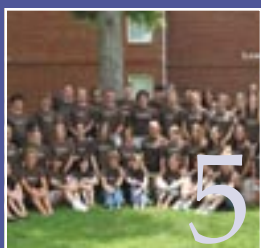


# THE GLOBE

Fall 2005

News for the Passport World



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## EMX

*Episcopal Mission Exchange*

Betsy Boyd

Staff Officer, Youth Ministries, The Episcopal Church

News Flash!! Passport and the Youth Ministries Office of the Episcopal Church have begun a long-term partnership to offer a new ministry called *Episcopal Mission Exchange* or EMX. In 2006, Passport and the Episcopal Church will pilot three opportunities for youth and their adult sponsors to be involved in a variety of mission experiences that will offer Episcopal worship, reflection, and practice, while joining Passport as we seek and serve Christ with all people. In 2007 and 2008, together we hope to offer even more mission exchange opportunities where student groups can experience the presence of God, deepen their awareness of their Christian and Anglican identity, and further recognize young people's place in a global community through serving others.

At a recent youth event held by the Episcopal Church, 1400 youth, adult sponsors, clergy, and bishops were challenged to see themselves as Prophets in action. The community of youth was challenged to be instruments

of change in a world filled with injustice, poverty, and desperation. God called Samuel, Timothy, Mary, and other young people to be agents of change, to offer hope and love into the world. Likewise, God is still calling youth to become a prophetic people.

The Ecumenical Youth Work Pack from Catholic Youth Service



expressed the event by saying the youth were challenged, "to experience the paradox of being a light and a scandal at the same time: we should be a light to the poor and the oppressed, the powerless,

and marginalized, we should be a scandal to those who see and don't care. We must be a scandal to people who sit on the fence, believing it the safest place to be, that they cannot hurt anyone if they do nothing. Because to do nothing in today's world is to give more power to the already powerful, and to be a willing party to the trampling of God's vineyard." This same desire can be said for *Episcopal Mission Exchange*; that we will be both light and scandal in our going and serving others.



*Continued page 7*



# KATRINA

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, as a nation we felt helpless. We watched the news each evening and saw the faces of the hurting with no help coming and we didn't know what to do. At Passport, we got restless.

Two days after the hurricane, when people were still stranded and thirsty across the gulf coast, David Burroughs called a meeting and we brainstormed about resources and how we could help. We decided we would offer whatever we could.

We had a fleet of vehicles, strong hands and partners. Through the gifts of Passport churches, individuals, and funds from the national offices of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, we were able to buy supplies and drive them to the coast. We took specific and timely orders from state volunteer coordinator John Mitchell. In one week, the Passport vans ferried nine van and trailer loads of water, food, grills, charcoal, diapers, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and just about anything else Costco still had in stock. It felt like supermarket sweep as we filled up cart after cart until the money ran out and the vans were full. For restless souls, it was an honor to get to go.

This summer and throughout the year, Passport will be sending students to places in need of helpful hands. For more about opportunities to help in hurricane relief, contact Mission Exchange at [mx@passportcamps.org](mailto:mx@passportcamps.org).



# Caring for all Children Well

Mark McClintock



*This is Part two in a series about including children with special needs in your church's ministry.*

Developing a strategy to include all children takes patience, creativity, and effort. A congregation must first recognize that caring for people's needs is of far greater priority to Jesus than a flawless worship service, interruption-free classes, and unsoiled carpet. Older buildings must be made accessible to persons with mobility differences. Cherri Stone, whose daughter was born with multiple developmental disabilities, recounts a fringe benefit to the ramps installed at her church: "WOW! The Senior adults thanked me!" Equally important are programs in which a child with special needs can participate. For some churches, the solution is specialized classes. For others, blending special needs children in existing classes works quite well and empowers other children to accept and appreciate the uniqueness of individuals. Either option will require training for volunteers. Remind them that the few hours of extra effort on their part allows a rare but vital respite for the 24-hour parents.

