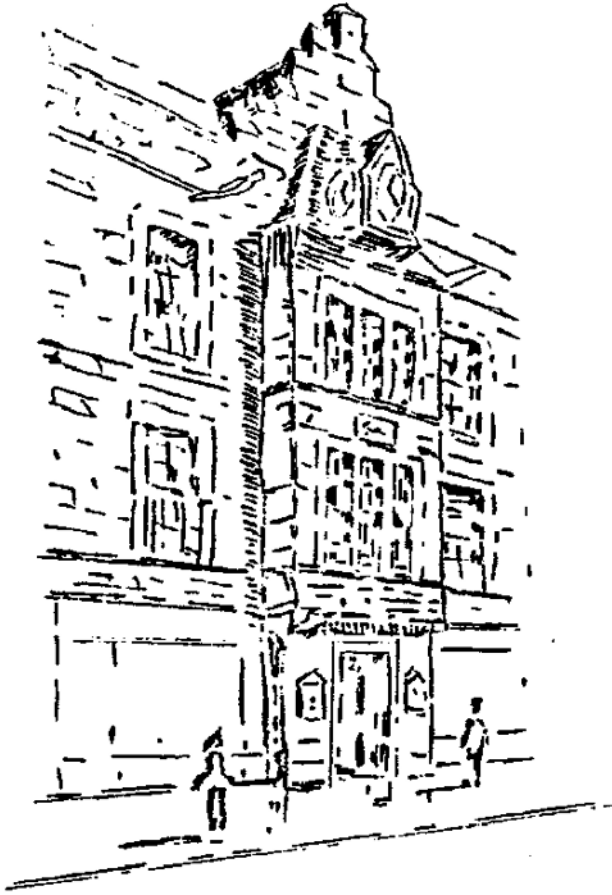


Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

February 2010

*Adversity causes some to break.
Other's to break records.*

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. (Proverbs Ch 24 v10)

A young journalist eager to land his first job, found what seemed to be the perfect opportunity. He called the newspaper and was told that applicants were being interviewed at 10-00am the following day.

He worked all day to prepare his c.v. and portfolio of writing samples. On his arrival early next morning, to his dismay he found that nine other would-be reporters had arrived even earlier. He took his place in line and kept an anxious watch on his competitors. He recognised several of them and knew their reputations. From all outward appearances, his prospects did not look good.

Rather than give up in the face of this “adverse situation,” however, he wrote a little note and handed it to the secretary, telling her it was very important her boss see it at once. When the boss read the note, he found himself eager to meet the young man who had written it. It read: “Dear Sir, I’m the young man who is tenth in line. Please don’t make any decisions until you see me!”

When faced with adversity, there’s nearly always a creative way through it, over it, under it. Most adverse situations are resolved. Be creative in facing your troubles today. There is a Way His name is Jesus!

Rev. Terry Gallagher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- February 12th 6.30 p.m. 9Marks Edinburgh 2010
at Charlotte Chapel
Session 1: A theological vision. Churches that display God's glory
Session 2: Preaching and Biblical theology
- 13th 8.00 a.m. *Session 3: Gospel, conversion and*
– 4.00 p.m. *evangelism*
Session 4: Membership, discipline and discipleship
Session 5: Leadership
Session 6: Covenanting together
- 24th 7.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting
- March 13th 9.45 a.m. Go On Make A Disciple at Kirkintilloch
– 1.00 p.m. 'A whole life discipleship course for your whole Church' – for more information see notice in Church foyer.
- 16th 7.30 p.m. Management Meeting

PRAYER POINT

Please continue to pray for those that regularly attend the Thursday evening Stauros Meeting, that God would sovereignly move in their lives as they seek to know more of Him and to conquer their addictions. Pray also for those who faithfully assist each week.

Ewan Sinclair

B.M.S. WORLD MISSION – HAITI RELIEF GRANT

BMS World Mission has sent a relief grant of \$US 30,000 (approx £18,400) to help bring urgent aid to survivors of last week's devastating earthquake in Haiti.

This initial grant is being given to Baptist World Aid (BWAid), which currently has an emergency team in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

It comes after a remarkable response from UK Baptists to the disaster in the last week, with around £14,000 donated by churches and individuals.

BMS' David McLellan says, "Thank you to those who've already given through our Relief Appeal following the earthquake in Haiti.



Credit: IFRC/Eric Quintero

"You can be assured that your gift will be well-used by BWAid as it works alongside local and international groups to help those in greatest need.

"Please continue to pray for this situation – both for the survivors and those trying to bring aid in difficult circumstances."



BWAid, which is the relief and development arm of the Baptist



World Alliance, is response on behalf of world. It has arranged



coordinating a Baptists around the two search and rescue

teams and is working closely with local Baptist groups on the island.

The first of its Rescue24 team arrived in Haiti last weekend to work at a local clinic in Port-au-Prince. It's a group comprising both American and Hungarian Baptists.

“The situation is terrible; I have never seen anything like this,” said Bela Szilagyi, one of the team leaders there and head of Hungarian Baptist Aid, who has been working in major disaster zones for more than ten years.

