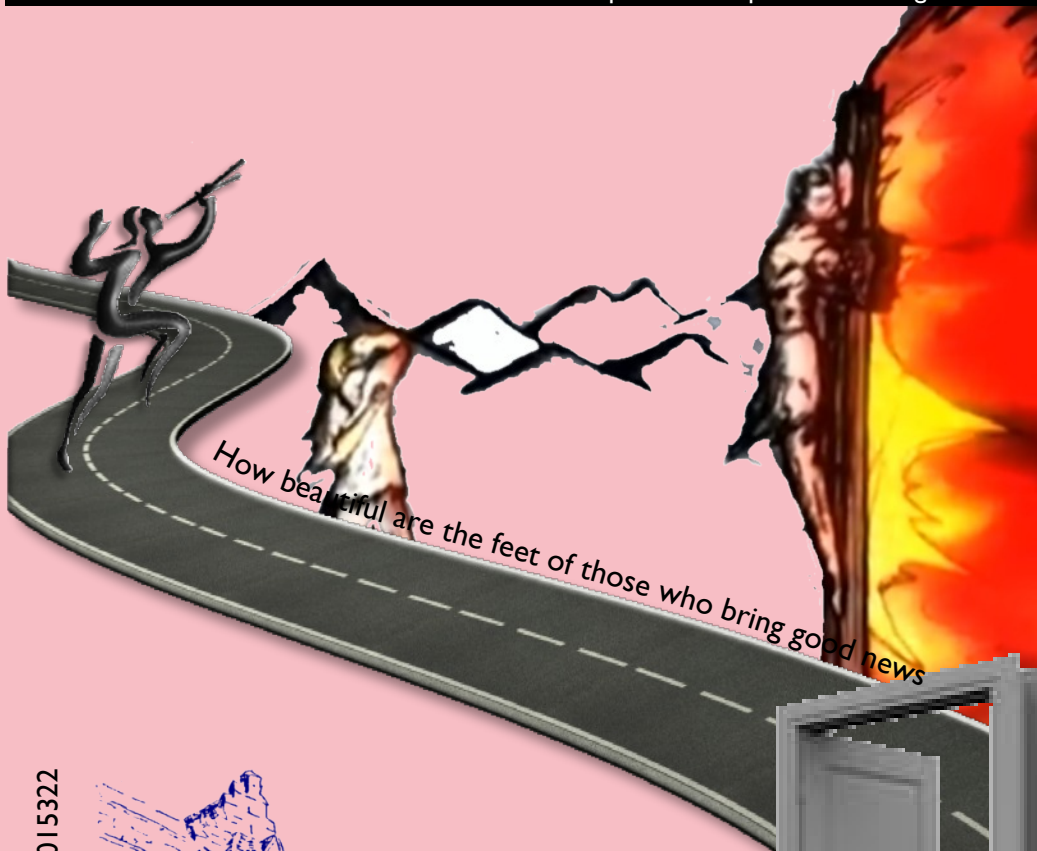


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • August 2013



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



But as I ran my hell-bound race
indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
and led me to the cross
and I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
now all I know is grace

Chorus

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

Music and words by Jordan Kaufin
© 2008 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)



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
August	11th	Sun	3.00 p.m.	Management Meeting
	10th	Sat	11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.	Cafe Day
	29th	Thurs	7.30 p.m.	Quarterly Business Meeting
September	4th	Wed	7.30 p.m.	Church Manse, Open House
	5th	Thurs	7.30 p.m.	Vision Group Meeting
	28th	Sat	11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.	Edinburgh Open Doors Day 2013 <i>inc. Portobello Baptist Church!</i>
	28th	Sat	9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Duncan Street Baptist Church Annual Bible Conference “Dear Timothy”

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

August	4th	– (Matt. 12: 22–37) “Free speech”
	11th	– (Matt. 12: 38–50) “Free to believe”
	18th	– “Lyrics of life”
	25th	– “No other gods”
September	1st	– “No graven images or likenesses”
	8th	– “Not take the LORD’s name in vain”
	15th	– “Remember the Sabbath day”
	22nd	– “Lyrics of life”
	29th	– “Honour your father and mother”

