

THE GLOBE

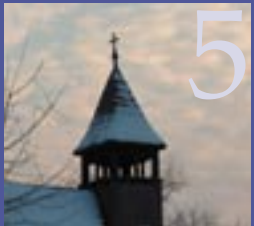
First Edition: Fall 2004

News for the Passport World

Faith in 3-D

Three Faith Traditions Plan a Joint Youth Conference at Disney

Melissa Browning
Global Service Corps



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In 1915, the world of film took on a new dimension as 3D movies were introduced in New York. Well, they were at least on the edge of a new dimension. While the films succeeded in arousing curiosity, the screening itself was unsuccessful. Commentators said the lack of harmony was distracting, causing viewers to miss the plot.

During this same time period, the church was dealing with issues of harmony as well. Some were preaching a social gospel, while others emphasized which doctrines should be considered fundamentals of the faith. The church began thinking in divergent ways, ways that would soon cause a rift within Protestant congregations. During those decades it seemed Christianity would forever be fragmented, lacking the harmony needed to sing God's song.

Almost 90 years later, technology has worked out the kinks in 3D movies. These films leap from cinema screens into our laps with images in perfect harmony. But what about our faith? After more than forty years of the ecumenical movement, have we learned to harmonize what is most important?

Striving for harmony is what Faith in 3D is all about. It is about celebrating distinctive ways of being faithful while looking for God's hand at work outside of our small church walls. Faith in 3D hopes to break down denominational borders for youth and change the lives of those who attend.



The conference has created a partnership between Presbyterian Church (USA), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Episcopal Church. Bo Prosser, Coordinator for Congregational Life for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship commented on the conference saying, "We are always excited to partner with Passport and to join in their creative adventures. We are equally excited about moderate Baptist youth gaining an appreciation for other faith expressions in this Ecumenical venture. Everybody wins as we work together, play together, and worship together."

Even the planning of the event has been a meaningful ecumenical experience for the design team. When asked about the experience, Betsy Boyd, Staff Officer of Youth Ministries for The Episcopal Church, considered this partnership between the three denominations to be a "blessing" and said "The Episcopal Church was thrilled to be a part of this venture." She continued by saying Faith in 3D "will be fun, thought provoking, and faith inspiring."

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The Liturgical Child

Helping Children to Participate in Advent

By Mark McClintock

Ho! Ho! Ho! The shelves of Hallowe'en costumes are emptying (though Trick-or-Treat is still days away). Masks and candy corn are being replaced by stockings and candy canes. In the middle of the mall, grips are assembling Santa's magic Photo-land. What surer sign is there that Christmas is on its way?

For a child raised in the Christian community, tinsel and toy catalogs need not be the primary source of excitement. Advent is a centuries-old church tradition that builds anticipation of the world's most astonishing miracle—the Incarnation of God. Congregations who celebrate Advent, which literally means the approach and arrival of

someone (or something) important, have a perfect opportunity to include children in the life of the church. Perhaps your family of faith does not use the term "Advent," but you can adopt some of the rituals and create new ones during the four weeks that lead to Christmas. The objective is to plan with the developmental needs of children in mind.

Here are a few common practices of churches who "get ready" for the birth of Jesus each year. The "Hanging of the Greens" brings families together to decorate the sanctuary while interpreting some of our cherished Christian symbols. Children enjoy the feel of garlands and wreaths. They revel in the moment when a Christmas tree is lit, and they can help hang the decorations. Some churches decorate with "Chrismons," ornaments in white and gold that have symbolic meaning to the story of Christ. Poinsettias, candles, and ribbons can add to the visual and spiritual beauty of the sanctuary as well. Whether your "greening" is a formal service or a casual affair, think about the impact the event may have in setting the tone for your children's awareness of the season. In many churches, an Advent wreath is placed near the altar to demonstrate the approach of the divine birth. Four candles encircle a fifth, larger and pure white, called "the Christ candle." The tapers are lit

progressively, adding a new one each Sunday, and the central candle is reserved for either Christmas Eve or Christmas day. Its illumination signifies the coming of the "Light for the World." Not only do children see the holiday drawing nearer, they can participate in the ritual as different kinds of families take turns lighting the candles each week.

