



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

July 2006

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT

The fourteenth chapter of John's Gospel, as you know, contains the words spoken by our Lord to the disciples, in the Upper Room, just a few short hours before His arrest, trial and crucifixion.

I believe that Jesus used this opportunity to prepare His disciples for all that lay ahead of them in the days, months and years to come, and in particular to leave them clinging to a very precious promise, the promise of peace.

Even at this stage, it could be argued that those nearest to Jesus were still unaware of what the next few hours would bring to them. Perhaps they were in denial. Perhaps they were simply blocking it out of their minds – as something that was far too painful to accept.

Whatever – I am sure that our Lord was very much aware of their predicament. And once again we have an example of His sensitivity within a situation. His promise to them could have been one of strength or power or even the assurance of particular gifts to meet particular situations. But no, the promise, was the promise of peace.

Very shortly they would have to cope with our Lord's crucifixion and His parting from them. His arrest would prompt a denial and a running away from the reality of the situation. In the midst of it all, and perhaps even more so, in the light of the new day, they would be able to recall their Master's words to them in the Upper Room and especially, the promise of His peace.

While I am sure that not all of our Lord's words during His earthly ministry are recorded for us within the pages of the Gospels, I am sure that He made certain that this particular promise and these particular words were recorded for all time and the comfort of His people down through the centuries.

And because this has been so, Alan was able to remind us of our Lord's promise to us at Carol's funeral service last week. His promise of peace.

"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Bob Gemmell,
Pastoral Assistant.

THE PULPIT

July	2nd	Rev. Jim Barclay
	9th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	16th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	23rd	Rev. Alan Berry
	30th	Mr. William Anderson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August 30th Quarterly Church Meeting 7 p.m.
September 2nd/ 3rd Harvest Thanksgiving

TRIBUTE TO MRS CAROL SINCLAIR

Carol Sinclair died at home on the morning of Saturday 17 June 2006 after a brave and courageous battle with brain cancer. Despite the debilities she suffered from time to time she sought to live as normally as her condition allowed but, as we know, in the past few weeks she became more and more incapacitated and her life came to an end peacefully in the presence of Allistair and Ewan at quarter past six on Saturday morning.

Carol was brought up in Leith Baptist Church, Madeira Street, passing through the Sunday School, Y.P.F. And latterly as a member. She committed her life to Jesus Christ as a girl of twelve during a campaign and was baptised by the Rev Brian Russell-Jones and joined the Church in 1961. Allistair was also brought up in Madeira Street and they were married in 1969.

They joined Portobello Baptist Church on transfer from Madeira Street in April 1975 and for 31 years Carol has given of her time and talents in the service of this Church. With the exception of a few years at the beginning

she was associated with the Sunday School, latterly as Treasurer. Gifted in Floral Art, she has shared over the years in arranging the flowers in the Sanctuary, something which has been much appreciated. Carol's ability as a typist has been used to the full by the Women's Own and particularly in the preparation of 'The Messenger' (which she bequeathed to Ewan since her illness). Her readiness to help in other ways was exemplified when she asked to be responsible for the Easter Morning Breakfast as in previous years -- conscious, I think, that she thought that it might be her last opportunity. One admired too Carol's determination to attend the services after her radiotherapy treatment and in the last few weeks when her mobility made the stairs a difficulty.

Her Lord, whom she loved and served, has in His mercy released her from pain, weakness & disability and called her home, "Present with the Lord". The darkness of death has become for Carol the light of everlasting life. We give thanks to God for our good memories of her. Our Christian love and sympathy are extended to Allistair, Ewan, her sister Agnes and the other relatives. May they know the comfort support, strength and upholding of God our Father.

Jack Spiers

"... Blessed be those who die in the Lord, ... they rest from their labours and their works do follow them." Revelation Ch 14 v 13



The Vision of EHC is to reach everyone where they live with the message and influence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

From house to hut to shanty to the street -- wherever people can be found across the farthest reaches of the earth, EHC has been proclaiming the good news of God's salvation since 1946.

Our mission is to equip and mobilize Christians to pray for the harvest and present the gospel of Jesus Christ home by home throughout the world, making disciples in all nations.

EHC is committed to fulfilling the great commission of Christ in this generation. As Jesus Himself said, "this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." We are driven by determination to obey our Lord and complete the mission He gave us: to take his message of salvation to every people group in every place on earth.

During 2004 EHC Experienced three historic milestones:

First, we passed the one billion number of homes reached with the gospel message. No other ministry has ever been able to report such a victory! Praise God -- Faithful workers over 60 years made it possible for us to reach that milestone.

