

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

October 2011

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

"... we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away."

1 Peter Ch 1 v 4

Steve Jobs, the C.E.O. of Apple Computers passed away on Wednesday. Barack Obama hailed him as one of the greatest of American innovators, adding that the world has lost a visionary with his death.

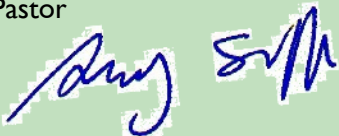
In attempting to recruit John Sculley, the 38-year-old President of Pepsi-Cola, Steve issued him a tremendous challenge. He asked: *"Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water or do you want a chance to change the world?"* What a challenge to all Christians! Are we settling for less than God's best in our lives?

When receiving an honorary doctorate from Stanford University, knowing he had terminal cancer, Jobs said this about his life: *"Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything — all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure — these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart."*

Jesus said something similar: *Those who try to gain their own life will lose it; but those who lose their life for my sake will gain it.*

I do not know if Steve Jobs was a Christian. I do know, however, that the passion with which he pursued his dreams is a challenge to all Christ-followers. Are we as passionate about the Kingdom of God? Do we really believe we have nothing to lose? Are we willing to follow our hearts as we pursue the dream of a New World? Jobs lived for a computer. Can I live daily live for a prize that will never spoil or fade away?

Your Pastor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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
November	1st	Tues	8.00 p.m.	Management Meeting
	12th	Sat	9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	WORSHIP: Life; Church; Service; Song Conference
	20th	Sun		Church Anniversary

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

October	9th	(Col. Ch 1 w 1 – 7):	What's so great about being a Christian
	16th	(Col. Ch 1 w 9 – 14):	What does it take to please God
	23rd	(Col. Ch 1 w 15 – 23):	How to stop falling apart under pressure
	30th	(Col. Ch 2 w 1 – 5):	What to look for in a Church
November	6th	(Col. Ch 2 w 6 – 7):	Why is my Christian walk so unstable

SPIERS FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dear Friends

May I take the opportunity, through the Messenger, to express my thanks to the friends from the church for their cards which were sent following the death of my brother Kerr.

I am also grateful for the prayers and interest shown by Andy, Bob and others during his illness.

Jack Spiers

114th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY (1897 – 2011)

Our Church Anniversary takes place on Sunday 20 November.

At our recent church meeting we recognised the exciting possibilities ahead of us as a Church. However in order to make those possibilities a reality, we need premises that are fit for purpose.

We urgently need to make our church fascia look more presentable. I have heard some people, (Not from within the church) when talking about PBC, say "Ah yes... the door on the high street". Our frontage does not give a good impression. Rather than looking like a door into some secret Narnia-like kingdom, we urgently need a frontage that will attract people in.

The anticipated renovation could cost somewhere between five and ten thousand pounds. We also plan to equip the café for use in the future so that when people do come in we can run a variety of events that will enable them to engage with the Christian faith.

This is our opportunity to thank God in a way that anticipates more blessing in the future. I have been struck by the sacrificial giving of our Church. I have no doubt that we will rise to this challenge.

(Andy Scarcliffe)

CLOCK CHANGES



On Sunday 30 October 2010, Daylight Saving Time ends. Remember the saying 'Spring Forward, Fall Back' -- so put your clocks **BACK** one hour

WORSHIP: LIFE CHURCH SERVICE SONG CONFERENCE

The Edinburgh Music Ministry conference aims to equip Church musicians with theological and practical skills that will enable them to be effective servants in the local Church. The day will include talks, seminars and a new songs workshop.

Tickets are £12.00 (£8.00 concessions) and coffee/ refreshments/ lunch is provided.

For those with internet access wishing more information or details please visit www.thegoodbook.co.uk/emmc.

GRACE GEM: HE DOES NOT COME IN THE SUNSHINE ONLY!

"When they saw Him walking on the water, they cried out in terror, thinking He was a ghost. They were all terrified when they saw Him!" Mark 6:49-50

It seems strange to us, that the disciples would ever have been afraid of their own Master. They had been in great distress all through the night – just because He was not with them. There was nothing they had desired so much all through those long dark hours – as that Jesus would come to them. Yet now, when He did come – they were in terror at the sight of Him. It was because they did not know that it was Jesus – as His very unusual presence so affrighted them.

It is oftentimes just so with us. We are in some need or danger, and Jesus does not come to us. We call upon Him, and most earnestly desire His coming; yet He does not come. At length He comes, but often it is not as we had expected – in lovely visage and gentle deportment – but in the form of terror! It is in some great trial – that He comes. Death enters our door and carries away a loved one. Or we experience some loss or some misfortune – at least it seems to us, loss or misfortune. We cry out in terror! We do not know that it is Jesus, veiled in the dark robe, who has come! We do not know that this is the answer to our prayer for His presence and His help. We are affrighted at the unusual form that moves over the waters in the dark night. We think it is new danger – when really it is the very divine love and divine help – for which we have been longing and pleading!

We ought to learn that Jesus is in every providence that comes to us. He does not come in the sunshine only; quite as frequently – it is in the dark night that He draws near. It is our duty as Christians to train ourselves to see Christ in every event. Then, whether it is sorrow or joy which knocks at our door – we shall give it loving welcome, knowing that Jesus Himself is veiled in whatever form it is, that He enters. Then we shall find, that when we welcome Him in the somber garments of affliction – He will always have a rich blessing for our lives!

(J.R. Miller, "Daily Bible Readings in the Life of Christ" 1890)

GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



“The Lord Jesus Christ is God ... He is the infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, gracious, just, holy, and unchangeable I AM!”

~ James Smith.

“Some people ask the question, "If God is all powerful, all knowing, and loving ... why does He allow so much evil in the world?" Think about it for a moment. If God eliminated all evil, He would have to eliminate the source of evil, which is the human heart (Genesis 3). If God did that, where would that leave you and me? Personally, I'm grateful God has not yet destroyed all evil because it has given me a chance to turn from my wicked ways to embrace my Saviour before the Day of Judgment when all sin and evil will be finally destroyed. On top of that, Romans 8:28 tells us that God in His kindness even uses evil to mature Christians into stronger, more vibrant reflections of Jesus Christ in the world. Knowing that God is on His throne 24/7 brings me comfort in the face of evil.”



~ Kirk Cameron

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

October	09th	Bristo & Broughty Ferry
	16th	Broxburn & Buckhaven
	23rd	Buckie & Burra Isle
	30th	Calderwood & Cambuslang

CHURCH MESSENGER ARTICLES

If anyone has an article of interest (poem/ story/ etc.) that they would like to share in a future Church Messenger then see Ewan Sinclair on or before the third Sunday of the month. Alternatively, for those with internet access, any articles can be emailed to the address for Ewan in the recent Church Directory.