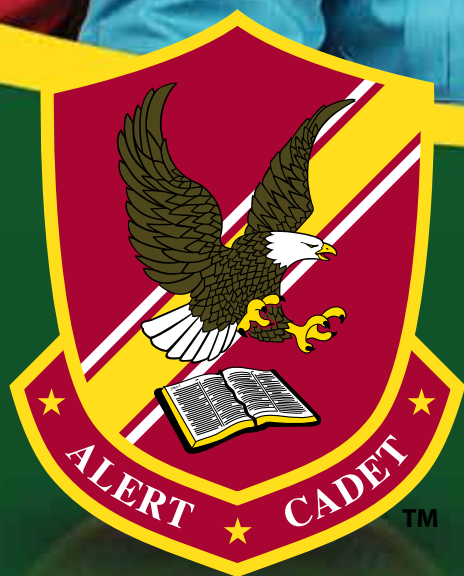


Accomplishing the **MISSION**



ALERT Cadet™
2009 YEAR-END REPORT

“Assisting fathers to win and keep the hearts of their 8 to 17-year-old sons”

ALERT Cadet members and friends,

I am extremely pleased with the progress God has allowed us to make in the ALERT Cadet program. We have made significant strides, on so many fronts, in 2009 towards **accomplishing the mission** of ALERT Cadet amongst the fathers and sons we serve. This year-end report, our second such one, is designed to tell the stories behind this progress.

The mission starts with the ALERT Cadet vision. ALERT Cadet exists for the purpose of **"Assisting fathers** to win and keep the hearts of their 8 to 17-year-old sons." This vision helps us to decide which projects to work on and is also our benchmark as to whether or not this program is furthering the cause of Christ on this earth. If ALERT Cadet is not achieving the goal of assisting fathers, and fathers are not being successful in winning and keeping the hearts of their young men, then we have failed in the mission.

We accomplish the ALERT Cadet vision by executing our three mission statements:

- Develop **tools and activities** (programs, activities, training, and materials) and provide a **structure** to assist fathers in winning their sons' hearts
- Encourage and train a **network of like-minded fathers** who can and will assist other fathers in raising their sons
- Give fathers **worthy goals** for themselves and their sons, including a heart for service to God, His people, and those in need

In this annual report we want to share with you, our friends, supporters, members, and benefactors, about the progress we have made in each of these three areas. I trust you will continue to pray for us **as we see God accomplishing the mission!**

I hope you enjoy reading this report on how God has dealt with us this year. If you know of others who would like to become involved with ALERT Cadet, please pass this report along or give them our contact information.

May God be glorified and uplifted by the fruit of the ALERT Cadet program and ministry!

Roger D. Farr

Roger D. Farr
ALERT Cadet Commanding Officer

The ministry of ALERT Cadet is based upon the commands of Scripture to fathers and the universal need for sons to become **young men of godly character**. To this end, ALERT Cadet Headquarters and field staff continually consider the needs of fathers and sons and seek to create materials, sponsor activities, and provide counseling as appropriate to **strengthen father and son bonds**.

ALERT Cadet is **funded** through the fees paid by fathers and sons upon joining the program and by receipts from ALERT Cadet-sponsored activities. Uniforms, curriculum, and other ALERT Cadet logo items also provide income to offset the fixed costs of administering the program. Donations are welcome and are routinely used to provide scholarships for those fathers and sons who, at the time, may not be able to afford certain costs or fees.

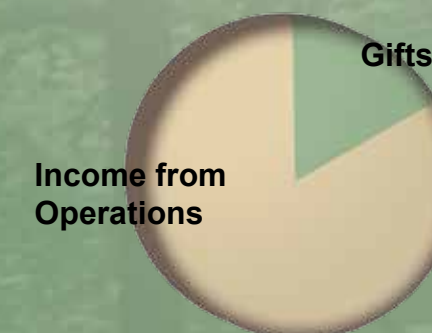
ALERT Cadet relies entirely on **volunteers** to staff Headquarters and field positions. Older ALERT Cadet sons and older sisters routinely volunteer their time to the program by assisting our field captains and Headquarters staff with their organizational, creative writing, computer, photography, graphics, and public contact projects.

