



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

September 2007

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

A THOUGHT

The other Saturday we spent part of the afternoon visiting the Heritage Centre through at Bannockburn at the possible site of the battle in 1314. It was interesting as part of the history of our nation.

I sometimes worry a little about our Christian and Church heritage amidst the present climate in many of our churches.

I may be wrong but it would seem to me that in many instances the preaching of the Word has become almost an optional extra in some of our churches. The central place that it once held has been taken up by so called modern style worship sessions.

In the church in which I grew up, worship was important and many of the songs and hymns we sung have had a great impact on my life over the years and have in a way become part of my Christian heritage. Worship was important and I connected with it in a way that I must admit I sometimes find difficult today. Central to our coming together on a Sunday was the preaching of the Word of God, it certainly wasn't something tagged on at the end and the time set aside for it wasn't sacrificed for the repetitive singing of what at least seems to me to be often repetitive inward looking even banal songs.

Surely the preaching of the Word must once again become central within our worship as must the observance of the Lord's Supper. May its relevance and meaning come across to us fresh on every occasion that we meet around the table.

Robert Gemmell,
Pastoral Assistant

THE PULPIT

September	2nd	a.m. p.m.	Rev. Robert Gemmell Mr. Bill Anderson
	9th		Rev. Alan Berry
	16th		To be arranged
	23rd		Rev. Alan Berry
	30th		Rev. M. Gilbert-Smith (Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington D.C.)
October	7th		Rev. Robert Gemmell (Harvest Thanksgiving)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September	5th	7 p.m.	Mr Ken Ham speaking at Carrubbers Christian Centre**
	20th	7 p.m.	Management Committee
	30th		Preacher at invitation of Pastorate Committee
October	6th	7 p.m.	Harvest Supper
November	18th		Church Anniversary

[** tickets available from Carrubbers Christian Centre priced £3.00]

THE MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

September	5th		Missionary Focus
	12th		“Jesus Prayed” (Luke 3:21, 11:1, 18:1; Hebrews 5:7)
	19th		“Quietness of Prayer” (Luke 6:12; Mark 1:35, 6:31 & 46)
	30th		“For Peter and Us” (Luke 22:31-34; John 17)

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The harvest thanksgiving will be celebrated over the weekend 6th/ 7th October. A harvest supper evening will be held on the Saturday commencing at 7 p.m. The theme for this year is "Higher Ground" based on Indonesia which suffered badly in the Tsunami. The thank offering will be devoted to the people of Nias and others like them over the world. We have been very generous in our gifts in the past and I trust that out of our plenty, by comparison, we will give generously and gladly. Envelopes and leaflets are enclosed with the Messenger.

BUILDING PROJECT

Good progress has been made with the lift installation and the disabled toilets. Consideration is now being given to the opening of the church again for worship.

Jack Spiers

EMAIL UPDATE FROM LINK MISSIONARY (ANGOLA)

Hello folks,

Hope you are enjoying the summer and that you did get to see some sun, I know England was suffering from floods.

I want to say a big thank you to you for your prayers for mum, Dad and the family. I was able to get home for two weeks at the end of July, and see for myself how Dad was doing. I have to say, he looked great. His operation went well and the machine he's been fitted with is doing it's job. He was getting out and about fine although a bit fed up at not being able to drive. My visit was last minute and a surprise but timings worked in so well that I was able to join them for the first week of their holiday with my brother and his family. Quality time with family in the beautiful countryside around St Andrews. What blessings came from such shocking and difficult news. The prayers of God's people make such a difference.

It has been non stop since I came back, with a week in Uige to help Januario get started on training the new group. We had nine students and I was really pleased to see the enthusiasm, especially in the students from Kitexe. It's a small town about 40 km from Uige and the Baptist Church is just starting there. The evangelist, brother Mecuba, sees the value of PEPE in helping children and reaching the community. Pray for them as it will be

difficult for them to sustain PEPE and brother Mecuba is looking for ways to support the work.

It was back to Luanda for a very tiring week at the IEBA national assembly. Hours and hours of meetings where church business was discussed but it went well. I took advantage of the time to talk to some of the Pastors about PEPE and catch up on the news from other areas of the country. We left home at 7 a.m. and didn't get back in until 7 p.m. each day, as the meetings were on the other side of the city. Tiredness didn't leave much time for the other jobs I needed to do.

It's assembly season and I'd to travel back up to Uige to talk about PEPE at the opening service of the CBA Assembly. The PEPE children were invited along to sing and were wee stars. We had forty children come from the three PEPEs in Uige and they sang their good morning song, some other PEPE songs and said their vowels and counted to 20 to rounds of applause from the Pastors and delegates. They showed a clear picture of what PEPE is about and we had several enquiries from Pastors interested in getting PEPE going in their areas. Pray for these contacts and that PEPE would go ahead to new areas. A sign of progress in the country is the reduction in journey time to Uige. As the road has improved it takes just seven hours to drive there now instead of fourteen. Thank God for His protection as we travelled.



At the moment I am preparing for a four week training stint in Cabinda. I would value your prayers as there is so much still to do. I'm hoping to get an assistant started before I leave but it has been difficult getting time to talk to his pastor. Joan got the go ahead at the assembly for her move to Mbanza Congo so everything has to be moved out of the old house. She'll have to stay with me for a few nights until she gets her visa and passport back. I'll probably be in Cabinda before she leaves and it will be strange saying goodbye and knowing she won't be in Luanda anymore when I get back. I have to post materials to Cabinda, book flights, sort out finances for the next three months, the list is endless. I'll only be back in Luanda for a few days between now and December so there is a lot to arrange.

I may not have access to e-mail while away so I am depending on you all to keep making a difference through your prayers over these next months of training.

Thanks for your support,

Lynne

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 Alistair to place an order.

