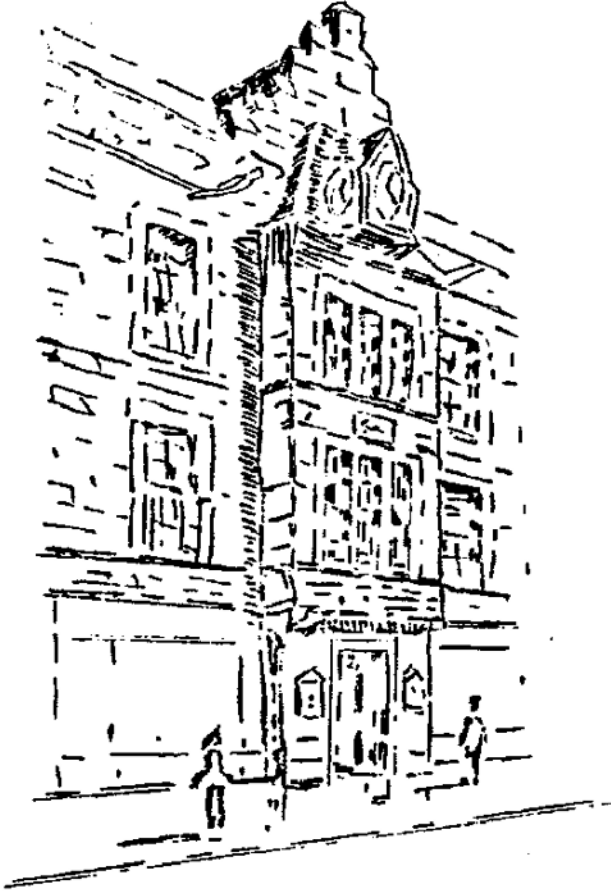


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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

January 2010

January 2010

## THE GOOD COMPANION

Just after Christmas I met someone, he was standing idly around near his home. I asked him, "Are you going somewhere?" and he said, "Yes" But when I asked him where he was going, he said "I don't know." I teased him a little and told him he wouldn't get very far if he didn't know where he was going. But he got the last word. He said, "I may not know where I'm going, but I'm going with my friend." And that made me think.

Here we are in the first week of this year. As we look forward into the New Year, we really do not know where we are going, nor what is going to happen to us at work or at home. Most of us don't know where we will be going our holidays to. But this we do know, that wherever we go and whatever happens to us, we can have Christ with us as our Friend in every day of the year and beyond that forever. That is all that really matters.

Jesus said, "I am with you always, even unto the end." (Mt.28:20).

*Rev. Terry Gallagher*

## BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

January	3rd	Abbeyhill & Aberdeen Christian Fellowship
	10th	Adelaide Place, Glasgow & Airdrie
	17th	Alexandria & Alloa
	24th	Alness & Alva
	31st	Arran & Ayr

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January	17th	12.30 p.m.	Special Church Meeting <i>(after Sunday Morning Service, No Communion this Sunday)</i>
	26th	7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
February	12th	6.30 p.m.	9Marks Edinburgh 2010 at Charlotte Chapel <i>Session 1: A theological vision. Churches that display God's glory</i> <i>Session 2: Preaching and Biblical theology</i>
	13th	8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.	<i>Session 3: Gospel, conversion and evangelism</i> <i>Session 4: Membership, discipline and discipleship</i> <i>Session 5: Leadership</i> <i>Session 6: Covenanting together</i>
	24th	7.30 p.m.	Annual General 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

## FLOWER CALENDAR



There are still a number of vacant spaces on the flower calendar. If you would like to provide flowers on one of these dates, please enter your name on the calendar as soon as possible.

