

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

June 2011

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

Have you ever wondered why Jesus chose no less than seven fishermen to become part of His apostolic group. Fishermen work long hours – often in backbreaking conditions. They have to be team members, rather than individuals. They have to be persistent and faithful in their duties. They have to depend on each other. Their ability to pull together would be invaluable – and it certainly would be tested in future days. As far as these disciples were concerned, they took with them these attributes into their new work and ministry.

We too have been called as members of a team. Christianity is certainly not a solitary pursuit. Portobello Baptist Church may be made of individual members, but we are called to work together for the purposes of the Kingdom. Perhaps some of us are at a stage in life that we may be tempted by a quiet life, away from the demands of fellowship or the hard work of church. We may feel that we have more than done our stint on the front line and its now time to put our feet up with a good book. The Lord I'm sure wouldn't deny us the pleasure of enjoying a good book, but I suggest that we might enjoy it even more after a day's spiritual graft.

Some of us may no longer have the physical strength to offer, that once we had, within our team ministry. But think of the years of spiritual experience that we offer the team, especially if over the years we have been open to positive and Spirit led change and had a listening ear as well as a sensitive tongue.

Yes we have called Andy to be our Pastor, and like you I am looking forward to all that the Lord will do through him. But we have called him to be the spiritual leader of our team, a team that will continue to use the gifts that the Lord has given you. Jesus is still looking for team players. Lets make certain that we hang in there, with hearts and minds that are open to the leading and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Rev Robert Gemmell

PULPIT SUPPLY

June	5th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	12th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	19th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	26th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
July	3rd	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Andy Scarcliffe do

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
June	1st	Wed	7.30 p.m.	Quarterly Business Meeting
July	2nd	Sat	2.00 p.m.	Induction of Rev A. Scarcliffe

THE CHURCH FAMILY

We give God thanks for the care of His people, and ask His continued blessing and care for the coming days and weeks.

Continue to remember, in prayer, all those who have been so faithful in the service of the Church and are no longer able to worship with us.

(Ewan Sinclair)



B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY NEWS (rec'd 15 May 2011)

Dear Friends,

As the UK heads towards summer, here in Angola we are moving into winter and the temperature is dropping in the evenings although it is still hot during the day. We are three months into the new PEPE year and I have started teaching at the

Seminary. There are lots of things to thank and praise God for and other things I would really like you to pray about.

We have about 700 children in PEPE this year and several Pastors interested in PEPE for next year. The reduction in numbers is due to some PEPEs not reopening due to lack of space or teachers. PEPE has started in Baia Farta with 50 children and more that would like to come along, but there is not sufficient space and we need to see how they get on with two classes before starting any more. Manuel visited Lubango and Benguela last week and saw the children at Baia Farta. He also had meetings with Pastors and Missionary Educators, continuing to explain how PEPE works and suggesting what they could do to support their own PEPEs. One of Manuel's strengths is speaking and explaining PEPE to Pastors and church leaders, getting them more on board. However, as I've just done the 3 monthly accounts for PEPE, I see that one of his weaknesses is overspending on these visits. He has nearly used up the budget for visits for the year and we are only in May! I've spoken to him about this before but we need to have a really serious talk about it and I would value your prayers for this. A lot is due to cultural issues, but we need to work with in our budgets or we jeopardise PEPE.



Three times a week I teach the first year students at our churches seminary. There are only six students in the class and we are getting to know each other quite well. I teach English, Islam and PEPE. We were learning about the structure and running of PEPE last week and they had lots of questions and some good ideas about what we should be doing to let others know about PEPE. I was really encouraged as the penny seems to have dropped with some of them in regard to PEPE being a ministry that benefits the community and provides the church with an avenue to reach out and evangelise. The church schools are often seen as a way of making money for the church, PEPE is different and requires the church to give. It was good to see the students getting that.

I've been finding the classes on Islam a blessing. As I learn more about the Muslim faith I am valuing ever more what we have in Jesus. In class, the topic has opened up discussion on what Christians believe and why, as we learn what Muslims believe. I was really pleased to discover that some of the students have had faith sharing conversations with Muslims. As Angola is opening up more, there is a growing number of Muslims in the country and they have missionary zeal. Mosques are being built and employment offered, which attracts people. The church recognises the need to be equipped to respond.

We have an English club that was supposed to be a conversation class but there is such a wide ability range that we can't really have a club and it's turned into lessons. It reminds me of my days teaching English in Madeira, and I realise I am quite rusty after a twelve year break. I also hear my Scottish accent coming back to me as we drill phrases, it's really funny. The seminary is on the other side of the city. I share a driver with my colleague Fiona so I often have to drive myself there. Pray for safety in travel and energy as it is really tiring heading there in the afternoons and getting home late. It should get less tiring as the temperature drops.



