

THE GLOBE

Spring 2007

News for the Passport World

So, you looking for a pastor?



David Burroughs
President, Passport, Inc.

For fifteen years Passport has supported a woman's God-given right to serve in whatever ministry capacity she felt God calling her to, including the pastorate.

This one sentence has caused some churches not to participate with Passport. One can proof-text certain passages in the Bible and come away thinking a woman should not speak in church. But a fuller reading of those passages in context, as well as the whole Biblical narrative speak of God's view of calling all to ministry, male and female, rich and poor, including the ministry of preaching. This stance of including women as camp pastors has become a hallmark of the way we do ministry. You can look at the vast majority of other independent camping ministries and not find a female as proclaimer.

Our very first camp pastor back

in 1993 was a woman. From our beginning and true through this summer's camps, we have held that **one way we can help more churches become comfortable with the idea of a woman serving as a local church pastor is to model that view in the 'pulpit' of our youth and children's camps.**

I am very excited about the four people who have said yes to preaching at our camps this summer – all of them women! Youth ministers and pastors sometimes call me and ask who will be preaching at our camps this summer. Usually, I can't tell them because they call in the fall before our decisions have been made. But, it doesn't matter, I tell them, because you wouldn't have heard of them anyway. Another of our long-standing hallmarks is student leadership. *Passport doesn't hire named and known speakers and musicians to lead at our camps – we hire seminary and*

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divinity school students who are in training to be ministers. A summer of Passport can give them valuable experience in honing their craft – imagine preaching 5 nights a week for an entire summer!

Let me introduce this summer's pastors:



Klem-Mari

Klem-Mari Cajigas is in her final semester as a Master of Divinity student at *Vanderbilt Divinity School* in Nashville, TN. Klem-Mari worked on the Wingate team last summer as a Bible study leader, and was a spark that returning churches will remember. She is preparing for Ph. D. work, but is looking forward to one more summer on the Passport staff! She will be the inaugural preacher for our new program, *PASSways*.



Philadelphia

Philadelphia Ard is in her second year as a Master of Divinity student at the *McAfee School of Theological Education* in Atlanta, GA. 'Philly' will be preaching on the *PASSPORTkids!* team this summer and will bring with her a mound of creativity and expression that will engage the children in exciting ways. Although new to Passport, we are confident in her abilities and excited about what will happen through her ministry this summer.



Crystal

Crystal Stevens is in her first year as a Master in Theological Studies and Juris Doctoral student at *Candler School of Theology* in Atlanta, GA. Crystal will serve on the *PASSPORT Youth Camping* with a Mission teams first at Mercer University in Macon, GA, then at Dillard University in New Orleans, LA. She brings a diverse background to the camp pastor role, from being a classically trained ballet dancer to her current work as a volunteer for a rape crisis counseling center.



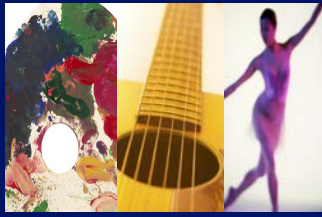
Erin

Erin Spengeman will preach on the Boston team this summer. Erin is a two-year Passport veteran serving on the Wingate teams a couple of years ago and last year serving on the Toronto/New Orleans team. She graduated last year with a Master of Divinity degree from *Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, VA*. This new role of Camp Pastor will fit well with Erin and we are pleased she is returning to work with us again.

Please join us in praying for these women as they prepare for the important role each will fill this summer in ministry with us. As we celebrate our 15th anniversary this year, we are excited at the new ground we are breaking and excited about what God will do!

Everyone likes to make their own decisions, and at **PASSways**
Youth Camp of Choice, choosing what you want to do is what we're all about!

Allan Burton
Youth Programs Coordinator



For the inaugural year of *PASSways*, Youth Camp of Choice, at Wingate University, there are 5 Choices that any camper would find interesting, challenging, and life-changing. But don't take my word for it. Let's take a look at what the different Choices are all about so you can decide for yourself.

Tree Space will be an in-depth look at environmental issues from a Christian perspective. "American Christians are in the habit of tolerating too many things that Jesus wouldn't tolerate," says Andy Watts, the TreeSpace curriculum writer. "Passport has always tried to awaken youth to those habits. I should know. I was fortunate enough to work for Passport for several years. My hope for TreeSpace is that it will awaken *PASSways* campers to the idea that God is not happy with our treatment of the earth. Perhaps, then, they can pay it forward to their churches, their communities, the air, the earth, and the seas." Dr. Andy Watts is Assistant Professor of Religion at Belmont University in Nashville, TN.