May Purdie

## NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM CHURCH FRIENDS

Over the last few days we have been looking back at 2009 and there have been times that have been a challenge to us we have been challenged with health issues, Lillias had an onset of MS early in the year that has left her slower in getting around but she has set herself the challenge of getting back some of the mobility she lost, Bill was diagnosed early in the year with Diverticulitis that led to a diet change and he is feeling better, in the summer he had problems with his left kidney and he was told that he had three cysts developing there that were reducing the function by about 30%, then at the end of the year he had a very sore episode of shingles which he is still getting over so from a health point of view we did not have a good year.

There were many blessings in our life also as we saw our family and grand children develop and become very involved in life, growing up and becoming good people to be around.

We have continued to be involved in Men For Missions International and OMS and, although we faced some challenges there in 2009, being involved was a great blessing for us. Being involved in the Into Africa Project has given us great blessings and also encouragement as we have tried to raise the profile of the project in the UK.

A disappointment for us was that some of the thoughts and indeed dreams that we had disappeared and although we tried hard to work through them they were just out of reach, friendships were challenged. Friendships that we had hoped would be around for a long time, relationships did not work out as we had hoped, we disappointed people and people disappointed us

but we need to move on and probably like you wondered what 2010 will have for us.

This morning I read these

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him” (I Corinthians 2:9, NIV)

What are the dreams and desires that you have for your future? Maybe you had some big dreams when you were younger, but things didn't go the way you planned and so you put them aside and settled for status quo. We've all had disappointments, but we have to keep moving forward. Today is a new day, and we serve a God who makes all things new.

Let me challenge you to have a big dream for your life. I always say, when one dream dies, dream another dream. Don't just settle for mediocrity, we serve a God who is above and beyond anything we can think of. There's nothing you can dream of that God can't do. Ask Him to bring you the right people, the right opportunities, and the right resources. As you follow His leading in your heart, I believe you'll move forward and see every dream and desire come to pass in Jesus' name!

And from the Old Testament I read:

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; and they are new every morning.” (Lamentations 3:21-23)

We went to church this morning and our Pastor was challenging us to look at 2010 as a year of opportunity. He said we should, as a church and, as individuals be looking at 2010 as a year of “Blessing and Release”. As I thought of our hopes and aspirations for this year my thoughts went back to my readings today and was challenged, as I hope you too will be challenged, to dream dreams and when one dream fails have another dream, keep moving forward there still is a lot to be done for Him, and if we have challenges in our lives believe that these can be removed because there is nothing that God cant do.

Thanks for your friendship and encouragement to us we appreciate you and we challenge you to dream big dreams and see God work.

Have a great year.

Lillias and Bill Anderson  
*(Rev Robert Gemmell's Sister & Brother-in-law)*

The 9Marks Conference 2010, at Charlotte Chapel, aims to help build healthy local churches by encouraging leaders and members to re-establish their Biblical bearings and re-think their ministry methods.

The speakers are:

Mark Dever, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington D.C.

Paul Rees, Charlotte Chapel, Edinburgh

Liam Garvie, St Andrews Baptist Church, St Andrews

**Who is the Conference for?**

Any active member of a local church who wants to see their church more closely follow the Biblical example. Particularly for leaders and elders (or those aspiring to be) but suitable for anyone who cares passionately about the health of their local church. If you love the local church, any church, this conference is for you.

**What is the course about?**

"9Marks" stand for the 9 Biblical marks of a healthy church. At the conference the 9 Marks will be explained and we will discuss how they can be implemented practically so that we can all help our churches display God's glory more clearly.

Mark Dever is an international author and speaker with a special interest in the subject of the local church. His ministry through 9Marks has had enormous influence in shaping the ministry methods of many biblically thinking local churches. Do not miss out on your chance to hear from Mark on his favourite subject.

**Cost?**

Unfortunately, there is a cost – £20 – but this does include breakfast, lunch and refreshments. If you would like a booking form, please see me.

Ewan Sinclair

## THE 9 MARKS OVERVIEWS

### **1. Expository Preaching**

This is preaching which expounds what Scripture says in a particular passage, carefully explaining its meaning and applying it to the congregation. It is a commitment to hearing God's Word and to recovering the centrality of it in our worship.