For many children, music or drama rehearsals that culminate in a presentation to the congregation are important "preparations." Rather than emphasize a "performance," let the occasion evoke a sense of the children offering a ministry gift to God and to the church. A collection of food or gifts to share with people in need allows children to focus on others.

Better yet, a "party" that brings children and families of varying socioeconomic situations together promotes "ministry with" instead of "ministry to" others.

However you and your church plan to celebrate the Christmas season, be intentional about including the children. Use language in worship that they can understand, and appeal to as many senses as possible. After all, the mall and the media will stimulate their material desires. The

church must guide families to reflect on the far more powerful significance of our Savior's birth.



Resources

"The Voice" – an ecumenical website of the Christian Resource Institute has some excellent Advent materials. www.cresourcei.org/cyadvent.html

The Passionist Missionaries of Germany's Advent web includes materials for family celebrations. www.cptryon.org/prayer/adx/index.html

CatholicMom.com offers activities for children that can be used and adapted by any church. www.catholicmom.com/advent_kids.htm

For patterns and suggestions about Chrismons, try www.paperchrismons.com/links.html

For Passport's daily online Advent devotion, try www.followingthestar.org

Books of Hope

Passport teams up to provide books for children in rural areas

By Carla Wynn
CBF Communications

This summer, teenagers gave to children. They gave their favorite children's books - Sesame Street, the Berenstain Bears and others that brought dinosaurs or airplanes to life on pages - to children who might not have their own book.

Campers at Passport gave Partners in Hope, the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship's rural poverty initiative, more than 20,000 books to be distributed among some of the poorest areas in the United States. They called the project Books of Hope because it addressed literacy problems, one of the root causes of poverty.

"These books offer us a tangible way to respond to systemic poverty," said Colleen Burroughs, executive vice president of Passport, Inc.

Books of Hope resulted from a December 2003 conversation between Burroughs and Carol Prevost, literacy and educational resources adviser for Partners in Hope. Prevost, a retired schoolteacher, had a dream for every child to own his or her own book, and Burroughs already had a Birmingham, Ala., warehouse packed with 2,000 books campers had collected in previous summers.

The call for children's books was publicized prior to the summer. When youth arrived at camps in Florida, North Carolina and Kentucky, they brought some of their favorite children's books with them.

"The churches that come never cease to amaze me in their willingness to participate creatively in missions. When we make the need known, they faithfully show up with boxes of great books," Burroughs said.

Burroughs said the project was "phenomenally successful," with the collected books valuing \$60,000. The response was so overwhelming that when Spalding University in Louisville, Ky., picked up 2,000 books, "their truck was plum full," Prevost said.

The books will be distributed to rural Appalachia areas of Kentucky, the delta region of Mississippi



...and hope does not disappoint,

because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts...
Romans 5:5

and through Sowing Seeds of Hope in Alabama's Perry County. Alabama CBF coordinator Mart Gray anticipated delivering books by December and said distribution will be networked through local libraries, school systems and the Head Start program.

While some books will be given to individual children, others will become part of local church book fairs or local libraries. Prevost's other ideas for distribution included giving baby books as gifts to newborns at local hospitals and placing books in doctor's offices or waiting rooms in poor areas.

Books of Hope is a preventative measure to literacy problems among rural area children, especially pre-kindergarteners, Prevost said. "If they have a book in their home, reading is contagious," she said.

CBF is a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice.



CANADA

Passport campers are headed to Canada next summer at the invitation of Global Missions field personnel Kim and Marc Wyatt. The Wyatts live and work among the international communities in Toronto. The initial response to this summer experience, prior to registration opening, has been overwhelming. It appears that PASSPORT-Canada will fill to capacity. Here are some things you might want to know about the international world Passport campers will experience upon arriving in Toronto next summer.