Szilagyi said the came across what he described as “immense chaos, confusion, and the terrible smell of dead bodies.”

The earthquake in Haiti on 12 January measured 7.0 on the Richter Scale and has been followed by a series of large aftershocks.

Haitian officials say the number who have died as a result of the quake is likely to be between 100,000 and 200,000, and that 75,000 bodies had already been buried in mass graves.

But UN officials say it is likely the actual number of people who have died will never be established.

Three million people are affected, with an estimated 1.5 million Haitians made homeless by the disaster.



Haitian Red Cross volunteer Jean Zacharie delivers first aid to a one month-old whose mother died in earthquake.

Credit: American Red Cross/Talia Frenkel

BMS World Mission has sent a second relief grant to help some of the many affected by this month's earthquake in Haiti.

A grant of £3,000 has been channelled to partner organisation Haiti Hospital Appeal (HHA), which is involved in aid work in the disaster zone.

HHA runs a small hospital in Cap Haitien, outside the area affected by the earthquake in the north of Haiti. It is currently active in transporting injured people and feeding and supporting the care of refugees being brought from the capital, Port-au-Prince.



Credit: Chuck Holton

It is also mobilising medical teams and seeking to import supplies from beyond Haiti.

An Uncertain Struggle

Writing on his blog from the frontline this week, HHA project manager Carwyn Hill says,

“Last Friday, I returned from our third aid trip to Port-au-Prince. We delivered urgent medical supplies to a surgeon, and food to an orphanage of about 70 children who were just days from running out of what they'd salvaged from their completely destroyed home.

“Like so many they now live in tents and their



future stands before them as an



uncertain struggle, day by day wondering whether aid will or won't arrive.

Credit: Marco Dormino/UN

“When aid does get through it mainly gets sent to the big tent shanty villages that house thousands.

“The smaller dwellings that have anywhere from a few families to a few hundred people are generally getting overlooked.

“In the coming weeks we'll be directing our Port-au-Prince aid to these groups – those who aren't on the front pages, whose little stories have been swallowed up by the extreme extent of the overall devastation.”

Seeking God's Wisdom

This week, writes Carwyn, HHA is setting up a 'field hospital.' An operating team is seeking to work with HHA on emergency orthopaedic and plastic surgery cases.

He explains, “We've already got news from a number of hospitals down south stating that they have cases they can't deal with, and too many patients.

“In the coming week we hope we can support these groups and relieve their load.

“No one really knows how things will unfold... but so far we seemed to have been guided by God in the correct places to those most in need. We will continue to seek his wisdom.”



Credit: Phuong Tran/IRIN

WHO TAKES THE BLAME FOR HAITI?

Rick Warren is wrong when he writes that God does not judge the world through catastrophes (Romans 1:18).

Pat Robertson is wrong when he claims to know why the Haitian earthquake happened (Deut.29:29).

Perhaps these principles will help us figure out why tragedies happen and who is responsible.

GOD

God controls everything directly or indirectly by restraining His grace or allowing the devil a little more leash. Either way, God is sovereign over everything and happily accepts responsibility for both good and bad (but not sin).

THE DEVIL

The devil does not control the weather or rule the nations.

HUMANS

There are only two groups of people on the earth: pagans and Christians.

WHY?

When God sends/allows disaster to the pagans, He does so for two reasons: as judgment or as a call to repentance. A disaster is not enough wrath for the pagans as it is merely a taste of God's eternal punishment if they do not repent and trust the Saviour.

When God sends/allows disaster to Christians, He does so for two reasons: to prune us or kill us and take us home. A disaster is never too much or too little for the Christian, the Pruner causes/allows just the right amount for our good and His glory.

While God may be sending judgment to an entire nation, each individual (pagan and Christian) should seek to determine why God caused/allowed himself to be hurt.

Christians are not victims of collateral damage. While there may be a primary reason God sends/allows a catastrophe, God orchestrates every detail in every situation.

Catastrophes happen to heathens as an act of God's judgment, but they happen to Christians as an act of severe mercy.

God sends/causes a disaster for the onlookers to respond with apathy or kindness.

BIBLICAL SUPPORT

Jesus gave us the definitive statement on catastrophes in Luke 13:1-5. Please take a moment to read that text and you will never make the mistake of Rick Warren or Pat Robertson.

TRICK QUESTION

God is not to blame for the earthquake as it was the exact right thing to do. While God gets the credit for the earthquake, He is never to blame for anything. Charles Wesley wrote a number of hymns thanking God for two earthquakes that rocked England in 1751; we should do the same.

THE BOTTOM LINE

While each individual should endeavour to learn the lesson that God has in the storm, there is an ultimate purpose (forty days or otherwise): God is endeavouring to glorify His Son. God sends a taste of His wrath to the heathens that they might look to the cross and be saved. God prunes Christians that we will live in greater gratitude for what Jesus has done to rescue us from eternal destruction.

Catastrophes, like everything, are about the cross.

(taken from wretchedradio.com newsletter)

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BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

February	7th	Barnton & Bathgate Baptist Fellowship
	14th	Bearsden & Bellshill
	21st	Bo'ness & Bourtreehill
	28th	Brae, Shetland & Brechin