

THE GLOBE

Winter 2007

News for the Passport World



Children 1
Missions 3
Youth 4
Partnership 5
Development 6
Spirituality 8

Joyful Anticipation

Great things through God

by Susan Reed

When I think of the word *anticipation*, I sometimes get a little scared – especially when it comes to my job. As a fairly new youth minister, I find that I plan events - Bible Studies, retreats, mission projects with an even level of both fear and excitement. The fear comes from all of the unknowns...What if we get to the center where our mission project is scheduled and no one is there to let us in? What if this Bible Study I've been working on for days totally flops? What if I book a retreat center for 50 youth and only 25 sign up?

But then there are the joys that come from the unknown – the unexpected leaps I anticipate in a very hesitant way.

While I was a Passport staffer I had the wonderful opportunity of spending a week at a time with some incredible youth and children. It's great to see a lesson that can be learned or an idea that can be realized within a week. While working camp, I anticipated these "aha" moments in the lives of youth, children and adults who passed through camp. I rejoiced



when I saw them and then I got ready for the next week.

Through those summers, I hadn't realized what a joy it must be to spend an entire year with these students. Now that I work full-time in a church I understand the excited anticipation that comes with each event, each Bible Study, each mission project. After all the planning and preparation (or during it)

there is an expectant hope that a life will be changed because of the work we are doing.

That God will work through that study, that project, that retreat to help students see God in new ways and be inspired to grow in their faith.

Over the past year and a half, these are some of the things I have been able to witness in

Continued page 3

Warm Wishes in the Winter

by Mark McClintock

With *Christmas* on its way and temperatures dropping, high dives into a pool and evenings under the stars may be the farthest thing from many people's minds. But even now, some children are anticipating summer 2008. Churches and parishes are registering for camp, and families are learning when and where they'll be coming to PASSPORTkids! Their excitement is contagious. Just ask Kacy Brubaker, Elementary Ministry Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, who signed up online during the first hour of registration:

"Each year our children and leaders look forward to attending PASSPORTkids! for many reasons, but at the top of the list are the sound theological perspective, strong focus on missions around the world and at home, and the opportunity for our children to meet other Christians from the southeast."

The 2008 theme especially resonates with First Presbyterian's congregation. Says Brubaker, "Living in Atlanta we experience an incredibly diverse community. Families of many ethnicities,



With the chill in the air, camp might be hard to imagine.

cultures and races worship together, go to school together and live in the same neighborhoods. In order to create a community built upon love, respect and equality it is important for us to understand and appreciate one another's culture. We also must remember that all children are created in the image of God and deserve to be treated as children of God. This year we look forward to Trading Spaces and learning how to live out God's call to love one another."

What do the children anticipate when they think about next summer's camp? Several veteran campers from First Presbyterian shared their "wish lists" with us. "I am looking forward to sleeping in the dorm and eating

amazing college food," says Jack Bennett. "I'm also excited to do RecFest again this year. I am looking forward to meeting new friends from other churches." According to Sara Elizabeth Jackson, "PASSPORTkids! was a great time to do what you love like swimming and soccer." And Maddie Ferrell hopes to find lots of familiar activities because "nothing needs to be changed."

No doubt, many campers rank the recreational elements of PASSPORTkids! high on their list. They are also aware of the important learning that happens. "I like how they work Christian education into the fun and play at camp," Jack Bennett reflects. Colin Edmonds adds, "I really like the interactive missions. Another neat thing was meet-

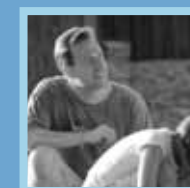


However, Camp is just around the corner! So get ready!

ing people from different parts of the country. I wish we could have stayed there longer. I can't wait to go again."

For many adults, camp is a cherished memory of sunny days, new friendships, and a special closeness to God. To children, the "magic" is still in the present and the future. Ministers like Kacy Brubaker help their campers make the most of the experience and, in doing so, are uniquely able to revisit the charm of summer camp themselves.

"The camp counselors and leaders at PASSPORTkids! present such a fun and inviting camp," she says, "that we are always excited to go back year after year!"



Mark McClintock, Children's Programs Coordinator, joined the Passport staff in 2002.

Front Page Story Continued

the group of youth I work with: new desires to serve our community and the world, students who read a passage of scripture and can see how it applies to their lives, youth who are excited enough about coming to church that they want to bring their friends, kids who are beginning to understand God's calling on their lives and are hungry to grow in understanding it more.



