

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

*Messenger*

March 2011

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

As Christians we are often guilty of pigeon holing other Christians – putting them firmly in our own selected spiritual/ religious boxes. And let me confess that I am as guilty as anybody of labelling fellow Christians – as Charismatics – as Calvinists – as Social Gospellers etc.

How refreshing and humbling it is when you come across someone from an opposite “theological” camp to your own – catching your eye – stimulating your mind – refreshing your heart – writing something that is outside the box that we have firmly and perhaps arrogantly placed them in.

Something of this nature happened to me the other morning in reading daily Bible notes. I came across the following extract – and I hope he doesn't mind me quoting him – written by a leader whose background is from the Elim/ Pentecostal/ Charismatic wing of the church. He writes, “I've noticed over the years that one of the primary temptations for zealous Christians is to go too far. Intercessors become lost in Gnostic weirdness, worship leaders become insistent we all sing for longer than is healthy, and social activists get irate with anyone who doesn't share their precise strategy for changing the world. The next step into extremism is to surround ourselves with others, who not only agree with us, but concur with our impression that those who don't are sad, lost souls. Endorsed by our own little extremist club, we meander into an unbalanced faith. Zealots beware. Going too far can be as bad as falling short, especially if our zeal is not based on knowledge”.

I found his writing, thought provoking and challenging and it certainly reminds me yet again of how dangerous it is when I arrogantly and ignorantly want to label people without knowing very much about them. It certainly isn't what I would have expected this particular author from his background – his box – his pigeon hole – to write. And as I have already said, I must admit labelling is something that I have been guilty of in the past, especially in past years. My intolerance must have astounded some of my friends. Fortunately they exercised more tolerance towards me than I was willing to allow to Christians who thought differently from me. A learning process?

By the way – the same author added this prayer at the end of his notes for the day – “Lord keep me passionate, and balanced. Amen.” And I'm sure we would also add our “amen's” to those words.

*Rev Robert Gemmell*

## PULPIT SUPPLY

March	6th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Mr William Anderson Rev Jim Barclay
	13th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	20th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do
	27th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Rev Robert Gemmell do

## 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

March 17th 7.30 p.m. Vacancy Committee Meeting

## 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.

Ewan Sinclair



## CLOCK CHANGES

On Sunday March 27 2011, Daylight Saving Time begins. Remember the saying 'Spring Forward, Fall Back' -- so put your clocks forward.



## REVIVAL FM



Revival Fm is Scotland's only full time Christian radio station needs your prayers as we are going through the process of a licence extension application. Our present licence expires on the 2nd September 2011 and we have asked the government regulatory body Ofcom to have our licence extended for a further five years. The application is with Ofcom and we would ask for prayer for the future licence.

## THE DOOR OF HOPE

(Direct quote from their news letter)



In Johannesburg alone, at least one baby is abandoned every day! The growing need for homes and places to care for these little children is apparent. Abandonment is on the increase and we are finding that more and more are babies being born via late abortions. Some are surviving, some are not, many are being found discarded on rubbish dumps. According to the government mortuary, each month 200 dead babies are found in Gauteng alone.

This does not account for the 60 babies that are found alive and in need of care. Our passion, as always, is to save lives. 950 children have come through our doors in the last 11 years. God has called us and given us this vision and the need for expansion is apparent. We can't sit back and be content with what we are doing when there are so many more babies that are unwanted, being abused, neglected, and abandoned and with no hope, no choice at life and no future. The call from God is to action and we continue to seek His face for direction and wisdom. We have had requests from various agencies to please take in more babies. However in reality what we are facing at Door of Hope is that our funds are depleted and are therefore at present engaging in major restructuring and cost cutting exercises.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Door of Hope

## LENT INTERCESSIONS

(Lent is from 9th March to 23rd April)



T'was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer,  
thought it scarcely worth his while.  
To waste much time on the old violin,  
but held it up with a smile.

“What am I bid, good folks,” he cried,  
“Who will start bidding for me:  
A pound, a pound” – then, “Two!” “Only two?  
Two pounds, and who’ll make it three?”

Three pounds once; three pounds, twice;  
going for three –”. But no,  
from the room, far back, a grey-haired man,  
came forward and picked up the bow;

Then wiping the dust from the old violin,  
and tightening the loose strings,  
he played a melody pure and sweet.  
As sweet as a carolling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,  
with a voice that was quiet and low,  
said, “What am I bid for the old violin?”  
and he held it up with the bow.

