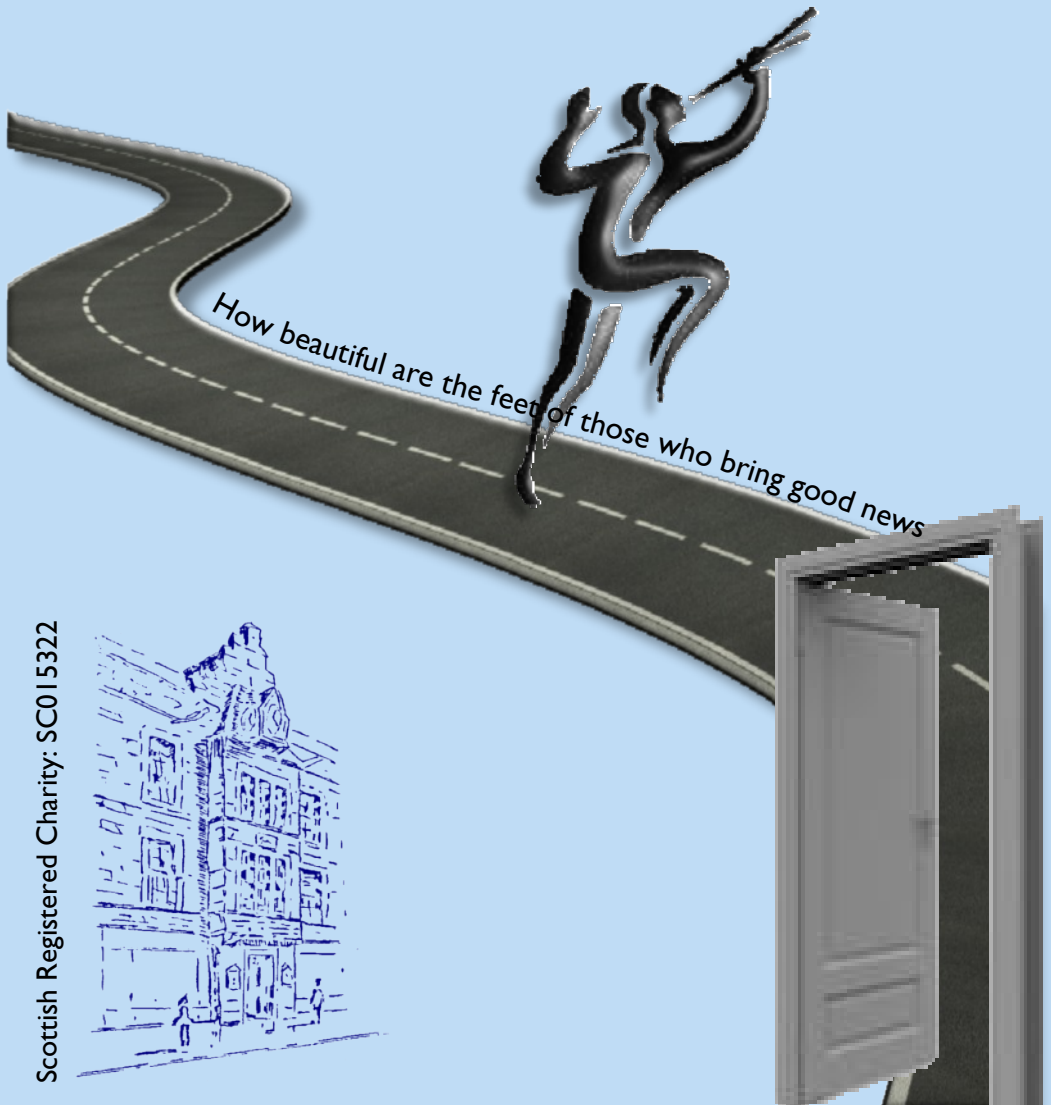


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

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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
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”
November	27/ 28th	Wed/ Thurs		Christian Resources Exhibition (Scotland) 2013

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

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”
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)

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

September	1st	David Middlemiss (Army Chaplain) Chris Withers: (Chaplain to IRifles)
	8th	Bridge of Don: & Bristo, Edinburgh
	15th	Broughty Ferry & Broxburn
	22nd	Buckhaven & Buckie
	29th	Burra Isle & Calderwood, East Kilbride

AUGUST OFFERING



4th	£724.00	18th	£802.00
11th	£784.00	25th	£583.00

Dear Friends,

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isa 43:18-19)

"Go and look toward the sea," Elijah told his servant. And he went up and looked. "There is nothing there," he said. Seven times Elijah said, "Go back." The seventh time the servant reported, "A cloud as small as a man's hand is rising from the sea." So Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you.' Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and Ahab rode off to Jezreel." (1Ki 18:43-45)

With prophetic eyes, both Elijah and Isaiah saw the blessing of God coming before it was fully formed. Zechariah says "Who dares despise the day of small things"? I wonder if you have eyes to see the seeds of tomorrow's church being planted today?

On Thursday at our Church meeting. (Vision meeting, I think, would have been more appropriate, since we were so aware of God's encouragement and direction).

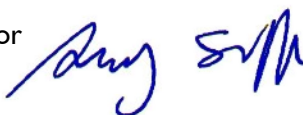
- We agreed to start Celebrate Recovery, a discipling / support group for those coming out of Addictions. Pray for Robert and Denise as they plan it's start.
- We agreed that Morven would carry out a low-key spirituality survey, to discover people's views about prayer, God, the supernatural, and so on. She hopes to approach our friends to carry out an interview, the results of which will be collated and analysed. This will open up many conversations, and may help some come closer to faith in God.
- We agreed to start a parents and toddlers group, led by Jane Macleod. Jane and Steph will be welcomed into membership along with Iris Lanny. Jane is filled with faith and vision for what might happen through this, as a way of making contact with folk in the community. Jim told us how Iris is likewise excited about all that is happening in the church and she wants to be part of it!
- We have our first cafe church next Sunday at 7.00 p.m. Our prayer is that this will be a space where people who don't normally come to church will be able to explore faith in Christ.

