take time to look back and ponder 2007. I can see the Lord at work in Hoops of Hope and in my heart. I was able to perform in nearly fifty ball-handling shows, direct seven weeks of summer basketball camps and our prison team played in fourteen basketball games. Hoops of Hope has impacted over 15,000 people this year alone!! It is a great blessing to be able to continue in the Lord's work. Thank you for being such a big part of it through your prayers and generous giving.

Summer Basketball Camps

We had seven weeks of basketball camps in four states (Colorado, California, Texas and Florida) with about 630 campers and coaches. The response to the gospel was strong and many kids and even one coach gave their hearts and lives to the Lord. The trip to Texas was especially inspiring. One of my best friend's, Steve Rutz, whom I have known since 1991 when we traveled to the Philippines together with Athletes in Action was in a horrific wreck. He and his family were moving from California, where we had done camps for many summers, to Texas to take a job at Trinity Christian Academy. Steve was driving the moving truck with his son Jonathan when an eighteen wheeler hydroplaned, came across the median and hit their moving truck head on going at least 60 miles an hour. Steve's wife, Dianne and daughter Hannah were following right behind the truck and witnessed the whole thing. From the picture below, it looks like there wouldn't be any survivors but our God is an awesome God and spared Steve and Jonathan. Steve had many injuries but none were life threatening and Jonathan walked away with nothing but a big bruise on his head and some soreness. The neat part was that Steve was able to come to the last hour of the basketball camp and Jonathan was able to attend the camp all week! Steve just celebrated his 40th birthday and we are so glad he is still around! Pray for Steve as he continues to recover and does his rehab. He is not able to work yet but is showing good progress. They lost most of their stuff in the wreck but God is a God of miracles and is bringing them through this. Also, continue to pray for Dianne, as she is Steve's main caregiver.

New Mexico Prison Outreach

Prison Fellowship asked me to join with team members from around the U.S. for four days of ministering to the prisoners in New Mexico prisons. Our normal event would be a variety type show with different combinations of singers, a strong man, myself and ex offenders sharing their testimonies. We would usually do 2, two hour shows a day but one day we did three! The last day we did an event and then did a dozen "mini-shows" at 12 different pods. (Pods are segregated cells of 15-20 men. They can be segregated for a variety of reasons including gang related activities or by their type of crime). We saw God move in a mighty way but it is so sad to see

where people's sin leads them. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death". (NIV)

The strongman, Mike was from Detroit and could bend a steel horseshoe and tear a deck of cards with his hands. He used to be a bodyguard for a drug dealer and he served 11 years for armed robberies but got saved in prison. Now Mike is just like a big teddy bear. That is if the teddy bear weighs 290 pounds with 22-inch biceps and can lift 500+ pounds!!

Another guy, Laki was from Hawaii and did 7 years for growing 800 marijuana plants and distributing crystal meth. He grew up so poor that his dad had to tie a rope around their shack so it didn't fall down. Now, God has blessed him with 6 houses that he uses to serve ex cons and others who are downtrodden. He has 16 kids that are adopted. Talk about putting your faith into action!

Another speaker named Dennis Rice got involved with the Charles Manson family after the murders and ended up serving a total of 7 years because of stealing 160 guns and then having a shootout with the police. He went onto violate parole once he got out but Jesus saved him and his testimony is amazing. You can check him out at <http://www.manson2jesus.com>.

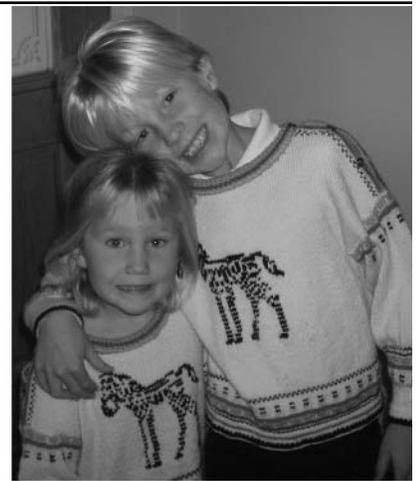
These folks all had powerful stories of how God can save a life and a soul!! I also met Terry Tyler who played basketball for the Detroit Pistons back in the 1980's. He is on staff at one of the youth prisons we went to. God is alive and still doing miracles!



Hot Air Balloon in Pagosa, CO



Seth's Big Fish!



Hoops of Hope Prison Ministry

Josh Stanek is once again setting up our prison ministry schedule and coaching us. We will have several new members, which is good because many of the old-timers are truly becoming “Old-Timers” including myself. I get comments like this. “If memory serves me right, you are getting older so how much longer are you going to be able to keep up this ministry. I’ve heard rumors that your jump shot has no jump left in it. Any truth to that? These are actual comments from actual friends!! There is no truth in the rumor that we are changing the name of Hoops of Hope to Hope for Hops! I will keep doing it as long as the Lord calls me! With that said we are trying to inject some youth into the team so it can carry on even after the original members have retired. Pray for the schedule to be set and that the Lord leads the right members to the team. Pray for the ministry and that many prisoners will be set free!

Prayer Requests

Pray for more shows and camps to be booked

Pray for many more DVDs to be sold, they can be purchased at www.hoops.org

Pray that the Lord continues to meet our needs

God's Word

Why do we go into prisons to minister? Does it make an impact and is it worth the time and energy to do it? I have to answer that with a resounding :YES"! Not only does it make a difference in the inmates' lives but also it makes a difference in our lives! Matthew 25:34-40 says, *“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’*

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ (NIV)

Remember, God has called us to minister to the people the world has viewed as useless. It is there that the Lord can be found because that is where He was found when He came to earth. Jesus ministered to prostitutes, tax collectors, the poor, lepers, the blind and the sick. These are the people that society has thrown away but we must reach out to. Why? Because we will find Jesus is already there!



Jaden by the Pool

It's Fun to be a Fuqua





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Hoops of Hope is a Basketball Ministry that focuses on spreading the gospel through basketball camps, speaking at school assemblies and 'Upward' award banquets, and through running basketball tournaments. Hoops of Hope has visited schools, prisons and churches throughout the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Krygyzstan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, Singapore, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Mexico, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and across the U.S. Literally thousands of people young and old alike learn from Hopes of Hope's expertise each year, while being exposed to the good news and hope that they have in Jesus Christ.

Hoops of Hope Basketball Ministry
 phone 719-210-3489 fax 719-573-5952
 www.hoops.org hoops@hoops.org

IMPACTING ETERNITY
 THROUGH BASKETBALL



Thank you for being a huge part of this ministry. Please pray about giving a "special gift" before the end of the year. It will help us to continue in what we are doing!

2008 Winter Schedule

January

2-4	Colorado Springs, CO	Community Prep School
8	Boca Raton, FL	Boca Raton Christian School
11	Boca Raton, FL	Boca Raton Christian School
30	Denver, CO	Cherry Creek Pres Church Awanas

February

2-10	Peru	Mission Trip
24	Hoover, AL	GVBC & RUMC Upward
25	Gray, TN	Tri-Cities Baptist Church-Upward
26	Denver, CO	Cherry Creek Pres Church-Upward
29	Wellford, SC	Wellford Baptist Church-Upward

March

3	Osage Beach, MO	Osage Upper Elementary School
3	Osage Beach, MO	Osage Hills Baptist Church-Upward

April

17-19	South Barrington, IL	Willow Creek Church-CSRMC Conf
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