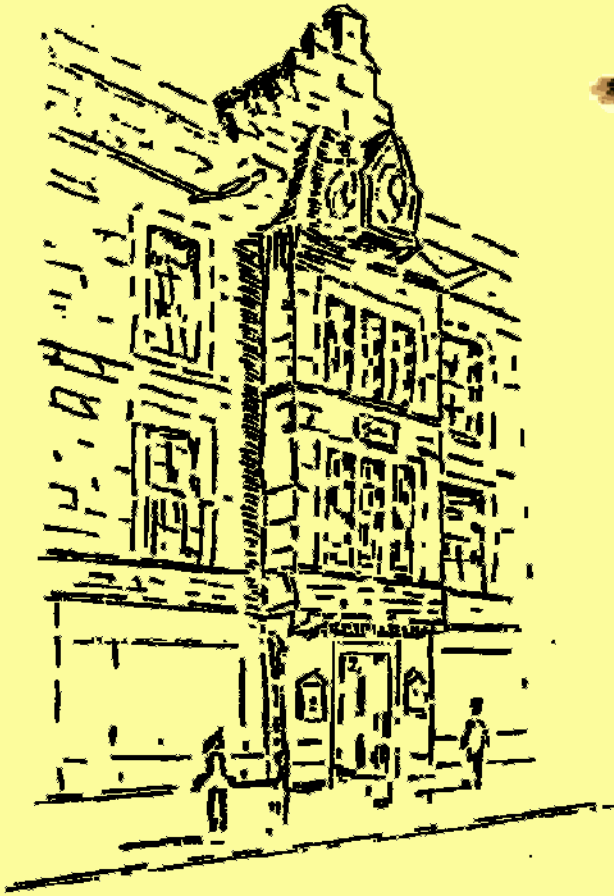


Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

October 2010

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

I am sure that we have all, on occasions meet Christians who give us the impression that they know it all and are spiritually miles ahead of the rest of us. The type of person who takes a great deal of pleasure in pointing out not only our faults but also our theological discrepancies. As someone has said, "it is difficult to argue with people who don't only think they are right, but believe that God has gifted them to be right".

And then, we sometimes, as Christians fall out with each other, blaming doctrinal differences for the conflict. Do you remember the background of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians? Folks were pledging allegiance to different church leaders – Paul, Apollos, Peter – even a group calling themselves the JESUS group – probably the biggest trouble makers of them all. Surely we must guard ourselves against personality cults and super spirituality. Pledging allegiance to leaders and personalities rather than allegiance to the Lord Himself.

Our prayer and our desire should be that the Lord may use us as agents of unity and of grace – we need each other and there is so much that we can learn from each other. And our unity must surely be based on the teaching of Jesus and not around style or personality or preference.

On a personal level I just want to say how much I am enjoying being back with you and thank you for the warmth of your welcome – from past experience I wouldn't expect anything else but acceptance and openness and warmth from the good folks of Portobello Baptist Church. I am sure that the Lord has already began to bring healing and a new encouragement to all of you.

*Rev Robert Gemmell*

## PULPIT SUPPLY

October	3rd	Mr Jack Spiers, (Harvest)
	10th	To be arranged
	17th	To be arranged
	24th	Rev Robert Gemmell
	31st	Rev Robert Gemmell

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October	3rd	Harvest Thanksgiving with a fellowship lunch following the morning service
	28th – 30th	Scottish Baptist Assembly at The Vine Venue, Dunfermline
November	21st	113th Church Anniversary with a fellowship lunch following the morning service

## BMS HARVEST 2010

Redemption is the BMS Harvest appeal for 2010.

... put your hope in the LORD,  
for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.  
(Psalm 130 v 7)

### Previous appeals:

Through BMS World Mission's Harvest Appeals over the last three years, Baptist churches and individuals in the UK have raised over £600,000 for mission around the world. And since 2000, Harvest Appeals have generated over £2.3 million.

Your gifts enable BMS workers and partners to transform people's lives.

## DOOR OF HOPE & INTO AFRICA PROJECT

Since the last time I was able to share with you about the work in Africa there has been so much going on that I don't know where to start ...

door of Hope

The work at the Door of Hope with rescued babies has gone from strength to strength with us now having our fourth house and getting close to one thousand babies rescued and to think that the folks at Portobello were in there at the beginning of the work and have had an ongoing involvement in the work, makes me thankful for the folks who have helped save the life of a baby and give that child the opportunity to grow and develop into a young person with a future where no one knows will lead them. By your giving you have a stake in the future of young men and women in South Africa and a big plus is that they have a foundation in their faith through being brought up in a Christian environment.

The Into Africa Project is moving at a pace where I am almost unable to keep up with it; the village church planting project has been a huge success with over 7 thousand churches planted since we began. When we began in 2004 we saw a membership of around one thousand now six years later we have a membership of over 400,000. With this phenomenal growth there are still the challenges of roads and bicycles for Africa and I am delighted to say that the Portobello were at the forefront of this.



