

# THE GLOBE

Winter 2009

News for the Passport World



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## Watering Malawi *Goes to Washington*

by Colleen Burroughs

**“What do you say when you meet an Ambassador?”**

“Why do you meet with an ambassador to begin with?” “Why would an ambassador want to meet with us?” These are the questions I asked myself as we prepared to meet Her Excellency Hawa O. Ndilowe, Ambassador representative to the United States from Malawi.

Two women and a Passport camper from Fredericksburg, VA, joined me in Washington, D.C., to sit down and talk about the progress of water projects in Malawi. We were mainly interested in knowing if the work we were doing was in line with the long-range, larger-scale work of the Malawian government. The good news is that it is!

We heard that grassroots commitment, buy-in, involvement and ownership are paramount to the success of water projects in this land of subsistent farmers. Meeting with district officials, empowering local women to sit in on decision-making water committees,



and respecting the direction and wisdom of local leaders to determine placement and management of the water initiatives all equals greater long-term impact.

**It was good to hear that the grassroots is the right place to begin. Our investments have been well placed!**

The Ambassador was gracious with her time and clearly communicated to us Malawi’s strategies for, among many things, improving food security and water accessibility.

The conversation took a wonderfully energetic turn when the

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ambassador asked Maren Helfrich, a 15-year-old Passport camper, what her interest was in Watering Malawi. "Well," she said, "I am going to raise a million dollars by Easter." This raised eyebrows. Of course, it did! Maren spoke about the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and how she believed that providing access to water was a way to help meet those goals in Malawi. Ambassador Ndilowe was glad Maren knew about the goals.

"So," the first secretary asked, "the money for Watering Malawi comes from Fredericksburg, Virginia?" "Some of it does," I answered, explaining that there are literally thousands of teenagers around the country raising money for water projects in Malawi. "And," we said, "many of them want to travel there."

Freeze frame. I have been asked multiple times by eager students when they can go to Malawi. My answer has been this, "Can you build a well?" "Nope," they would reply. "Me neither." I have long wanted to show this beautiful land to the students who have invested in her. The land is beautiful, Malawi's people are kind and generous, and we have much to learn together. But I have not been able to come up with a viable reason that justified the airfare. Three people traveling to Malawi would be the sum total of one deep bore hole well for hundreds of families. It's hard to justify the expense.

Until now.

**After a conversation with the Ambassador and her staff, we will be pursuing the reality of PASSPORTMalawi in 2010.**

It will be an out-of-the box, cross-cultural experience related to clean water and the Living Water. The government of Malawi is happy about both of those things! In fact, our meeting celebrated the reality of boosting tourism through student travel and cross-cultural interaction with Malawian students. Not only did the Ambassador's office celebrate it; they offered to help!



*Maren Helfrich is a student from Fredericksburg, VA. Colleen shared the story of the t-shirt bracelets and the Ambassador graciously put one on!*

So, stay tuned. We have some work to do. Pray for Maren who has set a high goal for herself in Virginia. Pray for our office as we work with the Ambassador's office on this project. Continue following God's call on your life to water the world in whatever way is best for you. Pencil in a trip to Malawi in a year or two!

We remain grateful for the Ambassador's time. She is very busy. And I am still continually amazed, though not at all surprised, at the vision of teenagers to creatively impact the world in the name of Christ.

# Finding a home as a minister under forty.

by Jen Van Camp



**When I worked my first summer of camp in 2001**, I had barely heard of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and knew basically nothing about who they were.

Over the course of working three summers for Passport, I was introduced to many youth, church leaders, and camp staffers who were involved with this movement and who taught me what it is to be the diverse family of God. Through the encouragement and wise counsel of dear friends, I eventually transferred to Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, a CBF partner school, and began to see that I just might find a place within the Fellowship.

Being a woman pursuing a career in ministry and someone who was more than a little disillusioned by current trends and politics in Baptist life, the traditional Baptist principles this movement stands for really resonated with me. I have now found a home and a place where I feel I can use my gifts, specifically within Current, the Fellowship's young leaders network.

Now in my second year of serving on the Current Steering Committee, I love interacting with young Baptist leaders from all over the country and working to plug them into the larger family of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Current's yearly retreat is one of the highlights of my year — providing an opportunity to see old friends, meet new friends, enjoy meaningful times of worship and learning, and make great connections with various CBF ministries. Oh, and did I mention it's really fun?

