

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

# MESSENGER

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How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news

Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians Ch 4 vv 22 – 24)*



NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 10.30 a.m. Weekly Hour of Prayer  
[drop-in for all or part of the time]

Wed 7.30 p.m. Midweek Prayer & Bible Study

January

14th Tues 7.30 p.m. Management Meeting

16th Thurs 7.30 p.m. Vision Action Group

24th Fri 7.30 p.m. Steph McLeod Live! Fundraiser

## SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

January 5th Neil Allison (*Army Chaplain*); Abbeyhill Baptist Church  
Aberdeen Christian Fellowship; Adelaide Place Baptist Church

12th Marylee Anderson (*Chaplain, Aberdeen University*)  
Airdrie Baptist Church; Alexandria Baptist Church  
Alloa Baptist Church

19th Graham Bell (*Chaplain, HMP Glenochil*)  
Alness Baptist Church; Alva Baptist Church  
Ardbeg (Rothesay) Baptist Church

28th Nick Blair (*Chaplain, Merchiston Castle School*)  
Arran Baptist Church; Ayr Baptist Church  
Barnton Baptist Church

## DECEMBER OFFERING



1st	£655.00	15th	£621.00	29th	£447.00
8th	£865.00	22nd	£627.00		

Building Fund total, so far :- £4,185.00

## RIDE OUT THE HURRICANE

Back in 1969, twenty-four people decided to ignore warnings that Hurricane Camille was heading for Mississippi. They were going to ride it out. Twenty-three of them died in the wrath of that hurricane. What a terrible tragedy. If they had taken the warning seriously, they wouldn't have lost their precious lives. The cross is a terrible warning of the fierce hurricane of God's wrath, which no one can "ride out" on Judgment Day. We must never tire of warning every man "that we might present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." He is their only hope. They must, as the Bible says "kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little." There goes another minute. Gone forever. Go share your faith while you still have time.



Dear brothers and sisters,

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."  
(2 Timothy 4:7-8)*

## 86-Year-Old Marathoner Dies with Her Shoes On

Eighty-six year old Joy Johnson, a veteran of 25 New York City marathons, died with her running shoes on. She was the oldest runner in this year's marathon. She fell at the 20 mile marker in the event. She crossed the finish line at about eight hours. After the race she returned to her hotel room, lay down with her shoes on, and never woke up.

Amazingly, Johnson, a career gym teacher didn't run her first marathon until she was sixty-one years old. By the time she was 63, she had competed in her first New York City Marathon. She recorded her best time at age sixty-four with a time of 3 hours and 55 minutes.

A few years ago she told a reporter about her exercise regimen. She would wake up at 4 a.m., drink her coffee while reading her Bible, and then set out on an eight mile pre-dawn run. "When you wake up it can either be a good day or a bad day," Ms. Johnson said. "I always say, 'It's going to be a good day.'"

The devout Christian ran every day but Sunday so she could attend church. Johnson sang hymns to herself to pass the time while running.

This story struck me powerfully. At the turn of the year, you often reflect, not just on the past year, but on the race/ journey/ walk of faith so far. The idea of dying "with our shoes on" is challenging. Like the great Apostle, still being stretched, still in the race, still fighting the good fight, never giving up.

Friends of ours planted a church in Russia. They have recently completed some work on a new building, helped by a retired missionary, and a team of people from the States - ages from 68 to 80. I can imagine they are "Still being stretched, still in the race, still fighting the good fight, never giving up".

I suppose when you're working for God you never give up. Does that describe your life? Are you still excited about serving God? There will be lots of work to do this year in Portobello. Will you be part of it?

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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.

## FLOWER CALENDER

J	5th
A	12th
N	
U	19th
A	26th
R	
Y	

If you would like to add your name to any blank space then please see either Allistair or Ewan



## STREET PREACHER ARRESTED & HELD IN CUSTODY

Police in Scotland have arrested a Christian street evangelist after a woman complained that he had spoken about sexual sin.



Tony Miano, a US preacher and a former Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff, was arrested yesterday (8th January)

and remanded in custody to appear before Dundee Sheriff Court at 10 a.m. January 9th.

He was part of a street preaching team holding a week-long mission in Scotland.



He was the second of the street pastors to address lunchtime shoppers in Dundee High Street. He talked about the nature of sin; about the different sins that Jesus had come to save people from when a woman began to shout at him. He was preaching about sin in general and when he mentioned sexual sin including adultery, promiscuity and homosexual practice, the woman shouted that her son was gay.

