



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

March 2007

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT

During the evening service last Sunday I suggested that our forefathers, of say a hundred years ago, were a bit more content with life than we are to-day, despite all the amazing advances that we have witnessed and experienced within our lifetimes.

I believe this to be true within many areas of our lives and the lives of our children and grand children. I know that I spent most of my spare time outside our home – playing football or cricket – dreaming dreams of fantasising of playing for Rangers or even ENGLAND, at cricket. Television didn't arrive in our home until my mid teens, and even then it was only available for a few hours in the evening. Was I deprived, not having the use of all the computer games etc., available to youngsters to-day? No I don't think so. I can't honestly remember being bored – in the way that many of to-day's youngsters seem to be.

A similar kind of picture could of course be painted of many other areas of life. I sometimes wonder how, for example, Wesley managed to exercise his ministry without the use of the latest P.A. system or power point.

We have to live within our present age and I'm sure that the Lord honours us for making positive use of the latest technology available as we seek to take the Gospel out into to-day's world.

As always, it's a matter of finding the balance in all things, making sure that technology doesn't become our god in itself. It must remain a tool that can be used in the furtherance of the Gospel.

However, I must admit that as far as my own childhood is concerned – I wouldn't want to change a thing. I wouldn't have given up my football or my cricket bat for any television or computer screen.

Robert Gemmell,
Pastoral Assistant.

THE PULPIT

March	4th	Rev. Alan Berry
	11th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
	18th	Rev. Alan Berry
	25th	Rev. Robert Gemmell
April	5th	Rev. Alan Berry



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 22nd 7.00 p.m. Management Committee

CLOCK CHANGES

On Sunday March 25 2007, Daylight Saving Time begins. Remember the saying 'Spring Forward, Fall Back' -- so put your clocks forward.



EMAIL UPDATE FROM LINK MISSIONARY (ANGOLA)

Hello folks, hope all is well with you.

Feels like a while since you got an update and we really need your prayers so here's what has been happening.

Terezinha's visit went well although she and her son experienced life in Luanda without power or water for 4 days. Davi was able to play with the son of O.M. missionaries who live nearby and they became good friends. I was encouraged by Terezinha's visit and she talked through the new PEPE documents with us, explaining how the programme is to run and detailing the jobs of each person. It was amazing to hear what is happening around the world and how many children and families are being blessed. Over the next months I will be passing on many of my jobs to Manuel. I was really pleased by his enthusiasm and it was obvious he was reading up on the materials at home during the training. Keep praying for him and his family in his new work. We feel much more of a team now too.

Terezinha's visit ended as the visit from our boss began. He, Mary and Joan spent a few days travelling in the North, which meant I had a bit of a breather, but transport was, and continues to be, difficult. During this time I wasn't able to organise meetings with PEPE teachers or get materials to them. As a result, some PEPEs opened late and I have still to hear if one is going to open. Sadly Rocha Pinto will not run PEPE this year. They had no place to hold it, but encouraging news is that other churches have increased the number of groups. I should have final figures in the next week or so.

The other frustration has been printing. One thing after another seems to happen -- flood, machine breaking down, running out of ink, rain preventing the worker getting in etc, etc. We still haven't got the children's work books ready, not to mention the training books for this year. We weren't able to save the wet training books so have lost 88 of those printed last year, expensive to replace too, it will be about \$500 to get these reprinted, along with the hassle involved. Ho hum.

With Joan moving north (probably) and Mary retiring, I am on the hunt for a new place to live again, and not relishing the prospect of being in Luanda on my own. Safe accommodation is hard to find, and expensive in Luanda. It gets cheaper the further out the city you go, but then there are the disadvantages of travel time and isolation.

Lots of things to pray about and we really need and value your prayers. I'm meeting with the O.M. team this afternoon to pray about their children's work and PEPE. Joan and Wessel, the team leaders, are a real blessing and we will be working on some things together.

Thanks for all your encouragement via e-mails and letters,

Lynne

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

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

March	4th	Dumfries & Broughty Ferry
	11th	Central, Dundee & St. Kilda Road
	18th	Viewfield & West, (Dunfermline)
	25th	Dunoon & Dunrossness

NEWS: GUINEA -- THE LATEST

Three BMS World Mission workers have been evacuated from Guinea because of increasing security concerns in that country. The Magahy family (BMS workers Arthur and Nicky and their children) and Dan Pratt made a two-day journey, first to Kankan in the north of Guinea and then to Bamako across the border in Mali on Tuesday.

Dan and the Magahys have no plans to return to the UK at the moment and are currently going to take a few days to rest and wait to see what happens today, when martial law must legally be suspended.

“We’ve made a move to Bamako, not with the thought of running away, but with the thought of just sitting it out and hoping and praying that we’ll be able to go back and join our colleagues and our Guinean friends as soon as possible,” said Nicky Magahy via telephone on Wednesday.

BMS cross-border supported partner worker, Eric Bafende (who is originally from D R Congo) will, for the time being, remain doing essential medical work in Macenta, Guinea, where he and his Medical Centre team have been given assurances of safety and free passage on condition that they display the medical red cross on their vehicles. Nicky has emphasised that at no point have they been in serious danger but commented that the last week had been “stressful”. Nicky has asked for prayer for the people of Guinea, for pastors working in the country and for a change of heart in the president.



N.B. Eric Bafende is the son of Margaret Bafende who was a friend and colleague of Winnie Hadden.

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND "CONNECT" NEWS EXTRA

Our General Director, Rev Bill Slack, has attended an advance screening of the new film "Amazing Grace" (<http://www.amazinggracethemovie.co.uk>), about William Wilberforce and his fight for the abolition of slavery. He warmly commends it to you.



This year marks the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. Evangelicals like William Wilberforce were at the forefront of bringing about this major change in our own country and The Baptist Union of Scotland is participating with other denominations in marking this significant occasion.

Bill Slack will attend a service later this month, in Westminster Abbey, and participate in the Scottish event in June at the David Livingstone Centre, Blantyre.

POWER 2 LIVE CONCERTS 2007

SAM Chernobyl Relief is hosting a three night *Power 2 Live* gospel music tour in May 2007.

The dates are as follows:

Thursday May 10:	Inchyra Grange, Falkirk
Friday May 11:	Newton on Ayr Parish Church, Ayr
Saturday 12:	SECC, Glasgow

The guests for the evening are:

Crystal Clear, Jane Gallan, The Gospel Heirs, Ian White, Michael Harcus
Colin Mackenzie, Ministry in Song, SerTan - special guests from Belarus

SPECIAL GUESTS (SECC only)-

The ORIGIN Scotland choir and orchestra

Ticket details:

Inchyra Grange: tel: 01506 844072 (Janet Wilson)

Ayr: tel: 01292 477136 (Ronnie Cartwright)

Tickets for the SECC need to be booked direct from the SECC Ticket Office.

