

THE GLOBE

Spring/Summer 2006

News for the Passport World

We do not lose heart!

*David Burroughs, Passport, Inc.
with Rod G. Boriack, Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Conference Center at the Walt Disney World Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida and be held on November 12-15, 2006.



Youth ministry is hard work – often under-funded and under-appreciated. It is a strong and specific calling to ministries that face new challenges with each generation and are influenced by the swirling currents of pop culture. However, there is something that remains constant amid those aspects of youth ministry that often seem chaotic and overwhelming: Our spirits are being renewed by God day by day.

The 2006 Youth Ministry Leadership Summit will gather youth ministry leaders from judicatories and congregations across the country to both hear and speak the words, "...we do not lose heart." (2 Corinthians 4:1, NRSV) These are words of reassurance, renewal, strength, and hope for us as we serve young people and their families in many different contexts.



It is in the spirit of renewal that Passport, Inc. is pleased to announce the

General sessions will be led by

Youth Worker Summit an event designed for youth ministers and their interns or volunteer staff.

Mark Yaconelli. Mark Yaconelli is the co-founder and director of the Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project. His research and ministry with young people has been groundbreaking in its exploration of spiritual direction, contemplation, and ancient spiritual practices as the basis of discipleship with young people. Mark is in demand as a retreat leader and speaker throughout the United States. He is married and has three children.



The Youth Worker Summit is being produced by the **National Council of Church's Ecumenical Youth Staff Committee** and sponsored by a long list of Christian denominations. This group of leadership has been planning for over a year to bring the Youth Worker Summit to reality.

Worship Leader will be Jay Beech. Jay has a passionate commitment to

The World
Youth
Children
Spirituality

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The event will take place at the Coronado Springs Resort &

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Here is a question that can rock your world.

For the first time in history the world possesses the ability to end poverty that kills. ... The question is "Will we do it?"



In whatever ways possible Passport wants to be about saying **YES**. Camp offerings this summer will intentionally target areas of the world where poverty kills children at a rate so high, our western minds can't even comprehend it.

People want to give toward solutions. Teenagers are no different. This summer's offering will be given towards growing gardens in Malawi and Kenya.

Campers at Passport's youth camp will be giving to Watering Malawi, an effort to irrigate this small nation in Southern Africa. Teenagers around the country have already begun to contribute due to a handful of students who have decided on their own to raise money at schools, Girl Scout Troops and at church.

Watering Malawi literally hopes to water this country that continues to struggle with cyclical drought and hunger. Visit the site. Founder Colleen Burroughs believes that one of the most Christ like things we can do is offer cups of clean water.

Passportkids! will be giving towards growing gardens in Kenya through the work of Sam and Melody Harrell's *Change for Children*. East Africa

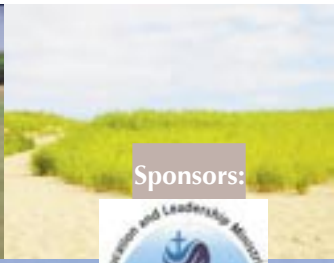
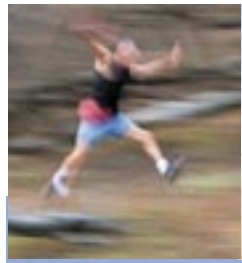
is struggling through the worst drought in a decade this year. Sam and Melody have a long history of successful work among their brothers and sisters in Kenya. Not only are children going to learn about that work this summer, they will be able to partner with it through the gifts they bring to offer this summer.

Thanks to both efforts, kids and teenagers are going to make a difference in the lives of young children and entire villages by giving to these offerings this summer at camp. Encourage your students to begin now thinking of ways to participate in ending poverty that kills. They can begin by learning now about where their offering will go at camp this summer.



www.wateringmalawi.org

www.africaexchange.org



congregational song, which he practices in his role as Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran in Moorhead, MN. In this vein, he continues to travel throughout the U.S. and is a frequent presenter at workshops dealing with trends in church music. Jay has also written music for curriculum and musicals. The combination of musical quality and variety has made The Jay Beech Band a favorite at youth gatherings.

You can anticipate an experience over the three days of the Summit that will include dialogue with youth ministry professionals and visionaries, worship, skill and awareness development workshops, and networking with other leaders. Here are some sample workshop titles, just to get you thinking:

- The Language of Contemporary Media in Youth Ministry
- Better Safe than Sued: Learning how to plan with Safety in Mind
- Pastoring African American Youth in a Hip-Hop Culture
- Effective Practices for Quality Youth Ministry
- Celebrating the Rites of Passage of Young People
- Theological Teaching in the Praise Chorus: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!
- The Seven Spiritual Yearnings of Youth

Something that sets this Summit apart from others is the professional leadership development seminars led by staff of the Disney Institute. The two seminars will focus on diversity and leadership development. The Disney Institute has an international reputation for excellence in their training seminars.

The schedule is compact, but there will be built in each day for relaxation so participants can bring

their families and spend some time in the parks. Discounted tickets will be available.