### **2. Biblical Theology**

Paul charges Titus to "teach what is in accord with sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). Our concern should be not only with how we are taught, but with what we are taught. Biblical theology is a commitment to know the God of the Bible as He has revealed Himself in Scripture.

### **3. Biblical Understanding of the Good News**

The gospel is the heart of Christianity. But the good news is not that God wants to meet people's felt needs or help them develop a healthier self-image. We have sinfully rebelled against our Creator and Judge. Yet He has graciously sent His Son to die the death we deserved for our sin, and He has credited Christ's acquittal to those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus' death and resurrection. That is the good news.

### **4. Biblical Understanding of Conversion**

The spiritual change each person needs is so radical, so near the root of us, that only God can do it. We need God to convert us. Conversion need not be an emotionally heated experience, but it must evidence itself in godly fruit if it is to be what the Bible regards as a true conversion.

### **5. Biblical Understanding of Evangelism**

How someone shares the gospel is closely related to how he understands the gospel. To present it as an additive that gives non-Christians something they naturally want (i.e. joy or peace) is to present a half-truth, which elicits false conversions. The whole truth is that our deepest need is spiritual life, and that new life only comes by repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus. We present the gospel openly, and leave the converting to God.

### **6. Biblical Understanding of Membership**

Membership should reflect a living commitment to a local church in attendance, giving, prayer and service; otherwise it is meaningless, worthless, and even dangerous. We should not allow people to keep their membership in our churches for sentimental reasons or lack of attention. To be a member is knowingly to be travelling together as aliens and strangers in this world as we head to our heavenly home.

### **7. Biblical Church Discipline**

Church discipline gives parameters to church membership. The idea seems negative to people today – "didn't our Lord forbid judging?" But if we cannot say how a Christian should not live, how can we say how he or she should live? Each

local church actually has a biblical responsibility to judge the life and teaching of its leaders, and even of its members, particularly insofar as either could compromise the church's witness to the gospel.

### 8. Promotion of Christian Discipleship and Growth

A pervasive concern with church growth exists today – not simply with growing numbers, but with growing members. Though many Christians measure other things, the only certain observable sign of growth is a life of increasing holiness, rooted in Christian self-denial. These concepts are nearly extinct in the modern church. Recovering true discipleship for today would build the church and promote a clearer witness to the world.

### 9. Biblical Understanding of Leadership

What eighteenth-century Baptists and Presbyterians often agreed upon was that there should be a plurality of elders in each local church. This plurality of elders is not only biblical, but practical — it has the immense benefit of rounding out the pastor's gifts to ensure the proper shepherding of God's church.

In identifying and promoting these nine marks, we are not intending to lay down an exhaustive or authoritative list. There are other significant marks of healthy churches, like prayer and fellowship. But these nine are the ones we think are most neglected in most local churches today, with the most damaging ramifications. Join us in cultivating churches that reflect the character of God.

(taken from [www.9marks.org](http://www.9marks.org))

## GREAT QUOTES with Kirk Cameron

"I am sure our Lord Jesus Christ does not want His ministers to deliver magnificent orations, spread-eagle sermons, with long and elaborate sentences in them. He wants them to just come and talk as He talked, in all simplicity, so that the very poorest and most illiterate of their hearers may understand their meaning, embrace the Truths of God they proclaim and find everlasting life in Him of whom they speak."



~ Charles Spurgeon



Spurgeon also said, "Take the velvet out of your mouths, Gentlemen, and speak the truth!" How good it is to understand simple truths from God's Word without a preacher trying to impress his audience with his long-winded, big-worded sentences. My favourite sermons are not difficult to understand. They are clear, simple, and hit the bulls-eye in content. We should have the same mind-set when we speak to others about the things of God.

~ Kirk Cameron