

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

September 2010

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### A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

A few days ago after reading a particular passage in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians (Ch 2 vv 2 – 5 ) I realised that it can be really difficult coming to terms with hurt that we experience from the hands – or the mouths – of other Christians – you know – the occasions when we feel verbally abused by a dear brother or sister who is certain that they have the monopoly of the truth – or who have set themselves up the Lord's judge, jury and executioner, as far as our shortcomings are concerned.

We can perhaps excuse folks who don't or who haven't taken on board, themselves, the Biblical principles of grace and kindness – to act negatively towards us at times. However it is, at least disappointing, when it is people who are followers of Jesus, who cause us hurt and heartache.

This was obviously the cross that Paul had to bear. The traditional interpretation of this passage has been that the "sinner" described here, is none other than the person that Paul asked the Corinthian Church to discipline in the first of his letters to the church. Some commentators aren't quite so sure that this is the case – after all it seems that Paul is writing about someone who has personally offended and attacked him – an outspoken person who has tried to turn the church at Corinth against him. Whatever, it seems that a great deal of pain has been suffered by the Apostle. However, his response is amazing. The last thing he wants is for the Corinthians to go over the top in the severity of their discipline. In fact he even calls them to "comfort" the penitent sinner.

As is so often the case, as we read through Scripture – what we find is great grace in action. When we are wounded by the comments and utterances of brothers and sisters in the Lord – our prayer should surely be for grace to be patient and kind in the face of other's spite. With the Lord's help we will be saved from bitterness and disappointment when we are wounded by the Lord's people.

*Rev Robert Gemmell*

P. S. I am looking forward to meeting with you all again.

## PULPIT SUPPLY

|           |      |                        |
|-----------|------|------------------------|
| September | 5th  | Rev Robert Gemmell     |
|           | 12th | Rev Robert Gemmell     |
|           | 19th | Rev George Cruickshank |
|           | 26th | To be arranged         |

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|           |                |                           |                                                                                      |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September | 8th            | 7.30 p.m.                 | Quarterly Business Meeting                                                           |
|           | 25th           | 10.00 a.m.<br>– 3.00 p.m. | 2010 Bible Conference at<br>Duncan Street Baptist Church                             |
| October   | 3rd            |                           | Harvest Thanksgiving with a<br>fellowship lunch following the morning<br>service     |
|           | 28th<br>– 30th |                           | Scottish Baptist Assembly at<br>The Vine Venue, Dunfermline                          |
| November  | 14th           |                           | 113th Church Anniversary with a<br>fellowship lunch following the morning<br>service |

## LINK MISSIONARY UPDATE

(rec'd 13 August 2010)

Hi folks,

Manuel and I were able to have a good chat today and he feels able to take on the role. The official handing over was done and a farewell for me with the folks of the Department of Education. A clear answer to prayer. Thanks so much for your prayers and continue to pray for Manuel.

(rec'd 16 August 2010)

The letter that had gone astray has now been found and delivered to B.M.S. That should be the last bit of documentation required by the Embassy. Praise God, and thanks so much for your prayers. It is so good having you as prayer warriors in my Link Groups. Now we need to pray that the Lawyer gets the translating and the officialising done quickly and off to the Embassy and that the Embassy accepts the documents. My flight back to Angola is on January 7th!!

Thanks again and see you all soon.

(rec'd 2 September 2010)

As I left Angola we had 930 children in PEPE. Manuel has officially taken up the position of National Coordinator. He was, and probably still is, feeling a bit anxious about it so please pray for him. I am in Britain doing link visits and will return to Angola when a visa comes through. Please pray it doesn't take a long time.

Lynne Brown

## BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

|           |      |                                      |
|-----------|------|--------------------------------------|
| September | 5th  | Gerrard St. Aberdeen & Glenrothes    |
|           | 12th | Gourock & Granton, Edinburgh         |
|           | 19th | Grantown-on-Spey & Greenock          |
|           | 26th | Hamilton & Harestanes, Kitkintilloch |

## BRAINY YAKKING –

### THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7).

The first line of this proverb sets forth an important principle of the Book of Proverbs and Biblical wisdom in general. The fear of God is both the establishment and essence of wisdom.

The term “fear” refers not to terror but to reverence. To fear the LORD is to possess the requisite awe and admiration for His intrinsic greatness. It carries with it the desire to honour and obey God.

The English “LORD” [all caps] indicates a translation of the Hebrew, Yahweh, the covenant name of Israel’s covenant God (Exodus 3:15). It is insufficient to fear a vague conception of an anonymous deity. This proverb is speaking of a specific God, with a specific name, and a specific nature.

The word “beginning” can mean both a starting place and a ruling principle. It would seem safe to say that the fear of God is both the starting place and ruling principle of knowledge.

“Knowledge” is a close synonym to “wisdom.” Note the similarity to Proverbs 9:10, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight”. The second line introduces a contrast, “fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7b). The terms “wisdom” and “instruction” are similar to “knowledge” in (1:7a). The contrast is between the fear the LORD, which leads to knowledge, and fools, who eschew wisdom. To forsake God is to flee understanding.

Foolishness is as much a moral issue as it is mental one. The fool is not a fool, primarily, because he lacks information or instruction. He is a fool because he does not fear God. And in rejecting God, the fool proves that he hates wisdom and instruction. He is not a fool because he does foolish things; he does foolish things because he is a fool. Such is the condition of all who spurn God.



(taken from [www.wretchedradio.com](http://www.wretchedradio.com))

## TRACT AVAILABILITY

If anyone would like some Biblical tracts, to hand out before the services or elsewhere, see me one Sunday – I have a catalogue for you to browse.



As the tracts are handed out faithfully each week, continue to pray that the people of Portobello, who accept these tracts, will come to realise the truth of the words written and that many will be drawn to Him in repentance and faith.

Ewan Sinclair

## GREAT QUOTES *with Kirk Cameron*



Enrapt in thick Egyptian night,  
And fond of darkness more than light!  
Madly I ran the sinful race,  
Secure without a hiding place!

~ James Smith

One of my sons and I took a trip to "The Lost Sea" in Sweetwater, Tennessee, the Nation's largest underground lake. Five-hundred-fifty feet below the Earth's surface inside a very large cave in the Smokey Mountains lies an amazing underground world. We floated in a boat over four acres of water teeming with blind albino fish that never see the sun. On our adventure, we finally reached "The Bottomless Pit". There we stood, trying to catch our breath from the hike, when our guide turned out the lights and we experienced "total darkness" – literally. He told us that there are only two places in the world this occurs naturally – at the bottom of the ocean and in a cave. It was so dark I could not see my hand in front of my face. The lack of light paralysed me. Apparently, groups camp overnight in this cave (we saw some of these crazy people in sleeping bags!) and a common problem is when the lights go out, the adults freeze while little kids start running around! Small children will actually run in the dark, not realizing they could fall past the point of no return. While it sounds crazy, Scripture says that before we come to Jesus, we are much like that. Blinded by our own sinful desires, we shut out the light of God's Word and consider it fun to run headlong into danger, not knowing that we are jeopardizing our eternal souls. I thanked God for the light and stayed close to our guide. Spiritually, we need to do the same.



~ Kirk Cameron