

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

August 2011

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

*“Upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)*

The Bruce Forsyth Social Club is based in Plymouth and has over fifty members. It was founded by banker Mike Colwill, and the official greeting used by all members is, 'Nice to see you, to see you nice.' The club meets every two months to play their own version of The Generation Game wearing pieces of carpet on their heads. When Bruce himself visited Plymouth in 1990 to play golf he met a selection of members but thought he had been set up by comic colleague Ronnie Corbett.

Would you join a club like that? Could you imagine spending evenings playing the Generation Game?” This kind of club would be for people with a very specific taste.

To some, the Church appears to be like this. They see it as irrelevant, outdated, and a club for people who have nothing better to do with their time. Jesus, however, had a different view. He saw it as a dynamic body of people called to transform the world with His Gospel. He saw it as a sign of a New World to come.

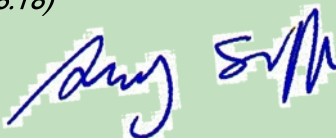
Through the ages, at best the Church has been all of that. Whether we look at the early Christians valiantly facing martyrdom for the cause of Christ, the early Methodists in the eighteenth century championing the cause of the poor and the working man, marking the beginnings of the Welfare State; Or perhaps we could point to the first schools, the first hospitals, or countless other examples of world-changing social action.

But we have our own story to write. There will be a chapter read in heaven at the end and beginning of all things that will tell the story of Portobello Baptist Church. I pray that it will not be about mere survival. I pray it will be a story of Resurrection and Conquest. Of engagement with the community; Of the shaping of a Family where people feel included regardless of creed, race, gender, age or social standing; A story of innovation, change and risk-taking for His Kingdom.

That story is still being written and you have a part to play in what it will tell. Jesus addressed the above words to Peter, a very ordinary fisherman. He was an important part of the story of the Church. So are you.

“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

Your Pastor



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

		Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer <i>(all are welcome to stay for all or part of this time)</i>
		Wed	7.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
August	16th	Tues	7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	24th	Wed	7.30 p.m.	Quarterly Business Meeting
September	24th	Sat	9.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	“God’s Glorious Gospel of Grace” 2011 Bible Conference at Duncan St. Baptist Church

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

August	7th	Walk on the wild side - Luke 10
	14th	Knocking on heaven’s door - Luke 11
	21st	The Rich Fool - Luke 12
	28th	Running on Empty - Luke 12
September	4th	(new series starting this week called) What on earth is the church for? Touching Heaven

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY NEWS (rec’d 3 August 2011)

Hi Folks,

I’m sitting writing this with my socks and a cardigan on, because it is cold in Luanda. It doesn’t happen very often, but at this time of year the skies are grey most of the

day and it is chilly in the early hours. I'm not complaining, I quite like the chance to feel cosy and the heat will be back in full force soon.

It was good to get back to my own wee house after nearly seven weeks of suitcase living. Cape Town is a breath taking city, and we enjoyed the freedom to walk around, stop for coffees and explore further afield. The weather was really quite wild as we drove over mountain passes in the Wine lands, and I discovered that horizontal rain isn't just a Scottish phenomenon and that the world is small as I bumped into a couple from Greenock.

After a week's break it was off to Beira, Mozambique to make sure all was in order for the Holder family. Geoff and Christine are the first in what BMS hopes will be a team based out of Beira and working with the Baptist Convention. Just as well we arrived a week before the Holders, as there was a lot to do and the first weeks passed in a blur of bed buying, electrician and carpenter organising, cleaning and meeting up with all sorts of people. The flat was supposed to be fully furnished, but the image of Fiona trying to cook chilli and rice for two in the only pots in the house, two huge catering pots, that wouldn't fit side by side on the cooker, is one that will stay with me. We also discovered that "fully furnished" meant "complete with family living in garage". Thanks to your prayers, that situation was resolved to the mutual benefit of all involved.