I hope that sometime in the future I will be able to come and show you the progress being made through a PowerPoint presentation. Please be encouraged by the fact that you have made a difference to lives of the young and old through your prayers and also through your giving.

Bill Anderson

## SEPTEMBER OFFERINGS



5th	£302.00	19th	£262.00
12th	£394.00	26th	£290.00

## BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

October	3th	Hawick & Helensburgh
	10th	High Blantyre & Hillhead (Glasgow)
	17th	Hopeman & International (Aberdeen)
	24th	Inverkeithing & Inverness
	31st	Irvine & Islay

## DUNCAN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH INAUGURAL BIBLE CONFERENCE NOTES

The text for the conference was Romans Ch 1 v 16 – “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”.

### **SESSION ONE – Get into the Word (Rev Mark Schenk, Duncan Street)**

Because:

- The Bible is the breathed out Word of God
- The Bible is our sole authority
- The Bible reveals all that we need to know
- The Bible is clear in its testimony about itself
- The Bible is necessary for growth
- The Bible points us to it's Hero at every point

### **SESSION TWO (Rev Scott Hamilton, Harvest Bible Chapel, Glasgow)**

#### **ANTICIPATION BREEDS ATTENDANCE**

- Arriving with anticipation points to absolute value of reward.
- Collective attendance produces critical strength.
- Healthy things grow – nurturing an environment where hungry people are fed.

## APPETITE BREEDS ATTENTION

- People willingly listen when they know there is life in the message
- Transformation springs from renewed attention in everyone

## ASCENDANCE BREEDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Visible context
- Visible delight
- Visible importance

## ASCRPTION BREEDS ADORATION

The priority given to God in a Church defines the priority He will have in the believer's heart.

The priority given to God's Word in the Church, or in a life, serves to diagnose the priority God has in their Church life or in their heart.

## EXPLANATION BREEDS APPLICATION

Expectant huddles of people gathered round God's Word for transformation not just information.

## SESSION THREE (Rev Jim Turrent, Central Baptist Church, Dundee)

John Ch 15

Living the Word – in it's deepest sense – is not dryly applying the words of a text – but in being organically connected to Jesus Christ.

- The True Vine – organically connected
- The Vital sign – Fruitfulness

## BRAINY YAKKING –

### ASSURANCE NOT ARROGANCE



The Bible says that we may have assurance of our salvation.

In [Christ Jesus], we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him (Ephesians 3:11-12).

Paul describes this assurance as “boldness” and “confidence.” As believers, we should have boldness and confidence – not in ourselves but in Christ. The assurance of our salvation comes from believing in Christ and trusting in His ability to keep us (2 Timothy 1:12).

Assurance is not arrogance. As Augustine said, “To be assured of our salvation is no arrogant stoutness. It is faith. It is devotion. It is not presumption. It is God’s promise”

If we trust in ourselves, then our assurance is arrogance. If, however, we trust in Christ, then our assurance is from faith. It is never presumptuous to believe God’s promises. To believe God’s promises is the essence of faith. And that faith produces assurance, which is nothing more than boldness and confidence in the certainty of God’s promises in Christ. In this way, assurance, though bold and confident, is actually humility not arrogance.

(taken from wretchedradio.com)

## CLOCK CHANGES

On Sunday 31 October 2010, Daylight Saving Time ends. Remember the saying ‘Spring Forward, Fall Back’ -- so put your clocks BACK one hour.



## WHERE TRACTS CAN LEAD ...

“Tonight we went for a walk near the Ohio River around sunset. It was beautiful. I handed a million dollar gospel tract to a bridesmaid that was out on the boardwalk. She liked it so much she said, ‘Follow me ... you need to hand one of these to the bride!’ A minute later I was inside a beautiful room with a huge glass window over looking the river and the wedding celebration was in full swing. I met the bride and said, ‘You don't know me, but ... you look like a million bucks.’ Then handed her the tract. She gave me a huge hug. The rest of the bridal party stepped up and wanted one for themselves. You just never know where a tract is going to lead you.”



~ Trish Ramos

## GREAT QUOTES *with Kirk Cameron*



E'er long, a heavenly voice I heard,  
And Mercy's angel soon appeared;  
He led me on with gentle pace,  
To Jesus as my hiding place!

~ James Smith

This is the sixth stanza in a poem by James Smith. If you like, get a running start by reviewing the first five from past newsletters. When I was first attracted to spiritual things, I dabbled in New Age nonsense. I even talked to my own imaginary god, "Mark." Sounds silly because it was! I knew I was making my god up in my mind, but I thought everyone else was doing the same thing too! My fairy-tale god was a dumb figment of my imagination, unable to help me, heal me, or humble me, leaving me stuck in my sin. The genuine God however, Jesus Christ, spoke to me at last, in that still, small voice and led me to a church where I heard the gospel truth. "Mark," Mohamed, and Mother Theresa cannot forgive my sin. I cannot blot out my transgressions. But Jesus can. Jesus hides me and old Grandfather Adam under His blood, and raises me a son of the Most High King.



~ Kirk Cameron