Those are just a few of the things I anticipate when I go to work. Sure, there are things that seem mundane – newsletters to type, forms to fill out, materials to order, but underneath it all is the anticipation that God can use me in lives of the students I work with – That God is bigger than all the unknowns. I expectantly anticipate my future in ministry and seeing how the youth I work with today grow into adults who also anticipate great things from God in their lives.



Susan Reed is the youth minister at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, KY.

A Camper's Perspective...

by Allan Burton

Having been to a PASSPORT camp 3 summers in a row, Parker Smith, a 10th Grader from Birmingham, Alabama, appreciates that the staffers are always "easy to talk to. If you want to get something spiritual out of the week, then you need to feel comfortable talking to the staff. Camp is only 5 days and so you need to be able to get to know them quickly."

Trying something new can be difficult sometimes – youth leaders can't get it right all the time, can they? "The first year I didn't know what to expect, and PASSPORT was fun. The second year, it was even better. Now, this summer, I look forward to meeting people that I like and that like me, 'cause that is what helps me grow spiritually."

Parker is the type of youth that prides himself on knowing what is fun and capitalizing on that fun in most everything he does. "I love being crazy, so I appreciate the enthusiasm that the staff puts into everything – especially Morning Celebration. It is crazy and they make it that way!"

The first two summers Parker attended a Passport camp, he participated in our traditional Youth Camping with a Mission (YCM) program. Howev-

er, this past summer, PASSways was his church's camp of choice.

"PASSways was cool because it was more than mission work.

It was learning something totally new."

Parker chose to participate in Common Threads. "At the Mosque, we learned about Muslim worship practices," and in the game, Minoria and Majoria, as two groups of people tried to learn to work together, he discovered just how easy it is for those in control to manipulate those who are not. "They took advantage of us!" These were things that Parker had never experienced before and yet contributed to a change in his life.

When asked what the first thing he talks about when he gets home from camp, if you know Parker well (being a typical guy) you might think it was the girls he met. And you would be only a little off base. He talks about "the friends I met and how much fun it was. I never talk about being glad I am home – just how much I want to go back. I have my passports from each summer and the Common Thread items from this summer and I pull them out and read them periodically. They make me aware of my actions here and now."

Allan Burton, Youth Programs Coordinator, joined Passport staff in 2001.



Passport and Ricks:

A Partnership that Matters

by Olu Menjay

One of the core words for Christian missions in the 21st century is partnership. Partnership provides an opportunity for Christian organizations to enter into a mutual relationship in serving God and human concerns. The relationship between Passport Camps and Ricks Institute embodies a relevant partnership in the 21st century and beyond.

I met David Burroughs, Colleen Burroughs and Allan Burton of Passport, Inc. along with Jade & Shelah Acker, field workers of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) at the CBF National meeting in Atlanta, Georgia over a year ago. During our meeting, we shared our interests, work, hopes and challenges. Upon learning about the ministry of Passport, I immediately invited Passport Camps to consider coming to Liberia. Today, a two-week youth camp, in collaboration with the Liberia Baptist Youth Assembly, will be conducted in late December and early January.

Why is Passport Camp significant in Liberia? PassportLiberia provides opportunities for Passport and Ricks to engage in a common purpose of Christian ministry as well as a means to share our gifts, material resources, pains and hopes. For more than 14 years, Liberia suffered the toil of a civil war that resulted in the death of more than 200,000 people as well as the disruption of young lives. In today's Liberia, a considerable number of our young people under 24 years of age

spent the majority of their childhood in violence, sufferings, refugee camps, displacement camps, distrust, and fear. PassportLiberia provides for our young people a forum for meaningful youth development and leadership.

I am persuaded that our tomorrow in Liberia begins at Ricks Institute today. Today, Ricks Institute (K-12) remains the only private school in Liberia that provides tuition free education to all of our students from K-6. I believe that now is the best time for Passport to co-labor together with Ricks as we empower the poor and provide reasons to hope and dream for a better tomorrow.

Passport's recent and substantial gift of a solar solution to Ricks enables our main educational building to have a sturdy electric power so that our students can learn and serve better. David, the CEO of Passport, and I had extensive conversations and email exchanges as we determined the needs and ways the needs will benefit our common humanity. Thank God that the solar solution was not a gift that was imposed on the receiver (Ricks).

The partnership between Ricks and Passport matters as we together seek to bring "Good News to the poor. . ." in relevant ways.

Olu Menjay is the principal of Ricks Institute in Liberia. Learn more about Ricks at www.ricksonline.org





Invest in a life.
Throw a party!

