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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

October 2007

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

October 2007

A THOUGHT

Dear Portobello Friends,

As this Messenger goes to press I am afraid we have another disappointment to grapple with. Leaving on one side what the Church might have or might not have decided on Wednesday 10 October 2007 I am afraid the matter has been taken out of our hands by the fact that last night I received an email from Rev Mike Gilbert-Smith to say that he does not believe that the Lord is leading them towards Portobello Baptist Church. Jack will have listed the reasons for this by reading his email on Sunday morning.

This, and other things that have happened recently, has underscored in my mind that there are things we can do and things only God can do. I represent the West Baptist on the Christian Concern committee here in Dunfermline. On Monday the person doing devotions illustrated this by quoting from Romans Ch 10. You will remember the chorus I hope. "Romans 10 and 9 is a favourite verse of mine...". It is all about confessing with the mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing in the heart God has raised Jesus from the dead, and if we do we will be saved. This is very important, but we must remember that we don't make Him LORD, and we certainly didn't raise Jesus to life again. This is and was the combined work of the Trinity. God does the work and all we need to do is accept it. This came home to me again this morning. I was reading about the Crucifixion. There were things men and women did. They rejected Jesus and cried "Crucify Him!", then the Roman soldiers pinned Him to the Cross. They did that but they couldn't make it go dark for 3 hrs or tear the Temple Curtain in the Holy of Holies from the top to the bottom. God did that and in due season God will bring to Portobello His person if we remain faithful in our part.

Yours very sincerely

Alan Berry,
Interim Moderator

THE PULPIT

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|---|
| October | 7th | Rev. Robert Gemmell (Harvest Thanksgiving) |
| | 14th a.m. p.m. | Rev. Robert Gemmell Rev. Andy Scarcliffe |
| | 21st | Rev. Alan Berry |
| | 28th | Rev. Robert Gemmell |



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

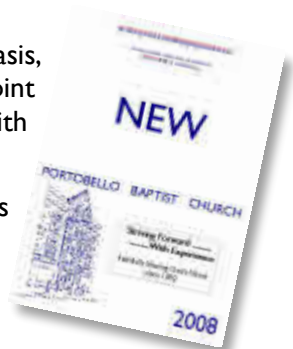
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| November | 18th | Church Anniversary |
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ORDER YOUR P.B.C. 2008 CALENDAR

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.



SHOE BOX APPEAL

The appeal which was operated by Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline and was supported by the church has ceased. Another group, the Blythswood Care, does however, operate Christian care for body and soul and is having a shoe box appeal. The Management Committee has recommended we support this although time is short as Blythswood Care have requested the boxes by the 21 October. A list of suggested contents (which must be new) is below:

DESIRABLE ITEMS:

Hats, Gloves, Socks, Toothbrush, Toothpaste

SUGGESTED ITEMS (all items must be new)

Toiletries:

Soap/ Shampoo/ Shower gel
Face cloth/ Moist wipes/ Sponge
Deodorant
Moisturising Cream
Comb/ Brush
Sanitary Products
Shaving foam/ Razors
Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Miscellaneous:

New Make-up
Sewing Equipment
Household Candles
Screwdrivers/ Pliers
Kitchen Utensils

Small Toy
Sweets 'Best Before' July '08
NO CHOCOLATE

NEW Clothes:

Underwear
Socks/ Tights
Hat/ Scarf
Gloves

NEW Stationery:

Pens/ Pencils/ Sharpener
Notepads/ Colouring books
Rulers/ Rubbers

Other Items:

T-Shirts/ Pyjamas/ Jumpers/ Shirts
(All items of clothing must be new)

GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY

A number of years ago in a South London Baptist Church as the Sunday morning service was drawing to a close a stranger stood up at the back of the church and said, "Excuse me Pastor, can I share my testimony?"

As the stranger proceeded. He explained that he had just moved into the area and used to live in another part of London, but prior to that lived in Sydney, Australia, and had recently returned to Sydney to visit relatives

While there he was walking down George Street in Sydney and "a strange little white-haired man stepped out of a shop doorway, put a pamphlet in his hand and said '*excuse me sir, are you saved? If you died tonight are you going to heaven?*'" The stranger was astounded by the words he had just heard. Nobody had ever told him that and all the way home back to Heathrow he was puzzled. He called a friend, who was a Christian, and was led to Christ.