We administer the ALERT Cadet program by the following **principles**:

- **Evaluate** all decisions in light of Scriptural principles
- **Focus** on God changing people's lives, not on administering/developing a program
- **Run** at the pace of God-provided resources (people, talents, and dollars)
- **Maintain** a 100% volunteer (self-supporting or donor-supported), distributed organization
- **Utilize** best-in-class and best available technology to get the job done efficiently
- **Plan** for the future and ask God to direct the individual steps and timing
- **Administer** centrally, but implement locally

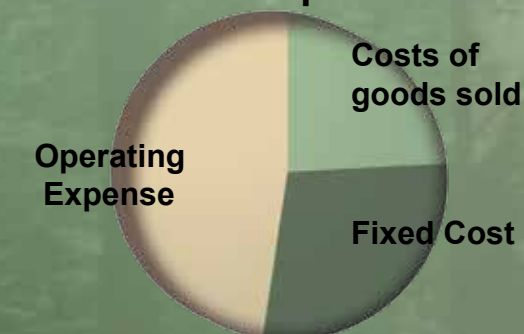
These principles help to keep us focused on the ministry God has called us to and for which we exist. They also assist us in making day-to-day decisions regarding policy and the projects we undertake.

2009 Income



\$170,000 (USD)

2009 Expenses



\$170,000 (USD)



ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION BY... DEVELOPING RESOURCES

ALERT Cadet is no longer a “start-up” ministry but a **fully developed**, useful tool for fathers and sons! ALERT Cadet made great strides in 2009 toward accomplishing its mission of developing tools by creating new curriculum. We created the **Servant Handbook**, the 4th year of the ALERT Cadet curriculum; the **Novice Handbook 2nd Edition**, the first year curriculum; and the **Basic Training Manual 7th Edition**, the introductory handbook. Each of these handbooks was designed to provide clear, practical, and achievable projects for ALERT Cadet fathers and sons.

The *Servant Handbook* is based on the book of I Timothy and focuses on evangelism, group games, event planning, and leadership. The *Novice Handbook 2nd Edition* is based on Psalms 139 and Proverbs 15, and it introduces the basic skills of uniform care, journaling, and camping that new ALERT Cadet fathers and sons need. The *Basic Training Manual 7th Edition* features the ALERT Cadet Covenant and is designed with a simple format so that fathers and sons can successfully complete the *Basic Training Manual* in 4 weeks.

ALERT Cadet focused in 2009 on **developing activities** by creating resources for **new unit formation** and **physical training**. We developed a packet of information, *Forming a New ALERT Cadet Unit*, for prospective unit leaders. The packet contains all the information a father would need to share the ALERT Cadet story with other fathers and sons in his area and to start a new ALERT Cadet unit. We also revised the exercise descriptions, test standards, and testing format for the physical fitness test.

We made major strides forward in the area of **providing structure** to the ALERT Cadet program by deepening relationships and clarifying procedures. We developed the *ALERT Cadet Leadership Manual* and sent it to each unit and squad leader in January. In addition, the commanding officer and senior leadership met together for a 4-day conference and planning session. One outcome of that conference is the *ALERT Cadet Senior Leadership Manual*, a resource for new and current area and regional coordinators. The senior leadership also spent considerable time evaluating the Commanding Officer and giving him feedback on his performance.

2009 was a year of ALERT Cadet curriculum and program development!

ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION BY... PROVIDING PLACES TO SERVE

ALERT Cadet is made up of volunteers – of all ages, with a variety of skills, from all over the world, united by a vision to serve fathers. At ALERT Cadet we provide positive and fulfilling training opportunities for 17+ year-old sons and daughters. Each short- or long-term volunteer has a distinct role, completes specific responsibilities, receives clear feedback, and exercises opportunities to learn practical skills.

