

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

July 2011

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A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

"... I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart"


Jeremiah 29:11

In Valladolid in Spain where Christopher Columbus died in 1506 stands a monument commemorating the great discoverer. Perhaps the most interesting feature of it is a statue of a lion destroying one of the Latin words that had been part of Spain's motto for centuries. Before Columbus made his voyages the Spaniards thought they had reached the outer limits of earth. Their motto was Ne Plus Ultra (No More Beyond). The word being torn away by the lion is "Ne" (No) making it read "Plus Ultra" Columbus had proven that there was indeed "more beyond".

As we reach into a new day for Portobello Baptist Church, it is my prayer that we will discover many ways in which God would show us "more beyond". At times, like those Spaniards, we all come to the point where we think we've seen all that God can do. We cease to believe, cease to trust and cease to have vision. If the Lion of Judah is going to tear away the "No" from the "No more beyond" of our thinking, then we must humbly submit to his gracious leading and say "Lord make me a part of the new thing that you want to do here in Portobello". Of course this first must happen at a personal level before it happens to us as a community. This was what was expressed by Jeremiah to the people of God of his day.

Who knows what great plans God has in store for us in Portobello? We can be assured that His plans are to prosper us, and to give us a hope and a future. Pray for Moira and I as we become part of the community of believers here at Portobello. Pray for us as we become part of the wider community. Pray for me as I take up my role of leadership that I may remain close to Christ, and may lead you in a way that brings glory to the name of Christ.

With great hope for the future,



(Rev, Andy Scarcliffe)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 10.30 a.m. Weekly Hour of Prayer
(all are welcome to stay for all or part of this time)

Wed 7.30 p.m. Midweek Prayer & Bible Study

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY NEWS (rec'd 9 June 2011)

Hi Folks,

Just wanted to let you know we have arrived safely in Beira. The trip to Cape Town was eventful with a lost suitcase and me having to sprint, or try to, back and forwards between International arrivals at Jo'Burg and domestic departures. In the end we missed the connection to Cape Town, but arrived an hour later with suitcase waiting. After that the holiday began and we had a lovely time relaxing and enjoying the sights and freedom to walk around, pop in cafes for coffee, get reasonably priced shopping etc. We had sunny days, we needed it, and some cold and wet days when we were glad for there log fires in some of the places.

It was good to get to the heat of Beira and see the flat for the new family. It's a good place, close to the centre of the city, the church, Pastor and Church. We've spent a lot of time cleaning, buying beds, cots, getting locks fitted and sorting out stuff. There is a family living in the garage. Please pray about this as it will be a hard start for the new family if they come and see this, about six or seven children from baby to teenager, constantly around and living in a garage. The dad had been guarding the house but works for the owner, not this new family. They should be moving tomorrow and we are hoping the move is complete before the family arrives in the afternoon. Please pray for the new family as they adjust to a new country, language and so on and for us all as we live together in the same house for the next five weeks. The house is a good size but perhaps not for having two extra people around and for them to feel it is there place. Pray we would all have plenty of grace with each other.

Once the family are settled a bit I hope to get out and visit some PEPE's with them. I asked you to pray about the meeting with Manuel and it seemed to go ok. He understood we have restricted budget and he has to keep to it but also said that he likes to work well and do a good job and isn't sure how within this budget but will be praying about it. We may have another conversation later on. Please pray for him, for God to continue to work in his heart about PEPE despite what he feels are restrictions and to continue to focus on the children and families that are being blessed by his work for God.

Thanks for all your prayers.

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY NEWS UPDATE (rec'd 22 June 2011)

Just a quick update as I am almost out of time at the internet cafe.

Thanks for your prayers for the new family. They seem to be settling in well and all was resolved with the family in the garage before their arrival. The family found another place to stay before the Holders arrived, the husband is working as night guard, and his wife as house help – so it has all worked out really well for both sides. Thanks for your prayers.

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY NEWS UPDATE (rec'd 28 June 2011)

Dear friends,

All is going well here. Geoff and Christine got started on Language lessons yesterday and so far seem to be enjoying it and learning. Isaac and Naomi seem quite settled at creche and I got to visit a PEPE yesterday. It did feel a bit strange to see the smiling children and sing familiar PEPE songs, but not be in Angola. The children taught me some of their songs too and we had fun learning new ones and hearing the story of Jonah. It was a small class which meant I got to know some of the children's names and learn their personalities. Dodo is definitely the leader of the class and clever too, he already knows almost all the letters of the alphabet though 'T' is giving him trouble, while little Lucia finds it all a lot and disappears into her own little world frequently. I loved being with them and it was encouraging to talk to their teacher and share experiences. I haven't been able to organise visits to other PEP's yet as the phone network has been down for a day or so. We have only had one three hour power cut since I arrived so I am not complaining about a day without phones.

The Holder family seem to be settling well and we see God's goodness in turning what was a difficult situation, the family in the garage, into such a blessing. Dona Luisa, the mum of the family, is now working for the Holders and is doing a great job. She knows how to communicate despite the language barrier and has given us so much useful information. She's great. Other families at church and from the ex pat community have just been so welcoming and helpful too. Fiona and I will leave happy that the family will be able to settle well here.

