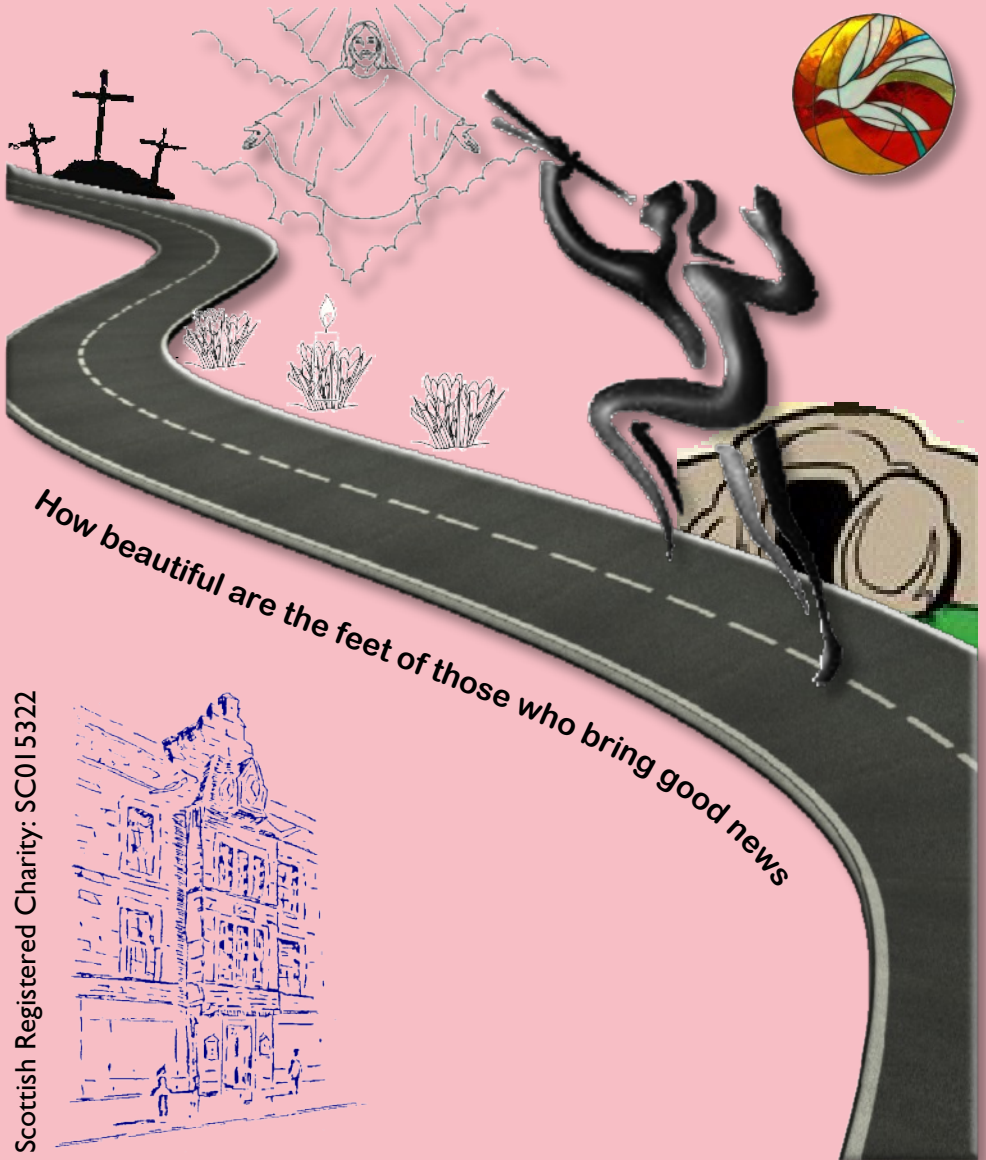


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

SUMMER EDITION

• www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • July 2012



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

Wed

7.30 p.m. Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
(see separate leaflet for details
relating to July & August times)

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

July

1st Rev Leslie Edge
Rev Cliff Jackson

8th Inverness & Irvine

15th Islay & Johnstone

22nd Keiss & Kelso

29th Kilmarnock & King's Park

NEWS FROM NDOLA, ZAMBIA (and Mr & Mrs Laussu)

Dear friends,

Hello from a chilly Ndola! It's winter and I have to wear socks in the mornings but it's nice and warm by the afternoon. Climate change is just one of the things I'm getting used to after life in Luanda.