Fathers provide **written goals** for their young people, and staff seeks to provide life lessons to meet those goals. Some fathers choose to send their young people to **ALERT Cadet Headquarters**, where they serve within the structure of the International ALERT Academy; others elect to have their sons or daughters **serve remotely** from home. Here are some examples:

An ALERT Cadet father wanted his daughter to learn how ministries run. She handled daily tasks and then served as the Commanding Officer’s assistant. She quickly learned how to identify “important” issues from the merely “urgent,” a skill she can now use in other ministries.

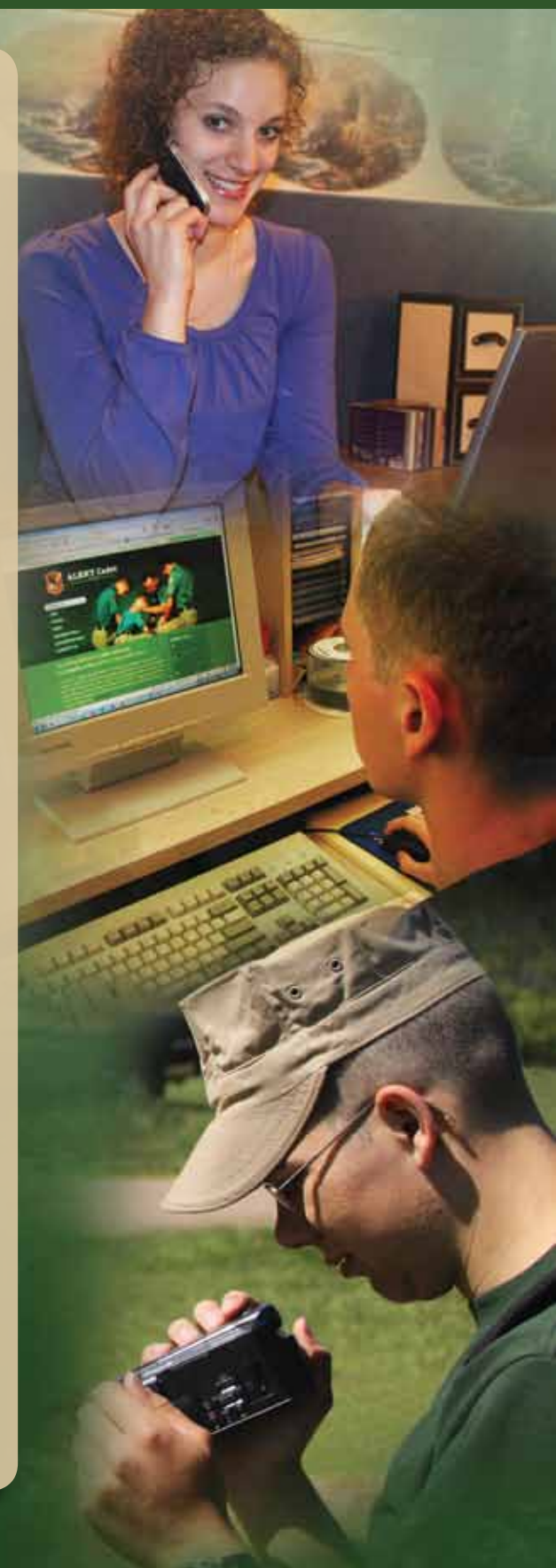
One ALERT Cadet Corporal has served remotely for two years by completing desktop publishing, photographic, and videography work. He is a vital part of our curriculum development team, even though he has not yet graduated from high school!

An ALERT Cadet daughter of an ALERT Cadet father has done desktop publishing remotely for our curriculum projects. She is involved in several ministries at home, yet she took on a time-sensitive project for ALERT Cadet. We could not have completed that project without her!

One ALERT Cadet Warrant Officer wanted to “give back” to the program he had come to love. He used his highly developed computer skills to upgrade our website and then assisted the Commanding Officer during the busy conferences and camps season.

God has also provided willing volunteers in the form of ladies from the SOWER (Servants on Wheels Ever Ready) ministry. These senior ladies help handle the ever-increasing load of new applications and memberships in a timely manner.