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

August	04th	Rev Neil Allison (Army Chaplain) Rev John Jamieson (Army Chaplain)
	11th	Bathgate & Bearsden
	18th	Bellshill & Bo’ness
	25th	Bourtreehill, Irvine & Brae, Shetland

JULY OFFERING



7th	£670.00	21st	£1,382.00
14th	£790.00	28th	£580.00

Dear Friends,

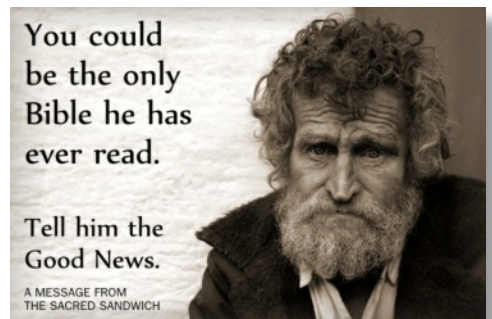
“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live,
but Christ lives in me.
The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me.”
(Galatians Ch 2 v 20)

We've all seen another beyond-belief story of a child starved and beaten at the hands of adults who were given the sacred charge of protection and care of that small image-bearer. Trusting eyes shine out from the newspaper to a world that either knew nothing or chose to know nothing. How can people made in the image of Beauty cause such pain and destruction? With the psalmist we lament and cry "why?" There will come a day when the powerless, the trusting, the tortured will find healing and will dance as they have never danced. They will know then what Love and Protection feels like. This little "broken bag of bones" will breathe the air of a New World, and fear will be a distant memory. Let's pray for social workers and carers who try to look out for these little ones. Let's pray that God will help us look out today for the vulnerable. Whenever we can, may we be their protectors. Hasten The Day.

Someone saw the paragraph I wrote above and asked me, "Is it enough to say it will all become right in the end?" And of course it's not. Part of it "coming right" is God's people working hard for a better world. So we can't just console ourselves and others with the fact that all tears will be wiped away, we must wipe away some tears now, in anticipation of the world where there are none. When we pray for God's presence to be felt in our community, He may place that presence in your life for people to feel and touch. As Martin Luther said, YOU are the only Bible that many people will read.

That's why Paul described the Christian life in terms of Christ "living in me". Dare you believe that with Christ we can change the world?

Your Pastor



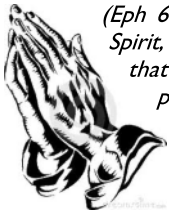
THE CHURCH FAMILY

We continue to remember, in prayer, all those who have been so faithful in the service of the Church and are no longer able to worship with us:

- Jack & Thea Logan
- Ella Hill
- Olive Nicol
- Morna Vyse

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.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Last August we gathered at the recently acquired manse to give thanks to God for what He had done for us as a Church since July 2011 and to pray for the coming year. We agreed to do the same in a year's time, so ...

Wednesday, 4th September, 2013, 7.30 at 1/2, Joppa Station Place – mark the date, NOW!



FOCUS: PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS



Syria:

Rebels Increase Attacks

Posted: July 31, 2013

Christians in Syria are reporting increasing attacks from opposition forces and worsening humanitarian conditions, with many displaced Syrians struggling to find food and shelter. But Voice Of the Martyrs sources also report that they are seeing God's hand unmistakably at work in the midst of Syria's bloody civil war.

A VOM contact reports that members of the opposition Free Syria Army (FSA) have killed a priest and two others in the northern part of the country. The FSA has warned that Christians who stay in Syria will be killed.

Another VOM contact, "Touma," reports that rebels have attacked his Christian village and kidnapped his cousin and the cousin's son. The family is still waiting to hear the kidnappers' demands.

Touma says that in the past his family has hosted the rebels' families when they needed shelter and has provided food and shared the gospel with them. Touma's family has even supplied some of the rebels with Bibles, which they gratefully received.

However, in the last month the rebels have begun to attack the village, steal the crops and are now kidnapping the villagers for ransom. Touma says many Christian children in the village are

terrified of the rebels, who have tried to break into their homes. Many families have left the village, fearing for their safety.

But, in the midst of the increased attacks, God is visibly at work in Syria. A source has told VOM that two Christian soldiers fighting on the government side found their lives spared recently.

“Boutros,” a Christian draftee, was captured by FSA troops after a shootout at a checkpoint.

