

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

December 2010

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT



Over the past twenty five years or so I have paid three visits to my relations who live on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. I can still remember the first occasion that I stood at the edge of the Falls and witnessed the sheer power and volume of the water cascading down. A sight that I will never forget. However on that first visit something else caught my eye in the area around the Falls – A Christmas shop, open all the year round. Now I know that many such shops have sprung up in the interim period – but my sighting was at least twenty five years ago. Christmas in September !!!

Perhaps there is a wee bit of a message for us here. Why not celebrate -- the Word becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us -- all the year round? Our previous minister at Barnton used to occasionally, slip one of the Christmas hymns into the Sunday service. And why not? God's intervention in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ is surely something worth celebrating every day of our lives.

May the coming Christmas period be indeed, a time of celebration for us. But let us make certain that the celebration of Christ's coming be something that we celebrate within our minds and hearts throughout the days of the coming year. May it be a year when the Child of the manger, the Christ of the cross and of the empty tomb, will lead us out to fresh experiences of His grace and love. May it be a year when we begin to see new and exciting things happening within our church. May it be a year in which we will become very conscious of the Lord's leading as far as the future ministry within the church is concerned, a year when the Lord will begin to use the full potential of our people and buildings to His glory and to the furtherance of His kingdom.

Rev Robert Gemmell

PULPIT SUPPLY

November	28th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Andrew Rollinson do
December	5th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	12th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Mr Graeme Watson Mr Philip Doggart
	19th	CHRISTMAS SUNDAY 11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	26th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Mr Jack Spiers NO EVENING SERVICE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 24th 7.00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Note: There will be no Midweek Meetings (Tuesday morning & Wednesday evening) between Christmas and New Year.

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY NEWS FLASH

As of 24 November, Lynne Brown's Visa application for her return to Angola has been granted. She will be able to return to Angola on the 8 January scheduled flight.

Ewan Sinclair

CHRISTMAS CARD POST BOX

The post box for Christmas cards this year will be available on Sunday 5th and Sunday 12th. The cards will be distributed on Christmas Sunday, Sunday 19th December.

Winnie Beattie

BRAINY YAKKING:

A PROMISE FULFILLED IN CHRIST

God promises that He will be our God and we will be His people. This promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Observe the promise, its progression, and its perfection.



The Promise Proclaimed throughout the Ages

I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you (Genesis 17:7)

I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God (Exodus 6:7)

I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God (Exodus 29:45)

I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people (Leviticus 26:11-12)

Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people (Jeremiah 7:23)

So shall you be my people, and I will be your God (Jeremiah 11:4)

You shall be my people, and I will be your God (Jeremiah 30:22)

I will be their God, and they shall be my people (Jeremiah 31:33)

They shall be my people, and I will be their God (Jeremiah 32:38)

They shall be my people, and I will be their God (Ezekiel 11:20)

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame (Joel 2:27)

I will say, "They are my people"; and they will say, "The Lord is my God" (Zech. 13:9)

The Promise Progressively Fulfilled throughout the Ages

Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the Lord your God (Deut. 27:9)

The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34)

And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O Lord, became their God (2 Samuel 7:24)

And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord (1 Kings 8:10-11)

Hear, O my people ... I am God, your God (Psalm 50:7)

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God (Isaiah 41:10)

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us) (Matthew 1:22-23)

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)

You are God's temple ... God's Spirit dwells in you (1 Cor. 3:16)

God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city (Hebrews 11:16)

The Promise Perfectly Fulfilled at the End of the Age

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God (Rev. 21:3).

Amen. Praise be to God through Jesus Christ. "For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory" (2 Cor. 1:20).

(taken from wretchedradio.com)

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

December	5th	Larbert & Largo
	12th	Larkhall & Leith, Edinburgh
	19th	Lerwick & Leslie
	26th	Leven & Linwood

GREAT QUOTES with Kirk Cameron

God desires to be loved by His redeemed children. He values our love. He speaks to us as His children, and with paternal tenderness asks, "My son, give me your heart!" How amazing, how astonishing is this! The High and Lofty One, who inhabits eternity – asks for my heart – my poor, depraved, polluted heart!



~ James Smith (1858)



What an amazing comfort it is to my soul to understand that God doesn't always destroy his enemies. He often defeats them by capturing their hearts with love, making them his sons and daughters. Saul was an enemy of God and His church, who became a beloved son of the Most High and loving brother to us all. Abraham Lincoln said, "Have I not defeated my enemies by making them my friends?" Earthly tyrants conquer the flesh with force, while God conquers the heart with love.

~ Kirk Cameron



Merry Christmas

Family Christmas Fun Sheet



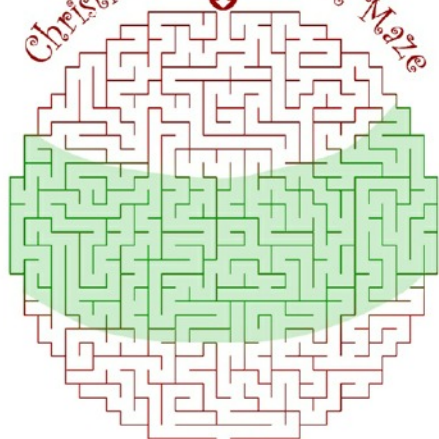
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ANGELS
BABY
BETHLEHEM
CANDLES
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS
GIFTS
MIRACLE

NATIVITY
PROPHECY
SAVIOR
SHEPHERDS
STOCKING
WISEMEN
WORSHIP

After you've circled all the words, write down every letter in the puzzle that's *not* been used. All the unused letters together form a hidden message:

Christmas Ornament Maze



FINISH

A Meaningful Christmas

Sitting down to a great meal with your loved ones, enjoying the warmth of a crackling fire, hanging stockings, decorating the tree... these are the things that make Christmas meaningful for so many people. Nothing beats snuggling into a comfy chair with a cup of hot chocolate, looking at the twinkling lights, and listening to the old familiar carols...