Common Threads will help students look for and appreciate what we have in common with people from different cultures, religions and parts of our world. We will be working to counter the "Ugly American" as we seek to interact with all of God's people – from our own neighborhood or from around the world. Lita and Rick Sample have written these sessions. The Samples, who have been a missionary in residence for *PASSPORTkids!*, are part of the Internationals Cluster as Field Personnel for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. About writing for *PASSways*, Lita says, "I couldn't help but be delighted about getting to write for something that was just being birthed by Passport.

God has blessed Passport and what it does for youth and kids so greatly, and now God is giving vision to something new and fresh that will continue the legacy of stirring the hearts of youth in a fresh way. What a blessing!"

The **Echo** Choice is specifically designed for any student who has wondered about ministry, might be considering a vocational ministerial call, or has been called. Richard Vinson admits, "I'm writing for the Echo Choice because of how terrific my experiences were working with youth who were trying to clarify their sense of God's call. I think this is one of the most important things churches do." Dr. Richard Vinson is Professor of New Testament at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, VA.

Faith and the Arts is a study of how faith can, should, and does intersect with art. Come poets, musicians, painters or potters. Artists of all levels will enjoy this experience in hands on artistic creation in various mediums. How can our creativity be used in response to God, the Master Creator? Can the church better embrace the arts? This Choice will explore these questions and more. David McDurham, the Faith in the Arts curriculum writer, is the Minister to Young Adults at the First Baptist Church of Arlington, TX.

The **Missions** Choice is *PASSPORT* as you have known it – but with a new twist. Campers who choose to do Missions will get to choose what kind of missions they participate in – children's programs, construction sites, or ministry with senior adults. The Missions Choice is all about service to others – being the hands of Christ in a local camp community that hopefully translates into each youth's local community.

Building Bridges

Dale Massey - Staff Editor



46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 49 Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” 52 Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way. Mark 10:46-52

The New Revised Standard Version

This particular passage always resonates with me, because it says so much about listening. “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus doesn’t assume he knows what the man desires. He asks him, and he listens.

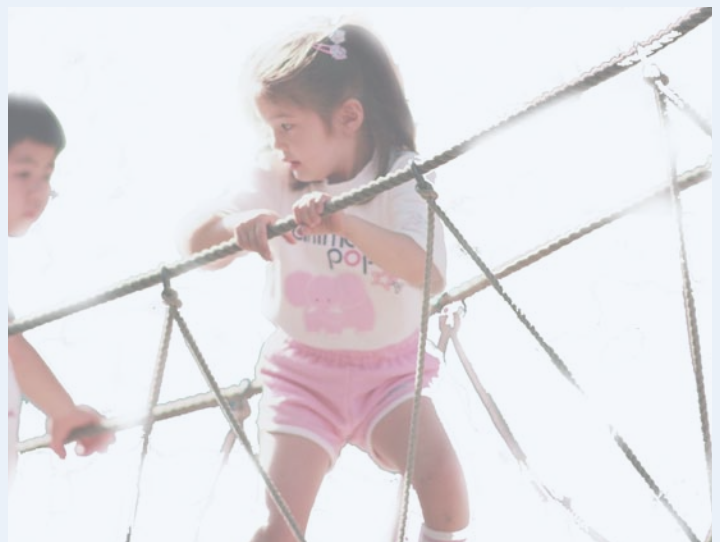
I think we often forget to listen. We just rush in, assuming we know what people want, because it’s what we would want under the same circumstances. Having worked with the blind population in New Orleans, I know that sometimes, for someone who has been blind from birth, to regain eyesight might not be the thing closest to one’s heart in the way it is for someone who had sight and subsequently lost it. For those of us who are sighted it seems so obvious what someone in that circumstance would want. But that’s when we need to take a step back, stop assuming, and listen.