Most of his comrades died in the shootout, but he survived. As the FSA fighter pointed his gun at Boutros’s head and pulled the trigger, the gun jammed. So the FSA fighter pulled the trigger again, and again it jammed.

Boutros cried out, “Fire and kill me, since I’ll be with my Lord Jesus in heaven. I am not afraid.”



The FSA fighter replied, “It seems that even your Lord does not want you to be with him there in heaven. Who am I to do anything against His will? Get up and don’t show me your face. Run for your life.”

Boutros cried out, “Fire and kill me, since I’ll be with my Lord Jesus in heaven. I am not afraid.”

The second Christian soldier is a volunteer with a government unit based in northern Syria. During a street battle, “Yousef” was taken prisoner by a rebel brigade and brought before a local judge and the leader of the brigade.

Between them, they sentenced Yousef to hang. But as the sentence was being carried out, the rope broke. The brigade leader was very angry, but then said, “If the Share’at al Sama (the law of heaven) is not allowing you to be killed, who am I to press on with our Shariah (law) and kill you?” He ordered Yousef’s release.

Another VOM source says that during a recent three-day period, dozens of mortars fell around the building where he lives, but his building was not hit. His Church is still meeting regularly three times a week, is running a medical clinic and, despite skyrocketing prices, is still providing food and hygienic items to dozens of Syrians displaced by the conflict.

“Every day more people are begging, more people are searching in rubbish, more people (are) searching for a place to stay, but they haven’t any money,” the source said. VOM supports this Church’s ministry.

Continue to pray for the Christians in Syria. Pray that even Christians fighting on the front lines will continue to be witnesses for him. Pray for the families of Christians who have been killed. Pray that this Church will be able to continue its ministry. Pray for those who have been kidnapped, that they will have the grace and strength to continue loving their enemies.

(<http://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom>)
(The images used are taken from an animation done for the song “All I have is Christ” by Jordan Kauflin, Sovereign Grace Ministries)





August 11-25 2013

Word Alive is a free interactive exhibition about the Bible where you can find out about the 66 books that tell 1 (one) story - God's purposes for all people.

There will be a daily café and bookshop, and a programme of free (ticketed) events including day-time children's storytelling and crafts. In the evening there will be author lectures, a debate with the Humanist Society, and dramatisation supported by multimedia, visual arts and live music.

FREE tickets are available to book online by following <http://wordalive.eventbrite.co.uk/?s=15731843>

THE MARK DRAMA | Free Ticketed | Shandwick Place Auditorium

Saturday 17th August 1930 (1hr30m)
Monday 19th August 1930 (1hr30m)
Tuesday 20th August 1930 (1hr30m)

The Gospel of Mark, in 90 minutes. No props, costumes or professionals ...

Every remarkable incident of Mark's action-packed account like Jesus walking on water, healing the sick, casting out demons and feeding thousands of people. Returning for its second year at Word Alive, don't miss the chance to experience this unique interactive theatre, vividly performed to an audience in the round.

FREE tickets are available to book online by following <http://wordalive.eventbrite.co.uk/?s=15731843>

CALEDONIA'S CALLING
Free Ticketed | Main Auditorium

THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY:
Visit Scotland and you are very conscious of history. Your guide book will tell much of its landscape, legend and heroes. This is a story about how the word of God came to Scotland and is how it was written on the hearts of many of its people.



Following its two sell-out performances in 2012, Caledonia's Calling returns to Word Alive in a larger venue. All ticket holders are invited to after-performance refreshments and Scottish Fayre (free) in the exhibition lounge.

You are welcome to a free evening of toe-tapping tunes and heart-warming hospitality, intertwined with tales of how the Gospel spread and shaped Scotland.

FREE tickets are available to book online by following <http://wordalive.eventbrite.co.uk/?s=15731843>

CARRUBBERS CHRISTIAN CENTRE

65 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

Fri 23 August, 2013, 19:30 p.m.

Stephanie Staples, the Exile Band
"Foot Stomping Gospel Night",
and the Royal Foundlings

Admission: free

Sat 24 August, 2013, 19:30 p.m.

Bob David Bell, the Exile Band
"Foot Stomping Gospel Night",
and Steph Macleod & band

Admission: free