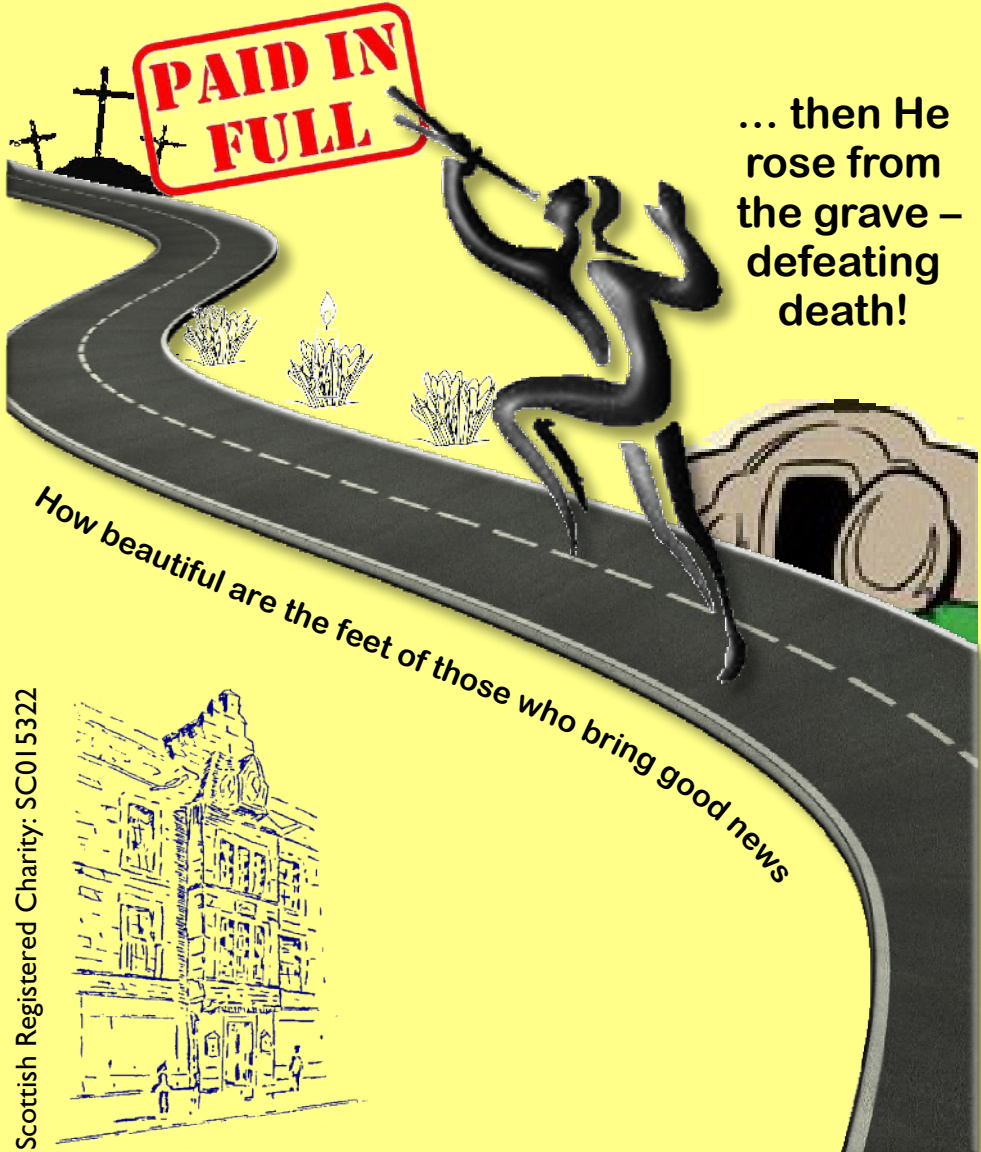


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

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... then He
rose from
the grave –
defeating
death!

