



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

June 2006

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT -- Fruit of the Spirit

The following is an extract from Dr W. E. Sangster's little booklet "A Spiritual Checkup". It supplements Rev Alan Berry's series of sermons on this subject and challenges our response; *a thought!*

Does the Holy Spirit dwell in me? How can I tell?
I can tell by the fruit of His presence
-- (Galatians Ch 5 v 22f)

LOVE

Can I love the people I don't like?

JOY

Am I a happy Christian?

PEACE

Am I poised and serene?

LONG-SUFFERING

Am I free of self-pity?

KINDNESS

'I was hungry and you gave me meat ... '
Have I excelled in simple kindness?

GOODNESS

My Saviour went about doing good, do I?

FAITHFULNESS

If He slew me, would I still trust Him?

MEEKNESS

Am I so crass that I confuse meekness with weakness?

TEMPERANCE

Am I temperate in all things?

O come and dwell in me,
Spirit of power within!
And bring the glorious liberty
from sorrow, fear and sin.

THE PULPIT

June	4th	Rev. Jim Barclay
	11th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	18th	Rev. Dr. George Mitchell
	25th	Rev. Robert Gemmell

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June	22nd	Management Committee 7 p.m.
August	30th	Quarterly Church Meeting 7 p.m.
September	2nd/ 3rd	Harvest Thanksgiving

GOSPEL TRACT HANDOUT

200 'Da Vinci Code' Tracts were handed out by May & Ewan in the last couple of weeks, outside our local Odeon cinema at Kinnaird Park, following the cinematic release of the 'Da Vinci Code' film. Please pray that the Gospel message that accompanies these tracts will impact the lives of all those who willingly accepted them.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2006 UPDATE

Christian Aid

Following the Christian Aid Dedication service held in our church, the amount received from door to door collection was £128.85. The Retiring Offering collected at the Dedication service amounted to £609.50

Christian Aid Committee

SOME THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN CHURCH

- "Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew!"
- "Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf."
- "I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before."
- "Since we're all here, let's start the service early!"

"CRITICAL SITUATION" in Papua New Guinea:



Dear friends,

With great sadness, I must tell you of a tragic accident in Papua New Guinea last month. A Cessna 206 was preparing to land at Tari, in the Southern Highlands, in good weather. The pilot had been there a thousand times. But the plane did not make it to the airstrip after apparently losing power.

The three Papua New Guinea passengers lay injured, and were swiftly taken to hospital by helicopter. All three are recovering.

But Swiss pilot Pierre Fasnacht did not survive. Pierre spent twelve years serving remote communities amid the towering mountains, deep valleys and major swamps. He was respected as a dedicated pilot and as Mission Coordinator, he had organised 7,000 mission flights -- Pierre leaves behind his wife Esther and their four children, our hearts go out to them all.

As well as these enormous personal tragedies, you will realise that the loss of three pilots (two last year) is a devastating blow to the isolated villagers we serve. We were acutely understaffed **before** these events, closing Kawito Base. Now today we face further drastic cuts in flying as we are nine pilots short to fully use even existing aircraft.

'Where we cannot keep an aircraft operational, invariably deaths result because of no emergency flights,' explains Mike Jelliffe, Papua New Guinea General Manager. 'Without MAF flying medical supplies and teachers, entire regions have greatly diminished healthcare or education. Loss of trade income, which is usually generated through flying coffee and vegetables to market, spells deprivation.

'So much evangelism, Bible translations and teaching depends on the planes. We provide essential travel for 7,000 church and mission workers. Only MAF serves 300 isolated airstrip communities. Without more staff, we will close more operational bases.

I ardently hope that you will join us in prayer to our Father in heaven. Would you please pause right now, then again and again during the coming weeks, to bring this crisis situation before the Lord.

Thank you in our Saviour's Name.

Yours sincerely

Keith Jones
Chief Executive, MAF UK

PASTOR RAJAN ABRAHAM (INDIA)

A couple of weeks ago, as you will probably remember, Marion and I had a Coffee, Cake & Book Sale day to raise money for the Indian Pastor – Rajan Abraham – that Barnton Baptist Church supports.

Amazingly we managed to raise almost £800 which we have since passed on to Rajan in Bhopal.

I was interviewed by Andy, during the service at Barnton the following day and I likened Rajan's ministry to that of the late Tom Allan in the centre of Glasgow. They may be half a century apart, exercised, almost at opposite ends of the world and culturally a million miles apart. But to me, these ministries have so much in common with our Lord's own earthly ministry, in that they identified areas of particular need and in the Lord's name went out to minister to the whole man.

Rajan is not only an amazing evangelist – he has established three churches in different areas, 40+ miles apart – he leads a number of Bible study Home Groups – he has established children's work in some of the slum areas of Bhopal and also with the so called untouchables – but he has a caring heart.

The children within this latter group receive no formal education from the state – Rajan and his co-workers spend time every week teaching basic educational skills to the children. Something that I witnessed last October

Another area of need that he has identified is the lack of employment. He has now bought six sewing machines and is teaching sewing skills to women in the slum areas. Very few people in Bhopal purchase ready made clothes and so there is always a need for folks with dress making skills.

Rajan's latest project has been the establishment of a Bible School. He is now ministering to five young men before sending them out to minister. The students live in the house where the Bhopal church meets on a Sunday and all their basic needs are met by Rajan.

I am sure that you realise why we wanted to do what we did a couple of weeks ago. As you know the vast majority of Rajan's and the church's income comes from the monthly cheque that Barnton sends out. We just felt that we wanted to augment this a little and free up some money for the expanding ministry that Rajan and his co-workers are exercising in our Lord's name in Bhopal – and £800 goes a long way in his setting.

Rev Bob Gemmell



NEW RELIGIOUS LAW IN SERBIA

Dear friends,

A new religious law was recently passed by the Parliament in Serbia. This law appears on the surface to be reasonable but in reality will make life very difficult indeed for the two Baptist Unions in Serbia and all evangelicals. The privileged place and historic role of the Serbian Orthodox Church has been strengthened by this law and the freedom of non-Orthodox people severely limited. The experience of the past demonstrates that the state manipulates the "registration" process to discriminate against and hinder those individuals and groups who are outside of the Serbian Orthodox Church. I have attached an article written by a Serbian Baptist friend of the EBF Vice-President, Toma Magda. The English translation is not the easiest to read but it certainly gives you an indication of the deep concern and apprehension of our brothers and sisters in Serbia over this new law.

Baptists in Serbia have called a week of prayer for June 4th -11th to intercede before the Lord about this law and its implications and to pray that, even at this stage, the Serbian Government would take steps to genuinely guarantee freedom of religion to all who fall outwith the parameters of this legislation. Our partner Union in Croatia are also intending to observe this week of prayer and I would like to encourage our churches and people also to join with them during this week to pray not only for the Baptist community in Serbia but also for all others who are suffering discrimination through this new Law. Please tell your congregation and encourage them to pray about this needy situation. Remember that more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of!

Thank you for your support.

Your brother in Christ

Bill Slack
General Director,
Baptist Union of Scotland