

THE GLOBE

Fall 2004

News for the Passport World



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Meet the Advisors

Passport expands the Advisory Board



Passport started in the basement of a seminary apartment. Two hundred campers grew into a few thousand campers within a few short years. A summer team of 15 friends, grew into four trained teams each carrying around a carefully thought out policy and procedure manual.

Passport was founded by four best friends who quickly realized the need for perspective wider and broader than the wisdom of three seminarians and a saxophone player. To that end an Advisory Committee was born. It included national leadership and youth ministers from varied denominations. The Advisory Committee's purpose was simply that: to advise Passport on matters of business, policy and vision.

As Passport has grown, the role of this committee has expanded. There is now an Advisory Board, made up of the original founders and original underwriters. They are the people in the 3-D glasses (not shown Colleen Burroughs) and are listed on page 3. The Board of

Advisors has a voting power over every facet of the ministry including personnel positions. Add to that the six other names and you will have the expanded Advisory Committee.

"We need accountability and counsel from people who know what they are talking about." Says David Burroughs President of Passport. "We need the perspective of the ministers who bring students to camp and the financial and legal advice from professionals in the field. When I have question, I want to turn to people who are committed to the integrity and the future of this organization. This room of people offer peace of mind to me personally, and a sense of accountability. People want to know we are who we say we are - a non-profit ministry dedicated to quality programming and theological integrity."

The Passport Advisory Board and Committee meet annually at the Passport Administrative offices in Birmingham, Alabama.



The Pre-Teen Child

by Janice Haywood

The nine, ten, or eleven-year-old child seems to grow up quickly, but many opportunities occur during this time to prepare him or her for adolescence. Because they are exposed to so many things earlier than previous generations, the older child seems mentally (and sometimes physically) quite “grown up,” but we must remember that they are still emotionally and socially immature. Rather than pushing them into adolescence before they are ready, we need to intentionally prepare them for those difficult years.

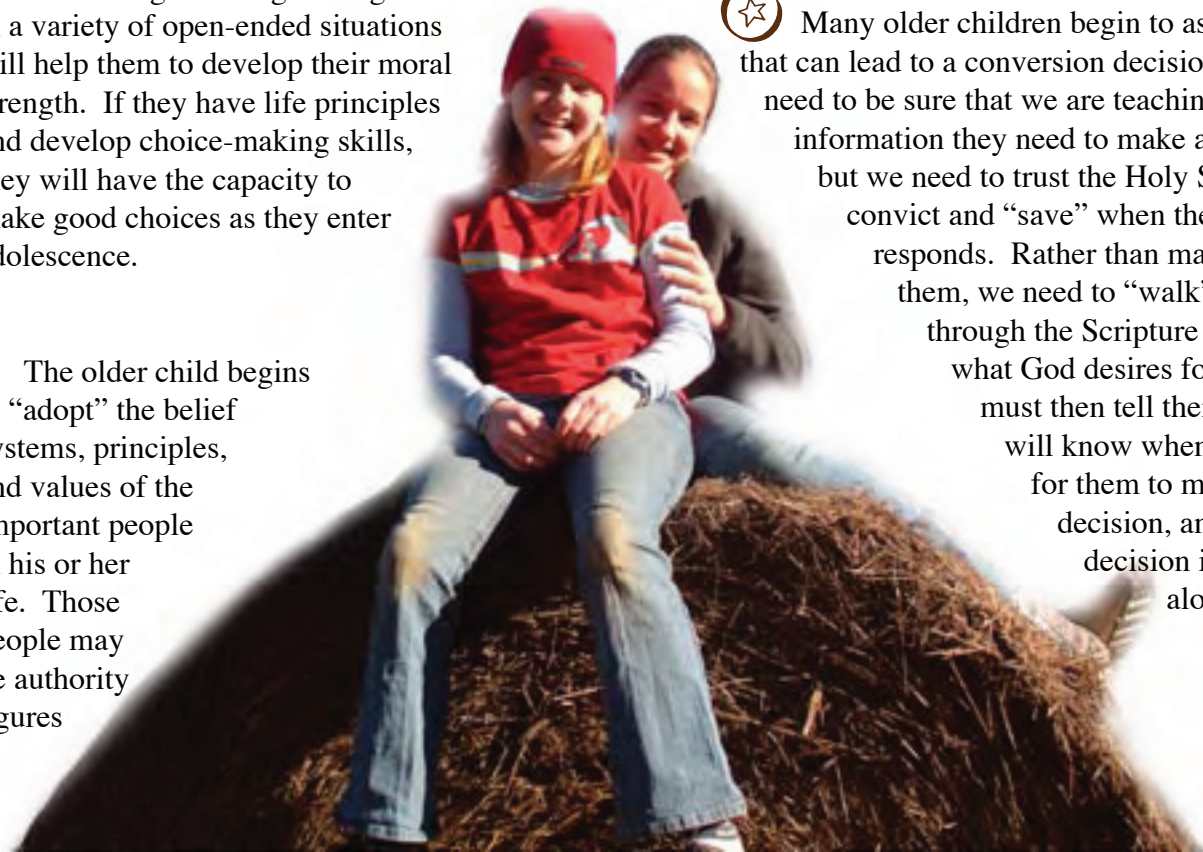
such as teachers, coaches, and parents, or they may be their peers or primary social group. While they may express a desire to be with their own age group, they also need to be with the larger church family on a regular basis. A church family that embraces older children assists them in their “adoption.” This is a crucial step in preparation for conversion, when a person accepts Christ and is born into the family.

