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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

March 2008

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

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## A Thought

It seems hard to believe that it is almost four years that I have been with you at the church. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and want to thank you for the opportunity of serving you during this period and for the support you have given.

It hasn't been a particularly easy period for the church – a relatively long vacancy – the installation of the lift and all the other work within the sanctuary, but I'm sure that you will agree, that looking back the Lord has been with us every step of the way.

However you are now standing on the threshold of a new ministry, with all the possibilities and opportunities that, I'm sure, that it will bring. Do you remember the Lord's words to Joshua at the point of entering the promised land – “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you”. And just as the Lord has been with his people in the church over the past decades so He will continue to be with you in your coming ministry.

On a lighter note - as I look back over the past four years – I'm certainly not the same person I was four years ago – what with a new hip – two new “eyes” and a hearing aid – there isn't much of the original left !!!!!!!

May you continue to be conscious of the Lord's presence and power in the days and years ahead. And thank you once again for all your kindness to me.

Rev. Robert Gemmell  
Pastoral Assistant

## THE PULPIT

March	2nd	Rev. Robert Gemmell	
	9th	Rev. Alan Berry	
	16th	Rev. Robert Gemmell	
	23rd	a.m. only	Rev. Alan Berry Easter Sunday (No Evening Service)
	30th	TO BE ARRANGED	
April	6th	Rev. Robert Gemmell	



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March	20th	7 p.m.	Management Committee
	21st	7 p.m.	Good Friday Service, with Communion
	23rd	9 a.m. 2 - 4 p.m.	Easter Morning Breakfast Duddingston Kirk & Village 'To the Cross -- the person of Jesus Christ'
April	12th	3 p.m.	Induction of Rev Terry Gallagher

## INDUCTION OF REV TERRY GALLAGHER

The induction has been arranged for Saturday 12 April at 3 p.m. Rev. Alan Berry, Interim Moderator, will preside over the service and induct Rev. T. Gallagher as Pastor of the church and congregation. Rev. Colin Cameron will preach the sermon. Mr Cameron is a friend of Mr Gallagher's and retired, due to ill health, from Renfrew Baptist Church. Thereafter, representatives from other churches will bring greetings to which the Minister will respond. Tea will be served in the church hall to bring the proceedings to a close. The opportunity will be taken on this occasion to express our gratitude to Rev. Alan Berry and Rev. Robert Gemmell for their services to the church during the vacancy.

It is important that the members and friends of the church participate in this event and so extend a warm welcome to Mr & Mrs Gallagher.

Jack Spiers

## EMAIL UPDATE FROM LINK MISSIONARY (LYNNE BROWN)

Hi folks,

Hope you have been getting out to enjoy the good weather I hear you've been having. I've been getting out and about but wouldn't say I've been enjoying the hot weather, I do my best to seek out the shade. If the weather has been un-seasonal in Britain, it certainly has been so here too. Areas are suffering drought and food shortages while other areas are experiencing terrible flooding, loss of homes and goods, contamination of drinking water and cholera. Pray for the people suffering in Cunene and pray that the government would act quickly to help. The churches are already mobilising along with the ex-pat community to send medicines and chlorine to clean wells. Pray for more churches to get involved.

Meanwhile, here in Luanda, each day continues hot, humid and dusty. I've had great fun visiting some of the re-opened PEPE's. Lots of little children all ready to learn to write their names, new songs and that there is a God who loves them and their families. We have no new PEPE's in Luanda but an increase in number of classes and children. Two churches have new pastors, so we've been having meetings with the pastors explaining PEPE to them and asking them to continue to encourage their church to support the work. Pray about this please, the PEPE's have already opened in these churches and the pastor plays a key role in motivating the members.

The support we are able to offer the churches this year is less than last year and this has more of an effect in the provinces. In Uige we have a new PEPE opening in Kitexe, a town a bit further out from the main town. We are pleased PEPE is moving further out into the countryside. It looks like we will have four PEPE's in Uige this year, although I am still waiting to hear back from one pastor. In Benguela we will continue with one PEPE and possibly have another opening. Churches are still making decisions. Pray for God to move hearts.

After the training in Lubango we have a church wanting to start two PEPE classes. I plan to go to Lubango on 1 March for a few days, to present certificates and take down chairs, blackboards, books and lots of the pencils, rubbers, etc that some of you folks have been sending out. The children and teachers say a big thank you. We will present the course certificates at a special service on Sunday 2nd March. Cabinda was also planning to have PEPE running this year but were still building a shelter for it the last time I spoke to them. It will be interesting trying to get materials up to them as everything has to be flown up. On the return from Lubango I will

stop in Benguela for a day to visit the PEPE there. Pray all would go well on the trip and for safety in driving. We hear the roads are getting better all the time, Lobito has had heavy rain.

