

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • November 2013

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY YEARS



How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



Always
&
Forever



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
November	14th	Wed	7.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	15th	Fri	6.00 p.m.	Half – Night of Prayer
	17th	Sun		Anniversary Fellowship Lunch (following the morning service)
	27th	WED	7.30 p.m.	Quarterly Business Meeting
	28th	Thurs		“Late night shopping – sacred space”
	27/ 28th	Wed/ Thurs		Christian Resources Exhibition (Scotland) 2013
December	7th	Sat	7.30 p.m.	“Light of the World” by Origin Scotland at the Usher Hall
	20th	Fri	7.30 p.m.	“Carols by Candlelight”

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

November	3rd	– “God does it again” (Joshua Ch 3 vv 1-17)
	10th	– “Breaking down strongholds” (Joshua Ch 6 vv 1-27)
	17th	– “Church 116 th Anniversary” (Guest Speaker(s): John & Olive Drane)
	24th	– “Lyrics of life”
December	1st	– “Advent LOVE”
	8th	– “Advent HOPE”
	15th	– “Advent PEACE”
	22nd	– “Advent JOY”
	29th	– “Looking to the future”

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

November	<i>3rd</i>	Rev Cliff Jackson (Chaplain, MHA Auchlochan Garden Village) Rev Nick Blair (Chaplain, Merchiston Castle School)
	<i>10th</i>	Castlemilk, Glasgow & Cathcart, Glasgow
	<i>17th</i>	Central, Edinburgh & Cleland
	<i>24th</i>	Coastline Community Church, East Neuk & Coatbridge

OCTOBER OFFERING

£55.00 – BMS Birthday Scheme £300.00 – October Cafe Day
Blythswood Trust
 £272.00 – BMS “Box Opening”



6th	£896.00	20th	£743.00
13th	£667.00	27th	£768.00

November 2013

Dear brothers and sisters,

This month sees the anniversary of our church. I suppose the danger with anniversaries is that you look back without looking forward. This year, that will be difficult since we have two of the leading mission thinkers in the UK taking our anniversary service. They will challenge us to think "*outside the box*" about church and our mission. We face the challenge of reaching a post-Christian world. How will we do that effectively. Find out next Sunday.

Your Pastor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andy Smith', is written over the typed name '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:

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.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOX



The Christmas card posting box for the Church family will be available in the Church Foyer on 3 & 10 December. The cards will then be distributed on 17 December.

MORE NEWS FROM ZAMBIA

(Rec'd 26 October 2013)

Hi Folks,

Just a quick update on what is happening here.

Thank you for your prayers for the City wide Crusade. All went smoothly. Although I'm biased, Sitongua preached well and praise God, six young men made a commitment that night and many came forward for prayer on the closing night of the Crusade.

The longer I am here the more I appreciate the freedom that we have in Zambia as a Christian country. Going to Church is seen as a good thing, people carry their Bibles around on a Sunday and I was delighted to see a programme about fasting broadcast on the National TV channel. However, the longer I am here, the more I become aware of the dark areas and how tribal customs, traditions and superstitions are interwoven so tightly in the mind set of the people whether Christian or not. I have continued to take pupils from school along to the Adoption Centre and was so disappointed two weeks ago to see Harrison back there. You might remember we had been praying for him and he was adopted nine months ago, to our great joy. Eventually I heard the story. He has a grandmother, who became increasingly unhappy with him being adopted, to such an extent that she threatened to go to the witch doctor and have a death curse put on the new family, the head of the Adoption Centre and the workers, unless Harrison was returned to the Adoption Centre. So Harrison is back at the centre and as a 3 year old, totally confused about what has happened to him. Pray for him and all

involved at the Centre, for wisdom in these difficult circumstances.

