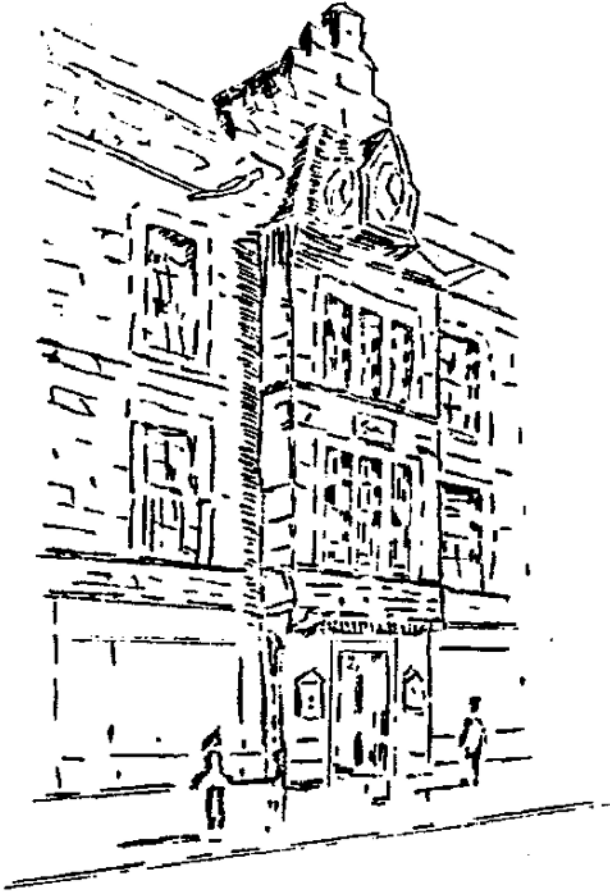


Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

March 2010

“God sends no one away except
those Who are full of themselves.
*God resists the proud,
and gives Grace to the humble.”*
1 Peter Ch 5 v 5

Sometimes when you're feeling important!
Sometime, when your ego's in bloom;
Sometime, when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room;

Sometime, when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions,
And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it, up to the wrist;
Pull it out, and the hole that's remaining,
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter,
You can stirrup the water galore,
But stop and you'll find in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before.

The Moral in this quaint example,
Is do the best that you can;
And be proud of yourself, but remember,
There's no indispensable man.

Rev Terry Gallagher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.
		7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
April	2nd	7.30 p.m.	Good Friday Communion Service
	4th	9.00 a.m.	Easter Morning Breakfast
		11.00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Morning Service followed by Communion
		6.30 p.m.	Easter Sunday Evening Service

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

LINK MISSIONARY UPDATE (rec'd 4 March 2010)

Dear friends,

Hello from a cool Luanda. It was only 26° C this morning as I headed into the church office, on Monday it was 33° C at this hour. It is quite a change from Scotland where I was blessed with snow at Christmas and went sledging and snowballing with my family. I wasn't feeling quite so blessed when journeys were made difficult and the snow turned to ice. I had a lovely few weeks at home and caught up with folks at church and some friends. I also managed to get some of the myriad of necessary documents for a new visa.

It was good to get back to the heat and sunshine of Luanda and straight back into finishing the training course. I had 14 students who completed the course satisfactorily and some of them are already teaching in PEPE. Others may start later in the year, but some were given places in schools to study in the morning and so now do not have mornings free to work with PEPE. Manuel, Teresa and Januario also trained people last year and we have several new PEPEs. Three new PEPEs opened in Benguela, two in Uige and two in Luanda. So far we have about 750 children on our list in 31 classes and there are some churches still looking at the possibilities of opening or reopening this year. It's amazing to have so many children and the opportunities for witness that this brings, both to the children and their families. It is also a challenge as we need more workers to supervise the teachers as the programme grows, as well as resources.

Some of the children are out with the PEPE age range and this is a dilemma for us. You may have heard that a lot of Angolans were expelled from the southern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo in October. These people have made their way to Uige and Luanda, with their families. Their children don't speak Portuguese and it is difficult for them to get places at State schools as these are already overcrowded. They can't afford private schools, so many have asked for their child to study at PEPE in the hope that

by next year they will speak Portuguese well and be in a better position to get a place at a state school. It is very difficult to refuse under the circumstances and we have some 6 and 7 year olds mixed in with the PEPE children in some places. Please pray for these families as they try to settle in a new country.

I have spent much of the last few weeks buying materials, having meetings with church leaders and organising book printing. The same company who helped us with the books last year and produced them well and quickly at a low cost, have agreed to print them again this year and for the same unit cost they charged last year. Praise God for this answer to prayer. The roads have improved so much between here and Uige that we were able to go and return last Thursday, taking blackboards, chairs, exercise books, pencils, glue, and plates and so on for the four new classes there. Those of you who have been reading these newsletters over the years will remember that it used to take fourteen hours just to get to Uige! We stopped at Quitexe PEPE on the way. They had one class last year, two classes this year. They have also been granted permission to open Primary school classes and have been busy over the last year making bricks out of clay to build classrooms. PEPE opened here to help the church plant a new church and they held their first Baptism back in October. Pray for brother Mecuba the Evangelist responsible for the church and director of PEPE and for brother Jorge as they both work with the children and reach out to families. By the time we reached Uige, it was too late to see the children at the PEPEs but I met some of the new teachers and Pastors that are starting with PEPE this year. It's exciting to see all that is happening but we need you to continue standing with us in prayer. Please commit to doing this and thank you to so many of you who are already doing so.

