



A New Hope in Alabama!

As the saying goes, "if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen." Well, Summer '08 is a hot one, and BCI Edge is cooking up some excellent summer plans! Our auxiliary players are participating in a full menu of basketball camps across the U.S. In this newsletter, we're featuring news about our upcoming work with the inaugural Boys to Men Summit in Alabama. This event is so groundbreaking and so important that it may serve as a prototype event for other states. We know you'll be as excited as we are about this initiative to "create a legacy of noble men for future generations." News like this is especially nourishing to those who pray for young hearts in this country. Bon Appétit!

Our team returned from China in May – read about our games, our experiences, and the earthquake that hit the day we landed in our media room at www.bciedge.org.

Look for frequent, shorter BCI Edge newsletters during the months of August and September. Our news and events will be happening fast, and we'll want to keep you up to date as quickly as we can. Don't miss these exciting BCI News Blasts!

BCI at the Boys to Men Summit

According to the latest US Census, 34% of children live in households without their biological father. This contributes to a growing crisis of at-risk male youths in our country. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System says, "There is a growing need to establish support for young men who are falling through the cracks so that they can live productive lives and become noble men of their generations." Led by Rosalind James, the Urban Regional Extension Agent, ACES has organized the first Boys to Men Summit in Dothan, Alabama and have invited BCI Edge to enhance their objectives:

- To decrease self-destructive behavior among youth-at-risk males.
- To provide life-skill training seminars taught by positive male role models.
- To organize an ongoing mentoring program for youth-at-risk males.
- To recruit positive adult male role models as mentors.
- To educate youth-at-risk males on jobs, trends, skills, training, and education requirements.
- To increase parent/community involvement to support youth-at-risk males' needs/concerns.
- To provide wholesome recreation/cultural activities for youth-at-risk males.



BCI and the BCI Edge team will be participating in the Celebrity All Star Basketball Game, which will feature BCI Edge players, including Reed Rawlings, Mike Wilks, Roger Powell, Dan McClintock, Kelly McCarty, and Glen Whisby. BCI Edge will play against a celebrity team from the Dothan and Southern Alabama region to inspire the young men and the community. Our players will also be on hand to sign autographs and talk to the young fans at a game party.

In addition to the game, BCI Edge will participate in the BET Rap-it-Up HIV/AIDS awareness forum and a morning life-skills-building workshop. We are pleased that the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has invited us to share our point of view with these youth in a workshop on values called "Faith in Action." Sharm and Kathy Scheuerman will also be on site to represent the leadership of BCI. BET is the Black Entertainment Television network.

We are excited to report that Allan Houston, a New York Knicks veteran and two-time NBA All-Star, will appear on behalf of BCI Edge on the BET forum, joined by his pastor, Pastor Blake Wilson. Also appearing on behalf of BCI Edge on the forum is Mike Wilks, a five-year NBA veteran.

A celebrated athlete, successful entrepreneur, and faith-inspired icon in his own right, Allan Houston has endorsed BCI Edge with his name, presence, and spirit. He says, "BCI is the kind of organization that exists because of love: Love for people, love for kids, and love for the Lord. When BCI competes and mentors, the world benefits from a ripple effect of enthusiasm and faith. They choose to walk the walk, here and now. I stand tall in support of BCI – these guys help all of us raise the bar on what we should expect from professional athletes, and they enable their partner organizations to make the impact they deserve."

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this revolutionary event as role models, professional athletes, and as men. As we look forward to sharing the essential messages of BCI Edge with at-risk male youths in Alabama, we remain thankful for your continued support.