



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

May 2007

[www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk](http://www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk)

## A THOUGHT

I believe that someone said that golf is a good walk – wasted. I have attempted to play golf for years. My father was a reasonable golfer, who managed to get his handicap down into single figures and he encouraged me to play on the 9 hole golf course at Kilsyth.

I continued to play very occasionally and usually badly during the years that I was in the ministry, along with other struggling golfing ministers, sometimes during the Minister's Conference at Troon or at St. Andrews – not on the Championship courses, I might add.

Then came the Colonsay experience, when some of the local islanders worked hard to re-open the course there. The trouble about playing at Colonsay is the fact that the course is shared with the local sheep and rabbits and for a couple of years with ravens, who flew off with your ball – if you hit it far enough for them to grab it safely.

Up until a few weeks ago – that was my experience of golf. Playing occasionally and playing badly, but just now and again hitting a decent shot which would give me at least some encouragement not to give it all up.

Last year my daughters Fiona and Sheila got together to pay for a couple of golfing lessons for me from the professional linked within the Golf Range at Forfar – a present for my birthday. I put off taking up the lessons, as I was having difficulty following any shot of more than about ten yards because of my cataracts. However, with the operations over and seeing much better, I had my lessons.

It was amazing, within minutes the professional was able to identify basic errors that I had been making for over fifty years and I was able to put things right.

The other Saturday I was over at the Golf Range at Linlithgow and out of the bucket of fifty balls I only hit four or five bad shots – the complete reversal of the way things used to be. What a difference she made to my enjoyment and experience of the game.

In a sense, what the golf professional did for me, could almost be identified as similar to the work that the Holy Spirit can do in our lives. Part of His ministry is to get alongside us and identify our failings – the mistakes we are making and then point us in a new direction, along a different path. And what a difference that can make to our lives and our experience as Christians.

Robert Gemmell,  
Pastoral Assistant.

## THE PULPIT

May	6th	a.m. p.m.	Miss B. Young Rev. R. Gemmell
	13th	a.m. p.m.	Mr & Mrs R. Lennie, Gideons Christian Aid Service (led by Rev A. Montgomery)
	20th		Rev. A. Berry
	27th		Rev. R. Gemmell
June	3rd		Rev. R. Gemmell



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May                    17th   7.00 p.m.   Management/ Pastorate Committee

## THE BUILDING PROJECT

The clearance of the old Citizens Advice building has been virtually completed as has the vestry and toilets upstairs but the work would appear to have been halted. Alan Berry has been told that a problem has arisen with a part of the wall where the lift would be installed.

Jack Spiers

## AN APPROPRIATE TEXT

*"My brothers make your calling and election sure" II Peter Ch 1 v 10*

## FIFTY YEARS OF MISSIONARY SERVICE

We congratulate Miss Betty Young on the occasion of her retiral from service with the United Mission to Nepal. We thank God for her devotion, commitment and achievement over those fifty years. No doubt her interest will continue and we shall receive first hand reports of what God is doing in that land.

Jack Spiers

PHOTO  
MONTAGE



EASTER BREAKFAST



FELLOWSHIP LUNCH



WHERE'S THE FLOOR?  
FROM THE BASEMENT



AND THE LIFT WILL BE!

## EMAIL UPDATE FROM LINK MISSIONARY (ANGOLA)

Hope all is well with you. A lot has been happening since the last time I wrote. The OM team visited one of our PEPEs, taking a gift of milk powder bought from money raised at their children's club. They also taught the children a dance, which they loved, and challenged them to raise some money themselves. The children and the teachers loved the dancing so much, that I've asked Frans to lead a session on it at one of our monthly training sessions.

We also had a visit from one of the committee members of "Amizade" (friendship) they raise money to help projects like ours and we have been praying about more support. As a result of the visit, they have given us \$5,000 to help with, and improve the daily snack. What a blessing, especially as we have more PEPEs than I had expected in the budget, and some of them are still growing. We have 420 children registered now. Next stop is to find help for the snack for next year.

For the last two weeks I have been participating in a children's ministry course led by Petra College in South Africa. It was organised by Joan from OM and it was great to get invited along. I learnt so much and it was good to be getting fed, as usually it is me doing the training. It revolved around building relationships with children through games and stories, as well as a lot of theory. The theory was put into practice in the afternoons as we worked with children in the neighbourhood. I had a group of about 7, the numbers varied day to day. Ages ranged from 1 to 7 yrs so it was quite a challenge, but I really enjoyed it and was reminded of why I got involved in children's work. Increasingly meetings, planning, training and administration take up my time and I have very little direct contact with children now, except when I visit the PEPEs. The idea is that we will train others in the material. I'm already putting some of it into the course for the PEPE teachers and will help OM out when they are doing their training. That's if I have time as the year is filling up quickly.

This month I shall be going to Huila, and Zaire provinces to share PEPE and make contact with the local authorities. During these visits I hope to set dates to return and lead the 4 week training programmes. In June I expect to be in Benguela for a week to support Teresa as she starts training teachers herself. In August we have the IEBA church assembly in Luanda and the CBA assembly in Uige. I'm hoping Januario will also be leading the training course there in August. September is Cabinda, November is Luanda although I'm hoping Manuel will lead much of this. Of course, as

this is Angola, some of the dates will undoubtedly change, please pray for the visits and for good relationships and understanding for all those involved.

I should be getting the keys for my new house tomorrow and hope to be moved in before all the travelling starts. Please pray for the move, for the PEPE teachers, the church leaders and all involved in this work with children.

Pray for my health too. We had another certificate giving ceremony on Sunday. It went really well, but I ate something that didn't agree with me and you can imagine where I've spent most of the last 48 hours. I'm feeling a bit better now, but still not 100%. I hate being ill, it just gets in the way of work!

My computer also went on the blink and I had to reinstall all the programmes. As a result I lost all my e-mail addresses. Most of my material was saved on other discs but it didn't even cross my mind to save my e-mail addresses.

Hope all is going well at Portobello. I look forward to hearing what happens with Jim King. Thanks for all your prayers.

Lynne