Last Friday evening we were at the local Hindu hall. They were having a special celebration a Gurba? Where, after fasting, they spend the evening dancing and socialising. We were invited along by the mother of a girl I tutor. It was all very pretty and I was even persuaded, or should I say dragged up, to join in the dancing. Lots of children and parents from my school were there. We had a chance to look in at the actual temple where Krishna has pride of place, surrounded on either side by Ganesh and various other statues. Seeing people bowing down to these idols is heartbreaking and hearing them say that their idols are just like Jesus made me feel so sad. It is another side of the spiritual darkness that exists here. I pray as I build up friendships I will get the chance to share the love the One True God has for these people.

The last few weeks I have been teaching Sunday School and that is a cultural shift also, with twenty children in each class and what the teachers expect the children to take in during the hour. There are some very bright children who already know a whole lot about the Bible and are Christians, but there are some just there because of their parents. I am enjoying getting to know them.

I have enjoyed a week off school for half term but Sitongua has been busy with sermons and assignments so I have caught up with some friends and some emails. keep praying for him as he looks towards graduation. Thank you for all your prayers and support. Trust you enjoyed your extra hour of sleep!

Love Lynne & Sitongua



Celebrate the start of the Christmas season with some of the best Christmas music around, from traditional to contemporary, all with a focus clearly on the greatest story ever told.

This is a great event to bring friends along to, listen to performances from the Exile Band, Choir and Orchestra, and join in with some of your favourite carols.

We are delighted to be partnering with Tearfund for these events and will be hearing a little about how they are bringing hope to poor communities this Christmas.

7.30 p.m. Saturday 7th December

Venue Location:

Usher Hall, Lothian Road,
Edinburgh, EH1 2EA

Admission:

£8, £10, £13, £15

(concessions available)

Parking: on street/ multi-storey

Disabled Access: Yes



IRAN PASTOR TRANSFERRED

Fears are mounting following reports that an American pastor, imprisoned in Iran, who has been transferred to an even more dangerous prison in the country.

Pastor Saeed Abedini of Idaho, a former Muslim, left Iran in 2005 and moved to the United States with his wife and children to find religious freedom. Last fall, he travelled back to Iran to build an orphanage and visit his parents—and was about to return to the states—when he was taken into custody.



“[They were] told that Pastor Saeed had been moved to this prison outside of Tehran yesterday—about an hour and a half drive away,” Sekulow explained. “The family member traveled to Rajai Shahr Prison and was told that Pastor Saeed is imprisoned there and is not permitted to have any visitors.”

The ACLJ says that it has confirmed that Abedini is incarcerated in one of the most dangerous wards of the prison, which houses rapists and murderers.

“Rajai Shahr is the place where political prisoners who are seen as a nuisance, are stowed away,” Loes Bijnen, a Dutch diplomat at the embassy in Tehran, stated in 2005. “In Rajai Shahr, political prisoners have to share cells with dangerous criminals like murderers, rapists and drug addicts who don’t hesitate to attack their cell mates. They have nothing to lose: many of them are condemned to death anyway. Murders or unexplained deaths are a regular occurrence.”

The ACLJ is urging President Obama to take immediate action to help free the imprisoned pastor.

According to reports, he was arrested for allegedly threatening the national security of Iran, and for attempting to turn youth in the nation away from Islam and toward Christianity. Abedini was then sentenced to eight years in Iran’s notorious Evin Prison, where he has spent the past year. He has struggled with internal injuries following alleged beatings behind bars, and has asked Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to set him free.

“The ACLJ has confirmed through Pastor Saeed’s family members in Iran that he has been moved from Evin Prison in Tehran to Rajai Shahr Prison in Karaj—an even more dangerous prison where he faces life-threatening conditions and treatment,” Jordan Sekulow wrote on the organization’s website on Monday.

He said that it was discovered that Abedini had been transferred when a family member arrived at Evin Prison only to discover that he was not there.

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This interruption in the Internet could be a great opportunity to go to your Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus Christ.

He probably wants to hear from you.

[Romans 10:12-13; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; 1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 55:22; Hebrews 13:15; Philippians 3:3; Psalm 35:28, etc.]

FUTURE ARTICLES

If anyone has an article they wish to be included in future ‘Messengers’ please pass them to Ewan Sinclair by the last Sunday of the month.