Hark the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled..."

The Christmas season is the time of year set aside by Christians to celebrate the birth of Jesus. You've heard the story... a virgin was visited by God's angel and told she would become miraculously pregnant with God's one and only Son...

OVER ➔

A Meaningful Christmas

CONTINUED...

An angel told the virgin's fiancé, "You shall name the baby Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

But what does this really mean? Sure, none of us are perfect, but do we really need someone to "save" us from our sins? To find out, we need to check our lives against God's Holy Law – The Ten Commandments.

Have you ever told a lie? Here's the ugly truth... if you've told lies, that makes you a "liar" in the eyes of God. Have you ever stolen anything? (Think hard, and be honest... regardless of the item's value, have you *ever* taken something that didn't belong to you?) If you have, God sees you as a "thief." Have you ever used God's name in vain (such as exclaiming, "Oh my G-d!")? If so, you're a "blasphemer." Have you ever felt hatred toward someone? According to God's word, anyone who hates is considered a "murderer" (1 John 3:15). And Jesus said that anyone who even looks at another person with lust (sexual desire) is considered by God to be an "adulterer at heart" (Matthew 5:28).

We've only looked at five out of The Ten Commandments, but if God judges you by that standard, will you be innocent or guilty? Many people say, "Guilty... but God is good, he'll forgive me." But God is so good he must see that justice is done in the same way that a "good" human judge could not let a guilty criminal go.

Knowing you're guilty, do you think you'd go to Heaven or Hell? Most people still hope for Heaven. But God gives us a list of these, and other sins in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, then he adds this word of warning, "don't be deceived... these will **not** enter the Kingdom of God." In fact, in Revelation 21:8 God tells us that, "...all liars, shall have their place in the lake of fire..." So even if lying was the only sin you'd ever committed, God says that "all liars" are sentenced to spend eternity in Hell.

That's why Christmas is such a meaningful time for Christians. Christmas is amazing because you and I stand guilty before God, and even though we clearly deserve Hell, God sent his own perfect and sinless Son to die on a cross in payment of our sins. Then Jesus rose again, defeating death forever. In the Christmas story, that's what the angel meant when he said that Jesus would "save his people from their sins."

God's word says that if you will repent of your sins (feel sorrow for, and turn away from all the things you know are wrong) and put your faith in Jesus Christ, then God will wipe out the record of your sins, and give you the gift of eternal life. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross will be counted as the payment for your sins, and you won't have to pay for your own sins in Hell. There is no other choice. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6). Don't wait. Repent and put your faith in Christ today.

For more information on Christ see NeedGod.com.

SOLUTION

	P	R	O	P	H	E	C	Y	J	E	S
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I	N	Y	U	S	W	A	S	B	O		
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A	Q	I	C	A	R	O	L	S			
E	B	E	T	I	C	T	A	N			
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F	M	Y	N	E	M	E	S	A	N		
I	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	N		

(Over, Down, Diagonal)

- ANGELS (2, 2, 8)
- BABY (3, 6, N)
- BETHLEHEM (9, 1, SW)
- CANDLES (12, 8, N)
- CAROLS (6, 5, E)
- CHRISTMAS (1, 12, E)
- GIFTS (12, 12, NW)
- MIRACLES (1, 2, 8)
- NATIVITY (12, 6, N)
- PROPHECY (1, 1, E)
- SHEPHERDS (3, 2, E)
- STOCKING (12, 7, W)
- WISDOM (12, 11, N)
- WORSHIP (1, 10, E)

Jesus was born to die on the cross because of my sin.



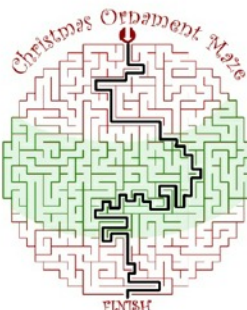
XIV.

What Child is this?

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is sleeping? Whom An-gels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch and keep- ing? This, this is Christ the King; Whom shepherds guard and An-gels sing? Hasten to bring Him land, The Babe, the Son of Ma-ry.

2.
Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading:
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through,
The Cross be borne, for me, for you;
Hail, hail, the Word made Flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

3.
So bring Him incense, gold and myrror,
Come peasant, king, to own Him:
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!



CREDITS
Christmas Family Fun Page created by LivingWaters.com
Free coloring pictures from <http://coloringbooks4me.com>
Puzzles created on <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com>
Sheet music by Dr. from Henry Ramsden Bramley and John Stainer, Christmas Carols New and Old
(London: Novello, Ewer & Co., c. 1871). Picture from <http://www.hymnary.org/robertcarole/bst.htm>