Youth Worker Summit

Here is a list of the sponsoring denominations:

[block this also?]

- African Methodist Episcopal
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Church of the Brethren
- Cumberland Presbyterian Church
- Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- United Methodist Church

For more information on the Summit visit the website:

www.youthworkersummit.org.

A brochure is available and registration for the event opened in March.

I hope you will consider joining us for this important event. When you leave the Summit in Orlando, you will do so with a renewed spirit for the ministry God has called you to—that's our prayer.

Sponsors:



**Place: Lake Buena Vista, Florida
Disney's Coronado
Springs Resort**

Date: Nov. 12-15, 2006

Conference Cost: \$275

Room Cost: \$ 387 Single/Family

\$ 195 Double

YWS



“New Orleans: We must remember!”

Allan Burton

“I am sorry I have not called you back. You are my *next* most important issue.” In a city and situation where every decision is the “most important one” at the time it is made, this statement is heard quite a bit. And those who say it, being extended farther than they ever thought possible, mean it with all their heart as they accomplish one task, then move onto the next one, then the next one, then the next – a seemingly never-ending methodical sequence that can be, at times, the only thing that keeps them digging through the rubble that was New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish.

New Orleans is a city of extremes this spring. Their history of *Mardi Gras* celebration, the city that is rebuilding after one of the most devastating storms in recent history is now confronted with the extreme of celebration on one hand (and they should and need to celebrate!) and the extreme of the utter destruction of countless numbers of properties on the other.

This leads any caring individual to ask the question, “What can I do?”



You can remember New Orleans. Even with all of the busyness of our lives, we must remember New Orleans. We must remember that the canal system either failed or was breached in 15 different places. We must remember that more than 1070 bodies were found. We must remember that nearly 75% of the neighborhoods of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish were under anywhere from 2-10 feet of water.* Because of the flooding, we must not forget that nearly every house in the flooded area was searched for hazards and then marked with an “X” providing four quadrants for information to be displayed – information such as the date of the search (many ironically say “9-11”), who searched the house, what hazards were contained within, and how many bodies were found. Most every house that was searched still bears these markings today.

We must remember New Orleans and we must be moved to action! In order to encourage a remembrance that moves to action in as many individuals as we can, PASSPORT secured a week of camp in July at Loyola University’s New Orleans campus, located in the Garden District that sustained mostly wind damage. The 3rd week of July 2006, more than 450 youth and adults from 24 churches will gather in New Orleans to work alongside those who have been there from the beginning. We will work with groups like Habitat and The Department of Recovery, ACORN and Common Ground, Catholic Charities and the Baptist Friendship House, First Presbyterian Church and First Baptist Church to continue their work to rebuild New Orleans. We will do what we can, and what we will do will make a difference.

Please join us in remembering New Orleans in such a way that will move you to action, no matter how small of an action it may seem you can do. Every remembrance, every action makes a difference.

**The statistics that were quoted were taken from publications of Dan Swenson for the New Orleans Times Picayune.*



Dreaming Together

Melissa Browning

It was historic to say the least. 2,200 participants, three denominations, one weekend; all coming together to remember the words and life of Dr. Martin Luther King during a conference themed around ecumenism and social justice. "I knew I was at something different when I saw Baptist kids standing up and screaming for themselves during the opening video," Passport's Vice-President, Colleen Burroughs, said. There was something truly beautiful in watching teenagers celebrate the distinctives of their faith traditions together.

The Faith in 3D conference took place at Walt Disney World January 13-16, 2006. The conference, sponsored by Passport, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Episcopal Church, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, was a high energy event where students learned about each other's faith traditions while rediscovering their own. During the conference, church youth groups participated in worship services from each denomination as they were challenged to remember the life of Dr. King by finding their own way to do justice in their world.

The event, originally planned for 900 students with 300 from each denomination, sold out several times before the actual event. One denomination filled all its spaces on the first day of registration. Because of the high demand for the event, numbers were raised and more hotel rooms were booked. 113 Church and diocesan groups from New York to Texas to Minnesota attended, representing 21 U.S. states and four countries.

During the Faith Around the World event, students explored their world by learning about other cultures in Epcot's World Showcase. From rides, to scavenger hunts, to meeting missionaries and hearing lessons on denominational history and social justice, F3D participants had a chance to broaden their understanding of the three denominations beyond our own borders. And they even got to meet Mickey! The Mickey and the gang characters helped end the first night by posing for pictures while participants snacked on ice cream.

But beyond Mickey Mouse and Disney World, the conference will have a lasting impact on Passport for years to come. For in the process of planning, Passport gained two new wonderful ministry partners – the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA). We deeply respect their ministries and are looking forward to dreaming new dreams for ministry together soon. After all, the Faith in 3D conference was all about denominations learning to dream together.





Get It? Good!