Thank you, Passport, for opening up this whole new world to me — I will forever be grateful.

Jen Van Camp, *Youth Pastor, Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church, San Francisco, California.*



The annual CBF Current retreat for young leaders (under age 40) will be held

**February 23-25, 2009**

**at College Park Baptist Church  
in Orlando, Florida.**

Join with other young Baptist ministers, leaders and seminary students for fellowship, networking, worship and dialogue with

**Brian McLaren.**





# Waiting...

by Daniel Ingram

Recently, in a discussion among friends, we were talking about the season of Advent as a season of waiting. We began listing all of the things that we wait for, and the different ways that these things affect us. So here is a bit from my list:

I wait in line...a lot. In fact, at the grocery store, I get in line and then look down the other aisles and mark the wisdom of my line-picking based on who around me can get to the check-out clerk first.

Sometimes I wait in line at amusement parks, football games, concerts, and movie theaters, inevitably to wait in line again for something else inside.

I wait for the TV shows that I really want to watch by watching TV shows that I don't really want to watch.

I wait for responses to voicemails, text messages and emails.

I wait for vacations that give me cause to break from routine, and I wait for celebrations that mark milestones in the lives of those whom I love.

I wait at red lights. Then when the light turns green, I wait just a little longer for the two cars that will inevitably run the red light in the other direction.

I wait for every new word, action and moment that marks my daughter's independence. In this case, I also lament the passage of time.

I wait to see all of the other children and youth in my life grow, and to meet the people that they are becoming.

I have waited alongside those who are bringing new life into the world, and I've waited alongside those who are waiting to die.



I wait for a fair and thriving economy.

I wait for an end to global poverty and hunger. I wait for the cessation of my feeling of culpability in it.

I wait, I wait, and I wait.

As this last Advent season has now come and gone, I waited again on the miracle of the in-breaking power of God in this world. I wasn't really sure what a new season would bring in my life. How would I hope to meet Jesus? I hoped that it would be the most natural and comfortable embrace - like meeting an old friend. But I sensed that Jesus could come into my heart like he did the Jerusalem temple and turn the tables of my own expectations. Even so, perhaps I can find new levels of grace that I may have never known before.

So, in this new year, as you choose your steps and follow Christ, what are you waiting for?

Daniel Ingram is a Passport Coordinator for special events in the National Office in Birmingham, AL.





# So...how's that student ministry budget holding up ?

By David Haun

## Money, Money, Money... Money.

That seems to be on everyone's mind this year. I know it's on mine. Not only for my life but also in my youth ministry.



As I look into planning my 2009 calendar of youth events, I am excited about all the things we do — from mission projects, to sporting events, to trips, to amusement park visits, to collecting money/resources for those in need. In today's financial world, as I plan, I am more than ever aware of the need to consider getting the most "bang for the buck," and I constantly ask myself, "What activities, studies and mission ministries will have the most lifelong meaning for the young people involved in our youth ministry? Are we spending more time focusing on the context rather than the content?"

Don't get me wrong. I really love the "fun" trips to ball games, the beach and ski resorts. These trips do bring youth together. But are we filling our calendar with these events and forgoing some of the more

meaningful trips — those trips that will change our youth's lives forever? As I have begun planning for 2009 (as many of you have or will soon), I find myself struggling with this tension — providing "fun stuff" (which can be a great point of entry for new youth) and making sure I really push the life-changing events.

2009 brings with it Faith in 3D and, of course, Passport. Both have a cost, like all things do. I find myself looking once again deep into the content vs. context of my youth calendar. Am I creating a calendar that will allow youth to attend these life-changing experiences? Or am I filling the calendar with a lot of costly, just-for-fun events? **It's time to trim the calendars, people. How are we investing in our youth's lives? How are we encouraging their parents to invest in their lives?**

*David Haun is the Youth and College Minister at Fredericksburg Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia and currently serves on the Passport Advisory Committee*

## Children's Advisory Council

### **Nancy Akins**

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### **Susan Reed**

*Broadway Baptist Church  
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### **Brandon Strozier**

*First Baptist Church  
Columbus, GA*

## Passport Advisory Committee



*Italics Indicates Passport staff*

From the left: Sharon Hay, *David Burroughs,\** David Haun, Nathan Hanson,\* Carolyn Anderson,\* Grace Powell-Freeman,\* J. Lee Hill, Sonyia Elder, Dale Massey, Eric Gillaspie, Mark McClintock, Front row: *Marnie Fisher-Ingram, Colleen Burroughs.\** Not shown James Bush\*

\* Indicates Founding Board Member, Passport, Inc.