When I was in my mid-twenties, I took a job at a college in the development department. At that time, the development department and the computer department were at war. As the new person, I was appointed to be the liaison between departments. So I served as a bridge between departments,

trying to learn both of their separate “languages.” I heard the frustration of the development people who needed to access information quickly and efficiently, but were unable to do anything without going through the computer department. I also heard the frustration of the computer department, who realistically couldn’t provide the information needed without writing computer code to do it, which always took more time than the development department bargained for. So I interpreted back and forth, building a bridge between these two disparate groups. It all came down to listening, and being able to hear the other person. The two departments at the college had stopped listening, having built up a wall of frustration. I was too new to the job to have built up any walls, and therefore could still listen to both groups. But there have been times in my life when I didn’t listen, because it didn’t seem necessary. **Listening is like a muscle that needs to be worked out. If it’s never used, it atrophies.** We become rigid in our thinking and assumptions about other people. We can’t hear the voice of God calling to us because we already have all the answers.

Recently, I have been taking a writing class in which a person’s work is read aloud during the class. This is very different for me, having always been in classes in which I could see a printed copy of the writing in front of me. It’s made me aware of how difficult it is to listen, to really listen. I have a thousand thoughts running through my head all the time. Yet I have to put aside my personal problems and worries, and truly listen to what is being said. It’s been an amazing exercise for me.

So go build a bridge, with your ears. Listen to what friends, family, total strangers and other cultures have to say. When you are fully present to listen, it’s God’s voice you will hear.





Meet Gerhard

Daniel Ingram
International Team Coordinator

When you meet him, you would never know about Gerhard's Kenyan connection. Born in Virginia, and raised in Hoover, Alabama, Gerhard Mathangani is a college student studying communications and a sports anchor for a local television station. Gerhard's parents, however, are native Kenyans, and moved from Kenya to Washington, D.C. when his father began work with Baptist World Alliance.

Gerhard first learned about Passport through a family friendship. David and Colleen Burroughs, Passport's co-founders, are members of the Mathangani's church in Alabama. One night the Burroughs were visiting with Gerhard's family and they heard about Passport's work. This planted a seed in Gerhard's head that perhaps he might one day work for Passport. Once he chaperoned a group of children from his church to PASSPORTkids! camp, he was hooked. Gerhard interviewed that fall and served in 2005 and 2006 on the PASSPORT Youth Camping with a Mission summer staff.

In 2005, Gerhard was also offered the opportunity to serve on staff of PASSPORTKenya. "It is one of the highest honors for me," remarks Gerhard. "The fact that the trip is so popular among the staffers makes it also humbling for me." The camp experience turned out to be more profound than he could have imagined. Although each encounter was eye-opening, it was interactions with children that he found most intense. "I was able to witness some of the pain and relentless joyous spirit of the children in the orphanage during our day camp," says Gerhard. "That part stuck with me the most."

But this trip proved to be more than just another week at camp. It became a family reunion! Gerhard's parents arranged for about sixty members of his very large family to see him. These are people he hadn't seen since he was nine. "It was truly amazing to see all the people I am related to in the flesh rather than in the stories told by my father and mother," he recalls. "That entire day was one I will never forget."



This summer, Gerhard will again serve with PASSPORTKenya. Gerhard brings more than a broad smile and willing spirit to camp. For Gerhard, he brings a connection and sense of belonging that is rare among us. We are very thankful for his passion towards this unique ministry. And that feeling is reciprocal, as Gerhard explains, "I appreciate the loving relationship I have had with Passport in the last two years, and this year's trip will further our bond."



This summer will mark the third PASSPORTKenya. Passport partners with CBF Missionary Sam Harrell (AFRICA EXCHANGE) to produce a camp for both Kenyan and U.S. students. Each year, Passport alternates between two international camps: PASSPORTKenya and PASSPORTCanada. For information on how you may involve your youth in either of these special camps, please visit our website: www.passportcamps.org.

Crossing Borders

Mark McClintock
Coordinator, PASSPORT*kids!*



Here in the United States,

immigration policy is a hot topic as hundreds of men, women and children daily cross our border with Mexico. Many come seeking employment and opportunity denied them in their home countries. Now we struggle to determine how to accommodate them—or not. Meanwhile, far on the other side of the globe, the government of Thailand faces a similar situation. Their neighbor to the north, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) has been war-torn for decades. Caught in the crossfire, several tribes fled into the rocky, inhospitable mountains of northern Thailand.