Consult special education teachers in your congregation or in your local schools for tips on successfully working with all children. Some residential facilities for persons with special needs have chaplains who are eager to help congregations integrate their clients. A few years ago, I enjoyed

the opportunity to volunteer with such a facility and gained both useful techniques and a new perspective on including all people. One important lesson I learned anew is the ministry of presence. Even a person who can communicate only by pointing to a picture on a tray (or possibly not at all) can receive the warmth of a hand on the shoulder, the sight of a fellow human being sitting nearby, or the soothing sound of a person reading scripture aloud.

Perhaps the best source of information and expertise is the parents themselves. Chances are good they will have read materials and attended workshops about their child's unique needs. Even if they have not, they have insight into approaches that are effective with their child. Partner with them to develop your all-encompassing ministry plan, and maintain good communication between parent, teacher, and clergy.

Perhaps the greatest sign of a congregation's maturity is the recognition that a child with special needs is not only a recipient but also a giver of ministry. "My son has taught me... patience, hope, unconditional love, acceptance, compassion, strength, trust, honesty, faith, and much more," Barbara Vinson acknowledges. In our hurried society, many of us need such lessons. Recently, a pastor told of a man who attended worship for the first time since his wife had died. During a hymn, the man felt another hand gently clasp his own and hold it throughout the service. It was the hand of a special needs child who somehow sensed the widower's need for human contact. God's ways of caring for us are mysterious and astonishing. Are we open to all the faces of Christ who come through our sanctuary doors?

Are we open to  
all the faces of  
Christ who come  
through our  
sanctuary doors?



# Maple Leafs and New Names

*Students make a difference at Passport Canada*

Melissa Browning

## The maple leaves taped to the wall told the school's story.

Red, orange, green, yellow and brown with silver names written perfectly in the centers. Names some Passport campers couldn't pronounce if they tried. Fozia, Zejohnne, Sun-Jean, Bozica, Kwowthar... names that represented the faces of children who were spending the summer in day camps. Sinthujan, Nafiso, Emmanuel, Mohamud... names that represented children who would hear the name and see the face of Christ as students from the U.S. and Canada came together to spend a few days with them. At this little international school in the world's most multicultural city, a group of Passport campers saw the faces of the world.

Across town in Toronto's Jane Finch neighborhood, Passport campers were caring for our earth, the earth that lies in between Toronto's high-rise apartment buildings. In the midst of this bustling international neighborhood, at the "corner of 100 lands," students turned soil for planting in a community garden and pulled trash and broken bicycles out of a stream in an urban park. They were recreating clean, safe places for newcomers who would miss the wide-open space in the countries of their birth.

Then there was the group of campers who spent the afternoon visiting a Sikh temple, sampling Indian food and learning about a culture and a faith different from

their own. They spent the week as learners as they explored the work of the Southeast Asia Welcome Center in Toronto. On the first day, one camper named Laura wanted to know how visiting a temple could compare to doing service for someone else. Picking up trash outside of a Sikh temple didn't seem like much of a mission project. On Friday, she came back to her Bible study leader and said, "I got my answer." She went on to say encountering Sikhism

and Hinduism had strengthened her own faith as she began to think about the reasons she was a Christian. But to one member of this Sikh temple, the simple act of listening and service made a bigger statement, a statement that needed a reply. This member of the temple, a newcomer to Toronto, told the directors of the Southeast

Asia Welcome Center that if they could bring twenty students to visit his Gurdwara (temple), then he could

bring twenty students to visit their church. That day, twenty Passport campers helped bridge a gap for a Toronto ministry by listening and learning.

At the end of long, wonderful days in mission project sites across Toronto, students gathered for worship, and in worship they sang a song, "Here I am, Lord! Is it I, Lord." It's easy to wonder if they

knew how loudly they had said "here I am" those afternoons in Sikh temples, in knee deep water, in plowed dirt, in elementary school hallways. What seems like part of the schedule of a normal day of camp will be remembered as saying yes to God's call. "I will go Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart." Rasheed, Zejohnne, Justin, Fozia... during Passport Canada, the names on the maple leaves taped to the wall became part of the chorus Passport campers sang as they learned to pronounce the names God knows by heart.



