

THE GLOBE

Fall 2007

News for the Passport World



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The Story of the Bags

Students and World Relief

David Burroughs
President, Passport, Inc.

In 2005 we chose the theme for the 2006 PASSPORTkids! camp: Under the Big Tree. It was a theme for Kenya and was to highlight the good work of the directors of Africa Exchange, Sam and Melody Harrell. We chose a project for the kids camp mission action time: putting together bags of school supplies for the orphans, street children and rural children to whom the Harrells minister.

In the summer of 2006, our kids camp churches brought basic school and sanitation supplies with them to camp. At camp, the children drew on canvas bags and sorted and packed the supplies. Then the bags all came back to Birmingham to our administrative office.

Now fast-forward to 2007 and PASSPORTKenya! The bags got sent to camp this summer to become the luggage of the 2007 American youth attending PASSPORTKenya. The bags made quite a journey from the churches to the children to the Passport office, out to new churches, and then checked as luggage to



New York, Dubai, and Nairobi!

Over 50 trunks full of school supply bags made it with none being lost on the way! And each bag was uniquely decorated, lovingly packed and prayed over.

PASSPORTKenya is a partnership between Passport and Africa Exchange. It is a partnership in process – a program that is tweaked to fit the needs best and to help both organizations fulfill their stated purposes. It is a good partnership and an amazing, transformational camp. You can still see pictures at the PASSPORT forum, or search PASSPORTKenya on Facebook and watch the cross-cultural conversations continuing.



On the middle day of camp, we loaded up our 125 camp participants and split into five groups – all ministries started by, aided by or related to Africa Exchange. We visited the Baptist Children's Center, our staple – built by the Harrells, but now managed by

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Buckner International. That site hosted over 150 children from a slum on the edge of Nairobi. We visited two sites where Sam has built his Integrated Child Development Centers. Five of these ICDCs have been built, with two more in the works currently. These centers are designed for nursery school for rural or impoverished communities to help these disadvantaged children better prepare for primary school. The ICDC comes with a staff, a budget that includes one or two meals a day, and a versatile building that often serves as classroom space, community meeting space and church. Learn more about these ICDCs at this website: www.africaexchange.org.

We visited a longstanding ministry to street children called Kids to Kids. It is a partnership with the Anglican Church in Nairobi. And the last group visited a school whose playground land was purchased by Africa Exchange.

Our campers do what they always do on a children's ministry site - love children. We played games, read stories, made crafts, sang songs, and fell in love with over 500 children from the five centers we visited. It was quite a day. It impacted the American and Kenyan students alike and brought smiles to the children's faces.

The day ended with the trunks being opened and the children at each site being given a bag - the same bag packed a year ago by the children at PASSPORTkids! camps. It was an overwhelming moment for me - knowing the long journey of the bags. I repented my frustration at this mound of bags filling up our warehouse and humbly praised God for letting me see the bags find their way to each child. I realized that God knew which bag was being prepared for which child and that God knows the names of each child and loves each child. What a mighty God we serve.



The bags on the final leg of their journey.



CBF Field Personnel, Sam Harrell, is the Director of Africa Exchange. PassportKenya is created in partnership with Africa Exchange. www.africaexchange.org



PASSPORTKenya's '07 team: Sam Harrell, Patrick Kamau, David Burroughs, Daniel Ingram, John Uldrick*, Brian Varble*, Gerhard Mathangani, Colleen Burroughs, Alice Kamande, Courtney Jones Willis*, Katie Furr, Susan Reed.*

* Thanks to the full time youth ministers who agreed to work on the Kenya team. John, Brian, Courtney and Susan. You were awesome!!



PASSPORTKenya



PASSPORTkids



PASSPORTLiberia

Can a small ropes course actually make a difference?
Allan Burton - Passport Youth Camps Lead Coordinator

When important acts of trust on a ropes course bring difficult first steps toward reconciliation, the hope is that, "Yes! It actually can make a difference." Combining this newly found trust with worship, Bible study, celebrations, recreation, and parties is our plan to help create a life changing impact for youth in Liberia. Passport will partner with the Ricks Institute in Virginia, Liberia, West Africa to produce PASSORTLiberia for youth who have grown up during a long and bloody war. Can one school actually make a difference in post-war Liberia? In learning about Ricks, one would quickly and emphatically say, "Yes! It actually can make a difference." Ricks Institute is held together by a hope that cannot be denied - a hope that is embodied in their Principal and Chief Administrative Officer, Olu Q. Menjay. Olu, in being quoted many times, says, "I am a prisoner, but a prisoner of hope, and I love to be one until the day I die because without hope there is no way you can make it."