Talking of leaving, I've got less than two weeks left and Fiona will be in Angola a week today. Time has gone so quickly it feels like hardly any time at all. I return on 9 July and will drop Fiona off at the airport on my way to spend that night with friends. On Monday or Tuesday I hope to head south to Menongue and stay with Joan and Wesell, O. M. missionaries that I got to know in Luanda. They are building an orphanage, training Pastors and training Sunday school teachers and children's work in this really needy part of the country. It will be so good to see them and

the work as they are based in Menongue now and we rarely see each other. After that trip it will be straight back to lessons at S. T. B. and to see how things are going with PEPE, fitting in house cleaning and rearranging furniture after having the ceiling in my house replaced, I hope, in my absence. I feel like I may need a few quiet days here before I leave to get ready for it all, it's been really hard work here but with lots of blessings.

Thanks for all your prayers and please continue to pray for the Holders and for me in this last week or so and for the activities that lie ahead as I return to Angola.

Love

Lynne

MISSIONARY NEWS UPDATE FROM RAJAN (INDIA)

Our summer outreach programmes are outside Bhopal, namely Sehore, Ashta and Dewas districts, but more than that after this trip, I suffered sun stroke and for nearly one week I was bed-ridden due to 'lu' (the other name for sun stroke). I went to the Doctor and now I am recuperating.

We recently gave Diploma Certificates to forty ladies, graduating from the Tailoring Centre Course in the month of April. The total number of graduates from the Salem Tailoring Centre is now more than 200 ladies. The course varies in length from 6, 9 to 12 months, depending on the ladies skills, education, qualification and future profession as Tailoring Mistress.

OUTREACH WORK: It is our aim to reach all the districts of Madya Pradesh (there are fifty in total). Mainly we do it in the summer vacation and also a number of times in the middle of the academic year i.e. November and December. Recently we went to Sehore (40km), ashta (90km) and Dewas (160km) districts before that we were in Betul (180km), Neemuch (380km), Mandsaur (330km) and Ratlam (330km). Co-workers also came with me and we do it together. There are good reports from the districts where we did our outreach works previously such as Sehore, Neemuch, Mandsaur and Rewa (500km). The people from Hindu background have started believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and calling us again to visit their places and wanting to know more about the Gospel.

FROM OUR PREVIOUS NEWS

RALLY: This was a one time work we did on Good Friday, because we know that on this day there will be no opposition and we have freedom to celebrate. So we took the opportunity to be witnesses of Lord Jesus' crucifixion for the salvation of mankind. Our Church, other Church youths took part, along with Jobin and Eben.

MEDICAL CHECK-UP: This was done by one of the Christian Doctors. There was a general check-up and also included blood group details, B.P. (high blood pressure – a very common complaint in India) and Diabetes check-up mainly in slum area people.

SLUM AREAS: Recently we went to two more new slums for social works. Recently I read in the newspaper that there are three hundred and eighty two slums in Bhopal city and the Government is trying to make Bhopal slum free, but I do not think they will achieve one hundred percent in ten years.

Our summer outreach work will carry on until the end of June. Kindly pray for our outreach work in spite of scorching sizzling heat of forty five degree celcius – unbearable unless God overshadows us.

(Rajan)

STUART TOWNEND IN CONCERT

On Tuesday 14 June the well known singer/songwriter Stuart Townend came to Loretto Chapel in Musselburgh for an evening of music and praise.

I had never been in the Chapel but it was beautiful, a mix of modern and old – a fabulous venue for Stuart to sing! He packed a lot into the two hours and encouraged us to sing along with him teaching us some new songs line by line so we could sing out and raise the roof! He also explained what lay behind the songs and why he felt it had been important to write them.



Stuart Townend has written many fabulous hymns and we had the opportunity to sing quite a lot of them that evening. The songs may differ in style but without exception every one brings God praise. You probably guessed we ended with 'In Christ Alone' accompanied by bagpipes and the school band, now that one did raise the roof! The evening was great and I certainly felt uplifted but I have to say I'd forgotten how it felt to sit in a pew for a couple of hours and can't tell you how grateful I am for the soft seats in PBC!

(Susan Third)

BRIGHT CARE “Caring for the generation that first cared for us”

Bright Care is a Christian family run in-home care companionship for elderly or disabled residents across Edinburgh. Their affordable care solutions can help you maintain your independence in your own home, where you are happy and secure. It was set up by Tim and Louise Cocking who are passionate about quality care.

Tim says: "In helping older people and the disabled live independently in the comfort of their own homes, they can maintain social connections in the community and feel secure in the home they love." "We want to provide assistance which not only helps on a practical level but also is thoroughly enjoyed by those who receive it, in some ways providing people with a new lease of life!"

Tim and Louise are always looking for enthusiastic and warm-hearted care staff to come join their team of carers. Full training and competitive rates of pay are available for the right candidates. If your interested in part-time, flexible work working with the elderly and disabled then please speak to Tim at the Bright Care office on 0131 524 8181 or by visiting www.brightcare.co.uk

(Bob Gemmell)

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

July	03rd	Uddingston & Viewfield, Dunfermline
	10th	Westerhailes & Westray
	17th	Westwood & Whyte's Causeway
	24th	Wick & Wigtown
	31st	Wishaw & Abbeyhill

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GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



"Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket - safe, dark, motionless, airless – it will change. It will not be broken; instead it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and disturbances of love is Hell."

~ C. S. Lewis

Jesus said that the world will know we are His disciples by our love. The Bible says that God is love. Paul reminded us that love is the greatest thing on earth. Jesus told us that the whole law is summed up by loving God and others. The abundant life that Jesus came to bring is not the life of money, fame, or accomplishments, but the life of love. Love takes risks. Love is not safe. But love is the only way to live the Jesus life..



~ Kirk Cameron