# Echo

*"I wish there had been something like this when I was a teenager!"*

by Nick Foster

Imagine yourself a teenager again, not so unlike your peers really. You do your best in school (for the most part). You struggle with how to deal with your parents. And you have your own interests – sports perhaps, music (iPod ready), movies, hanging out with friends, possible romantic relationships. You know - the usual.

But then there is the unusual as well. Like many of your peers you go to church and you have an interest in spiritual things. Like them, you will admit to praying and that you also have questions at the same time about God and your purpose in life.

But that is where you differ. Your interest in God, the church, the Bible, and how these intersect the lives of real people in everyday life – well, let's just say it's unusually high. Unusual enough, in fact, that you are thinking that maybe this whole Christianity thing is where you might spend your life vocationally.

That is to say, you feel God is calling you – somehow, some way – into ministry.

I've had a number of ministers, when they found out about Echo, tell me, "I wish there had been something like this when I was a teenager!" Well, now there is. After over two years of preparation, Echo made its debut in July. Thirty-seven youth from around the country met at Wingate University in North Carolina to explore together their common interest in ministry and to seek answers to the questions they shared.

It was amazing. Those of us who were leaders for this event agree that it was unlike anything we had experienced. The primary highlight for the students was being with other youth like themselves – youth with an unusually

## Echo Dates & Locations:

July 11-15, 2006

Wingate University,  
Wingate, North Carolina

July 18-22, 2006

Simpsonwood Conf. Center,  
Norcross, Georgia

Cost: \$125

(Students are responsible for their own transportation.)

high interest in God, the church, the Bible, etc.

For the adults on staff, the single best thing about Echo was the students! They responded enthusiastically to everything we offered them and made more of each element than we could have designed or imagined. In worship, they sang with and led with skill. In study with professors from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, they were inquisitive and honest. When the opportunity was given to take the role of minister – in role plays, serving of communion, and in the "practice" of baptism – they (excuse me) dove right in. Even in the fun times they recognized the purpose behind watching a movie that raises questions about providence or in playing a game that took them all over campus in search of a "hidden spring" that revealed new mysteries.

And it was obvious they have been paying attention. For instance, when we had them "baptize" one another, two by two, in the baptistry at Wingate Baptist, over and again they mouthed the same words they have heard their pastors say from the baptismal waters at home. Even in the midst of giggles and obvious awkwardness it was plain – they understand the significance. (For many, practicing baptism was a highlight of Echo!)

And not once all week, at least not in my hearing, did one of them say, "This is dumb." They worked hard and wanted more. And tired as they were, they were not too tired to gather every night at midnight (after curfew!) to circle – on their own - for prayer. For these students this was no show of false piety. It was only natural.

There are students in your church right now who should be at Echo next summer. Do them (and yourself) a favor. Get them to Echo next summer!



(Applications for Echo 2006 can be downloaded at [www.thesamuelproject.org/echo](http://www.thesamuelproject.org/echo))

# PASSPORT

## Youth Survey Summer 2005

Andrea Wooley

Youth today have too many demands on their time! Sam Hestorff, Minister to Students at Bayshore Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida, observes that “students lives are spent shuffling from one activity to another and they never have time to reflect on who God has created them to be.” So what do the youth say about this claim?

Each summer the students who attend Passport youth camps are surveyed in order to find out what they think about certain subjects. This summer, Passport worked with Sam Hestorff to find out how the youth at Passport spend their time. The collected data will be featured in Hestorff’s upcoming book, *It’s Not Your Mama’s Youth Group*. In Hestorff’s words, we expected to “discover that kids are spending more time in structured activities and have little time to stop and reflect on their lives. My guess is that we will discover that kids are not spending as much time with family or in unstructured activities.” Looking at the data, many of the expectations were met, but some were surprising.

### Demographics:

Total students surveyed: 3507

Average age: 14.6

Christian: 98%

### 1. How many hours do you spend a week on homework?

Less than 5 hours	46%
5-10 hours	34%
10-15 hours	13%
more than 15 hours	6%

In a follow up question, 74% reported having other things going on while doing homework. The top four activities listed were listening to music (2005), watching TV (1404), IM or chatting on the computer (755), and talking on the phone (324).