Once most of the work for the Holders was complete, I had the chance to meet with the PEPE coordinator for Beira and we visited some of the PEPEs around the city. I taught the children some songs and learned new songs from them and told them about the children in Angola. I filmed the missionary educators' messages to their colleagues in Angola, and our missionary educators loved seeing and hearing about PEPE life in Beira. It was good having time with David, the coordinator, and we discovered that we share the same joys and challenges in the work and were able to share ideas on what we do in different situations. Januario, Maria Teresa and I all trained for PEPE work in Beira back in 2002, 2003 and some of the missionary educators remembered us. It was good to see the improvements to life in Beira since I was last there. The PEPE programme continues to expand, there was only one power cut in the five weeks I was there, the sewage system has been fixed so there weren't the horrible smells and the process of getting documentation seems to be smoother and attempts being made to cut out corruption. However, there are still loads of people squatting in unfit accommodation, a lack of employment and low wages that has led to many young girls getting involved in prostitution and I often woke up hearing the call to prayer from the mosque as Islam is getting a hold on the city. Pray for Beira, and Geoff and Christine as they learn the language and seek what God wants them to do. Pray for the witness of PEPE in the city and all the workers involved.



(Left: Missionary Educator Alfa singing with her PEPE children.)

Back in Angola and some exciting things have been happening with PEPE. Another PEPE has opened in Lubango, and the Pastor has had visitors from MINARS, a government ministry, along to see what goes on. They hope this ministry might help improve the building where PEPE meets. Manuel had a very good meeting with the General Secretary and Vice President of the Baptist Convention, and they want to send information round their churches to see if any members will commit to giving towards the programme on a regular basis. We heard for the coordinator in Uige, Janeiro, that one of the PEPE teachers sat the state exams and is now being paid by the state to work in PEPE. This is quite a miracle, and we need more information about how this happened as it is notoriously difficult to even get to sit the state exam. You need to have contacts or pay a bribe and there is no guarantee of a positive outcome. This news has given us hope that there may be possibilities for other PEPE teachers. Please pray for Janeiro. He has been in Luanda for the last two months getting treatment for his back. It sounds as if he had a slipped disc which left him unable to walk. Latest news is that injections and physiotherapy have been helping and he can now walk and get around, but I don't know how effective the treatment will be long term.

I've started back at lessons at the seminary. They had a sad event while I was away. The second year student, Miguel, died. He had sleeping sickness and, through a combination of factors, didn't get the right treatment at the right time. It is such a waste from what is a treatable disease and this is one of the things that frustrate me here, the lack and poor quality of health care. So many people die needlessly. It's been hard for the other students especially. On a cheerier note, my students hadn't forgotten all the English they learned and are doing quite well. We had a debate last week on the question, "Is Allah the God of the Bible?" Lots of interesting points came out. We're moving on to ways of reaching out to Muslim neighbours. Pray for these Pastors in training as in a few short years they will be leading God's people. The seminary is having a workshop next week and I've been invited to participate. We'll all be sleeping at the seminary, which in reality means not much sleep! During the day there will be various sessions looking at the curriculum and changes that need to be made. Pray that this would go well.

Thanks for all your prayers and please continue to pray. Pray for safety in travel around the city, there's already been one scary incident but praise God, He is looking after me. Pray for Angola, still the most expensive city in the world for

ex pats, but with extreme needs, pray for PEPE worldwide as we reach out to children and families.

Love
Lynne

MISSIONARY NEWS: THE DALRYMPLE DELIGHT

Dear praying friends,

Since we last wrote an update, a lot has happened and we are sorry we haven't written earlier. We will start where we left off in the last update: Nok's dissertation and research trip. Nok was in Thailand for nearly 5 weeks to do research for her dissertation, her time in Thailand was really busy and tiring but we could see God's hand on the trip. Many doors were opened for Nok and she had good interviews with many leaders from Christian and Muslim backgrounds. It was difficult to be apart from each other for 5 weeks and towards the end we were missing each other very much. We would like to thank you for your prayers and support while Nok was in Thailand, God very much answered your prayers! Nok has been working hard on her dissertation since she returned to the UK, however after discussions with her supervisor she changed her topic slightly so she has been given a 3 week extension. Nok's dissertation deadline is now the 12th September - please pray for her as she works towards this deadline.

