

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

114th Anniversary Edition

November 2011

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

"... I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me. "

1 Cor. 16:8-9



Paul recognised God's providence in the open door before him. Yet he experienced opposition. Our problem is that we often see opposition and difficulty as evidence of a closed door. Not the great Apostle! He was ready to triumph despite adverse circumstances.

At our Anniversary this month we will have opportunity to thank God for the past. However we cannot do so without reflecting on the struggles we have had along the way – past evidence of doors ready to open, and God's work being extended.

We are aware of challenges in our present situation. Our financial situation is not particularly healthy. We have not (*until the time of writing!*) sold the manse, which we require to do in order to release funds for future ministry. We are still small in number with as yet only one (*brilliant wee*) child to grace our services with the sound of youth.

How would Paul see all of this? *"what great doors of opportunity are before us what are we waiting for?"*

Have you got faith and courage for this next stage of the journey into the next year? **ABSOLUTELY!** Did I hear you say?

WELL, AMEN TO THAT!

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

October	06th	Canonmills & Carbrain
	13th	Carluke & Castlehill
	20th	Castlemilk & Cathcart
	27th	Charlotte Chapel & Cleland

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
November	13th	Sun	10.50 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday
	20th	Sun		Church Anniversary with buffett lunch following after morning service in Church Hall
December	13th	Tues	8.00 p.m.	Management Meeting

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

November	6th	(Col. Ch 1 w 15 – 23)	:	How to stop falling apart under pressure
	13th	(Col. Ch 2 w 1 – 5)	:	What to look for in a Church
	20th	(Joshua Ch 3 & 4)	:	Church Anniversary: Possessing the land
	27th		:	Advent: HOPE

OUR CHURCH CHILDREN

The above heading can be viewed as a statement of faith. Already of course we have our brave little pioneer Tom Wraight and from time to time other children are in the service. At the moment, if children come along, their parent (or guardian) can take them to the adjoining room where there are crèche toys and a box of craft activities, as well as two children's Bibles. This is a stop – gap provision however and it would be good to gather together anyone interested in helping with future more structured provision during the morning service.

Here is the challenge: Already one family has considered joining the church here but felt they would want to wait to see what happens about provision for their children. Others will come. We should be ready. Does God want you to be part of praying and planning for this? Ask Him and if the answer is affirmative speak to me.

(Moira Scarcliffe)

SUGGESTED READING: Active Compassion

It was good to have Freddie and Gayla Parker taking part in our Sunday morning service recently. Both work for the Missions Department of the Maryland Delaware Baptist Convention. Gayla is involved in women's ministries and has written a very readable and encouraging book called "Active Compassion". If you would like to borrow it just speak to me.

(Moirra Scarcliffe)

B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY UPDATE (rec'd 10 Oct 2011)

Hi folks,

It's been a quick three months since my last newsletter. Angola is heating up and we noticed the local beach was crowded as we returned from church yesterday. Angolans, mostly the young men, as the women are often too busy, love to stand in the ocean at weekends, to cool off as the temperatures rise. Other goings on from Angola are that the mystery fainting fits that affected mostly girls at school across the country, over 1000 being affected, seem to have stopped. There have been no recent reports of more fainting. The anti – government marches organised by young people also seem to have been stopped and perhaps you already know, Leila Lopes, an Angolan, won the Miss Universe title, for which the country is very proud.

P.E.P.E.

We had a really good meeting with the Luanda teachers last Saturday. Manuel had been at a UNICEF seminar on Children's Rights and passed on the information to the teachers. We were delighted to discover that they had used photographs from P.E.P.E. in their materials and mentioned P.E.P.E. as a place where children are taught in a happy and safe environment. Praise God for this and the partnership with UNICEF. It was a much needed encouragement after what happened when MINARS visited the P.E.P.E. in Lubango that I mentioned in my last newsletter. The P.E.P.E. runs in the church, the walls are made of corrugated aluminium and two classes share the space. There are adequate toilet facilities and the snack is made in a nearby home so conditions, although not ideal, are safe and children are learning. While they were impressed with the children learning, they were unhappy about the conditions and sent a letter to close this P.E.P.E. Please pray about this situation as it has not yet been resolved. It only seems to be a problem with that particular MINARS dept. as the others are glad to have P.E.P.E. running. It seems strange that they would cite conditions as a cause as many schools in the province run in the open air, under trees and don't have any sort of classroom. Pray for God to work and the local Pastor to have wisdom in speaking to those involved in this decision. It very much feels like spiritual attack as this P.E.P.E. had plans to open another class in a needy area of the city.

Thanks for your prayers for Januario. We were all together at a Coordinators meeting and he was much better, able to walk around and keen to get back to work. Shortly after this meeting we received the shocking news that Maria Teresa's husband had died unexpectedly. It sounds as if he had a heart attack, but he was only 44. They have two children still at school, Sesky and Madalena. I spoke to Maria Teresa last week. The children are doing well, back at school and so on, but she isn't coping very well. She was due to return to her studies last week but got malaria. Please lift this dear sister up to God. The folk from her church visit every day to encourage and support.