We have settled into our flat on campus and it feels like home. I'm enjoying having hot water and there have only been three short power cuts since I arrived. I'm not enjoying hand washing all the clothes, it's so much quicker to throw everything in a washing machine. I'm continuing to get to know the neighbours. They are all friendly and welcoming. We are praising God for the new internet system just introduced on campus. It's cheaper and faster than the cafe making it easier to send photos and keep in touch.

Thursday afternoon is sewing class. I'm attempting to make an apron, but I really go

to get to know the ladies better and learn a bit of the local language. The longer I am here the more I learn about the place and realise that far more

people use the local language and aren't that good with English, the national language. We had a lovely time on Africa Day as the Couples fellowship on Campus were invited to the Principal's home for lunch. It was a good way to get to know people better and make friends. I'm sending a photo of the Couples fellowship with the Principal and his wife.

I've also been learning about the state of healthcare and schools. A couple from church invited us for lunch. Mrs Lukavu is a teacher so full of information

about the education system. It seems that the lack of teachers and textbooks is just as much of an issue here as in Angola. Classes often have 70 or 80 pupils and only the teacher has a book. She told me that the government are supplying desks, and they have plenty, but the other materials and resources for teaching are in short supply. Mr Lukavu is an ophthalmologist, and they are in even shorter supply here. He says there are 15 of them in the whole country, but 10 work in the private sector leaving just 5 for the state system. He is qualified to



carry out surgery for cataracts and so on, but only 6 are trained to carry out eye surgery in the whole country. He spends a lot of time travelling out to the provinces to work. I learned that one of the consequences of HIV can be cataracts and that's increasing the work load. All in all an interesting afternoon and the church has made us feel very welcome.

Sitongua is busy with studies. He had his Greek mid-term exam on Wednesday and his research paper for the Pastoral Epistles was due in yesterday. I've been testing his vocabulary and proof reading papers but it's all Greek to me – sorry, I couldn't resist. I continue to visit the Pre-school at Mushili on a Tuesday and have been giving ideas for teaching, making

resources out of cardboard and doing some training with the teachers. The children are lovely but with 3 to 6 year olds all in the same class it's a challenge. The teacher is great, pray she would be encouraged as she teaches. I catch 2 buses to get there and a muzungu (white person) on a bus seems to be a bit of a novelty. It's led to some interesting conversations and opportunities to share faith, especially if I say hello in the local lingo.

This week I started helping at the Childcare and Adoption Centre where children have a home until they can be adopted. There are 15 children at the home at the moment and they are loved and looked after well. They run a pre-school for some of the children and would like input from me with this. Again the need to learn the local language has hit me as the children haven't learned to speak English yet. They need to speak English for school so maybe having me there will encourage them to learn English and I'll learn Bemba from them. Shadreck I can see is quite clever and picks things up quickly, Lucia and Kateule will do well too, but Steve is 4 and looks about 2 and has problems and little Blessings can't sit still for 3 seconds, but loves to laugh and play. Pray for these children and the challenges they face.

Manuel keeps in touch and I've translated some reports for him. They have 870 children in PEPE this year and so far the new National Council has continued to meet and support Manuel in the work. Ernesto has taken on the job of Area Coordinator for Luanda and

Januario and Maria Teresa continue in Uige and Benguela. Please continue to pray for all of them, the churches, children and teachers that God would encourage and show the way forward. Manuel confided that he feels the responsibility is a heavy burden at times, so pray especially for him. This month they are expecting a visit from Terezinha Candieiro, the international Director of PEPE. She is visiting with the Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa and her husband a Pastor. We hope this visit will encourage not just the PEPE workers, but all the churches involved with PEPE or thinking about it. Pray all would go well with the visit.



The other new area for me is the garden. We have two beds of onions, one of lettuce and two of tomatoes, garlic and lettuce. We tasted our first home grown lettuce on Thursday. It was ok, slightly on the bitter side, and as you can see from the photo, our onions are coming up well. Unfortunately, so are the weeds and I better get out and do some more weeding.

Love

Lynne and Sitonqua

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayer support and for keeping in contact with us via letters and emails.