Like our own Hispanic and Latino immigrants, some of the Burmese refugees were detained and imprisoned. Eventually, the Thai king granted them amnesty and access to a small amount of land. They were once known as the Rock People, and now are called Hilltribes. The names the tribes give themselves are varied—Palaung, Karen, Lisu, Lahu. They are among the poorest of the poor, isolated by language and citizenship barriers in a geographic area that lacks adequate space, irrigation, and other resources, far from trading centers, and continually encroached upon by private industries.

PASSPORT*kids!* campers have been learning over the past three years to pay attention to those on the fringes of society. The children have “traveled” to a Romany fair, a Balinese festival, and a Kenyan village market. This year, they will go to a region far off the usual tourist path and encounter these little-known people in the Hilltribes. Rick and Ellen Burnette

have been there for nearly thirteen years, building a bridge between the Hilltribes, the citizens of Thailand, and Christians in the United States. Field personnel appointed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), the Burnettes established the Uplands Holistic Development Project (UHDP). An agricultural training center, citizenship advocacy, and construction of water systems are among the services UHDP provides.

The 2007 PASSPORT*kids!* missions offering will support a UHDP project called “Helping Others Help Themselves.” When Jesus healed, fed, taught, and forgave people, he set them on a path of redemption and renewed relationship with God. For example, the parable of the talents, the visit to Zacchaeus, and the exhortation to the Gerasene demoniac to share the grace of God with family and friends all emphasize the responsibility of individuals to invest God’s free gifts in good works that benefit others. The PASSPORT*kids!* funds will offer start-up money for Hilltribe women and men to launch micro-

businesses, which in turn will provide their people a self-sustaining income. Micro-businesses include the raising of livestock in small areas (including chickens, pigs, and catfish), agroforestry (planting a mixture of crops that can grow together in forestland insuring the success of some crop types even if others fail to thrive), and handicrafts for sale in the Thai tourism industry. UHDP empowers the villages to use the money responsibly, maintain accountability, and share their resources. In this way, we will carry on the ministry of Christ—offering not a hand-out, but a hand up.

Our campers enjoy building bridges in far-away places like Thailand. And in doing so, they are learning to build bridges with people—like our Spanish-speaking neighbors—here in our own communities.



(left) Camp staff goofing off following last summer's themed dance party



"I had never realized how a staffer's day never really slows down, or how much prep work goes into making camp happen. I now have a much greater appreciation for all the work the staffers put into making camp happen," says Sam Chinn, a freshman at Georgetown College.

"I had never realized how a staffer's day never really slows down, or how much prep work goes into making camp happen. I now have a much greater appreciation for all the work the staffers put into making camp happen," says Sam Chinn, a freshman at Georgetown College.

Sam Chinn and Ricky Atkins, a freshman at Palm Beach Atlantic University, were part of a new program PASSPORT introduced in 2006 called Senior Summer Intern, (SSI), which gives recent High School graduates the opportunity to spend a summer working alongside college and seminary students in ministry and service while gaining leadership training.

These High School graduates are an integral part of the summer staff as they are given many responsibilities within the different camp programs that enrich the daily life of camp. The SSI program consists of a working Covenant between the SSI, his/her home church and the ministry of PASSPORT. It is PASSPORT's desire to provide a positive, Christ-centered training experience for future leaders in a fun environment. SSI's are expected to be self-motivated and willing to work hard with little to no supervision. While the job is hard work, it is also very rewarding. Sam says he "learned how to experience God in worship while providing an atmosphere of worship for others. The idea that our life should serve as a means of worshipping God helped when the preparations for worship would distract me. What I learned about when, where and how I can worship has helped dramatically since I've come to college and been so busy." The experience also helped prepare

Ricky for college in meeting new people, working hard, getting very little sleep and in discovering that sometimes it's all right to act crazy. "In college you can become bogged down with work so much that you just want to scream, but if you make a little time for your friends you can help each other get through any issues or problems you may be having." Ricky and Sam both say the experience helped reinforce the importance of daily communication with God.