We are coming to the end of the P.E.P.E. year, with most of the classes closing mid – November. Praise God for all the children and families that have been reached and have learned about Jesus love this year. It is a busy time for Manuel and me as we prepare end of year reports and proposals for next year. Pray that God would be leading every step. *(Photo: Teachers learning to make play dough at training.)*

STB Seminary

Thanks for your prayers for the workshop. It was a good time of focusing on classes and rearranging timetables. There were different speakers and the representative from the government who taught us about the educational reforms was very interesting and the material useful.

Seminary classes have been going well and we were all delighted when Mario an ex-Muslim, Christian friend of mine came to share about his life and conversion during Islam lessons. The students asked loads of questions, which Mario did a good job of answering.

The students had their P.E.P.E. test last week and I'm pleased to say they all passed. Lando got top marks with 19 out of 20. We have one more week of classes and then it is study leave and final exams before the seminary closes for the year on 5 November. They are enjoying English classes and learning so we are looking into the possibility of having an intensive week course in the holidays. That will depend on if Manuel needs me to do P.E.P.E. training over the holidays.

Speaking of holidays, I'll be having a two week break in Zambia while the students are on study leave. Pray it would be a good time of refreshing. It's good to get away from the daily power cuts, hours spent in traffic, high prices and dirt and dust of Luanda. As soon as I am back I'll be putting in the documentation to renew my visa. Pray the church would have the letter I require ready to hand in. I've filled in all the forms and got the other documentation ready.

Pray also for the Bible Study group. We have been preparing over the last few months and were ready to start in September, but we depend on the Director of Christian education to organise the day and time with those wanting to study and he has not been around much lately and now I'll be away for two weeks. Carlotta is capable of leading it without us but wants us there for the first few studies as the group gets established. Carlotta is a lovely woman. Pray for God to provide her with employment. She has a degree but can't get work.

Thanks for all your prayers. They make a difference, so please keep praying.

Love

Lynne

BETWEEN THE TWO APPEARINGS

We are living in the age which lies between the two blazing beacons of the Divine appearings and we are called to hasten from one to the other. The sacramental host of God's elect is marching on from the one appearing to the other with hasty feet. We have everything to hope for in the last appearing, as we have everything to trust to in the first appearing—and we have now to wait with patient hope throughout that weary interval which intervenes! Paul calls it, "this present world." This marks its fleeting nature. It is present, but it is scarcely future, for the Lord may come so soon and thus end it all. It is present, now, but it will not be present long. It is but a little time and He who will come shall come and will not tarry. Now it is this "present world." Oh, how present it is! How sadly it surrounds us!

Yet, by faith, we count these present things to be unsubstantial as a dream and we look to the things which are not seen and not present, as being real and eternal! We pass through this world as men on pilgrimage. We traverse an enemy's country. Going from one manifestation to another, we are as birds migrating on the wing from one region to another—there is no rest for us by the way. We are to keep ourselves as loose as we can from this country through which we make our pilgrimage, for we are strangers and foreigners and here we have no continuing city. We hurry through this Vanity Fair—before us lies the Celestial City and the coming of the Lord who is the King thereof! As voyagers cross the Atlantic and so pass from shore to shore, so do we speed over the waves of this ever-changing world to the Glory Land of the bright appearing of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

...Oh that all of us were ardent, fervent, vigorous, zealous! Come, Holy Spirit, and quicken us! We may not go about to get this by our own efforts and energies, but God will work it by His Grace. Grace given us in Christ is the fountainhead of all holy impulse. O heavenly Grace, come like a flood at



this time and bear us right away! Oh that those of you who have never felt the Grace of God may be enabled to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as to His first appearing! Then, trusting in His death upon the Cross, you will learn to look for His second coming upon the Throne of God and you will rejoice in it! Unto His great name be Glory forever and ever! Amen.

(from C. H. Spurgeon's sermon, "The Two Appearings and The Discipline of Grace," 1886.)

GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



“Oh, the wonders [the gospel] will accomplish! It wipes guilt from the conscience, rolls the world out of the heart, and darkness from the mind ... It will put honey into the bitterest cup, and health into the most diseased soul. It will give hope to the heart, health to the face, oil to the head, light to the eye, strength to the hand, and swiftness to the foot. It will make life pleasant, labour sweet, and death triumphant. It gives faith to the fearful, courage to the timid, and strength to the weak. It robs the grave of its terrors and death of its sting. It subdues sin, severs from self, makes faith strong, love active, hope lively, and zeal invincible. It gives son-ship for slavery, robes for rags, makes the Cross light and reproach pleasant; it will transform a dungeon into a palace, and make the fires of martyrdom as refreshing as the cool breeze of summer. It snaps legal bonds, loosens the soul, clarifies the mind, purifies the affections, and often lifts the saint to the very gates of Heaven. No man can deserve it; money cannot buy it, or good deeds procure it; grace reigns here!”

~ W. Poole Balforn - 1858.

“I was so blessed the first time I read this quote, but the second time is even better. What a glorious gospel we have. I feel sorry for those who live without it and die wishing they had it. Their hatred for God and their love for sin prevents them from claiming it. Praise God for His indescribable gift!”

~ Kirk Cameron



CHRISTMAS CARD BOX

The Christmas card posting box for Church family will be available in the Cafe on 4 & 11 December. The cards will then be distributed on 18 December.