Olu and the country and people he loves have been held captive for an extremely long time. 14 years of civil war have torn the country apart, and unfortunately, Ricks Institute has been an embodiment of the resulting captivity and strife. During the war, the once thriving boarding school became rebel headquarters and then refugee camp. And much like the people of Liberia, after the war Ricks was left broken and tattered, stripped of dignity and all the basic means of sustaining itself.



Incredibly, the story does not end there. This individual, who as a refugee of Liberia's civil war was

Building a ropes course in September.



once forced to march through land and water flooded with the dead bodies of his kinsmen, has chosen to lead the effort to repair a broken and deserted boarding school. Since 2005 when Olu returned to Ricks, lead he does. And the hope that has kept him alive through the war has given him the strength to now teach his wide-eyed and

hopeful students that, "It is about taking responsibility," and "ownership," for "our future in Liberia is bleak in the absence of forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation."

Passport has been invited to be a partner in sustaining the hope at Ricks. In December, just after the most hopeful season of the year, Passport will embark on a mission to Liberia. Our partnership is designed to teach an adult

volunteer group of Liberians how to lead camp. Long after we have left the country, Ricks Institute can continue to produce a camp experience that will culminate in the changed lives of many Liberian youth who will experience PASSORTLiberia. The training we can invest and the ropes course we have built and the camp we can produce will bring hope and reconciliation in many seasons of camp as Liberians themselves take up the camp leadership.

PASSPORTLiberia will combine a team of 6 former Passport staffers from the United States with more than 10 Liberian adult volunteers for training and 2 sessions of camp and 200 campers from all over Liberia.

PASSPORTLiberia is a partnership with Ricks Institute, Passport, Inc., Cooperative Baptist Field Personnel Jade and Shelah Acker and Mountain Brook Baptist Church.

PASSPORTLiberia



December 27, 2007-
January 13, 2008

Summer Wrap-up

Mark McClintock, Passportkids! Lead Coordinator

When the combination of Holy Spirit, creative energy, experience, research, and theology land together in the Passport blender, it's not easy to predict what will come out. Whatever the concoction, you can be sure it will be nutritious and fun! We were very excited—and a little nervous—about our 2007 camps, which seemed to have all the right ingredients for a transformational summer. Would our campers and chaperones agree? Having read and heard the stories of their experience this summer, we think the answer is a resounding YES!

One (no, three!) of our question marks were the **new campuses** we introduced—Mercer University in Macon, Dillard University in New Orleans, and Gordon College in Boston. Mercer got high marks for its facilities and food (“best ever!” according to one veteran youth minister), as well as the urban mission projects in the area. A late entry when our previous campus had to close for summer renovations, Dillard proved to be a pleasant surprise. Just minutes from Lake Pontchartrain near the heart of New Orleans, Dillard put us in close proximity to mission sites while feeling safe and welcoming. Gordon College brought PASSPORT to a region new to



Passport at Gordon College - Wenham, MA

us. The experience was truly refreshing, from the cool weather to the beautiful New England campus and the community formed between churches from the south and the northeast. Folks in the neighborhoods where we worked expressed their gratitude freely—rolling down the window and saying, “Thank you!” as they drove past youth painting park benches, for example.

If first-time locations posed a bit of a risk factor, we really stepped out on a limb with an innovative camp for youth, **PASSways**. True to our 2007 theme, we Imagined a camp that would empower students to make choices, try new ways of expressing their faith, and grow as disciples of Jesus. While many of this year's **PASSways** campers chose the traditional mission projects, others pioneered the four new options—Tree Space, Faith in the Arts, Echo, and Common Threads. Youth in these Choices took field trips, discussed implications for their lives, and actively shared what they were learning and doing with the whole camp. Was **PASSways** a success? Over and over we heard campers talk eagerly about the Choice they couldn't wait to try next year! Group leaders commented about the powerful new lessons and faith opportunities provided and appreciated the way the new camp “celebrates the uniqueness of each youth.”