With increasing freedom, they will be confronted with more choices. Peer pressure also escalates during this age, so they need to be taught and encouraged to make good choices in the midst of pressure to make poor choices. They are clarifying what is right and wrong, good and evil. Instead of indoctrinating them with “pat answers,” we need to be arming them with Biblical principles. Instead of giving them responses to specific situations, we need to be helping them to be critical thinkers who can apply those principles to whatever choice confronts them. Teaching them to think through the “right thing to do” in a variety of open-ended situations will help them to develop their moral strength. If they have life principles and develop choice-making skills, they will have the capacity to make good choices as they enter adolescence.

Television and other media have a profound influence on all ages of children, but especially during this age, they need to be able to discern the difference between the values of the media and God’s values, between consumerism and stewardship. Our example is a powerful tool, but we also can help them to diagnose advertisements (many appealing to our human nature), television shows (that they may see when visiting friends even if they are banned at home), music, and electronic games (especially the ones that are violent).

Many older children begin to ask questions that can lead to a conversion decision. We need to be sure that we are teaching them the information they need to make a decision, but we need to trust the Holy Spirit to convict and “save” when the child responds. Rather than manipulating them, we need to “walk” them through the Scripture and explain what God desires for them. We must then tell them that they will know when it is time for them to make this decision, and that the decision is their’s alone.

The older child begins to “adopt” the belief systems, principles, and values of the important people in his or her life. Those people may be authority figures



FOLLOWING THE STAR

What do Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Catholics, Methodists, Disciples of Christ and Lutherans have in common? Sounds like the beginning of a bad joke, doesn't it. Here at Passport, it's the beginning of our praise report. It's our praise report about a little online Advent devotional that is making a big impact in our world.

In the first three days the site was open, Following the Star had 6,479 visitors, representing almost every major denomination, coming from six continents and 58 countries. We're still hoping someone in Antarctica finds us on Google. Let's peek behind the scenes. I want to show you what our online statistics are telling us about Following the Star.

At the time of writing, it is Wednesday, Day 4 – 12:46 pm, Central time zone. As I write I can look behind the scenes and see there are 102 people participating in today's devotional this very second. They are from Kentucky, Japan, Colorado, France, Texas, the UK, Germany, Virginia, China... the list goes on. The people online at 12:46 pm come from 21 states and 11 foreign countries to read the same devotion – a devotion about hope. As people find us through search engines or hear about the site from friends, prayers from around the world make their way to our email inboxes in Birmingham.

This year as I send out my Christmas cards with wishes for peace on earth, I think I'll be more hopeful. I'll choose to remember the lesson of those first wise followers who searched for the Christ child under the light of a star. I'll be more hopeful knowing that this year I am not searching alone.