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

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	07.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
April	3rd	Tues	08.00 p.m.	Management Meeting
	6th	Fri	07.30 p.m.	Good Friday Communion Service
	7th	Sun	09.00 a.m.	Resurrection Breakfast
			11.00 a.m.	Easter Morning Celebration
	8th	Mon	11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Resurrection Cafe
	12th	Thurs	07.30 p.m.	Journeys Course informal pizza evening

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

April	01st	Palm Sunday	
	08th	Easter Sunday	
		When the going gets tough ...	
	15th	1 Peter 1:3-9	– “Problems that can’t be solved”
	22nd	1 Samuel 17	– “Crisis management”
	29th	Exodus 20:1-18	– “Hanging on through hard times”
May	06th	John 20:1-18	– “Dealing with discouragement”
	13th	Lyrics of Life	
	20th	Ascension Sunday	
	27th	Pentecost	

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

April	01st	B.U.S. Office Staff & Alan H. Messer (Chaplain)
	08th	Forres & Fort William
	15th	Fraserburgh & Galashiels
	22nd	Garriochchurch & Gerrard Street
	29th	Glenrothes & Gourrock

A PASTOR'S THOUGHT

"This is how God showed his love for us: God sent His only Son into the world so we might live through Him. (10) This is the kind of love we are talking about – not that we once upon a time loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. (11) My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other."

1 John 4:9-11

Dear Friends,

What More Can God Do to Show He Loves Us?

Author and speaker Brennan Manning has an amazing story about how he got the name "Brennan." While growing up, his best friend was Ray. The two of them did everything together: bought a car together as teenagers, double-dated together, went to school together and so forth. They even enlisted in the Army together, went to boot camp together and fought on the frontlines together. One night while sitting in a foxhole, Brennan was reminiscing about the old days in Brooklyn while Ray listened and ate a chocolate bar. Suddenly a live grenade came into the foxhole. Ray looked at Brennan, smiled, dropped his chocolate bar and threw himself on the live grenade. It exploded, killing Ray, but Brennan's life was spared.

When Brennan became a priest he was instructed to take on the name of a saint. He thought of his friend, Ray Brennan. So he took on the name "Brennan." Years later he went to visit Ray's mother in Brooklyn. They sat up late one night having tea when Brennan asked her, "Do you think Ray loved me?" Mrs. Brennan got up off the couch, shook her finger in front of Brennan's face and shouted, "What more could he have done for you?" Brennan said that at that moment he experienced an epiphany. He imagined himself standing before the cross of Jesus wondering, Does God really love me? And Jesus' mother Mary pointing to her son, saying, "What more could he have done for you?"

The cross of Jesus is God's way of doing all he could do for us. And yet we often wonder, Does God really love me? Am I important to God? Does God care about me? At this time of Easter, yet again we are reminded of God's unconditional, immeasurable, eternal love for each and every one of us. The scripture and the story remind us that the love of God, to be made complete, must be shared. Let's do that this Easter.

Your pastor



B.M.S. LINK MISSIONARY UPDATE
(rec'd 16 Mar 2012)

Dear Friends,

My time in Angola is drawing to a close, for now that is. Only two weeks left and I'll be heading off to Zambia, our wedding and a new sphere of work. Meantime life is full of last minute meetings, packing and saying goodbye. I am not getting sad about leaving as I know I will be back and see a lot of people again, that helps.

P.E.P.E.

We had a training course for new teachers in December and January. Eight people managed to pass the course and are now working in PEPEs. Manuel led the course with a lot of help from Ernesto and we are hoping that Ernesto will take on the job of Coordinator for Luanda. It has been great to see the way he has matured as he has gained more experience and he has grown in his faith. Pray for him as he takes on additional responsibilities.

New PEPE teachers



PRAYING FOR THE FLOCK

(1 Thess. 5:17; Acts 6.4)

(Eph 6:18) "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"

Each month this new section will include a cluster of names taken from the Church Directory so that we can uphold them particularly in prayer over this month.