With a theme like “Rock & Roll,” **PASSPORTkids!** set an expectation of a bold and energetic adventure for children. Peppy music was only one of the ways the promise came true. The nearly 1,800 participants this summer plunged joyfully down our giant slip-and-slide, braved the Temple of the Lost Treasure, “journeyed” to a Palaung village in the mountains of Thailand, and put on nine unique and entertaining High School Musicals. But they also probed some of the tougher issues in the Bible, such as finding



PASSPORTkids!



hope in troubling times. One minister recognized the need for such depth, noting that her group mingled with campers from a Blacksburg (VA) church who had recently been through the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Numbers tell one story—4,667 youth and 1,786 children; 54,000 hours of mission service and thousands of cans of food collected for local pantries; over \$13,000 offered for Hilltribe ministries and nearly \$63,000 for Watering Malawi, Africa Exchange, and PASSPORTKenya. The glowing faces of children and youth, the loving embrace of a senior adult and her new teenage friend, the joy of seeing a dream come true... these tell an important story, too. And that story is the reason Passport turns on the imagination blender every year. Ready for next year's creation?

Summer Numbers

6,453

Campers

54,000

hours of mission service

thousands

of cans of food collected

\$76,000

in offerings to the Hilltribe ministries, Watering Malawi and Africa Exchange



PASSways at Wingate University - Wingate, NC



A Well Watered Garden

A trip to Malawi

By Colleen Burroughs

To see more pictures of Malawi and a podcast of a well being drilled, visit the website. www.wateringmalawi.org



Two years after the birth of Watering Malawi we stepped off the plane and headed towards the driest part of Malawi that I have ever seen, even in a year when the rains have been good. We were just north of Blantyre, where I used to catch the plane to boarding school, and an hour from Zomba, where my family would stop for tea during a four hour commute home. We left the pavement and headed off on a dirt road. Dust. Twigs. Dry, dry ground. Every once in a while we would see a shoot of red bougainvillea shielding a hut from the heat and bringing color to an otherwise brown landscape.

The drilling crew had waited in their tents one more day so we could see them drill a hole in the ground. This was their seventh well this month, with nine more to go. We had requested that there not be a big crowd to welcome us. Malawian hospitality usually creates a rally around big events like a new village well, but it's also hot and dusty and everyone sits around waiting for the people who paid for the well to drive up. David and I didn't pay for the well, you did. So the fanfare makes us uneasy.

Still, there was a random crowd watching this strange loud machine and guys in gumboots poke away at the ground like a corkscrew. So, we joined the crowd and stood staring, waiting for whatever was supposed

to happen. And then it happened. Water. Water spraying up from dust and immediately coloring the dirt a new shade of brown. I just stood there and wept.

I am so thankful for the teenagers, congregations, women's groups and individuals who have been so faithful to the urging of God to water this dry and barren land. These Malawians, many of whom are dear Christian brothers and sisters, sang in praise. Hear the words. **"We have been praying for a miracle, a miracle of water, and the miracle has come."**

The next day we drove a little farther to visit a place where our watering partner, World Vision, has PVC-piped water down from the mountain streams to the valley below. Then, men from the village work together to dig small trenches from the mouth of the pipes back to their village gardens. Think about digging a one-foot deep trench out to your mail box from the back door by hand, and then dig it to the nearest gas station. It's a big job. But they are doing it all over this valley. Just to get water. And boy is it beautifully green. Water is life. Their crops look wonderful because they share access to this piped in water with hand dug trenches.

So, what if your garden patch is just on the other side of a gully? There

is no way to dig a trench that runs uphill. Enter John. John is 16 and has invented a water bridge made of thatch, limbs and plastic (purchased by you). The water bridge channels the water to gardens across small valleys so that everyone can have access to the irrigation. There are now 12 water bridges in this valley and John is the most famous teenager around. His crops are so successful that he can now afford to build his own house. At 16! They are also filling up little ponds with the water and breeding small fish to be sold at the market.



