



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

May 2006

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT

I have a photograph in my study. It was taken forty years ago, of the London Bible College football team, at the Richmond Methodist College, just before we beat them.

After looking at it recently, the association of ideas kicked in. It reminded me of my first day at the college. I had a late acceptance and because of that the college could not offer me a residential place and I had to arrange my own accommodation. Through Marion's uncle, who was a Salvation Army officer, I found a place in a Salvation Army hostel near Denmark Hill, quite some distance from Marylebone Road and the College.

I can still remember the loneliness of that first weekend in London. We had only been married a year and Marion stayed on in Glasgow for a good part of my first year. I didn't know a soul in London and hadn't had the chance to get to know anybody in College. Had I known how relatively cheap the coach fare was to Glasgow, I might have been tempted to come home for the weekend.

It is wonderful however, how the Lord undertakes. Sometimes, like with Joshua, the intervention is a direct word from the Lord Himself, as we saw last Sunday evening. On other occasions, the Lord uses circumstances or people, to fill the gap, to meet the need. In my case, it was a person, none other than George Mitchell. He sought me out and befriended me in those early days at College. Between his friendship and the friendship of others in my year, college very soon became a very positive experience.

Our Lord is so understanding, as I am sure all of you can testify. He is very much aware of our needs and in so many different ways and through so many different sets of circumstances, meets our needs.

Bob Gemmell,
Pastoral Assistant.

THE PULPIT

May	7th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	14th	a.m. Rev. Alan Montgomery p.m. Christian Aid -- United Dedication Service
	21st	Rev. Alan Berry
	28th	Rev. Alan Berry
June	4th	Rev. Jim Barclay

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 17th Midweek Meeting 7.30 p.m.
(BMS Link Missionary, Lynne Brown)
- 18th Management Committee 7 p.m.
- 31st Quarterly Church Meeting 7 p.m.

EVENTS DURING MAY

We are glad to respond to the request of the Christian Aid Committee and host the Christian Aid Dedication Service on Sunday 14th May at 6.30 p.m. The service will be led by Rev Alan Montgomery and representatives from other churches will participate. Coffee will be served at the close of the service.

It will be our pleasure to welcome and meet Lynne Brown, our BMS Link Missionary, on her first home assignment from Angola. She will tell of her work with the P.E.P.E. Programme -- preparing young children for starting school, her involvement in church work and activities and life in Angola following many years of civil war.

It is hoped that members will be present at the Church Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday 31st May at 7 p.m. To hear reports on the lift project and the consequent arrangements among other important matters.

Jack Spiers

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2005 UPDATE



Last year the total amount received from door to door collection was £8,131.99.

Christian Aid Committee

EMAIL FROM JANICE (OM Missionary)

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a very blessed Passover and Easter. Here in Thailand there was a major Buddhist holiday -- a water festival where they throw water on people.

They've been selling huge squirt guns at the department stores, all the kids were "armed and dangerous". One of my friends from the prison ministry came and stayed over for a few days. There was a special Friday evening service at a big church nearby and on the Sunday I was singing in a quartet at church. A few weeks ago, my solo in Thai went very well.

I've had a number of Thai lessons so far. I get a bit discouraged sometimes about the pronunciation but my teacher said I'm her best student. One of my friends at church said I will know Thai by December. I hope that is true -- I am working hard at it.

God has shown again and again that He led me to the right house. I have very nice neighbours and a Christian family live only three blocks away. There is a clinic a few blocks away that has an English speaking doctor. I went there the other day to get a refill for my stomach medicine and discovered that the Doctor trained in the UK. He's started me on something different, I'll see how it works. All this heat, walking and cleaning of the house are having a good effect on me. I've lost almost 10 pounds in the last few weeks.

Please pray for one of the ex-prisoners named Ey whom I met at the half way house. I had some very serious talks with her. Interestingly enough her name is Ey Rosenberg. Her adopted Dad was an American sailor. She lived for many years in America until they moved to Bangkok. She started hanging out with the wrong crowd and became a drug addict. She said her Dad's whole family were believers and she used to go to Sunday School but sadly after coming here her Dad converted to Buddhism. He has since passed away. Ey has two children, one stays with her Mum and the other with friends. Anyway, Ey has taken off and nobody knows where she went.

They had set her up with a job and everything but the lure of her old life, fast money, drugs etc. was too strong. She is one tough cookie but I saw so much potential in her. Please pray she will repent and come back.

Lots of love, Janice

CONGO CALLS FOR BRITISH PRAYERS

The Democratic Republic of Congo has a special place in the thoughts of the congregation because of Winnie Hadden's long service there. The following is a report of an interview with the Vice President of the country:



The Vice President of D R Congo has met with BMS World Mission's Regional Secretary for Africa, Andrew North, to ask British Christians to pray for his country.

In the hour-long meeting at the end of January, which was covered in their national media, Vice President Azarias Ruberwa asked the British Christians to pray for Congo's elections set for June -- the country's first multi-party elections for more than 40 years.

Vice President Ruberwa, himself a Baptist Christian, pleaded for prayer that the elections would take place peacefully and that the right people, particularly Christians, would be elected. He also asked that British Christians pray for unity, economic growth and good governance in his country.



Andrew reported, "the Vice President introduced himself and told us something of his own background and life as a Christian. He then asked that I, as the visitor to the country, would lead prayer for the situation in Congo, which I counted as a great privilege."

Vice President Ruberwa asked Andrew to relay several prayer requests for prayer to British churches during the meeting. "He asked that we pray that the economy in Congo would be built up and that the government would address some of the fundamental issues of corruption and mismanagement that can ensnare governments.

"He appealed to Baptist churches in Britain to make the period of Congo's elections in June a time to join with the people of Congo and pray for unity and peace. He asks that we pray that the right people are elected, particularly Christians who will stand for biblical principles in government and be shaped by what they read and believe in Scripture as the way forward."

The meeting was also attended by Rev Dr Andre Bokundoa, General Secretary of the Baptist Community of the River Congo, a BMS Partner, and a Pastor, Maurice Mondengo.

(Taken from BMS World News)