



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

February 2007

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT

I am sitting at my computer composing this letter before setting off for Colonsay. I say – *hopefully* – because as you know our trip across to the island is dependent on the weather. It seems that over this particular winter more ferries have had to be cancelled than ever before because of the storms that have hit the west coast over the last few months.

As always I pay particular attention to all the weather forecasts on the days leading up to our trip, checking the wind speeds over the Inner Hebrides – and wondering if we will really, not only be able to get on to the ferry at Oban but also if it will be able to get into the pier at our destination.

All of this concern reminds me of our Lord's words to his disciples in relation to worry and concern. All of the anxiety in the world, on our part, cannot bring about change in any situation – especially as far as the weather is concerned.

What we have to do, is simply trust the Lord to take care of us and leave our destination in His loving hands.

And so the lesson for me, as I sit here, is to stop fretting over whether or not we will get across to Colonsay and stop bothering about forecasts and wind speeds and storms. All I need to do is to make myself available and if it is in the Lord's mind that the ferry should sail – then we will be on it – and if not then it's a return journey to Edinburgh, taking in some of the most beautiful scenery of God's creation.

Robert Gemmell,
Pastoral Assistant.

THE PULPIT

February	4th	a.m.	Rev. J. Barclay Mr T. Mason (Faith Mission)
	11th		Rev Robert Gemmell
	18th		Rev J. King, Bolton
	25th		Rev. R. Gemmell
March	4th		Rev Alan Berry



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February	22nd	7.00 p.m.	Management Committee
	28th	7.00 p.m.	Annual General Meeting

B.M.S. STAMP BUREAU

Mrs Olive Nicol has received a letter thanking her for the stamps sent from the church in the year ended 31 October 2006. The following is an extract from the letter "*Our records show that we received from you, or possibly others in your church or group, around 0.8 kilograms or approximately 5,920 stamps, not to mention any coins or cards. We are very grateful for these -- your efforts contributed to an excellent total of £9,750 raised for the work of BMS World Mission*".

We are grateful for all the time Olive spends collecting, trimming and sorting the 5,920 stamps. Please continue, or start, saving stamps. They can be placed in a box on the half-landing and it would be helpful if you could trim the stamps leaving approximately a 1/4 inch round the stamp of the envelope.

THE BUILDING PROJECT

The latest information is that a contractor has been engaged to install the lift -- Rollo & Sons, with the start date six weeks from now.

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Following the practice of the Deacon's Court, elections take place every four years. Accordingly the Management Committee falls by a decision of the church to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations are invited. The nominee must be sponsored by two members and submitted in writing to the Secretary by 18 February. Please note that the present members of the Management Committee do not need to be sponsored. Please note, also, that a member of the Management Committee entails being a member of the Pastorate Committee and a Trustee of the church under the new Charities Act.

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

You are invited to pray for the following churches in the weeks commencing the dates shown:

February	4th	Broadwood & Carbrain
	11th	Cupar & Dalbeattie
	18th	Dalkeith & Denny
	25th	Dingwall & Dumbarton

EMAIL UPDATE FROM LINK MISSIONARY (ANGOLA)

Hello folks,

Hope all is well with you and that you are surviving the extreme weather I hear you've been having.

I am doing well and had a great time in Uige. The PEPE teachers were enthusiastic about their work. They started PEPE with 22 children in October, to have a trial period, before starting officially in February. It's been a good experience for them and they are talking about starting with another class and getting the church to give monthly towards the work. This is the way we hope all the PEPEs will run but it is a struggle. On the IEBA side, the Pastor is hoping to get two PEPEs off the ground, although he

wants to start with children of church members first, to see how things go and then when they look at church planting, use PEPE to spearhead this. I was disappointed by this as really we want PEPE to be evangelistic, but the other side is that the children are very needy, even church children, and in the long run it might lead to more PEPEs. It's easier to encourage interest when the fruits are visible. The Pastor also has some good ideas for projects, the profits of which could be used to sustain PEPE.

Praise the Lord for the work and the motivated people in Uige, and pray for the workers to be encouraged and not give in to temptations or be distracted. It was good to get away from Luanda to the cooler climes and quiet of the north. I haven't slept so well since I came back from Namibia. I stayed with Pr Makiadi and his family and it was so good to be with them again and see the changes in the children.

It seems that Satan likes to try to knock us back, especially when good things are happening and this has been one such occasion. On Monday, Luanda was hit by the worst rainstorm in years and it came after a bad storm last Wednesday. I wasn't sure if I was going to get back from Uige, the weather was so bad but the flight managed out, four hours late. It was shocking to fly over Luanda. Much of the north of the city was under water and roads and bridges were washed away. 19 people died in the floods last Wednesday and so far the toll is 28 for this most recent storm with countless folk losing homes and possessions. Our yard was flooded out and the rooms downstairs got a soaking but no damage. However, the out houses were flooded out and a lot of the material I had just bought for the new term of PEPE were destroyed. Yesterday the yard was papered in work books, reading books, training manuals in a vain attempt to try and salvage some things. The power went off on Monday and water went off yesterday morning, we await the return of both. Please pray that it would be soon because Terezinha and her son Davi arrived yesterday and they have been getting a real taste of Luanda. There's the traffic to look forward to today! Praise God that they have managed to come and arrived safely and pray for the visit. We'll have a busy programme and it will be good training for us all. Teresa and Januario are coming from Benguela and Uige. Terezinha will also be talking to church leaders. Davi has already made friends with the son of the OM missionaries I met just before Christmas. God has it all worked out in advance!

Thanks for your prayers and please keep praying.

Lynne

NOW, HERE'S A THOUGHT!

In heaven you don't have to go to church! Sounds OK!! No struggling to get up on a Sunday morning and trudging back at night-if you're A twicer!! No long, tedious, drawn out, never ending sermons! No offering plate to hand around! Nobody 'pinchin' your seat that's been yours for 50 years! No meeting in old, draughty, shivery buildings! No unfamiliar hymns! No irksome people to bother you! No Aggravating building problems such as leaking roofs, vandalism, etc.!

In heaven you don't have to go to church because the church will not be needed. All God's people will be there -- including the irksome ones -- and all in perfect harmony, all together praising the Lord! Just read again what old John tells us about his uncanny vision of heaven -- see Revelation 5 vv 9 -14 and 7 vv 9 - 17

Absolutely fantastic and sounds real fun too -- all singing in harmony!!

However, we are not in heaven yet! So we still need the church and the church needs every one of us to attend regularly, to give systematically, to worship unitedly, to pray and sing and just to be part of the redeemed of the Lord! Sounds real cool!! I was glad when they said to me, "let us go up to the house of the Lord." Come, let us to the Lord our God, with contrite hearts return -- again and again!!

See you in church on Sunday!!

By Rev George S. Cruickshank