Getting to Know Our NEIGHBORS

By Valerie Burton
Associate Coordinator Alabama, CBF

“Toronto is a great place to raise a family. We like it and so do the 200,000 immigrants and 30,000 refugees who move here each year.” says Kim Wyatt, one of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship’s International Team. Toronto is the most multi-cultural city in the world.

Refugees leave their homelands because they are in fear of being persecuted for their race, religion, nationality, or political opinion.

Marc and Kim Wyatt live in a three-level house north of St. Jamestown – the most multi-cultural and densely populated neighborhood located in the heart of Toronto. The houses in the Wyatts’ cul-de-sac are built close together and have their own unique personality – much like their neighbors. Marc says that Toronto is a “city of strangers who need welcoming.” He reminds Christians that welcoming such people is welcoming Christ. Six thousand of St. Jamestown’s 26,000 residents are school-aged children from over 169 different language groups. The Wyatts spend much of their time working to develop after-school programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) Bible study groups, and volunteering in community events.

Matt and Michelle Norman work with international students as CBF Global Service Corps (GSC). They live in the Driftwood neighborhood in Toronto at the intersection of Jane and Finch streets. Reflecting the community’s diversity, some call that intersection, “the Corner of 100 lands.” Sixty-three percent of the 50,000 people in their neighborhood have come to Driftwood from outside Canada. They come from countries like India, Italy, the Caribbean, Pakistan, South Asia and Africa. This area is one of the poorest in Toronto. Driftwood is made up of town houses and high-rise apartment buildings. The Normans are able to walk to most places they want to go. Without leaving their street they can enjoy Italian, Indian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Thai, Caribbean, African, Middle Eastern, and Greek cuisine! They say it is amazing to experience so many different cultures in one place.



NEIGHBORHOOD: St. Jamestown

Of the 26,000 residents
6,000 are school-aged children

They are from
169 language groups.

NEIGHBORHOOD: Driftwood

Of the 50,000 people,
sixty-three percent are from
places like India, Italy, Pakistan,
South Asia and Africa.



Faithful Partners

Passport launches a campaign with fifty faithful churches.

This October, Passport, Inc. launched a new capital campaign called *Faithful Partners*. With a modest goal of raising \$50,000 a year for the next three years, *Faithful Partners* will allow Passport to acquire some needed camp and office equipment and secure a reserve fund – all without having to raise the price of our programs!

Passport approached our 75 most faithful churches – all who have attended Passport for at least 6 of the last 12 years. The goal is to secure pledges from 50 of our *Faithful Partners* for \$1,000 a year for the next three years.

Is this campaign limited to the first 75 churches we approached? No way! We would encourage you to join us and help move Passport's ministries to the next level. You can contact our

office to receive a packet of information to help your church become one of our *Faithful Partners*. Most churches have a mission committee, and many have a working endowment committee that is allowed to spend some funds annually for causes such as ours.

The chair of the *Faithful Partners Campaign* is David Sherwood, Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Information and Game Operations for Wingate University, and the youth minister of the Wingate Baptist Church in Wingate, North Carolina. Sherwood inspired the *Faithful Partners* idea as he led his church's mission committee to put Passport in their budget on an annual basis.

*If I may borrow
a sports term, it is time
for each of us to
step up to the plate...
to take Passport
to the next level.*

David Sherwood

In the letter to launch the campaign, David said, "I could never have dreamed in my wildest dreams the impact Passport would make on the youth of Wingate Baptist Church. Everything is planned with the spiritual development of the young people in mind. Passport is helping local churches cultivate servants. I cannot think of a higher calling for a youth camping organization."

For more information about the *Faithful Partners Campaign*, contact David Burroughs at 800-769-0210, or email him directly at david@passportcamps.org.

2004

What can we learn from Passport youth this year?