In many ways these are not "small things". But they make up a "new thing" that God is doing. He is on the move. Pray, trust, believe, have faith. There will be streams in the wasteland of people's hearts in Portobello.

We prayed for six solid hours last Friday. Roughly fourteen people were there most of the evening. This was an exciting time with a real sense of God's presence. For new things to happen well, we need to keep up that intensity of prayer.

"Lord pour out your blessings!"

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.

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Andy & Moira along with all the Church family for their prayers and best wishes, over the recent weeks, which has helped my recovery.

(Sheila Anderson)

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



IRAN

YOUNG EVANGELIST SENTENCED TO PRISON AND EXILE

An Iranian court has sentenced a young evangelical Christian to one year imprisonment and two years exile to a remote border town for his involvement in evangelism and house churches.

The Revolutionary Court in the city of Robat-Karim, some 17 miles southwest of Tehran, reportedly told Ebrahim Firouzi that his "Books (Bibles), and other means of evangelism taken from him, including his personal computer, which were used to commit this crime will be seized in favour of the government and destroyed."

Judge Ali Babaei allegedly said the sentence was justified as Firouzi had been "propagating against the Islamic regime [by] starting and directing an evangelism group, contact with opponents of the Islamic Revolution and anti-Islamic regime networks in foreign countries".

EARLIER DETENTION

He added that Firouzi started a Christian website, distributed evangelical books and Bibles which were smuggled into the country, "and so maintained his position as an anti-Islamic Revolution agent inside the country."

Babaei also noted that the Christian "attended illegal house-churches in order to promote evangelical Christianity," according to court documents released by Mohabat News, a news agency of Iranian Christians and activists.

HOUSE CHURCH "CRIMINAL"

The judge said holding house church services was "a criminal act which spreads profligacy among youth and creates doubts in their minds about Islamic principles."

Therefore "the court sentences [you] to one year of imprisonment including the days already served ... [and after that you are] condemned to spend two years in exile in the border town of Sarbaz in Sistan and Baluchestan province," the Christian was told.

The town of his exile, Sarbaz, has a 70 percent Sunni Muslim population, according to estimates.

Trial observers told that the Christian young man had not been able to afford to hire a lawyer.

The court ruling, which was delivered directly to him last week, came as a major setback for Firouzi, who was recently released after paying 30 million Tomans (\$20,000) following 53 days behind bars.

Firouzi, a Christian convert resident of Robat-Karim, had been arrested on March 7 when four plainclothes security officers raided his workplace, Christians said.

He was transferred to Tehran's feared Evin prison where he was allegedly subjected to what Iranian Christians called "intense interrogations" for 10 consecutive days. Christians said the latest case has underscored the dangers of becoming a Christian in the strictly Islamic nation.

Many Christians prefer to organize 'house churches' in their own homes as "many Farsi-speaking churches have been closed down in Tehran and other cities across the country and pressure on Christian converts is increasing" adding to security concerns, explained Mohabat News.

Despite the reported crackdown there are at least 100,000 evangelical Christians in the country, according to conservative estimates.

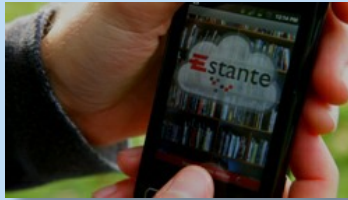
This wasn't the first time that Firouzi has been targeted by authorities. He was reportedly detained on January 11, 2011, and after being interrogated was transferred to Ghezel-Hessar prison in Karaj where he spent 154 days in custody.

Firouzi has 20 days to file an appeal against his latest sentence and ask an appeal court to review this ruling, Christian observers said.

(persecution.org)

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) has released a new digital tool that makes it easy for isolated believers to access digital Christian training resources – without the need for an internet connection.

Called Estante, which is Spanish for bookshelf, this free digital library app works offline and allows isolated pastors and church leaders to easily store, view, and share digital Christian resources anywhere in the world. This free mobile app can be downloaded at www.maf.org/estante.



"Estante gives isolated pastors a simple way to carry the Bible and Bible study tools anywhere they go," said Jay Clark of MAF-Learning Technologies. "For many, it will be the first time they'll have easy access to the Word of God anytime they want."

MAF (www.maf.org) is a Christian ministry that uses aviation and other technologies to share the gospel in isolated regions of the world. MAF works in some 14 countries, assisting missionaries, relief organizations, churches, medical groups and community development agencies.

Estante is an Android application. With Estante, users can transfer files from their Android devices to many other kinds of phones, even very basic phones that do not have Estante. It also allows users to share entire libraries with other Estante users. Estante's user interface can be customized for English, Spanish, Russian

and French, and MAF expects to add more languages in the future. Its library can store files created in any language.

More than three million isolated pastors around the world have received little or no Christian training. They lack access to the most basic resources such as a Bible commentary or dictionary. However, many use cell phones. The Learning Technologies division of MAF works with ministry partners to help develop technologies and strategies to equip isolated Christian pastors and leaders with appropriate training materials.

(Maf.org)



Christian Resources Exhibitions
EQUIPPING AND EMPOWERING YOUR CHURCH

C.R.E. (Christian Resources Exhibitions) are currently developing the exhibition and the exhibition programme 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 provides such a remarkable range of seminars, workshops, theatre and church resources - this event is truly an experience not to be missed

(creonline.co.uk)