



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

April 2008

www.portobellobaptist-church.org.uk

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A Thought

An Incredible Debt

All of us have verses that mean a lot to us. As I come to the end of my time as Interim Moderator I want to share two more verses. They are Romans 12 v 1--2. I trusted the Lord through a combination of a strong Christian Home and an excellent grounding in Bible truth through Christian Endeavour where I was not only taught the truth but pointed towards Christian Service. Each month we had to come to the Consecration Meeting with a "Response". This could be a testimony or a text and I often spoke on these two verses. Please read them

The Reason for the Plea

Paul uses strong words here. In the AV it is 'beseech', the NIV 'I urge.' Why does he feel so strongly as he writes to Rome? The word 'therefore' is always important in the Bible. Paul has spent 11 chapters telling us about the mercies of God. See 6 v 23, 8 v 38f, 10 v 9. God has done so much for us. We ought to Respond.

The Response to the Plea

CT Studd said 'If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice is too great for me to make for Him'. Some have been called to die for their faith. That is hard. But here in this passage we are being asked for something even harder – to actually live for God – to give a 'living sacrifice'. And amazingly Paul tells us that this is seen by God as holy, acceptable and reasonable.

The Result of this Plea

The grandfather of one of our 'endeavourers' in Cowdenbeath said to me 'I am worried about my grandson'. I asked 'Why?' 'He is letting Christianity affect his life'. Wow! This should be the result. Don't be conformed to the world but be transformed. Those of us who have been on the Christian pathway for a long time should be endeavouring, by God's grace, to be bright shining examples of the transformed life. If we aren't then we are letting the Lord down. We have a debt to those who pointed us to the Saviour and the LORD who loved us and gave Himself for us.

As you step into the future with your new pastor, I would like to thank you for your fellowship and support over these years. My prayer is that we will all respond positively to Paul's Plea.

Your friend and soon to be ex-Moderator.

Rev. Alan Berry, Interim Moderator

THE PULPIT

April	6th	a.m.	Rev. Robert Gemmell Rev. Alan Berry
	13th		Rev. Terry Gallagher
	20th		Rev. Terry Gallagher
	27th		Rev. Terry Gallagher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April	12th	3 p.m.	Induction of Rev Terry Gallagher
	17th	7 p.m.	Management Committee Meeting
	27th		B.M.S. Box Opening
May	11th	6.30 p.m.	Christian Aid Service

INDUCTION OF REV TERRY GALLAGHER

As Minister of Portobello Baptist Church

WHEN?	Saturday 12 April 2008 at 3 p.m.
WHERE?	Portobello Baptist Church
PARTICIPANTS:	Rev. Alan Berry -- The Act of Induction Rev. Robert Gemmell -- Prayer of Dedication Rev. Colin Cameron -- Sermon
GREETINGS:	Rev. Andrew Rollinson, Baptist Union. Joy Webb, Fareham Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. Stewart Weaver, Portobello & District Council of Churches. Rev. Ralph Dunn, United Free Church.
OTHER:	Acknowledgements Buffet Tea

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF TERRY GALLAGHER

Mr Gallagher was born in Glasgow, was brought up in the Gorbals district and attended St. Mungo's Academy. He was converted to the Christian faith after listening to Arthur Blessitt, the American Evangelist. Thereafter he undertook further studies at Glasgow Bible College and qualified with the Cambridge Diploma and a B.A. Degree in Theology. He has ministered in West Green Baptist Church, Tottenham and Fareham Baptist Church. He is also actively involved in Prison Ministry and has been, until now, Chaplain at Winchester Prison. Mr Gallagher is married to Joan and they have a daughter, Ann.

Jack Spiers

EMAIL UPDATE FROM LINK MISSIONARY (LYNNE BROWN)

Hope all is well where you are. I am fine and starting to think about coming back for Home Assignment, only four weeks to go!

Thanks for your prayers over the last weeks. We had a good meeting with the coordinators and it was lovely to see Januario from Uige and Teresa from Benguela again. We had lots to discuss and good news about PEPE in Uige. The PEPE in Kitexe has opened with 30 children and the other 3 PEPEs have reopened so we have over a hundred children learning in PEPE there. I hope to see the PEPE in Kitexe this weekend coming, as I travel to Uige on 29th, present training certificates on 30th and return to Luanda via Kitexe on 31st March. Please pray for good travels, the Landrover is needing some repairs which we hope to get done on Monday. Pray for the PEPEs in Uige, for the teachers as they face the challenges and the churches as they try to support the work.

We still have just one PEPE with 25 children in Benguela. We trained people to open PEPE in other churches, but so far conditions have prevented these churches from getting going with PEPE. In Luanda we have 6 churches running the programme, the same as last year, what is different this year is that they have many more children. As the community sees the results and the difference in children coming from PEPE, they are keen for their child to go and it is very difficult for the missionary educators to say no. This has put a lot of pressure on the missionary educators as some now have classes of 30, instead of 25 which is our official limit. Some churches now have three PEPE classes. I would ask you to pray especially for Kikolo where they have 75 children but one of the missionary educators is unwell and may not be able to continue, leaving the other two to work with the

children. We are trying to work out a way to have on the job training for a church member who is interested in working with PEPE. Altogether there are 400 plus children in Luanda's PEPEs. Praise God for the growth in the programme and pray that churches will take advantage of the opportunities with the children and their families, to share Jesus.