By Allan Burton
Passport Youth Camp Coordinator

Every year, Passport, Inc. surveys the youth who attend PASSPORT, *Youth Camping with a Mission*, for the purpose of discovering what they think is important about a particular subject. Subjects in the past have included questions related to how God calls youth to particular tasks and what role peace should play in decisions we make.

For the 2004 summer, PASSPORT decided to try and learn how well the youth that attend camp fall into the profile of those who are called into ministry. There are several markers that would indicate a person's availability to the call of God toward vocational ministry. We decided to concentrate on one of them – the sense of wonder and mystery about the world and a God who loves us.

So, do the youth who attend PASSPORT have a sense of wonder about God, and how is that wonder expressed? Let's take a look at how the 3,897 respondents answered five questions. The red box at right defines the demographics of those who participated.

Question #1 Do you regularly find time for quietness in your life?
68% Yes 30% No

Of the ones that answered yes, most answered the follow up question of how? with these answers: 2,474 by *thinking* (2,474), *praying* (1,261), *reading* (1,035), *Journaling* (433), and *Bible study* (307). Some other write-in answers included *art or drawing*, *daydreaming*, *playing a musical instrument*, *listening to music*, *writing*, and *poetry*.

Question #2 Of all the wonderful things in the world, what amazes you the most? (fill in the blank) Answers categorized with the following top 6 answers: God's Creation (1,431), People (471), God's Love (372), Emotion (132), God (131), Life (119). It is interesting to note that respondents included something about God in their answers 2037 times:

Creation, love, God's self, power, presence, forgiveness, grace, and calling. There were many other answers as well – from darkness and dreams to architecture and trains, from eternity and evolution, to a child's laughter and quietness...

Question #3 Do you find ways of expressing your wonder at the world? 72% Yes 26% No
Six answers were listed for them to circle in the following order: Making music (1,544), Poetry (621), Painting (584), Creative Writing (557), Drama (522), Sculpture (111).

Question #4 When you are at worship, what is the most meaningful for you?
The top 4 answers were: music (1,752), preaching (871), praying (300), testimony (128).

Question #5 How often do you sense that God is with you? The youth ranked the provided answers in the following way: daily (2,142), weekly (945), monthly (279), once a year (87). Some also wrote in "all the time" (56), and "never" (19). We followed up this question with, "What does it feel like?" The top 9 answers were: great/good (707), God's presence (354), safe (217), comfort (202), amazing (198), awesome (196), wonderful (149), peaceful (140), and can't explain (121).

Question #6 Do you believe you can make a difference in the world? 92% said yes, with most writing in that "helping others" (627) and "telling people about God" (563) were the ways to make that happen. What an encouraging statistic to end on!

I'm also encouraged that these youth do seem to express a sense of wonder and mystery about the world. I believe they are interacting with what they feel and know about God in ways that are not always easy for any of us to communicate. Finding ways to put language to God's mysterious presence in our lives will be a lifelong journey for us all.

Demographics of those surveyed:
 Average age - 15
 55% female
 98% Christian

of those
 80% Baptist
 8% Methodist
 4% Presbyterian
 2% Lutheran
 2% Episcopalian.



Save the Date!

January 13-16, '06
MLK Day weekend

Approximate Cost:
\$250

Walt Disney World
Orlando, Florida

Continued from page 1 - Faith in 3-D

Gina Yeager, Associate for Youth Ministry for Presbyterian Church (USA), reflected on the partnership by saying, "What a gift it is to be called together as people of God to do this 'thing' called youth ministry! To worship, learn, and play together! The Presbyterian Church (USA) is excited about joining with our brothers and sisters from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Episcopal Church to explore our faith ... in all dimensions!"

The conference will take place Martin Luther King Day weekend, 2006, as 1,000 youth converge at Disney World for an amazing tri-denominational youth conference. It will be a weekend lived in 3D – 3Denominations for 3Days at 3Disney theme parks. (Since we're stretching the wordplay, we throw the fourth park in for free.)