This is how it is supposed to work. This is how Malawi should look: green and full of potential. I am convinced in ways I am unable to communicate here that this is the Gospel of Jesus Christ at its best. That this really is Living Water. That teenagers in the states have discovered the joy of giving themselves to something greater as they put feet to faith and contribute time and energy to watering these gardens in the name of Christ. They may never meet these Malawians but

they have ministered to them. They absolutely have made a difference. I believe that God created John, of the bridges, so full of potential and that we are partners in creation with him as we supply things like plastic and PVC.

Watering Malawi is working. Thanks for your faithful participation. And thanks to the independent one-time gift of my missionary mother, given specifically so that I could go and see and tell you that your money is doing exactly what you expect it to do. Be assured. You are watering a country and changing lives. Praise be to God. Remember, if you bring the poor into your house and satisfy the hungry, then your light will rise like the dawn out of darkness and the Lord will be your guide.

You'll be like a well-watered garden. Like a spring that never runs dry. Isaiah 58



This is John and one of his bridges.

2008 Camp Dates and Locations



Registration Opens Nov. 1, 2007!

PASSways

Youth Camp of Choice

Wingate University

Wingate, NC

- Session 1: June 8-13
- Session 2: June 15-20
- Session 3: June 22-27
- Session 4: June 29-July 4
- Session 5: July 6-11
- Session 6: July 13-18
- Session 7: July 20-25



PASSPORTkids!

Camp Dixie

Fayetteville, North Carolina
Session 1 June 11-14

Mercer University

Macon, Georgia
Session 2 June 18-21

Eagle Eyrie

Lynchburg, Virginia
Session 3 June 25-28
Session 4 June 30-July 3

Bluefield College

Bluefield, Virginia
Session 5 July 6-9

Clyde M. York 4-H Center

Crossville, Tennessee
Session 6 July 12-15
Session 7 July 17-20

University of West Florida

Pensacola, Florida
Session 8 July 24-27



PASSPORT

Youth Camping with a Mission

Mercer University

Macon, GA
Session 1: June 15-20
Session 2: June 22-27
Session 3: June 29-July 4
Session 4: July 6-11
Session 5: July 13-18
Session 6: July 20-25

Gordon College

Wenham, MA
Session 1: July 14-19
Session 2: July 21-26
Session 3: July 28-Aug 2

Dillard University

New Orleans, LA
Session 1: June 22-27
Session 2: June 29-July 4
Session 3: July 6-11

PASSPORTCanada

Toronto, Canada
July 7-14, 2008

Instilling Potential

Daniel Ingram



*“All around us, we observe a pregnant creation.”
Romans 8:22 (The Message)*

They tell me that having a baby will change everything. Intuitively, I know this to be true. It's not like I'm getting a new pair of shoes, or even another dog. This is a living, breathing, miniature, hybrid version of my wife and me. On the one hand, I can't wait to meet her – and on the other hand I'm scared out of my mind, because I have no idea what I'm doing.

So why do people have to remind me about how this baby will change me? Is it because they have a great wealth of experience and want to share it? Perhaps. Is it because they sense that we don't know what we are getting into? Likely. Ultimately, I think it has something to do with the fact that they know we

will have this experience that is predictably unique, sensational and indescribable.

We experience this at Passport, too. Throughout the year, we dream and plan and create this program, not really knowing how it will be received. At some point in the busy-ness and stress of preparing for camp we are reminded that God's spirit is already alive and at work in the lives of campers, and we are doing nothing more than giving identity to and avenues for expressing that God-born spirit. We are not creating an experience from nothing, but just participating in the work God has already been doing.

Initiatives like Watering Malawi have taken on life and momentum of their own because there was already life within them just waiting to be set free. It's as if the waters under Malawi are just stirring beneath the ground waiting to be released. Perhaps creation itself is pregnant and just waiting for our help in delivering what should otherwise come so naturally and freely to all people.

All around us, God has instilled potential in all of creation; potential to work out into something very good. God is calling us to seek these places where the Spirit is just waiting to burst forth. We know something good is going to happen, we just don't yet know what that may be.

Daniel and Marnie, both on staff at Passport, Inc. welcomed the birth of their first baby girl Mollie Claire, in September. Welcome to the world, Mollie!

The GLOBE

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