We got good news from Cabinda this week as Bernadette phoned to say they have started PEPE there with 16 children. I now have to get the books and other materials sent up there. Lubango is yet to start, they are still looking for suitable accommodation. It was good to meet up with the missionary educators when I was there a few weeks ago. They are enthusiastic about getting going but need a place to run PEPE. I've left materials with them. Pray they would have a place in the next few weeks.

Thanks for your prayers for this journey, it went well and we saw some beautiful sights on the road as well as some snakes and a huge monitor lizard ambling up the verge.

Opportunities are opening up to share PEPE with groups that may be able to help with funding. Keep praying about this for us. Manuel will be at meetings with aid agencies on Monday and Tuesday and we hope something will come of these contacts. I've asked the Amizade Group if they can help us again this year and we are waiting for a reply. Some of the ladies from my Bible study group have been making play-dough for us and have visited a PEPE. It's been great studying the Bible with them and the group is a real encouragement to me.

We were shown some photos of Kunene at the International church on Sunday. The area was flooded in February with thousands losing their homes. American missionary colleagues have been down to see what is happening and the news is not good. The government has provided tents for many families but 2-4 families are living in each tent. Clean water and food is being supplied to the folks in tents but there are many more who are living with families and there is no clean water for them, they have to drink the flood waters that are contaminated from latrines and cases of cholera and malaria are multiplying. Children have not returned to school as the schools are being used to house flood victims. Estimates suggest 20,000 cattle have died and most people in this area make their living from cattle. Vast areas of what was almost desert where people lived are now under water. Some villages far from the main town have not been reached and no one knows what the situation is for the people there. We saw pictures where just the roof of the church was visible and just a few bricks left of what were homes. It seems that too little too late is being done by the

officials. It is saying this disaster will continue until at least May. More help could be made available if a state of emergency was declared, but the story is that this won't happen because elections are due to be held in September. I don't know how accurate that information is. Churches are uniting to send money, medicines, clothes etc. to the area. Pray for the families and for more help for Kunene. It is in the south of Angola, bordering Namibia. Our American colleagues hope to return there with chemicals to help people treat the water and wells.

It was good having Joan in Luanda for a few weeks. She was here longer than anticipated as she awaited car documentation. She returned to Mbanza Kongo on Monday but will be back on 1st April as we will be heading to Uganda on 5th April for the BMS Africa retreat. After the retreat I will have 4 days in Luanda before I'm due back in Britain for home assignment. Please pray, it feels like there is so much to do and so little time as I prepare to leave PEPE for nearly 4 months. I won't have e-mail access at home when I am in Britain, but will be depending on visits to the local library to access the internet in between visiting you, so you may not hear much from me for a while, but please keep praying for me and for the work. I read a good quote in a church newsletter this week:

" Men may spurn our appeals,
Reject our message, oppose our arguments,
Despise our persons-
But they are helpless against our prayers."
J. Sidlow Baxter

Keep praying and hope you had a joyful Easter.

Love,

Lynne.

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

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

April	6th	Selkirk & Shotts
	13th	St. Andrews & Stirling (Cornton)
	20th	Stirling (Murray Place) & Stirling (St. Ninian's)
	27th	Stonehaven & Stromness

A “HANDY” PRAYER REMINDER

A Bible Class teacher thought of a good way to remind her young folks of the need for intercessory prayer.

Holding up her arm the teacher said, “Before I begin to pray I look at my left hand.”

“I notice that my THUMB is the digit closet to me -- this reminds me to pray for those near me, my family, friends and neighbours.”

Moving on she touched her INDEX FINGER and said, “When I was at school my teacher always pointed this one at me. Preachers sometimes use it when making a point or giving a warning. So I then pray for teachers, preachers and all who guide young and old.”

“Now my MIDDLE FINGER is the biggest one -- it stands above the others. This brings to my mind the rulers of our country, and other countries, and everyone in authority -- I pray for them.”

“The FOURTH is the weakest. It makes me think of the helpless, the sick, people who mourn and elderly folk who are lonely. I ask the Lord to supply their needs and to strengthen them in body and soul, and comfort them.”

Coming to her LITTLE FINGER she concluded, “This small one stands for me, and so I finish by praying for myself and all the things that I need, and also thank God for all His goodness to me.”

“God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you.”

I Samuel Ch 12 v 23



FROM SPURGEON GOLD -- A PLEA TO THE LOST

Remember, last of all, that the Law which is so sharp and terrible to men when it only deals with them for their good, will if you and I die without being brought to Christ be much more terrible to us in eternity, when it deals with us in justice for our punishment. Then it will not be enshrined in the body of Moses, but, terrible to tell, it will be incarnate in the person of the Son of God sitting upon the throne. He will be at once the Lawgiver, the Judge, and the Saviour; and you that have despised Him as the Saviour will have to appear before Him as your Judge. No such judge as He, His justice will be clear and undiluted now that His mercy has been scorned. Oil is soft, but set it on fire, and see how it burns! Love is sweet, but curdle it to jealousy, and see how sour it is! If you turn the Lamb of Zion into the Lion of the tribe of Judah, beware, for He will tear you in pieces, and there shall be none to deliver. Rejected love will change its hand. The pierced hand was outstretched with invitations of mercy, but if these be rejected -- O sirs, I am telling you solemn truth, and hear it, I pray you, ere I send you away -- if from that hand that was pierced you will not take the perfect salvation which He is prepared to give to all who confess their guilt, you will have to receive from that selfsame hand the blows of that iron rod which shall break you in pieces as a potter's vessel. Fly now, and kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish from the way while His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him! Amen.

(Spurgeons Gold, compiled by Ray Comfort
available at www.livingwaters.com)