

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

# MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • October 2013



Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322

NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

		Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer
		Wed	07.30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer & Bible Study
November	5th	Tues	07.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	28th	Thurs	07.30 p.m.	Quarterly Business Meeting
	27/ 28th	Wed/ Thurs		Christian Resources Exhibition (Scotland) 2013
December	7th	Sat	07.30 p.m.	“Light of the World” by Origin Scotland at the Usher Hall

## FUTURE SERMON PLAN

October	6th – “Harvest”
	13th – “Time to move on!” (Joshua Ch 1 vv 1-5)
	20th – “What’s holding you back?” (Joshua Ch 1 vv 6-9)
	27th – “Hookers and heroes” (Joshua Ch 2 vv 1-24)
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 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary” (Guest Speaker(s): John & Olive Drane)
	24th – “Lyrics of life”

## SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

October	<i>06th</i>	Rev Al. Nicoll (Chaplain, RAF) Rev Graham Bell (Chaplain, Glenochill Prison)
	<i>13th</i>	Cambuslang & Canonmills, Edinburgh
	<i>20th</i>	Carbrain, Cumbernauld & Carluke
	<i>27th</i>	Carnoustie Community Church & Castlehill, Bearsden

## SEPTEMBER OFFERING

September Cafe Day:  
*Water Aid*

Doors Open Cafe Day:  
*Church Building Fund*

£208.00

£175.00



1st	£603.00	15th	£837.00	29th	£880.00
8th	£532.00	22nd	£503.00		

## 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.

## END OF SUMMER

British Summertime officially ends on Sunday 27 October – at which point remember the saying “*Spring Forward and Fall back.*”



## CHRISTIAN CARE FOR BODY AND SOUL

## THE FIRE ENGINE PROJECT

As a result of the success of previous trips Blythswood Care has received many requests for similar assistance in other parts of Moldova and Serbia.

The team, put together under the umbrella of Blythswood Care, will leave from Edinburgh in May and drive four fire engines and four ambulances to Moldova.



Why is help so important? Serbia and Moldova have a particular problem with Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) with no means to respond. Currently they have 1950's Russian vehicles with only hand tools for extrication. These results in roadside amputations which, as you can imagine in those conditions are only marginally better than leaving the person trapped!

The aim is to send them fully kitted fire engines so that they can extricate casualties and dramatically improve their chances of survival. Along with the provision of trauma equipment in order to assist the casualties during the initial stage of their care and provide full trauma training and RTC training utilising qualified instructors for both.



(<http://www.blythswood.org/?id=39>)

Dear Friends,

*"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the Autumn and spring rains." (James 5:7)*

*Samuel Butler said, "Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits." James links his thinking about autumn with the coming of the Lord. As the signs of autumn surround us, we are reminded that time is going somewhere. Our lives are not random or haphazard. Just like the faithful, patient farmer, there will come a day when we will receive our reward – the fruit of our labours. " You also must be patient. Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near." James 5:8*

*Here is a prayer for autumn days ....*

*Prayer for Autumn Days*

*God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.*

*God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.*

*God of fallen leaves lying in coloured patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.*

*God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.*

*God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.*

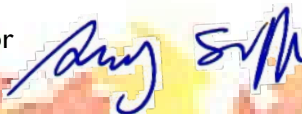
*God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.*

*God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.*

*God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful.*

*Amen.*

Your Pastor



## NEWS FROM ZAMBIA

Dear friends,

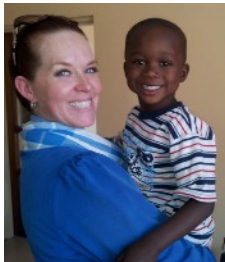
We are doing well. Sitongua's placement at a local school went very well and he is missed by staff and students alike. One pupil even changed course so he could have Sitongua as a teacher. He started a daily devotional group with the teachers and one of them is continuing to run it and there were about 40 pupils going along to the discipleship group. Please pray that the work would continue to bear fruit.



The end of term was hectic for me, with exams, marking, report writing and so on. It was a relief when holidays arrived. I spent some time at the Adoption Centre and had great fun with the children. They are growing so quickly. Steve is fully recovered from his operation and has even taken a growth spurt. We are so



happy that Blessing is now with a foster mum who hopes to eventually adopt him. She's one of my friends, an American missionary, who will raise Blessing well. Pray for them as they adapt to their new circumstances, and for the other children waiting for homes.



We decided to see more of Zambia in the holidays and got all packed for a week or so camping. It's the time of year when



we don't have to worry about rain and we were looking forward to a break away. Sadly, we didn't realise we should worry about thieves and on our second day, someone smashed the car window and stole a rucksack containing Sitongua's laptop with all his college materials, sermons and photos, and no, it wasn't backed up. Pray for him as he faces the challenges of his last term with courses to complete and his dissertation to write up again. He's also been asked to preach at some churches and at the city wide crusade being held in October. We would value your prayers for all that needs doing in the next three months. I am back at school and as well as teaching English, I will be teaching Social Education to three classes this year. It's a good opportunity to speak from a Christian viewpoint.

One of the highlights of the last month was joining in the OM Love Africa conference. There was brilliant teaching and lots of stories, mainly from Zambians, of their mission work in Chad, Botswana, Zambia and lots of other places. It really inspired us, especially the reports from the team around Lake Tanganyika, where they face many challenges linked to local superstitions with the fisherman who work on the Lake. We would like to get up there sometime to visit. We still aren't sure what is coming next, but our hearts are very much on reaching out to

those who don't know Jesus. An extra blessing was to meet up with good friends from OM Angola and hear how all is going with them. God is good.