Only two weeks to go and Fiona and I head to Mozambique to help the Holders, new BMS workers, settle in. We are having a week's holiday in Cape Town en route and I feel I need a break away to relax. Praise God we have our visas for Mozambique. It only took two days once we had all the documentation. Pray that all would go smoothly and we would enable the Holders to have an easier start in Beira. Pray we would get them into language lessons, be able to buy the things required for their home and make good contacts for them to have friends there.

We have been meeting with Carlotta every Friday morning as we prepare for starting Bible Study. Carlotta is in her early twenties, finished studying and looking for a job. In the meantime she is keen to serve God in leading Bible Study at church and I've been enjoying getting to know her and trying to answer some of her questions. This week it was a question about why we should study the Old Testament if there is a new covenant with Jesus in the New. Last week it was where the different races came from if we are all descended from Noah, so it's keeping us on our toes. The plan is to start the Bible study group in September, once we are back from Mozambique and Carlotta is well prepared. Then she can lead the group when we aren't able to be there.

Well, I'm heading off to church now and thinking of you as you meet to praise God on Sunday. The services will be different but we'll be worshipping the same God.

Every blessing and thank you for standing with us in prayer.

Love

Lynne

The nicest place to be is in someone's THOUGHTS!
The safest place to be is in someone's PRAYERS!

O.M.F. MISSIONARY UPDATE (Graham & Nok Dalrymple)

Dear all,

Greetings from Thailand!

It has been great being back in my home country and seeing family and friends. I arrived safely on the 28th April and stayed with my parents for three days before leaving them to start my research trip in Bangkok and South Thailand.

It is so hot in Thailand as it is now summer, but it rains nearly every evening which is very unusual. My interviews have been going well and so far I have interviewed ten people.

I have collected good information from the interviews and at the same time I have learnt so much from talking and interviewing various people from different backgrounds. Praise God for his goodness as all interviewees were so kind and very open with me. Whether they were scholars or villagers, they all were willing to answer my questions openly and I had a lot of fun and sometimes shed some tears as I listened to many touching stories. Praise God also for his wisdom as he guided me to the right people to interview, this is very important for my research trip and dissertation.



I am scheduled to interview another six people they will be – Muslim background believers, Islamic teachers, a Quranic translator and Biblical scholars. Please continue pray for me for God's guidance and wisdom before, during and after interviews. Currently I am feeling very tired because of the heat, lots of travelling and the tight schedule. Please pray that God would strengthen me during the remainder of my research trip and comfort us (Graham and I) as we are apart. I am also looking forward to seeing my parents again and I plan to have a wee holiday with my friend before I return to Scotland.

Thank you so much for remembering me in your prayers.

With love,

Nok Dalrymple

REPENT O SCOTTISH SINNER . . .



There was a Scottish painter named Smokey Macgregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings.

Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with water . . .

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.



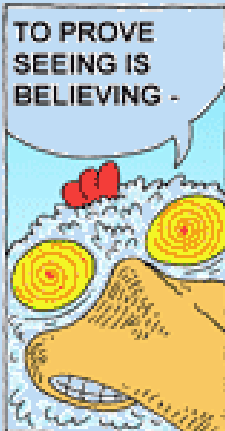
Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke . . .

"Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

CHICKENHEAD



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GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



To me, as a believer in Jesus . . .
death has no sting,
the grave has no terrors,
eternity awakens no alarms!

~ James Smith

Does death scare you? Can you say that you actually look forward to death with joy as an undergraduate looks forward to the great graduation day or as a fiancé awaiting her wedding day? In the world, death is always painted with dark colours, but in Jesus' portrait, He exchanges "dying" for "falling asleep." My babies never look so content as when they are sleeping in their beds at night. There is sweetness in sleep for those children who know their father loves them. One Christian author described the grave as "simply doorways cut in sod." If we truly believe that all things (even our own death) work together for good for those who belong to God, then we may truly look forward to our "sleep day" as the most glorious moment of our earthly lives – for it is the moment we will see the One who died for us so that we would never die.



~ Kirk Cameron

MAY OFFERINGS



1st	£201.00	15th	£291.00	29th	T.B.C.
8th	£272.00	22nd	£387.00		

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

June	05th	Stirling & Stonehaven
	12th	Strathendrick & Stromness
	19th	Thomas Coats Memorial & Thurso
	26th	Tillicoultry & Tiree