### 2. How many hours do you spend a week on extra-curricular activities, including daily practice?

Less than 5 hours	21%
5-10 hours	33%
10-15 hours	25%
More than 15 hours	20%
No reply	<1%

### How many activities are you involved in?

0 activities	5%
1-2 activities	43%
3-4 activities	36%
5 or more activities	12%
No reply	4%

**Observation:** With 58% of the youth surveyed spending 5-15 hours each week on extra-curricular activities, an average 1-3 hours each weekday.

### 3. How many hours do you spend a week with your family?

Less than 5	8%
5-10 hours	23%
11-15 hours	9%
16-20 hours	8%
More than 20 hours	23%
No reply	29%

In a related question, 29% reported eating dinner with their family every night, 5 times per week.

**Observation:** Sam Hestorff: “I am surprised at how many students said that they eat dinner with their family on a regular basis.”

### 4. How many hours do you spend with your friends?

Less than 5	10%
5-10 hours	30%
11-15 hours	10%
16-20 hours	7%
More than 20 hours	20%
No reply	23%

### 5. How many hours do you spend a week in church related activities?

3 or less hours	28%
4-6 hours	42%
7-10 hours	19%
More than 10 hours	4%
No reply	6%

An average of 5.4 hours a week was reported as time spent doing church related activities.

### 6. How many hours a week do you have nothing to do?

0 hours	14%
1-5 hours	32%
6-10 hours	18%
More than 10 hours	13%
No reply	23%



As Passport and the Episcopal Church work together our prayer is this:

*Almighty God, that your church may become a prophetic witness for peace,*

*We have a dream*

*That we no longer neglect the world's poor and needy,*

*We have a dream*

*That we may rely on the armor of truth, faithfulness, love and the word of God,*

*We have a dream*

*That we build a world for love and human family, that we may hope in the face of despair,*

*We have a dream*

*That we may grow in faith and awareness of the resurrection at work within us,*

*We have a dream*

In partnership with Passport and young people as prophets, we as Christians can come together to offer more than we could offer on our own. This is our hope and our dream.



## 7. How many hours do you spend a week on the computer?

Less than 5	40%
5-10 hours	34%
11-15 hours	7%
More than 15 hours	9%
No reply	10%

## 8. How many hours a night do you typically sleep?

Less than 6	5%
6 hours	11%
7 hours	19%
8 hours	33%
9 hours	12%
10 hours	10%
More than 10 hours	6%
no reply	4%

**Observation:** 74% get from 7-10 hours of sleep per night.

## 9. Circle the answer that best describes how you feel at the end of the week.

It's over!	502
Let's do it again!	760
I am so tired.	691
I can't wait to sleep.	523
Good week!	975
I wish I had more time.	1024
I wish I had more things to do.	157

**Observation:** It is revealing that almost one-third of the students chose "I wish I had more time."

Overall, even though our youth are busy and continue to add activities to their schedules, we were hopefully surprised and encouraged to learn that the average Passport camper is getting eight hours of sleep, eating five or more meals a week with her family, actually spending time with family and friends, and are actively engaged in church related activities. These time expenditures are foundational for teenagers to be able to develop into positive community contributors with a strong sense of self. So, for the Passport camper, at least, the foundation is there. How can you contribute to their continued growth and development?

# Helpless?

Nick Foster

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. [Selah] There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her right early.

Psalms 46:1-5

Helpless. That is how many of us felt. As Hurricane Katrina came toward the Gulf Coast we knew there was nothing we could do. We hoped for the best.

Now that the storm has come and gone we are watching and experiencing its damage in disbelief. It is almost impossible even to imagine this kind of destruction and loss. And it's hard to know what to do, how to start in light of all that obviously needs to be done. Are we helpless still?

We are not. The psalmist, in words that are favorites for many people of faith, reminds us that we are never helpless, for God is always with us. In the remains of the storm there is comfort in God's presence.

Those of us who watched the storm from a safe distance are realizing that we must use our own safety to become help for others. In days, and even years ahead, we will help through our prayers, our giving, and our caring. We will be anything but helpless – we will be helpful because God is “a very present help in trouble.”

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