Currently, **ALERT Cadet is seeking volunteers** for the following roles: Commanding Officer’s Assistant, Database Coordinator, website maintenance, Unit Support Coordinator, curriculum writers, photography, desktop publishing, and videography.



SPONSORING REGIONAL FATHER/SON CAMPS



Spending time in God's creation, out-of-doors, is a great way for a father to invest with his son. At ALERT Cadet we assist fathers and sons by sponsoring camps and activities designed to **create shared memories** and to overcome obstacles. Our camps are organized by ALERT Cadet senior officers and their families. These men are all volunteers and put a lot of time, and often their own resources, into making the camps successful. The camps are planned so that the participating fathers and sons need only to register and participate in pre-planned events and activities.

This past year there were 14 ALERT Cadet father/son camps spread across North America and Asia, including one in Indonesia, one in Mexico, and two in Malaysia. Our camps are priced to cover only out of pocket costs, to allow maximum participation by fathers and sons.

ALERT Cadet camps are always focused on **strengthening the father and son bond**. Time at camp allows a father and son to get away from the pressures and daily routine at home. Together they learn new skills, enjoy the outdoors, and spend time in God's Word. They also **interact** with other fathers and sons who are heading down the same path they are, seeking to gain the hearts of their sons.

The **camaraderie** built between a father and son spurs not only the son, but the father on to higher levels of achievement. One father trained all year with his son to get his PT Excellence ribbon at LTC camp. His endurance and dedication paid off!

Fathers, the time that it takes to go to camp with your sons is so valuable! These are chances to have a glimpse into who your sons are becoming and win more of their heart. Clear your schedule, grab your hiking boots, and **make some memories!**

Our **theme** for this year's camps and activities, "Building faithful men who will teach others" was based on II Timothy 2:2.

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to **faithful men**, who shall be able to teach others also."

The **need for faithful men** in this generation is great. Therefore the importance of investing in others and passing on what you have learned is vital. The apostle Paul is a great example of that. He passed on what he knew to Timothy with instructions to teach faithful men who would teach others. The measure of a faithful man is his ability and desire to pass on what he has been taught.