Passport Board of Directors:

David Burroughs

Chair, Board of Directors

President, Passport, Inc. - Alabama

Colleen Burroughs

Executive Vice President, Board of Directors

Executive Vice President, Passport, Inc. - Alabama

James Bush

Chair, Advisory Committee

Vice President, Passport, Inc. - Pastor - Kansas

Nathan Hanson

Treasurer, Board of Directors

Professional musician; public school teacher

- New Jersey

Grace Powell Freeman

Recording Secretary, Board of Directors

Assoc. Coordinator for Missions Operations CBF - Georgia

Carolyn Anderson

Member, Board of Directors

Coordinator, FL CBF - Florida

Passport Advisory Committee:

(alphabetically)

Steve Benfield

Managing Director, RBC Capital Markets - New York

Allison Dearing

Attorney - Alabama

Scott Ford

Youth Minister - former summer staffer - Georgia

Horace Hambrick

Physician - camper and staffer parent - Kentucky

Courtney Jones

Children's Minister - Tennessee

Chris Lasseter

Youth Minister - Alabama

Phillip Moody

Children's Minister - Tennessee

Melissa Scott

Youth Minister - Virginia





Ms Suzi!

The next time you're in Monroe, North Carolina, take a turn off the main drag onto Walkup Avenue. Drive about four miles and turn left into the Willow Oaks housing project. Welcome to the world of Ms. Suzi!

Suzi Rogers has been the Director of the YWCA Youth Center and Project Reach One, the summer camp there, for six years. Most who know her would say that Ms. Suzi is one of a kind. Not only does she work with children at the Y, she also opened a home last year, called Eagles Nest, for displaced inner city kids.

Her efforts haven't gone unnoticed. The Union County Chamber of Commerce recently named Ms. Suzi Union County Woman of the Year!

Diana Farrell was PASSPORT's Bible Study Leader who worked at Project Reach One this past summer. A little scared at first, Diana felt accepted after two weeks when she showed up with her group and was "tackled like a celebrity!"

Ms. Suzi helped in that process of course. With gentleness and wisdom, she became a mentor for Diana, who is thinking that ministry in an urban setting might be her calling.

Diana's favorite memory from the summer? One day an overly sensitive smoke alarm went off in the building. Diana grabbed a broom and began to fan the detector, to get it to stop, just like she had seen others do who work there. Ms. Suzi took her arm and said with a smile, "Now, sister, you're family!"

With over one hundred children involved in the summer camp, the small YWCA building quickly becomes full each day. (There's no more than seven hundred square feet of usable area.) With very limited space outside as well, a Director has to be creative – and respected.

Diana says the children give Ms. Suzi that kind of "motherly" respect. Anyone who sees Ms. Suzi interact with the children would agree.

Walt Windley, Mission Project Coordinator for Wingate Team in '04, recently wrote:

One of the greatest attributes about the YWCA is the kids know it is a safe and loving place. This past summer the neighborhood was torn apart by a case of rape and abuse. Ms. Suzi and Diana offered a place where children could talk freely and openly. In a neighborhood that has known very little good, "PASSPORT Pals" as they call it, has created a vivacious atmosphere of laughter and love.

Ms. Suzi says the PASSPORT Pals were an answer to prayer. "There's no way that two workers and the volunteers could do all that needs to be done. The PASSPORT Pals give one on one attention and positive reinforcement, that the children are viable and God has a plan for them." There's a lot of negative in the neighborhood, she reports, but the children count off the days until the PASSPORT Pals will come back. They say that's when "Ms. Suzi's family comes home for vacation!"

The neighborhood kids are amazed that the PASSPORT kids come to their neighborhood. Ms. Suzi says they ask, "Why did you come here? We don't have a pool, it's hot, and crowded. The answer they receive, she says, is "Because you are here."

And, we might add, because Ms. Suzi is there.

Nick Foster, Summer Team Coordinator and Director of The Samuel Project





The Value of Going

Melissa Browning

It all started when he asked me why I was going. I had a million good reasons – there was need – poverty, homelessness, hunger – and I thought I had something to give. Why not send money, he asked. He reminded me I could stay right there, never leave, save the money from my plane ticket to Kenya and send it instead to buy food or pay a kid's school fees. It was a practical concern, but my bags were already packed. I knew God had asked me to go.