EHC's courageous workers must climb mountains, wade through rivers, trek across barren lands, cut through dense jungles and even brave the perils of war zones to deliver Gospel literature to every home.

Second, during the beginning of 2005, we passed the 40,000,000 number of decisions and responses recorded for Jesus from EHC works in more than 194 nations since the first official Every Home Campaign in Japan in 1953.

At the rate of responses now being recorded, we may reach the 50,000,000 threshold in just two years.

All glory be to Christ - the Lord of the harvest.

Third, in late March 2005, we passed the 100,000 number of Christ Groups planted since the Christ Group program for EHC began in the late 1960's.

Of course, when we say "every home" we actually refer as well to those whose home is a prison, a hospital or a ship. For millions of people, "home" is a sidewalk in a teeming city or a cardboard box in a slum. Wherever people are, EHC goes to them with the Good News of Jesus.

MAKE EVERY DAY A GOOD DAY (Part One)

I want to talk to you about your days -- about this day and every day -- about how you can make every day a good day. It is important to understand at the outset that this is not a superficial theme, nor an unrealistic consideration, nor a promise in some dreamy-eyed world that doesn't exist. God made us and He made our days. When He made the day, He looked at it and pronounced it good. It is we who have made it other than good.

The minute a topic like this is mentioned the thoughts of many people, including my own, go to those who live in the midst of difficult circumstances of poverty, of pain, of unhappy living conditions and, of course, to deal with such a topic we must be all-inclusive.

Everyone in this life is going to have trouble, some more than others, but everybody some. And to say that every day can be a good day doesn't mean that you are going to be free from trouble, not at all. The question is: What do you do with trouble? What do you let trouble do to you? God never intended that life should be easy. He put us in a harsh world. But the world will cooperate with us if we cooperate with it, and the laws of God will work in our favour if we work with the laws of God.

Now it is a good thing to consider your days once in a while because, heaven help us, we don't have too many of them. A child looking forward to his life thinks that time is limitless, but as he grows older he becomes aware of the fact that time passes rapidly. If you live to be ninety years of age, you will have 32,872 days to live. If you live to be seventy, you have 25,567 days. If you live to be twenty, you'll have 7,305 days. What have you done with the days you have already lived? Well, that is an interesting question which leads us to the solemn consideration of what we are going to do with the days that we have left.

The Bible tells us that we should look with happiness and joy upon a day. The 118th Psalm says: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Certainly, you've got trouble. Certainly, you've got difficulty. Certainly, you've got pain and all kinds of problems. That is the way life is -- that is the way it was made. But because we have these difficulties doesn't mean that the day can't be good. We are not intended to be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease. Oh, no; God is making us tough people. Only tough people can endure this world and look for the next. So a day can be full of trouble, yet good can come of it.

Browning wrote:

*“Meanwhile as the day wore on the trouble grew. Wherefrom
I guessed there would be born a star.”*

That is it! Every day can be a good day.

And how can we *make* it a good day? I'd like to say first of all that one of the surest ways of having good days for yourself is to help other people have good days. It always works! If you are selfish and merely try to have good days for yourself, you are going to run out of steam. It won't work. Your self-centeredness will defeat itself. But if a person looks around at all the individuals who are worse of than he is and tries to do everything he can to help them have better days, then better days will come to him.

What an opportunity we now have to do just that in our cities! You keep hearing all the time about problem of the cities. Well, just drive through the streets of one of our big cities and see the conditions under which people live -- see the poverty, the inequity, the injustice; see the dirt and the filth! All thoughtful people have to do something. These are the great social problems of the hour.

In a meeting recently, one of our members told how he had found Christ and how Christ had impelled him to reach out into the underprivileged areas, to help people live decently as human beings. And he gave the church a challenge: we should do more beyond what we are already doing. And I am sure that as we do more we will find life better for ourselves.

TO BE CONTINUED ...

(Taken from a booklet written by Dr. Norman V. Peale)

My child, I know thy sorrows,
Thine every grief I share;
I know how thou art tested,
and what is more -- I care!

Think not that I am indifferent
To what affecteth thee;
Thy weal and woe are matters
of deep concern to me.

But, child, I have a purpose
in all that I allow;
I ask thee then to trust me --
though all seems dark just now.

Remember that I love thee!
Think not that I'm unkind
when trials come to prove thee,
and joy seems left behind.

'Tis but a little longer
until I come again;
What now seems so mysterious
will all then be made plain.

Take courage then, and fear not!
Press onward to the prize;
A crown of life awaits thee,
glory before thee lies.

(source unknown)
(given by Mr J. Livingstone)