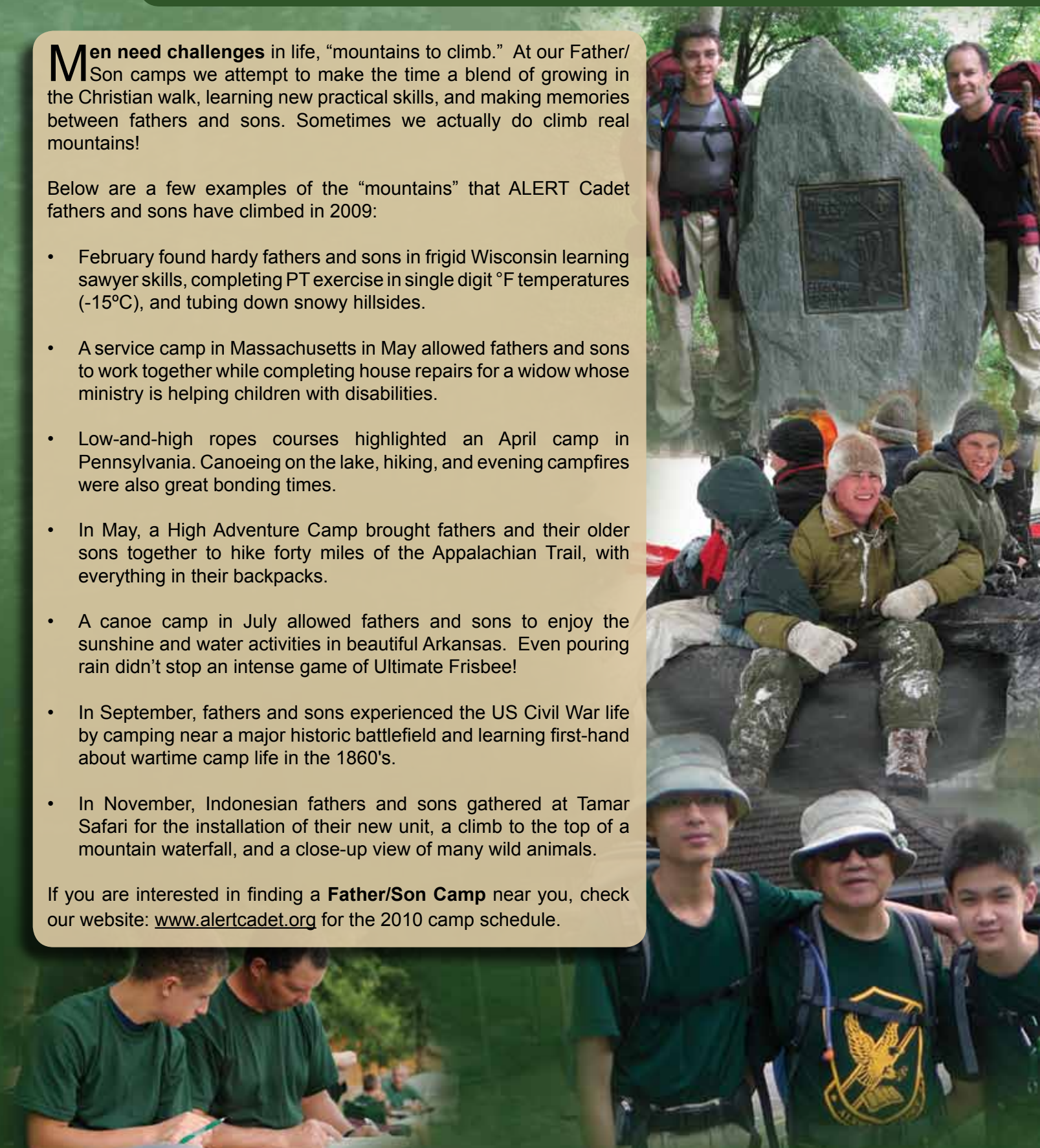
SPONSORING REGIONAL FATHER/SON CAMPS

Men need challenges in life, "mountains to climb." At our Father/Son camps we attempt to make the time a blend of growing in the Christian walk, learning new practical skills, and making memories between fathers and sons. Sometimes we actually do climb real mountains!

Below are a few examples of the "mountains" that ALERT Cadet fathers and sons have climbed in 2009:

- February found hardy fathers and sons in frigid Wisconsin learning sawyer skills, completing PT exercise in single digit °F temperatures (-15°C), and tubing down snowy hillsides.
- A service camp in Massachusetts in May allowed fathers and sons to work together while completing house repairs for a widow whose ministry is helping children with disabilities.
- Low-and-high ropes courses highlighted an April camp in Pennsylvania. Canoeing on the lake, hiking, and evening campfires were also great bonding times.
- In May, a High Adventure Camp brought fathers and their older sons together to hike forty miles of the Appalachian Trail, with everything in their backpacks.
- A canoe camp in July allowed fathers and sons to enjoy the sunshine and water activities in beautiful Arkansas. Even pouring rain didn't stop an intense game of Ultimate Frisbee!
- In September, fathers and sons experienced the US Civil War life by camping near a major historic battlefield and learning first-hand about wartime camp life in the 1860's.
- In November, Indonesian fathers and sons gathered at Tamar Safari for the installation of their new unit, a climb to the top of a mountain waterfall, and a close-up view of many wild animals.

If you are interested in finding a **Father/Son Camp** near you, check our website: www.alertcadet.org for the 2010 camp schedule.



ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION BY... PROVIDING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Service is an integral part of the ALERT Cadet curriculum. In fact in every handbook, young men and fathers complete service projects in their **church, home, and community**. A heart of service is something God gives, and the Holy Spirit bestows the spiritual gift of “servant” on some believers. We at ALERT Cadet desire to provide fathers and sons with opportunities to serve and utilize their gifts.

Older ALERT Cadet young men can serve as a leader to 20 young men aged 8-15 at an ALERT Cadet Challenge or on the logistics team for a Leadership Training Corps Camp. They may teach life skills to younger ALERT Cadets and their fathers under the supervision of their own fathers. All are learning to be faithful men who pass on what they have been taught to the next generation as II Timothy 2:2 admonishes us.