There's something about going that gets down deep inside our souls. You could listen to a thousand missionaries speak from pulpits but you never truly hear them until you pack your own bags, until you decide to get your own hands dirty. When you go, you choose to see the world through another person's eyes, you choose to walk in someone else's shoes. And somewhere along the way you discover how to be the hands and feet of Christ.

When your students are ready to pack their bags, Mission Exchange is ready to help your group get there. Mission Exchange (MX) provides missions placement and training materials for student groups wanting to organize a mission trip. The program is the result of a partnership between Passport and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. This service is offered to groups at no charge. MX places student groups in mission sites across the U.S. and even internationally. This year

groups who serve through MX will be leading day camps, working in food banks, singing, leading worship, doing construction, working with internationals, tutoring and finding other creative ways to give of themselves.

One of Passport's values is to foster a love of missions in youth and children through mission education and mission action. I recently talked to a youth pastor whose youth group came home from PASSPORT this summer and decided that their youth programming this year should be "youth group – PASSPORT style." They've been spending Wednesday nights visiting nursing homes and looking for ways to help out in their community. Their "going" got deep inside their souls and captured their hearts. Mission Exchange has a goal of helping student groups who are ready to go. We hope the spirit of mission fostered at PASSPORT will cause youth groups to plan and organize their own mission action projects.

There's something about going – down the street or across the ocean – the good news of the gospel asks us to pack our bags. Scripture begs us to step out of our comfort zones and catch a plane, board a bus, or get in our cars and go. At Christmas we remember the story of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. God came. And because God came, we know we must go.

FUNDRAISING

Putting Feet to Our Ministry Programs

Allan Burton

So, you've decided on your big expensive youth trip for the coming year...now what do you do? Fundraise! Though this may be a dreaded word or idea for some, with the right process (and it is a process), I think it can be a successful, fun (yes I said fun) series of projects that will culminate in an even more successful youth trip or retreat.

The following are some tips that will help you in your Fundraising process, and hopefully give you a few ideas as well:

\$ Don't try to collect all your funds with one event. Your youth will be more committed to the trip for which you are raising money if they participate in a series of fundraising events that they have to be committed to along the way. However, if you need a big event to raise a sizeable portion of your funds, here are a couple of good ones:

A church-wide or community Golf Tournament

A Golf Tournament is an event that provides an opportunity that golfers are going to do anyway, so they might as well do it with your church. The key is to obtain community donations for the event for prizes, food and sponsorships. Use the resources in your community.

A Yard Sale

The key to a successful yard sale is to collect for the sale all year long, and to not turn down any item. In fact, look for the odd items like a car, or an old pipe organ. To do this you need space to store all the collected items, and a successful yard sale will need lots of space!

\$ Make sure the youth are as involved in the process as you are. Commitment to a trip begins with the planning and fundraising. Make it a rule that the youth going on the trip have to participate in the fundraising, and then make the fundraising fun for them. So don't just do a car wash, make it a well advertised dueling car wash at two (or three) busy intersections in the community with a

competition to see which location can raise the most money.

\$ Make use of events that are already planned at your church, like the church picnic, and resources that are easily accessible, like a farmer's field. The church members are already going to be there, so doubling up will save them another event on their calendar. Here is an example: Cow-Pie Bingo is a lot of fun. Basically, you make a grid out of part of a field and sell the grid squares to individuals. Then, the only thing left to do is let a well-fed cow loose in that portion of the field and wait to see which grid she make a deposit in, therefore identifying the winner.

\$ Make use of tradition. Youth love traditional events, so have a fundraising event that the youth get excited about every year. My church does a talent show where supper is provided and donations are accepted. You can also have an event that is active for the entire year, or a period of the year. A good example of this type of event is *You've Been Flocked*, where a church member pays the youth to secretly (at night is fun) put 75-100 plastic, gaudy, pink flamingos in another person's yard, who then must pay to have them removed. Then, they get to name the next lucky recipient.

\$ When accepting donations, provide written, suggested amounts that are specific to the trip for which you are raising money: \$50 = a tank of gas, \$250 = a program fee for one youth, \$25 = supplies for Bible study, etc.

Providing the funds to do the events that are important to your youth program is as important as the events themselves, and I hope these suggestions will aid you in your efforts. Happy Fundraising!

Allan Burton , Summer Team Coordinator, Passport, Inc.