“A thousand pounds, and who’ll make it two?  
Two thousand? And who’ll make it three?  
And going, and gone!” said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,  
“We do not quite understand.  
What changed it’s worth?” swift came the reply:  
“T’was the touch of the Master’s hand.”

And many a man with life out of tune,  
and battered and scattered with sin,  
is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,  
much like the old violin.

A “mess of pottage,” a glass of juice;  
a game – and he travels on.  
He’s “going” once, and “going” twice,  
He’s “going” and almost “gone.”

But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd,  
never quite understand. The worth of a soul,  
and the change that’s wrought,  
by the touch of the Master’s hand.

(Stamperland Parish Church, magazine)

GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



"Every baby comes as evidence that God still dreams of Eden."  
~ Calvin Miller (author and poet)


Have you ever wondered why God didn't destroy Adam and Eve after they ate the fruit in the garden? Even after Cain killed Abel, God didn't pour out the fullness of His wrath and destroy the world's first murderer. Even after He drowned the world with a global flood, God restored man's dominion over the earth and promised a future Eden where the curse will be reversed and the garden grows to magnificent proportions. While God doesn't "dream" in the sense of "wishful thinking" as we do, His prophetic word says, "...the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility — not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it — in the hope that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children." Old Adam died and was ejected from the garden, but the New Adam swallowed up death and entered into the sanctuary on behalf of all men, so that those who are in Him may return to Paradise and walk with God as their friend.




~ Kirk Cameron

sacredsandwich.com

**IS YOUR FAITH A LITTLE DIM?  
BRIGHTEN YOUR WITNESS WITH  
THE LATEST IN INCANDESCENT  
TECHNOLOGY FROM 1904!**

**"THIS LITTLE  
LIGHT  MINE"  
ILLUMINATED HEADGEAR**

A black and white illustration of a man with a beard, wearing a dark suit and a hat. He is holding a large, cylindrical object (likely a battery or power source) to his ear. On top of his hat is a small, glowing light bulb with radiating lines around it, suggesting it is lit. The man has a serious expression.

## NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

(by Ray Comfort)

Our home city of Christchurch, New Zealand, was hit with a massive earthquake Monday (2/21). This is the city where I spoke in front of a large Cathedral in the local Square for many years (pictured – before and after the quake).



My heart goes out to the many who have lost loved ones. Sue and I appreciate those of you who have contacted us and assured us of their thoughts and prayers. (We were even contacted by some atheists – who were kindly sympathetic).

Our eldest son, Jacob, his wife and son were visiting Christchurch when the earthquake struck. They are okay, and so are all of Sue's and my relatives, for which we thank God.

Many in the city had very frazzled nerves even before this quake. A 7.1 earthquake hit six months ago with no fatalities, and since then there have been more than 4,500 aftershocks. This one was much worse. None of my family know the Lord. Please pray that this will make them realize the fragility of life.

Back in 1971, just before my conversion, a surfing buddy who was deeply into pornography got his girlfriend pregnant, was married at 16, and had the baby girl adopted.

At the age of 16, she searched out her natural parents, found them, and turned up at their doorstep, pregnant. My friend became a grandfather at 32 years old.

I tried to witness to him when I went back to New Zealand in 1992, but it didn't work out too well as it was in his surf shop, and customers kept coming in. Although he did say that he wanted to ask God about his younger brother, who had tragically committed suicide because he got into financial difficulty.

For some reason I thought about all this, this past Sunday, found his surf shop online, emailed him and was amazed to get a reply. He said that my god (he used a small "g") really scared him with the big earthquake they had

six months ago (he used profanity to say how much it scared him). I then wrote back and said that I failed to tell him something when I last saw him, and added that Jesus said if you lust after a woman, you commit adultery with her. I said that Hell was real, and that God made a way for us to be forgiven and have everlasting life.

He responded “That is scary, you mean I have committed adultery about 140 times already today? Hell won’t be so bad – at least all my mates will be there and all the naughty girls. Just don’t tell me it will be onshore all day every day. That will really make me gnash my teeth. Heaven sounds really boring – all the goody two shoes kids drinking tea and singing hymns all day. Is there surf there?”

I emailed back that there would be no friendship or any pleasure in Hell and talked about his misunderstanding of Heaven, hoping he would get back to me.

The following day, the earthquake struck. His shop was very close to the epicentre. I don't know what happened to him.

*(www.ivingwaters.com)*

### BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

March	6th	Pathhead, Kirkcaldy & Peebles
	13th	Perth & Peterhead
	20th	Pitlochry & Pollock, Glasgow
	27th	Portobello & Queen’s Park, Glasgow

CHICKENHEAD



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