Serving others is usually not convenient and always involves **personal sacrifice**. Many ALERT Cadet units are trained in crisis response skills and have had the opportunity to respond to flooding and disaster situations. Fathers take precious vacation time to demonstrate **a heart of service** to their sons as they minister together. Some fathers and sons come to serve at ALERT Cadet Headquarters to give back to the program that has made such a great impact in their lives.

ALERT Cadet families completed a special project in 2009 to develop a mother-daughter curriculum as a unique way to assist fathers. While serving mothers and daughters is outside the scope of our vision, we saw a need amongst ALERT Cadet families. God provided resources in the form of several young ladies who took on the project and have created three of the eventual 22 booklets. We are looking for a family to champion this project.

ALERT Cadet seeks to **come alongside fathers** as they themselves learn to lead their families well and in turn pass on godly leadership principles to their children. The ALERT Cadet program, in its rank structure for young men, encourages the **development of character**, the **ability to teach**, and **basic leadership skills**. Young men, when they reach the age of 13 and have shown the desire to set aside childish ways can become members of the ALERT Cadet Leadership Training Corps (LTC). The placing of burgundy loops on their uniform epaulets is a visible sign to all of the commitment a young man makes to grow in character and leadership.

Young men and fathers have opportunities to **learn leadership** by attending annual regional LTC Camps. At the weeklong camp fathers and sons learn together what true leadership looks like, and they have the opportunities to practice those skills in the field in a “leadership laboratory” with other fathers and sons. At these camps we study Biblical leaders such as Nehemiah and Joshua. We also utilize materials by strong Christian authors to help us understand the practical side of leadership.

Leadership principles are also taught to the young men and fathers who **volunteer** in ALERT Cadet Headquarters. As they serve in the ministry, they are able to see the planning and execution necessary to make ALERT Cadet function well and utilize God’s resources wisely. They also interact with the ALERT Cadet Commanding Officer and the ALERT Cadet senior leadership in the field to accomplish their various tasks. All of these interactions are designed to give a true and accurate picture of **godly leadership**.

The Apostle John said this in III John 4, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” He was referring to his spiritual children, but the same would be said by any father regarding his own biological or adopted children. Our desire at ALERT Cadet is to **empower fathers** to lead well so that they then set a vision and purpose for their children that will last a lifetime!

ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION BY... DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP



ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION BY... CREATING A NETWORK OF LIKE-MINDED FATHERS

The basic unit of the ALERT Cadet program is the **father/son group**. This is where the “rubber meets the road” as fathers deepen their relationships with their sons. ALERT Cadet fathers are not “super dads” but are, as one ALERT Cadet father said, “just a bunch of computer guys desiring to lead our sons well and be godly examples to them.”

Every father/son group is assigned to an active ALERT Cadet unit, even if that unit is geographically distant to the family. Each ALERT Cadet father has access to the rich fellowship of like-minded fathers within his unit, his region, and internationally. In this way, ALERT Cadet is accomplishing the mission goal of “encouraging and training a **network of like-minded fathers** who can and will assist other fathers.”

Local units meet together one to three times monthly for accountability in the ALERT Cadet handbooks, instruction in drill and ceremony, training in life and character skills, hymn singing, physical training, and recognition of achievements. Local units are under the leadership of ALERT Cadet Lieutenants who then report to **regional ALERT Cadet Captains**. This accountability structure also provides access to the network of like-minded fathers who make up ALERT Cadet. Fathers share their successes and challenges with other fathers as they gain wisdom on how best to lead their sons and families.

Most units also complete a **service project** and an adventure or camp outing quarterly. One unit serves at their county fair by distributing water and gospel tracts to thirsty fair-goers. Another unit serves and cleans up at monthly church suppers. Most units hold awards ceremonies and banquets every six months to recognize members’ achievements. These activities draw together like-minded fathers and sons, for **mutual encouragement** and instruction.

