



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

November 2007

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

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## A Thought

While we were on Colonsay a couple of weeks ago I was asked to conduct a short Memorial and Thanksgiving service. Finlay was one of three men who had been killed on an oil supply vessel just off Hull in the North Sea some five or six weeks ago. He was married and lived in Aberdeen and his funeral was held in the city the week before our visit to Colonsay.

Finlay however, had been brought up on the island and had worked there for some years before moving to the mainland. This was just the last in a series of tragedies to strike this particular family over the past twenty five years.

In the early eighties, one of Finlay and Catrina's sons was murdered in Glasgow. Ten years later another son died of AIDS. Their mother, Catrina died in 2000 after years of debilitating dementia. Finlay's son died himself in 2004. Now young Finlay has died, once again in tragic circumstances.

The only member of the McFadyen household left on the island is Catrina's sister Foelalie. She is in her late eighties and quite immobile but a very fine Christian lady whom I have known for some thirty odd years. Naturally it wasn't possible for her to attend the funeral in Aberdeen, nor was it possible for many of Finlay's friends on the island. It therefore felt right that a memorial service should be held – especially for Foelalie's sake – on the island.

Having been involved in all but one of the funerals over the years, I was just glad that I happened to be across on the island at the right time. Between fifty and sixty – out of a total population of just over a hundred attended. Not for the first time I was able to witness just how close knit and supportive a community there is on the island.

The whole episode reminded me of how important it is that we as Christians should also be there for each other – identifying and supporting each other, not just within such tragic circumstances that I have described but, at all times. – bearing each other's burdens and of course also, sharing each others joys.

Robert Gemmell,  
Pastoral Assistant

## THE PULPIT

|          |                   |   |
|----------|-------------------|---|
| November | 4th               | Rev. Alan Berry                         |
|          | 11th              | Rev. Robert Gemmell                     |
|          | 18th a.m.<br>p.m. | To be arranged<br>Wesley Praise Service |
|          | 25th              | Rev. Alan Berry                         |



## REMEMBRANCE DAY



The service on 11 November will commence at 10.50 a.m. with an act of remembrance.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|          |      |                            |
|----------|------|----------------------------|
| November | 15th | Management Committee       |
|          | 28th | Quarterly Business Meeting |
| December | 2nd  | Church Anniversary         |

## INSTALLATION OF LIFT

The suggested completion date has been given as 6 November 2007. Having regard to the work which will require to be done to restore the premises to the previous standard it has been decided to postpone the Church Anniversary services which were due to be held on 18 November. It is intended to hold these on 2nd December which will combine with the return to the church building, use of the lift and opening of the disabled toilets. The dedications of all of which will take place on Saturday 1 December. This will be a public event and it is hoped that many will be present. Tea will be served.

## COMMITTED TO PEPE



In Angola, education for children is in a poor state due to years of war and civil strife. What's more worrying is that because nearly one half of the country's population is less than 16 years of age, the largest portion of Angolan society is not receiving a standard education.

In response to this need, BMS World Mission began setting up PEPE pre-school education centres in Angolan churches. The first PEPE was set up in Luanda in 2004; today, there are ten churches across the country running PEPEs and two new locations are likely by next year.

The PEPE programme has been very successful in the northern province of Uige – one of the worst-affected areas from the years of conflict. BMS long-term worker Lynne Brown, who oversees the programme in Angola, reported on an encouraging story about the commitment of seven women from Uige who have pledged to give 1,000 kwanzas (approx £7) a month to the PEPE in their church.



The money given by the seven women (pictured left) will be used to buy a daily snack for the children attending their PEPE. Mamã Beatriz, one of the seven who also works as the director of women's work in Uige, says that she and the other women are doing this because they "wanted to see the children developing well".

She went on to say that, "With the help of PEPE, children will develop more than in the past. We are grateful for the programme and we want to see it continue, especially in other places in the province where conditions are much worse."

Deprivation in Angola, especially in large urban areas, emphasises the need for programmes like PEPE. Andrew North, BMS Regional Secretary for Africa, says: "The PEPE programme is offering young people an opportunity in life – not to be the 'street kids' of tomorrow, but the 'movers and shakers' who will influence Angolan society for years to come".

(Taken from BMS World Mission Issue 6/07)

## ORDER YOUR P.B.C. 2008 CALENDAR



This year, again, we are offering, on an order basis, calendars for 2008 based on the hymn/ PowerPoint photographs used during Sunday worship. With inspirational verses from traditional hymns.

These will be priced at £5.00 each with the proceeds going towards the Lift Building Fund.

Please see Ewan or Allistair to place an order.