**A**t our annual Fall meeting in Birmingham, the **Passport Advisory Committee** listens to annual reports on budget and programming, debates current trends, offers needed perspective and advice. Passport's national office values conversation with ministry professionals as we all seek to invest in students' lives together. Thank you for the time and energy you give! We are grateful for you.

We are also grateful to our **Children and Youth Advisory Councils** who meet with us quarterly by conference call. Your input into our programming is invaluable. We appreciate your investment in young lives by contributing to our programs.

The following page is a list of ways these advisors have suggested others might wish to be involved on a deeper level with Passport, Inc.

# Creative ways to volunteer, some without even leaving home!

For more information about any of the following opportunities contact [info@passportcamps.org](mailto:info@passportcamps.org)

GoodSearch



- 1 Use *GoodSearch.com* as a search engine.**  
Every little penny helps these days. Projections for non-profits in our current economy suggest many will go out of business. By joining nationally with other Passport student groups making this web browser your home and designating your GoodSearch donation to Passport, you will help our bottom line exponentially! Thanks.
- 2 Host an international Passport staffer**  
Last summer we had two students from Liberia on our summer teams. It was a rich investment on every level to be able to host them. Not only were they valuable additions to our teams, but by working a summer they earned college scholarships to finish school in Liberia. They also enjoyed visiting host churches at the end of the summer before returning home.
- 3 Book group travel @ [ybttravel.com/passportinc](http://ybttravel.com/passportinc)**  
Yep, that's right. We book a lot of tickets for staff travel in the summer. So we have a travel site link. If you don't, then consider booking your next group travel event here. You will get where you are going and at no extra cost to you, Passport will earn some travel bucks for summer staff travel.
- 4 Provide a meal for Program Director's Meeting**  
Training is hard work, and we pack a lot into these weekends. Leaving to sit and wait for food can take up hours of time over a four day period. So some churches have begun sponsoring a meal. It's a perk for their students and a ministry to our summer leadership. For more info call David at the Passport office.
- 5 Scholarship a Refugee**  
More and more the world is at our doorstep. Many churches in our network have been inundated with refugees from around the world. They would love to come to camp but sometimes it's hard to absorb the financial cost of the multitude. If your student group would like to scholarship someone new to the United States who has never had the opportunity to come to summer camp, we can help you know how to give that gift.
- 6 Volunteer at camp this summer.**  
Ever wish you could be on a Passport staff but missed the window to spend a summer? Well, we can always use extra hands at camp. Feel free to let us know if you would like to volunteer for a leadership job during your week of camp this summer.
- 7 Volunteer as a video/photojournalist in Malawi: April**  
Ok. So this one involves getting up out of your easy chair. But if you have the skills we could use some help documenting the story. Write us at [info@wateringmalawi.org](mailto:info@wateringmalawi.org).

# Here I am. Send me.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"  
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" *Isaiah 6:8*

Often when I read this verse, I feel like Moses when he was being called to lead the Israelites out of Egypt - "NOT ME! I am not good enough! I cannot really make that big a difference!" The truth is that God asks us to GO in many different ways. He has called me to change the next generation by helping them know Jesus and become more like Him everyday. This is one reason why we choose to bring our group to Passport each year. The children have the opportunity to experience God's movement around the world and see how God loves His people everywhere.

Should this encounter with Christ be limited to only the children in our congregations or is God calling us to GO invite others in our community? God has convicted me that

Passport should be for everyone and that we should be the catalyst for others to join us. This year, I plan to move outside my comfort zone - I am going to GO and invite other churches in our local association to come to Passport with our group. I will give them a personal invitation to connect with Christ in a theologically safe way that changes the lives and hearts of everyone who attend.

There is no better way than a personal invitation to enlarge the Kingdom of Christ. Is it not worth our time and discomfort to GO to others and share the experience of a lifetime? We are going anyway; why not help fill the beds at our week of camp and change the hearts of the next generation in the process? "Here am I. Send me!" Will you join me and GO with the invitation of a lifetime?

*Eric Gillaspie is the Children's Minister at Alice Drive Baptist Church in Sumter, SC and serves on the Passport Advisory Committee.*



## The GLOBE

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# PASSPORT

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