A new PEPE Council has been formed to work closely with Manuel, monitoring the work and providing support. Members have come from both Church groups and there have been two meetings so far to form the committee and to analyse the Proposal and budget for this next year. Please pray that the Council would continue to be enthusiastic as time goes on and that they would be a real support to Manuel.

Manuel is continuing to do a good job in making contacts and building relationships with agencies and Churches. Pray for him as, although he was doing most of the work, he liked going over points with me and I helped with finances and reporting. We've spent time over the last few weeks going over again certain areas and ensuring he feels confident about the different areas of work. Our lesson this week was on how to put articles on the Pepe Angola website- www.pepeangola.org. I have to say the lesson was not too successful and slow internet did not help. We'll be having a last meeting this week to try again.

PEPEs have reopened and we have 870 children so far this year. Most of the growth is where we already have PEPE. As its reputation in an area grows, more parents want their children to study. Where we had a PEPE with 2 classes last year, this year they have 4. We have 2 new PEPEs in some neighbourhoods in Luanda. Sadly the PEPE in Lubango decided not to reopen this year. They plan to prepare better facilities, maybe a proper classroom, so they can reopen next year without any problems. Pray

for these children and their families, that they would come to know something of the love of Jesus through PEPE as well as getting a good start to their education.

We are very grateful for Grupo Amizade, a group of ladies who raise funds for good causes. They have donated \$5000 again this year. Some of them are coming to visit PEPEs on Monday. Please pray that all goes well with travel and we aren't kept back in traffic. The international Director along with 2 colleagues is coming to visit PEPE Angola in June. We would value your prayers for all the preparations and that it would be a blessed time. Manuel is working on a funding proposal for the Japanese Embassy. Please ask God to continue to provide for the programme in all areas and praise Him for His faithfulness over these last years. I will be looking to see if there is a place for PEPE in Zambia and I'm hoping Manuela and his wife will be able to come to the wedding.

S.T.B.

The Seminary reopened in February. I was over there yesterday and it was great to see the place so busy. There are lots of new students in 1st year. There is a new Director and he has made a good start. I haven't been teaching this year as there has been a lot to do and only a little time to teach, but my old students are coming for lunch tomorrow. I'm cooking Indian food to give them a taste of what they might eat in a Muslim country. I hope they like it. In terms of chilli, Angolans seem to be divided. Some love it and won't eat a meal without it, while others hate it and thinks it

makes people very hot tempered. I'm being careful and doing a very mild Korma and a slightly spicier beef dish. It will be a farewell get together and I know God has His hand on these young men who are giving their lives in to His service.

Bible Study

We continue to meet in church every Friday evening to study God's word. Numbers have dropped a bit as the school year started. Some members teach and others study in the evenings. The school system here works at 3 times; morning, afternoon and night, three schools for the price of one! Our coordinating group now has 3 local members and they are going to do a good job of continuing the work.

Please pray for them and the group.



I will miss Angola (left: map image) and so many special friends I have made here. I've learnt a lot in these last nearly 8

years and my faith has grown as I have witnessed God's faithfulness. It's good to know I can trust Him as I move to Zambia (bottom right: map image) and look for work to be involved in there. Thank you so much for all your prayers and I would ask you to pray for Sitongua and me. There is still a lot to do and the usual difficulties with

guests getting passports and visas to join us



at the wedding. Pray especially for Sitongua's mum and dad who are still waiting for their new passports to be released. The wedding is in Lusaka on 13th April.

Thanks to all of you who have kept in touch over the years.

I do hope you will stay in touch and continue to pray for us.

Love *Lynne*

P.S. (Rec'd 29 Mar 2012) Doing ok, in my last days in Angola. Suitcases are kind of packed and I have left my wee flat. Off to Zambia on Saturday.