By Mark McClintock

A children's minister's day can be **overwhelming and thankless**. You scramble to find help when the Extended Care volunteers fail to show up. The air conditioner is broken, and you have to shuffle classes to another wing (for the fourth time this summer). And the Third Grade faculty refuses to speak to one another. Thank goodness for signs of God's grace that keep us going! A heartfelt hug from a preschooler or a grateful note from a parent offer brightness in the blur of our busy work. Perhaps the most gratifying reward is the moment we see one of the children in our care "get it."

What is "it?" Contrary to eBay's latest ad campaign, "it" is not something you can purchase. "It" is the truth of God's revelation we are trying to share with our young disciples. One of my favorite aspects of *PASSPORTkids!* is seeing the campers "get it" and live out the lessons they are learning. **Shirley Gross, Minister with Preschoolers & Children for Shades Crest Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, tells two stories that have afforded her much joy.**

Anyone who has prepared a children's sermon knows the challenge of translating abstract theological truths into concepts young children can understand. On one recent Sunday at Shades Crest, the scripture text included Galatians 5:22-26, the Fruit of the Spirit passage. With her experience and wisdom, Shirley knew to avoid emphasizing the literal notion of "fruit" and mentioned it only briefly, but focused

instead on ways children can practice love, peace, patience, and so on. She challenged her listeners to choose one of those ways they could practice that week. Later, a parent reported that her five-year old son reminded her of the challenge during bedtime prayers that night. Naturally, Shirley was delighted to hear how well he had paid attention. "I'm supposed to choose one fruit of the spirit and work on it," the boy insisted, then added with conviction, "and I'm going to choose pineapples."

Perhaps pineapples are not the "it" we intend our children to get, but the fact that they do pay attention to us is reassuring. Shades Crest is a church that emphasizes meeting people's needs, a lesson another child took to heart when Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. The seven-year old girl, determined to help, told her mother she wanted to collect socks for the thousands of displaced people. Agreeing to the project, the mother and daughter prepared posters to deliver to neighbors and, with Shirley's encouragement, to members of the congregation. The posters invited folks to donate new socks by placing them in a large box on the family's front porch. Little did they know how profoundly this young girl's compassion would impact the community. Dozens of people contributed to the overflowing collection. "Hey, Mom!" the younger brother would call out at the sound of each car pulling up, "We have another customer!"

Here was a child who "got" Jesus' love for people and felt the empowerment of her church family to act on what she had learned. We don't hear of such profound "aha" moments every day, or even every month. When they do occur, they make all our effort feel worthwhile.

And rest assured, they are happening more often than we hear. So keep up the good work of planting seeds that sprout into beautiful fruit (maybe even pineapples)!



(L-R)
Mindy
Dale
Andrea
Amanda



W

hose is that voice on the other end of the phone line? It's likely that you often wonder about the person you reach in the Passport office when looking for information or help. We want you to know a little about them.

Amanda Davis is the latest addition to the office, coming in as our new receptionist. Amanda is first in line, then, to answer the phone and hers is the most likely voice you'll hear. With a background in youth camping, already she is having a positive impact on our ministries and we're glad Amanda is here!

If you've called the Passport office in the past few years you've grown used to hearing Mindy Vick's voice. After four years as our receptionist, Mindy has moved to a new position as Administrative Assistant to Coordinators Allan Burton, Nick Foster, and Mark McClintock. Those three guys are thrilled to have Mindy's very capable help!

And you will still talk to Mindy from time to time as she supports the phones as well.

Dale Massey is a relatively new person in our office too, joining us last spring as our Financial Secretary and Executive Assistant to David Burroughs. Dale brings a wealth of experience in finances and non-profits and is making us all the more efficient in use of resources. You will also hear Dale's voice as you call us.

But that's not all. One other pleasant voice you might hear belongs to our intern, Andrea Woolley. A full-time student at Beeson Divinity School who will serve as Kids! camp pastor this summer, Andrea is in and out of the office each week. With her hand in a number of assignments, Andrea brings focus and energy to each task, including responding to phone calls.

So give us a call! Pleasant voices await.

Dig out your **Red Sox**
and pour some tea!
Passport's headed to
Boston

Youth Camp - Gordon College - 2007.



Choose the Journey

By James Bush



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. John 8:12-20

When Jesus announced, "I am the light of the world," he caught his first hearers by surprise, for they were participants in the Festival of Tabernacles, a celebration of light and guidance. Golden lamps were used as symbols of God leading the people of Israel through the wilderness at night by a pillar of fire. The festival reminded the people of the place from which they came, and that God had been their guide in the journey. Among those first hearers were Pharisees who would question and debate Jesus' claim to be the light of the world. They understood, rightfully so, that Jesus was not merely declaring to carry the light, but that he was the light. Jesus was proclaiming his deity. Today you have a choice. You can choose to journey with Jesus on a walk in the light of his very presence. On the other hand, you can choose to question the authority by which Jesus makes such a claim. Understand that in proclaiming himself as the light, Jesus made known that he understood both his origin (from God) and his destiny (salvation for all who believe.) Today, choose the journey.

The GLOBE

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