While youth might come to ride roller coasters or meet Mickey, the prayer is that they leave with more than a Mousketeers cap. The dream is that they glimpse a different expression of Christian faith and are pushed to see their own callings in a new dimension.

After all, faith worth having is worth the work. Like making good movies, finding a faithful balance never comes easy. It took three decades for 3D films to find their harmony. Learning to sing God's song, together, is worth the devotion of our lifetimes.

**Fast fact: Passport 2004
Mission Offering for work
among Romany Children
reached a combined camp
total of \$ 66,907.17**

But as for me,

my prayer is to you, O LORD.

At an acceptable time, O God, in the
abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.
With your faithful help rescue me from sinking
in the mire; let me be delivered from my
enemies and from the deep waters.

Ps. 69:13-14 NRSV



As Americans, we live in an increasingly, 'instant' society. Microwaveable bacon is not enough anymore. Now we need pre-cooked bacon, which we just heat up in the microwave – taking the 60 seconds for the 'old way' down to only 15.

So it goes with church. We only have an hour for worship, and we are grumpy if the church on the corner beats us to the deli. We want answers to our prayers, and we want them yesterday – because the Bible says that God "knows what you need before you ask him."

But God is not a microwave, and only through our dim filter does God act in an 'instant.' I am very slowly learning that God's time is not my own. I found this verse today and was comforted by the Psalmist's patience: "At an acceptable time, O God... answer me. This is not our common caveat prayer, "If it be your will" – giving God an automatic pass. Rather, this is a prayer of faith – "in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me."

Let our prayers be so. I pray for us to see the ministry we do through the long, patient, steadfast perspective of God. God, answer us, at an acceptable time.

David Burroughs President, Passport Inc.

Baraka!

Passport Hosts International Staff

Meet Patrick Kamau and Kambua Mutsembe. We first met Patrick and Kambua at camp in Kenya in August 2005. When we invited them to consider a summer stateside with us on staff, they prayerfully accepted.



Patrick Kamau

Passportkids! Kambua jumped in as a Bible study leader on the Wingate, NC team. To say that both of these college-age Kenyans did an outstanding job is an understatement. Sure, there was the adjustment we all anticipated, without really knowing fully what we were asking of them. But consider this...

Consider the courage it takes to accept an invitation to the other side of the world to teach in a language and culture vastly different than your own. Consider eating food you have never seen, living with 20 people you have never

Sam Harrell, CBF missionary and founder of Africa Exchange, spearheaded efforts to help us get them through the diplomatic hoops that stop most dreams like this in their tracks. The result was phenomenally successful! These two courageous people boarded their first plane and flew, via London, to the US. We met them in Atlanta.

Patrick Kamau became the first worship leader for the inaugural summer of

met, teaching children who know nothing about your hometown. Some of our homegrown American staffers have a tough time with the adjustment to camp life, and they are coming from one state away! Both Patrick and Kambua jumped in with both feet. I was and continue to be amazed by their individual capacity to adjust to our strange world of abundance and all-white noise around them. I was inspired constantly and humbled by their gentle spirits and strong faith.

What a gift they were to us this summer. Their presence, their song, their prayers and their laughter enriched both our campers and staffers alike. Thanks to Sam Harrell, for going the distance with the US Embassy in Nairobi. Thanks to the sponsoring churches Fredericksburg Baptist and Colonial Heights Baptist, that helped make their trips possible, and showed them a bit of our world following camp. Thanks to Patrick and Kambua for saying yes to an amazing opportunity to be used by God this summer. Thanks be to God for creating such a beautiful palette of the family of God!

And what about Patrick and Kambua? Well, we will be working alongside them again. They have already agreed to work PASSPORTKenya this summer (Aug 2005). Baraka! (What a Blessing!)

Colleen Burroughs - Executive VP Passport and former missionary kid in Kenya.



Kambua Mutsembe

PASSPORT

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PASSPORT, Inc.
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Colleen Burroughs
Design and Communications

Allan Buron
Youth Editor

Mark McClintock
Children's Editor

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