A good way to tell if something is alive is to watch it for a while and see if it is moving and growing. **ALERT Cadet is now 13 years old**, and it is certainly moving and growing. This program is **alive and well!**

One of the joys we Christians experience is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to a lost world. Thankfully, there are many effective ways to tell others Who Christ is. At ALERT Cadet, we also have the privilege of **telling others what God is doing in our lives**. Those fathers and sons who have benefited from ALERT Cadet and are part of the network of like-minded fathers and sons eagerly volunteer to tell others about ALERT Cadet. These fathers and sons wear their ALERT Cadet uniforms while doing service in and around their homes, churches, and communities. Several units volunteer to conduct flag ceremonies for church events, sporting contests, and large public gatherings. In 2009, 40% of new ALERT Cadet members heard about the program from friends already involved in ALERT Cadet.

One practical way we get the word out about ALERT Cadet and assisting fathers to win and keep the hearts of their sons is by participating in **homeschool bookfairs**. In 2009, ALERT Cadet fathers and sons manned display booths and presented workshops in 35 bookfairs. In 2010, we plan to participate in over 40 bookfairs. The goal in each fair is to present fathers with a viable option to build Christian father-son relationships. ALERT Cadet leaders and fathers often present workshops on topics ranging from the role of fathers in homeschooling to how fathers can create vision for the families. The messages are clear, the real life examples are vibrant, and the reception is overwhelmingly positive. Some of these presentations are available on the ALERT Cadet website.

Several ALERT Cadet units and leaders have made presentations to church leadership, civic groups, and school support groups. Each presentation focuses on the unique privileges and responsibilities fathers have to win and keep their sons’ hearts. All over the world, fathers are asking for **practical help** to do this with their sons, and these presentations have been very effective.

A new strategy to get the word out about ALERT Cadet is through written media. Senior leaders have written articles about ALERT Cadet for parenting, homeschooling, and Christian magazines and web-based publications, and people are responding. Several families have included ALERT Cadet activities and service on their sons’ high school transcripts, with encouraging responses from universities. They, too, are getting the word out!

Moving, growing, and alive – ALERT Cadet in 2009!

ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION BY... SHARING THE PROGRAM WITH OTHERS





ALERT Cadet Headquarters

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The ALERT Cadet program is a **tool** designed to assist Christian fathers to win and keep the hearts of their 8 to 17-year-old sons. It is not about one leader or one ministry team; rather it is about serving the 7000 plus fathers and sons who have been touched by the ministry.

ALERT Cadet is an **international ministry** currently serving in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

ALERT Cadet publishes a monthly e-mail message to **encourage fathers** to stay in the battle for their sons. If you are interested in receiving these messages, knowing more about ALERT Cadet, joining the program, supporting us with your prayers and finances, or volunteering with us for a time, please contact us at cadets@alertacademy.com. The application form below is the first step to enroll in the ALERT Cadet program.

Please keep ALERT Cadet in your prayers as we continue to be in the fight for **fathers and their sons**.

To God be the glory!



Application to enroll in the ALERT Cadet program (Basic Training)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Father's family name: _____ Father's first name: _____ DOB: ____/____/____
m m / d d / y y

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal code: _____ Country: _____

Email address: HOME _____ WORK _____

Phone: HOME (____) _____ WORK (____) _____ MOBILE (____) _____

We will provide your phone number to other families in your area interested in forming a new unit unless you check here

Applying sons' full names and birth dates: 1) _____ DOB: ____/____/____
m m / d d / y y

2) _____ DOB: ____/____/____ 3) _____ DOB: ____/____/____
m m / d d / y y

I am joining an existing unit. Unit leader's name _____

Please assign me to a unit in my area.

I would like information on how to form a new unit in my area. How did you *first* hear about ALERT Cadet? _____

I have enclosed the \$35 nonrefundable Basic Training fee. Make checks payable to ALERT Cadet. Call 903.636.9228 to pay by credit card.



Send application and fee to ALERT Cadet Headquarters • One Academy Blvd. • Big Sandy, Texas 75755 • USA