Thanks for all your prayers,

*Lynne & Sitongua*

P.S. Steve is trying on a friend's glasses!

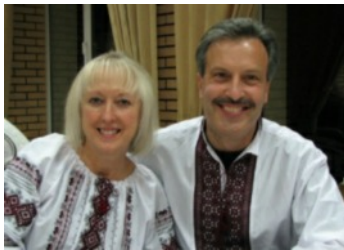


The Tomorrow Clubs invest in the future by partnering with the local church to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ and long term discipleship to children in undeserved communities.

## HOW IT ALL STARTED

In 1997, HOPE International, a network of Christ-centred micro-finance institutions, was seeking a director to begin its micro-finance operations in Ukraine. Paul and Cindy Marty, then living a

typical suburban American life, heard about HOPE's mission and



sensed God was calling them to this ministry. Within a short time, Paul and Cindy had packed up their three youngest children along with the family dog and moved to Zaporozhye, Ukraine to launch HOPE International's first program.

Once on the ground in Ukraine, it didn't take long to see that children, especially in the small towns and villages, had little hope and often no opportunity to hear

about Jesus and the relationship they could have with Him. If there was an evangelical Church in their town, it was likely that their parents, out of fear propagated by Communism and the Orthodox Church, would not let them go near it. Another striking observation was that the evangelical Churches were mostly filled with older women and, with so few young people, seemed headed for extinction. They began to understand that a bridge was needed – something to draw the kids, introduce them to the gospel and, through nurturing relationships, integrate them into the local Churches. Cindy thought of the impact that Bible clubs had had on her own children and began to sense that God was leading her to start something similar for the kids of Ukraine – weekly Bible clubs where children could hear the Gospel, learn new skills, have some fun, and build relationships with Christ-following mentors.

When the Marty's, along with volunteers from a local Church, started the first club in 1997, only God knew that the Tomorrow Clubs would grow into the largest children's ministry in Ukraine!

Initially, the Tomorrow Clubs ministry was a direct part of HOPE International. Both HOPE International's micro-finance program in Ukraine and the Tomorrow Clubs ministry continued to grow at a rapid pace. In November of 2007 the Tomorrow Clubs became a separate local organization, supported in part by the profits from HOPE International's micro-finance program in Ukraine. At the same time Cindy Marty handed over the leadership of the Tomorrow Clubs ministry to Ukrainian leader Yuri Kipot.



Today, the Tomorrow Clubs are run completely by a local Ukrainian staff. The ministry is impacting nearly 13,000 children each week, 70 – 80% of which come from unchurched families, often in remote villages where there is little if any opportunity hear the gospel. The Tomorrow Clubs are staffed by 1,800 committed volunteer workers and have now spread throughout the country and even into Russia with about 450 clubs meeting every week. The Tomorrow Clubs have had tremendous success in partnering with local churches in Ukraine to support and operate these clubs. The Tomorrow Clubs' volunteers are channelled through the local churches, and when children and their parents become interested in attending Church services, Tomorrow Club leaders connect them to local congregations.

The Tomorrow Clubs and Youth for Christ Moldova are teaming up to bring the hope of the Gospel to hurting kids in Moldova.

Moldova is one of the poorest nations in Europe. In fact, poverty is so rampant that the people are willing to do anything for a chance to feed their families, leading over a quarter of its population to leave the country in search of work, separating families and exposing many to high-risk jobs that can lead to human trafficking. The children of Moldova are especially vulnerable.

Some reports say as many as 40% of the children in rural areas are living with out their parents, and in many cases 10 to 14 year old children are left behind, caring for younger siblings while their parent are working abroad. Hundreds of thousands of kids are in orphanages, or on the streets or living with grandparents.

In the midst of the hopelessness that surrounds them, the children in these forgotten communities of rural Moldova need to know they have Heavenly Father who loves them. Through weekly Bible clubs, leaders from local Churches can introduce these hurting kids to Jesus, and provide the long term discipleship needed to encourage deep, enduring, community-engaging Christian faith. In many places where we work, the Tomorrow Club is the only place in town where children and their parents can hear the Good News and we've seen spiritual awakening in whole communities as a result.

(<http://tomorrowclubs.org/moldova/>)



## WHERE IS MOLDOVA?

That's often the first question when we tell people Tomorrow Clubs will soon be starting in Moldova.



Here are some other things you might not know about this small Eastern European country which lies between Ukraine and Romania:

- 80% of Moldovans live below the poverty line – people are willing to do anything for a chance to feed their family.
- Moldova leads the world in per capita alcohol consumption.
- Emigration from Moldova is a mass phenomenon – 90% of Moldovans say they want to leave the country.
- Moldova is the European epicentre of trafficking – 40% of victims are underage.
- 40% of rural children between the ages of 10 & 15 have one or both parents living abroad.



## C. R. E. SCOTLAND 2013

Royal Highland Centre,  
Edinburgh 27th & 28th November 2013

Currently in the process of developing the exhibition which will include:

- A unique exhibition of Christian resources with an anticipated 150+ exhibitors.
- An extensive range of books, music and resources to buy.
- The latest multimedia equipment & expert advice.
- Over 40 practical and resourcing seminars.
- The best in Christian theatre and music.

In fact, no other event will provide such a remarkable range of seminars, workshops, theatre and Church resources - this event is truly an experience not to be missed.

(<http://www.creonline.co.uk/visitors/edinburgh-2013-visitor/>)

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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



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.

## 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.