So, What do you do the rest of the Year?

Many of you ask, “Summer camp, right? So, what do you do the rest of the year?” Well, one of our main tasks for the Fall and Winter is to recruit over 200 students. Of those 200, we hire around 75 to work on a summer staff. During October and November we visit almost 30 colleges and seminaries to find just the right individuals to minister to your youth and children during the summer. In December and January, we read applications, call references, and hire four teams.

So, what do we look for in a Passport staffer? We look for a well-rounded Christian student or young professional who is organized and has experience working with youth or kids. Being a Christian is not an assumption when conducting an interview. Camp staff must have a strong and growing faith in Jesus Christ. Flexibility is also high on the chart, since anything can happen at camp...and usually does. A confident person with a world-view is also important. We are looking for individuals that will represent the diversity of the churches that attend camp,

ecumenically, ethnically and culturally. Finally, there is always that “X-factor” that puts individuals on the top of our list – that “you’ll know it when you see it” quality that enables someone to stand out above the rest – that picture of God in a person that shines through.

Please pray for us this hiring season as God leads us toward the staffers who are called to minister to your youth and children this summer.

Summer staffers:
Susan Reed,
Beth Riddick,
Elizabeth Evans and
Passport Coordinators
Nick Foster, Mark
McClintock clowning
around at Program
Staff spring training.



In April of 2001 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) warned that 15-passenger vans present a higher rollover risk when full loaded. The rollover risk increases when the vans were loaded with 10 or more passengers and should be driven only by trained, experienced drivers.

In the ensuing months and years since this initial warning churches all over the nation have begun to sell their vans – especially after a couple of nationally covered fatalities from church van accidents.

Now, many major insurance companies won’t even insure 15-passenger vans when used as passenger vehicles. It is dramatically altering the way church groups travel to events.

It can also cause an ethical dilemma for church vehicle committees. What were churches to do with their vehicles – sell them to unsuspecting churches that don’t read the paper?

Two churches solved this dilemma by making a serious investment in their youth – they donated their older 15-passenger vans to Passport, Inc.! We in turn ripped out the

seats and turned them into cargo vans to help haul our camp equipment around the country each summer. To buy these vans even used would have been way out of our budget. Having them donated allowed us to move equipment to and from camp at a large savings, as well as moving equipment to mission sites, off site venues and on site events with ease.

Our thanks go to Madison Baptist Church in Madison, Georgia and McLean Baptist Church in McLean, Virginia for the two newest members of the Passport vehicle fleet! Our summer workers affectionately called theirs the ‘Blue Monster!’”

Can we use more vans? You bet! If your church has a 15-passenger van that you are ready to upgrade or sell, please think of us first. All it usually takes is a suggestion to the right person. Don’t face an ethical dilemma – donate that van to a Passport and watch us turn your problem into a blessing!

Can you give other things besides vehicles? You bet! In the past churches have donated pressure washers, generators, ladders, books, gallons of paint and much more. All gifts are tax-deductible and help Passport keep camp prices low.

“Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice. Let your
gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near. Do not worry about
anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which
surpasses all understanding, will
guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is
true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing, whatever
is commendable, if there is any
excellence and if there is anything
worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing the things that you have
learned and received and heard and seen
in me, and the God of peace
will be with you.”

Phil. 4:4-9 NRSV

I am overwhelmed today. I feel like I have too much
on my plate and things are about to spill everywhere.
I need focus. I need quiet. I need a day to sift piles
and file things and get my life back in control.

Worse, the reality is this is how my life goes. And
before I get all worked up about how stressed out I
am, I need to remember that my
stress is of my own making. I
need to remember that I can say
“No.” I need to prioritize my
work into what matters, what
helps others (and not just me),
and what doesn't. I need to
throw stuff away – in more than
just the obvious way.



My sister-in-law, who could
not be with family, chose to
spend time over the holidays
downtown serving lunch at the
homeless shelter. She never
meets a stranger and had a

wonderful time meeting people. Her comment
struck me. She said that she wasn't sure who was
the neediest, the folks eating lunch, or the folks who
needed to serve it.

I need to serve more. I need to get my hands dirty. I
need to relax into what I know has eternal value.

David Burroughs, President, Passport, Inc.

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