On Friday 29 February we had a planning meeting with the co-ordinators in Luanda where final PEPE information was given.

Please pray for me as I get used to life on my own in Luanda. Joan arrived back from England on Saturday 23rd February. At the time of writing, I'm not sure how long she will be in Luanda before heading back to Mbanza, Congo. I've missed being able to phone her. With more time in Luanda, I've been able to get along to some ex-pat groups and was at a lovely Bible Study group about a ten minute drive from my house. I'm keen to get along more regularly to make friends and they have already asked what they can do to help PEPE, what a blessing. Keep praying about the fundraising side of things too, that God would open the doors. Praise Him that we have got most of the children's books printed and should be able to get the rest in the next few weeks.

I confess that sometimes I feel this job seems too big and too hard, usually when lots of difficult things happen in the same week! But we have a faithful God who wants to change us, as well as the world around us through us, and your faithful prayers in this work are appreciated, thank you. If I needed further convincing of the need to keep going, I got that last week when I visited the home of one of the PEPE children. Fernando studied with us three years ago and has kept studying since then, despite difficult home circumstances. His Dad disappeared during the war and his Mum took the family to Luanda. Georgina has four children, Fernando, 9, is the only boy, the only one who has had schooling and the second youngest. Luisa, the oldest, was abused by an older man and at 17 is mother to 4 month old Estrela. Domingas is 14, Isabel is 7. The Mum is only 40, I would have put her at 60. No-one in the family has a job and survive on the kindness of others. All six live in one room with a mattress on the floor at one end and some pots, pans, plastic racks and a petrol cooker at the other. No furniture, no privacy and a toilet shared with five other families who live in the same yard. Although she is really too old, Isabel will start coming to PEPE and we will encourage Fernando and help him keep on at school. The future CAN be different for them. Please keep them in your prayers.

Love,

Lynne.

P.S. I forgot to mention that the elections have been announced for 7th/ 8th September. Pray about this. Rumours are starting to abound about the school year ending early, etc, but no hard facts yet.

The church leadership wants me to be in Luanda during the elections so we have had to cancel training in Cabinda meantime.

## EASTER

This is one of the great events in the Christian calendar. Let us rejoice in the Easter message -- "Christ is Risen". Come and begin the day with a communal breakfast.

## GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The organ now in the Centenary Lounge was gifted by Mrs Mary McFarlane, who with Margaret Laird, has been faithfully attending (from Dalkeith) for almost two years. We express to her our warmest thanks and, to both, our appreciation of their support.

## HYMN QUIZ ANSWERS

The Dentist's Hymn: .....	CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS
The Weatherman's Hymn: ..	THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSING
The Contractor's Hymn: .....	THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION
The Tailor's Hymn: .....	HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
The Golfer's Hymn: .....	THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY
The Politician's Hymn: .....	STANDING ON THE PROMISES
The Optometrist's Hymn: ....	OPEN MY EYES THAT I MIGHT SEE
The Taxman's Hymn: .....	I SURRENDER ALL
The Gossip's Hymn: .....	PASS IT ON
The Electrician's Hymn: .....	SEND THE LIGHT
The Shopper's Hymn: .....	SWEET BY AND BY
The Estate Agent's Hymn: .....	I'VE GOT A MANSION, JUST OVER THE HILLTOP
The Doctor's Hymn: .....	THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

## LOVE RUSSIA -- MIRACLES & BLESSINGS

Vanya was found last January just minutes after being abandoned on the banks of the river Oka. He was naked, newly born and his umbilical cord was not properly tied. Quick action by his discoverer; skill from doctors and a caring environment all helped by equipment from Love Russia supporters (medical, food, equipment, clothing, toys & nappies) have helped this little boy to grow into a sturdy and lovely toddler. Love Russia will continue to help his home with nappies, food & equipment.

Out of bed, walking and no longer so afraid that she ties herself into her clothes for security. Masha has benefitted so much from Love Russia support. Equipment, skill sharing and staff training, clothing and nappies have all contributed to a remarkable improvement in this little girls life.

We came to know Zina at our very first summer camp at Kostino. Zina is now a first year Genesis Student being supported through college by Love Russia. Many team members have come to know and love this gentle girl through the years. Supporting children through the Genesis Bursary Scheme increases orphanage leavers chances of integrating into society by ninety percent.

## BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

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

March	2nd	Peterhead & Pitlochry
	9th	Port Glasgow & Renfrew
	16th	Rosyth & Rothesay (Ardbeg)
	23rd	Saltcoats & Sandsting
	30th	Sanquhar (St. Ninian's) & Scarfskerry