Passport's Senior Summer Intern program has already proven to be an invaluable experience for Sam and Ricky. We hope the same is true for the four students who will be this year's SSI's:

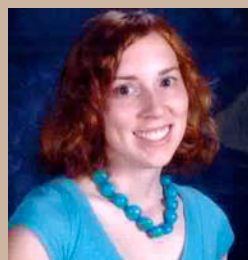
2007 SSI's



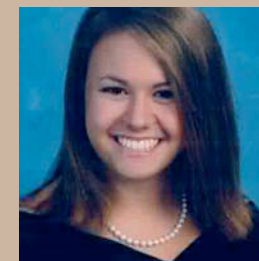
Sara Hunt
Bayshore Baptist Church
Tampa, FL



(L) Michele Williams
First Baptist Church
Cocoa, FL



Christine Standahl
Franklin Baptist Church
Franklin, VA



Shealy Browder
Trinity Baptist Church
Cordova, TN

These four young women are all very excited about serving on the Passways team at Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina. Christine says, "PASSPORT has meant so much to me over the past four years and to have the chance to be a part of it and give back to other campers will be amazing." If you know of someone who will be a High School senior this year and think they might be a good fit for the Senior Summer Intern program, log on to our website at www.passportcamps.org to download an application.

Passport Board Votes to Adopt the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

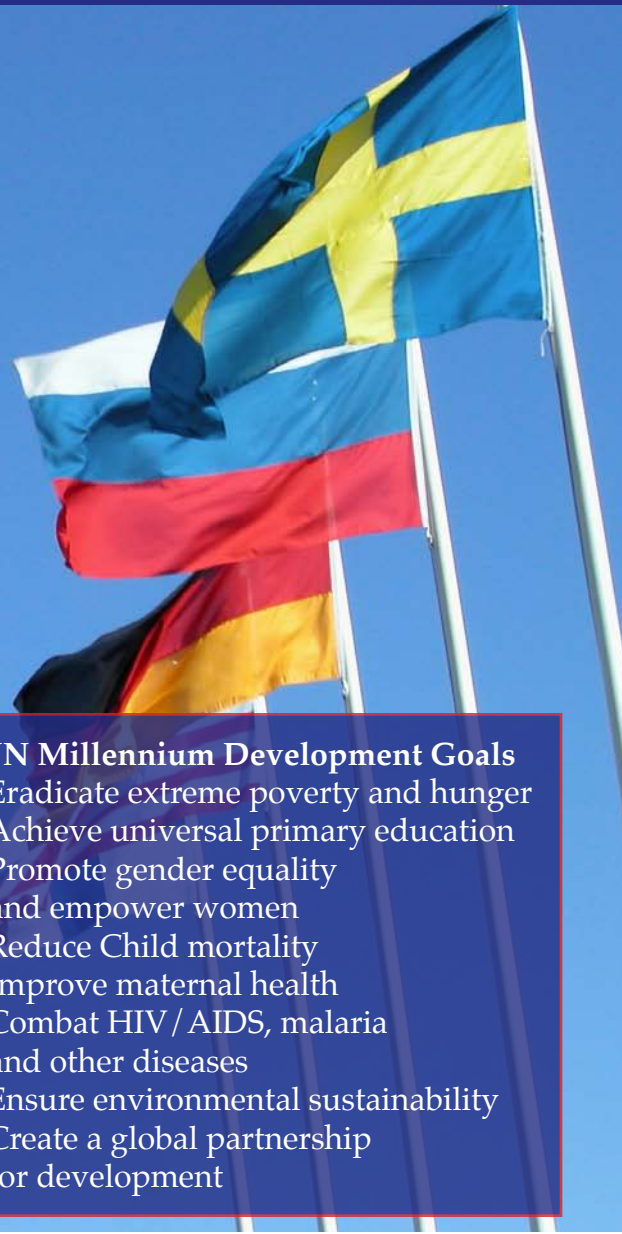
In the Fall of 2006 Passport's Board and Board of Advisors voted to continue efforts in Africa related to long term solutions to poverty and drought through the new initiative Watering Malawi. Another step towards that effort is the official endorsement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.*

Watering Malawi is one of the ways which Passport, Inc. chooses to participate with the world in this focused effort. Other organizations that have adopted these goals include The United Methodist Church, the Evangelical Lutherans (ELCA), The Presbyterian Church (USA), The Episcopal Church, American Baptists, The Mennonite Central Committee, The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia and others.

For more information on the the MDG's or ways you can participate visit:

* <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
<http://www.wateringmalawi.org/>



The UN Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2:** Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4:** Reduce Child mortality
- Goal 5:** Improve maternal health
- Goal 6:** Combat HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7:** Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8:** Create a global partnership for development

The GLOBE

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PASSPORT

Empowering Students, Embracing the World, Extending Grace

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