Colleen Burroughs
Vice-President, Passport, Inc.

Development is a word I have gotten a lot more comfortable with in the last two years. If you think about asking teenagers to give money to something, you might not initially expect to get a terrific response. However, if you ask students to change the world and give them a good reason why they should, stand back and get ready to be amazed.

Watering Malawi, Passport's initiative to provide access to clean water in Malawi, has taken on a life of its own. As promised, 100% of the money raised goes straight to watering gardens and pumping drinkable water. The kicker is that Passport

has absorbed the administrative costs to make that possible.

Initially, this was not a concern. There were no printing costs or phone calls because everything was web-based and downloadable. Never underestimate teenagers. **Now the administration of access to clean water is affecting the daily operations inside our already busy office...and we love it.** What a great problem to have. We are answering emails and mentoring individual students who have lots of questions about how to be involved. There are over 3,000 of them on the Facebook site.

This is our mission - empowering students to embrace the

world in the name of Christ. They keep showing up.

It's like throwing a party where everyone actually comes! Passport will continue to create ways for students to interact with the world and make a difference, but unlike camp fees, more and more of those life changing opportunities are not avenues that provide administrative income.

Let me introduce you to a few more development opportunities we are working on.

At this printing there are a couple of hundred students

in Liberia attending their first youth camp ever. Meet Marcus. He is a twenty-one year old seventh grader who lost his junior high years to a civil war. He is one of many in a similar situation. Then there are Patrick and Alice, both Kenyan college students who taught us to worship in Swahili at camp last summer. Then they joined us on safari see the elephants and lions. Did you know that most Kenyan children have never seen the wildlife that has made Kenya a famous tourists destination for a century? It cost too much.

Like watering a garden, developing young lives is expensive. I don't want to raise money for Passport. I want to invest in young lives, many of whom don't have a dime to pay for camp here, or in Liberia. We want to be able to continue to dream up avenues for students in the U.S. and on the other side of the globe to have an opportunity to embrace their world.

So we're going to get busy this year. We need to encourage artists and football players, and children of wars to follow God's call on their life in creative ways. Program costs don't cover this kind of development, nor should they. Teenagers make the difference, but adults have got to invest in providing the life changing experiences. Just like clean water, the money is there. So, we are coming to a city near you this year to host events. I will be starting in my hometown and heading to places in Virginia, Kentucky and New York. Let me know if we can stop by and throw a party in your neighborhood.



Colleen at a gallery event in Kentucky hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Lolley



Future ministers and leaders



Patrick



Students in the U.S.



Alice



Marcus



Students around the world.

Home Is Where the Heart Is.

by Dale Massey



Recently we had a guest speaker at our church. I liked what he said. He spoke about home, and the fact that we all have many homes. Home is where you are loved. He made me think about all my homes. The home I grew up in for the first 20 years of my life no longer exists, because the people who bought it tore it down. But it exists in my heart. I can still hear the rustle of leaves on cool autumn days outside the sitting room window. I can see the thick wisteria hanging from the trellis. I can still feel the warmth of the fire in my father's study.

I also spent many years of my life in Jackson, MS, and that too is home. Every time I turn

off I-20 onto I-55, and round the curve and turn onto State Street, I also know that I'm home.

I stumbled upon a church home, when I wasn't even looking for one. And I also found a home at Passport. I've had jobs where it's just another day to get through. Where in no sense of the word would I call it home. It was just a place to go to every day and a way to make enough money to survive. So what makes Passport different? It's a home because we all care about each other. We create, argue, work towards a common goal. And in the process we have a home to come to every day during the week.

Passport camp is also home for many youth, even though they are there only a week. We spend the entire year preparing for and anticipating that one week. There's a chance to make new friends, take care of others, compete, have fun, worship, and have enough silence to hear God's voice. We hope it becomes a home that lives in our campers' hearts for the rest of the year.

So today, think about the many homes that you have. And how blessed we are to have these homes that nurture us and challenge us to grow.

The GLOBE

Colleen Burroughs

Design and Communications

Abigail Banks Brandenburg

Design

Dale Massey

Editor

Allan Burton

Youth Editor

Mark McClintock

Children's Editor

The GLOBE is a quarterly publication of Passport, Inc.
info@passportcamps.org
www.passportcamps.org
1-800-769-0210

PASSPORT

Empowering Students, Embracing the World, Extending Grace

PASSPORT, Inc.
3421 Sierra Drive
Birmingham, AL 35216

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 361