Later that week the South London Baptist Pastor flew to Adelaide and in the middle of a three day series a woman came to him for counselling, and he wanted to establish where she stood with Christ.

Her reply was that "she used to live in Sydney, and a couple of months before, when she was visiting friends still living in Sydney, she was doing some last minute shopping in George Street and "a strange little white-haired man stepped out of a shop doorway, put a pamphlet in his hand and said '*excuse me ma'am, are you saved? If you died tonight are you going to heaven?*'" "She said, I was disturbed by those words. When I got back to Adelaide I sought out a Baptist Pastor that I knew was nearby and he led me to Christ.

Now this same South London Baptist Pastor flew back to the UK and was speaking at the Keswick Convention and he mentioned these testimonies. At the close of his teaching session, four elderly pastors came up to him and said, "we got saved between 25 & 35 years ago, through a little man in George Street giving us a tract and asking us that question."

Six months later the South London Pastor flew out to a convention of 5000 Indian missionaries in a remote corner of North East India. At the end of the convention he asked the Indian missionary in charge "how did you as a Hindu, come to Christ?"

The missionary in charge replied that "he was in a very privileged position working for the Indian Diplomatic Mission and travelled the world. One

bout of diplomatic service took him to Sydney and as he was doing some last minute shopping and walking down George Street a courteous little white-haired man stepped out of a shop doorway, put a pamphlet in his hand and said ‘*excuse me sir, are you saved? If you died tonight are you going to heaven?*’” When he got back to India he sought out his Hindu priest, but he couldn’t help me and suggested that, to satisfy my curious mind, I go and talk to the missionary in the mission house at the end of the road. This was fatal advice because that day the missionary led me to Christ, I quit Hinduism, began to study for the ministry and left the diplomatic service and now here I am, by God’s grace, in charge of all these missionaries and we’re winning hundreds of thousands of people to Christ.”

A number of months after all this took place the South London Pastor was ministering in Sydney and he asked the Baptist Minister, of the church he was visiting, if he knew a little elderly man who witnesses and hands out tracts on George Street. The host Minister replied that he did know this man and that his name is Mr Genor. The South London Pastor immediately asked to meet with this Mr Genor.

Two nights later the two ministers visited Mr Genor’s little apartment and knocked on the door. This tiny, frail, little man opened the door and welcomed them in. As the South London Pastor relayed all the testimonies that he had heard over the last months, Mr Genor sat listening with tears running down his cheeks.

Mr Genor then said, “My story goes like this, I was a rating on an Australian warship and I lived a reprobate life. At a point in my life I was in a crisis and one of my colleagues, who I had previously taunted and teased for being a Christian, was there to help me and led me to Jesus. The change in my life was as from night to day and I was so grateful to God. I promised God that I would share Jesus, in a simple witness, with at least 10 people a day as He gave me strength. I have done this now for over 40 years with the best place being George street where there are hundreds of people. But in those 40 years I’ve never heard of one single person coming to Jesus until today.”

That has to be commitment. Put simply, that is 146,100 people that this strange little white-haired man influenced for Jesus.

Mr Genor died two weeks after meeting with the South London Pastor and you can imagine the reward he went home to in heaven. Nobody except a little group of Baptists in Sydney knew about Mr Genor, but his name was famous in heaven.

(paraphrased from Way of the Master Radio)

TWO THOUSAND YEARS

Two thousand years since Bethlehem
first welcomed Jesus' birth:
the startling truth began to dawn
that God had come to earth.
And as He grew and lived and taught
a different way unfurled:
a way of joy and love and peace,
a new start for the world!

Two thousand years since Galilee
where Jesus preached and healed;
in words of truth and works of power
God's kingdom was revealed.
As young and old and rich and poor
responded to His call,
they found what we may find today:
a new start for us all!

Two thousand years since Calvary,
the hill where Jesus died;
the Lamb of God, the sinless One,
for me was crucified.
But soon He rose up from the grave
to reign in victory; good news I scarcely can believe:
a new start won for me!

Two thousand years since Pentecost:
the Holy Spirit came
in the sound of mighty, rushing wind
and tongues of living flame;
a gift to all who will believe
and live the Jesus way;
the power of God we may receive,
a new start from today!

Two thousand years of Christian faith
have changed our history,
for Jesus is the Lord of time
and of eternity.
For all who seek a better way,
than failure, sin and pain,
still Jesus Christ makes all things new:
a chance to start again!