An answer to prayer was Fiona receiving her visa in January and she arrived here on 20th February. It's so good to have her back and she came with us on the trip to Uige. Continue to pray for her as she settles in, gets used to the ways and language again and for the future. There is a question over her accommodation so pray about that. It is working so well having her live opposite me and we don't want to have to move. Another answer to prayer is that I have a new driver and this makes life so much less stressful. Honorio started in December and is getting on okay. He is still learning the places I need to get to but did really well on the trip to Uige. He is a member of the local church and leads one of the choirs, is married and has a little boy called Ebenezer. Pray for him as he gets used to working with us and adapts to our foreign ways – like turning up on time!

As for me, I am keeping well, keeping busy and keeping getting documents together for the new visa. I am hoping to have everything I need from here ready to get sent back with Andrew North after his visit in March. The sooner we hand everything in to the Angolan Embassy in London, the sooner we will know if they will accept them or what else we need. My visa doesn't run out until September but from the experience of others, it is best to start early in the hope that it will be ready come the end of my Home Assignment sometime in January.

Please pray for my mum. She had a knee replacement operation last Friday (26th Feb). It went well and she is at home but recovery is painful and takes a long time. I notice the distance so much more when a family member is suffering.

Power has just gone off in the church office so I will send this while I still have battery power. Thanks so much for all your support, encouragement and prayers. I hope 2010 is full of blessings for you and your fellowships.

Love



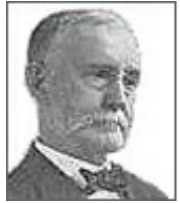
BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

March	7th	Bridge of Don & Bristo
	14th	Broughty Ferry & Broxburn
	21st	Buckhaven & Buckie
	28th	Burra Isle & Calderwood, East Kilbride

GREAT QUOTES by Kirk Cameron

Every one of us casts a shadow.

There hangs about us, a sort of a strange, indefinable something, which we call personal influence – that has its effect on every other life on which it falls. It goes with us wherever we go. It is not something we can have when we want to have it – and then lay aside when we will, as we lay aside a garment. It is something that always pours out from our lives . . .



as light from a lamp,
as heat from flame,
as perfume from a flower.

~ J. R. Miller



I have a friend named Landon who has been living with my family for the last couple of weeks. He is a college student and loves Jesus. What I love best about Landon is the "shadow" he casts on me, my wife, and kids. We've found ourselves laughing more, loving more, caring more, and thinking about God in different ways while we've been together. Do you know someone like that? Someone who always draws a smile out of you when you're feeling blue? Someone who's very presence makes you feel safe and loved? Someone who makes the party more fun, the conversation easier, and the general mood of the day brighter just by walking into the room? I imagine being near Jesus was the most life-changing experience anyone ever had. Jesus cast a shadow of love, life, laughter, and truth – even without saying a word. He was powerfully changing the world around Him by his personal influence. How are others affected by the way you live your life? What would your spouse and children say? Would they say they feel closer to God, safer, more loved, and cared about because of you, or that life is easier and less stressful when you're not around? Be aware of this strange power that continually exudes from you and affects all who know you.

~ Kirk Cameron

'SPRING FORWARD' CLOCK CHANGE

On Sunday March 28 2010, Daylight Saving Time begins. Remember the saying 'Spring Forward, Fall Back' -- so put your clocks forward.



O HOW THE GRACE OF GOD AMAZES ME

- 1 O how the grace of God
Amazes me!
It loosed me from my bond
And set me free!
What made it happen so?
'Twas His will, this much I know,
Set me, as now I show,
At liberty.
- 2 My God has chosen me,
Though one of nought,
To sit beside my King
In heaven's court.
Hear what my Lord has done
O, the love that made Him run
To meet His erring son!
This has God wrought.
- 3 Not for my righteousness,
For I have none,
But for His mercy's sake,
Jesus, God's Son,
Suffered on Calvary's tree -
Crucified with thieves was He -
Great was His grace to me,
His wayward one.
- 4 And when I think of how,
At Calvary,
He bore sin's penalty
Instead of me.
Amazed, I wonder why
He, the sinless One, should die
For one so vile as I;
My Saviour He!
- 5 Now all my heart's desire
Is to abide
In Him, my Saviour dear,
In Him to hide.
My shield and buckler He,
Covering and protecting me:
From Satan's darts I'll be
Safe at His side.
- 6 Lord Jesus, hear my prayer,
Your grace impart;
When evil thoughts arise
Through Satan's art,¹
O, drive them all away
And do You, from day to day,²
Keep me beneath Your sway,²
King of my heart.
- 7 Come now, the whole of me
Eyes, ears and voice,
Join me, creation all,
With joyful noise:
Praise Him who broke the chain
Holding me in sin's domain,
And set me free again!
Sing and rejoice!

*Emmanuel Sibomana, b. 1915
translated by Rosemary Guillebaud*

¹skill or cunning

²rule or government