Now we are living together ... yeah! We found a great flat available for us at the right time – again your prayers were vital in this, so thank you for praying for a flat! Graham moved into the flat then began to frantically clean and unpack boxes just 4 days before Nok returned to the UK with her Mum. For a number of years we had talked about Nok's Mum having a holiday with us, she had looked after Nok's Dad for so many years we felt it would be good for her to have a break. The perfect opportunity arose for a visit, as she was able to join Nok on the return flight from Thailand! Nok's Mum came to the UK for a 3-week holiday. She had 10 days with us in Scotland and another 10 days in England with Nok and missionary



Some photos from the holiday and graduation

friends. The time together was wonderful and we had enjoyed lots Thai food, travelling and time with retired missionaries who knew Nok's Mum from Thailand. The highlight of the trip was attending the Redcliffe graduation and end of year

ceremony in Gloucester together just before she returned to Thailand (it was not an official graduation for Nok ;-).

While doing her dissertation Nok is also working from time to time as an interpreter. Graham's contract with OMF as a mobiliser finishes at the end of September, please pray for God's guidance.

Give thanks:- that we have found a great flat to rent in Paisley, which was available at the right time

:- that Nok's research trip went smoothly and she got good information for her dissertation

Please pray:- for Nok's dissertation which is now due on the 12th September.

It is proving lots of work and she needs God's strength and wisdom to complete it

:- as we are going through our initial OMF interviews, we have had four already and one more is scheduled soon with the final interview taking place late August or early September

:- for us during this transitional time as much of the later part of this year is unknown and we face a number of financial challenges

Thank you for your prayers, may God bless you!



**Duncan Street
Baptist Church**

Matthew 28:18-20

2011 BIBLE CONFERENCE

The aim of this year's conference is simple – to encourage & equip believers in Gospel ministry.

On the theme of God's Glorious Gospel of Grace, there will be 3 talks and also a panel discussion.

John Brand will preach on the topic 'What is it?' In this session, John will explain the content of the Biblical Gospel and will outline the key doctrines that are central to a proper understanding of the Gospel. Following on from this, Colin Adams will preach on the topic 'Why do I need it?' In this session, Colin will set out why Christians need the Gospel each and every day and why we must preach the Gospel to ourselves. In our last session, Craig Dyer will preach on the topic 'Why should I share it ... and how?' Craig will set out the Biblical basis for evangelism and will explain to us how we can be more effective in communicating the Gospel.

At a time when there is much confusion over the content & centrality of the Gospel, this is very much a conference in season. In addition to the sessions, there will be a fully stocked bookshop which the Faith Mission will run for us and there will also be other resource partners who will provide great Gospel resources.

We look forward to welcoming you and spending time with you in September as we partner and unite around God's Glorious Gospel of Grace.

GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



"I do not believe that you Christians believe your own creed – for if you were persuaded that things really are as your Bibles teach, and that we poor lost people were really going to such a dreadful place as you say Hell is – then you would act more humanely toward us ... So I have reasoned thus: either you Christians don't believe what you say – or else you must be the most hardened and unfeeling wretches in the universe! Now, as I don't believe that you are such cruel, hardened, and unfeeling people as this supposes – then I must conclude that, with all your talk – you Christians don't really believe what your Bibles teach!"

~ James Smith

This was written from an unsaved person's perspective to stir within us Christians a sobriety about the implications of our inaction. As one modern atheist has famously said on YouTube (my paraphrase), "If you believe that unsaved people are going to Hell if they don't believe in Jesus, then how much do you have to hate someone to not evangelise to them." Consequently, many unbelievers conclude that if we don't share the gospel with them and try to "pull them from the fire", that we either don't care that they will spend eternity in Hell, or, more probably, that we don't believe our Bibles. Either way, when our walk doesn't match out talk, we give unbelievers a reason to stumble at the cross.



~ Kirk Cameron

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

August	7th	Aberdeen Christian Fellowship & Adelaide Place
	14th	Airdrie & Alexandria (Vale of Leven)
	21st	Alloa & Alness
	28th	Alva & Arran