Mr. Miano's colleague, Pastor Josh Williamson of the Craigie Reformed Baptist Church in Perth, who was present at the incident explains: "Tony wasn't focusing just on homosexual practice – it was about all sin. A woman was yelling at him and her friend noticed we were filming the preaching, so she ran up to me and tried to smash my camera."

He says the first woman then appeared to be calling the police on her mobile just

as a council warden came along and said that while we were doing nothing wrong, and had the right to free speech, we should move on.

Mr. Miano finished his preaching in a few minutes and as the street preachers packed up two police officers arrived. At this point Pastor Williamson says the women shouted that they would get the preachers arrested.

“The female officer saw we had a camera and lunged for it and then the male policeman grabbed it and threw it in the police van,” says Pastor Williamson.

He says the male officer interviewed the women and then immediately arrested Mr. Miano, but did not question him or explain why he was being arrested.

“After Tony was put in the police van I asked why he was being arrested and was told it was for a breach of the peace and for using homophobic language,” says Josh Williamson.

Andrea Minichiello Williams, Chief Executive of the Christian Legal Centre, says the incident raises serious questions about police procedure and understanding of the law in dealing with such incidents.

“This appears to be an overzealous reaction by the police. The incident, adds to the number of arrests of Christian street evangelists for preaching from the Bible. It is indicative of the suppression of the freedom to speak and live out the words of Jesus Christ in public and present the teachings of the Bible,” says Andrea.

She adds that the Christian Legal Centre is ready to serve anyone who is

challenged for expressing their Christian beliefs.

“At the Christian Legal Centre we are committed to helping people to continue to preach the Gospel in our nation.”

Tony Miano was arrested in July last year, in London, for alleged ‘homophobic’ comments. The case was dropped.

He has been remanded in custody to appear before Dundee Sheriff’s Court today (9th January) at 10 a.m.

([www.christianconcern.com](http://www.christianconcern.com))

## CELEBRATING INSANITY?

At midnight, January 1st, most of the world will celebrate insanity.



## INSANITY?

There is a popular definition for insanity that is attributed to Benjamin Franklin, Albert Einstein and others. It goes like this:

- Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Times Square will be filled with people who watch a crystal ball descend as midnight approaches. Millions more watch on television. When the ball ends its journey a massive celebration erupts. People will be excited about the promise of a new calendar year. They hope the

disappointments of the previous year will be replaced by better times in the new year.

People believe a change in the calendar can bring a change in fortune, or relationships, or happiness, or health. But after the celebrations, morning comes again. The challenges in life remain as daunting as ever. As Christians, the New Year offers an opportunity to talk about change that is not rooted in insanity or false expectations.

Apart from the renewal that can only come from a saving relationship with Jesus Christ the new year will be just like the old one – another exercise of insanity. Just because people mired in conflict with God gather in a large champagne-toasted celebration does not mean there will be renewal and redemption. People believe they can make things better by their own effort and will. But, what promised to be new quickly becomes old again.

May God grant that we would have compassion for those deceived by the false hope of a happy new year. Believing that things will get better apart from Christ is a cruel deception. It truly is an exercise in futility. Even if bank accounts grow or fortunes appear to improve, the relief this provides is short-lived.

Happy New Year can be a wonderful greeting if we point people to the real reason for happiness.

Help your children to grasp that hope for being made new is only found in Christ. Only He can take what is old, corrupt, and deceitful and make it new. No celebration, no matter how large it is, can change this truth. Pray that we will find ways to show those around us the emptiness of trusting in a change of the calendar. Point them to Christ, who alone, can make what is old into something new. Help stop the insanity.

*“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

Ephesians 4:22-24

(www.shepherdspress.com – Jay Younts)

## NEW YEAR HYMN

Look forward in faith  
all time is in God's hand.  
Walk humbly with Him  
and trust His future plan.  
God has wisely led  
His people by His power  
look forward in hope  
He gives us each new hour.

Look forward in faith  
the world is in God's care.  
His purpose of love  
He calls on us to share.  
In our neighbours need  
the Lord is present still.  
He blesses the meek!  
The earth will know God's will.

Look forward in faith  
God gives us life each day  
go onward with Christ  
His Spirit guides our way.  
Now God lets us live  
within the sphere of grace.  
Trust ever in him –  
He rules o'er earth and space.  
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via Songs of God's People)