He who began a good work in you
He who began a good work in you
Will be faithful to complete it
He'll be faithful to complete it
He who started the work
Will be faithful to complete it in you

If the struggle you're facing
Is slowly replacing
Your hope with despair
Or the process is long
And you're losing your song
In the night you can be sure
That the Lord has His hand on you
Safe and secure
He will never abandon you
You are His treasure
And He finds His pleasure in you
(Lyrics by Steve Green)

A GOOD TRIVIA QUESTION

How many teeth are human beings given? The answer is 52. God gives us 20 primary teeth, 10 upper and 10 lower (baby teeth begin to form around the sixth week of pregnancy). These fall out, and we thankfully get a second set of 32. How kind of God to give us a second chance to bite. Someone once said,



"Floss the teeth you want to keep." I often think of that when I don't feel like flossing.

Faces need teeth, so I floss daily. Our souls are a little like teeth. We get a second chance—through the new birth of John chapter 3.

Do you sometimes feel that you fail in life? Then check this Michael Jordan quote: "I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." I've left a trail of destruction in my life—from books that were abandoned, gospel tracts that bombed, witnessing encounters that went nowhere, etc. But I didn't think of giving up because we are called to something that is infinitely more important than a basketball game. Take a timeout and check I Corinthians 15:55 for an encouraging pep-talk.

Recently, someone asked if I believed in unicorns. While the KJV bible uses the word "unicorn" in nine different places, modern versions usually translate the

word as an existing animal. Charles Spurgeon said, "The unicorn may have been some gigantic ox or buffalo now unknown and perhaps extinct."

A horse with a horn would be strange. Then again, there are black and white striped horses in Africa. There are also huge Australian mice that hop everywhere and have a front pocket, massive big-eared African animals that have six foot noses, Texas cows that have seven feet of horns, birds that talk, and fish that fly. So in the light of those creatures, if a horse had a horn it would hardly be remarkable. God's creation is incredibly diverse, and some of it is delightfully strange.

(Ray Comfort)

GREAT QUOTES with Kirk



"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil."
~ C. S. Lewis

"Just returning from a whirlwind 'Monumental' press tour in New York, I learned the truth of this insightful saying from Lewis. Without virtue and character, the smarter and more educated a person is, the more powerful the platform they speak from, he or she becomes a more subtle serpent. I'm so grateful to have my wife at my side during times of testing, and my children learning such important lessons in their youth. Virtue, character, and faith are what counts in the eyes of Heaven, and loyalty to the Lord fills each morning with hope and promise."



~ Kirk Cameron



The BMS Birthday Scheme enables you to make a difference. By making a donation on your birthday you can support the work of world mission in a real and practical way. If you want to join the BMS Birthday Scheme, ask our Birthday Scheme Secretary (Margaret Parry) for details.

Anyone can join, including children. On their birthday, members receive a BMS birthday card from Margaret, along with a gift envelope which they use to make a donation.

They then send/ give the gift envelope back to Margaret and, once a month (or whenever is suitable) all the donations are forwarded to BMS.

BMS provide all the Birthday Scheme materials that are needed including posters, gift envelopes, a selection of birthday cards and a register to keep a note of all the members and their birthdays.

The Birthday Scheme Secretary has an important role to play in administering the Scheme in the church and in encouraging people to sign up and participate.

(M. Parry)

O PRECIOUS SIGHT, MY SAVIOR STANDS

Dying for me with outstretched hands

O precious sight, I love to gaze

Remembering salvation's day

Remembering salvation's day

Though my eyes linger on this scene

May passing time and years not steal

The power with which it impacts me

The freshness of it's mystery

The freshness of it's mystery

Chorus:

May I never lose the wonder

The wonder of the cross

May I see it like the first time

Standing as a sinner lost

Undone by mercy and left speechless

Watching wide eyed at the cost

May I never lose the wonder

The wonder of the cross

Behold the God - Man crucified

The perfect sinless sacrifice

As blood ran down

those nails and wood

History was split in two

Yes, History was split in two

Behold the empty wooden tree

His body gone, alive and free

We sing with everlasting joy

For sin and death have been destroyed

Yes sin and death have been

destroyed.

(By Vicky Beeching)

HE MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE ANOTHER BIRTHDAY.

SHARE YOURS

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE THROUGH THE

BIRTHDAY SCHEME