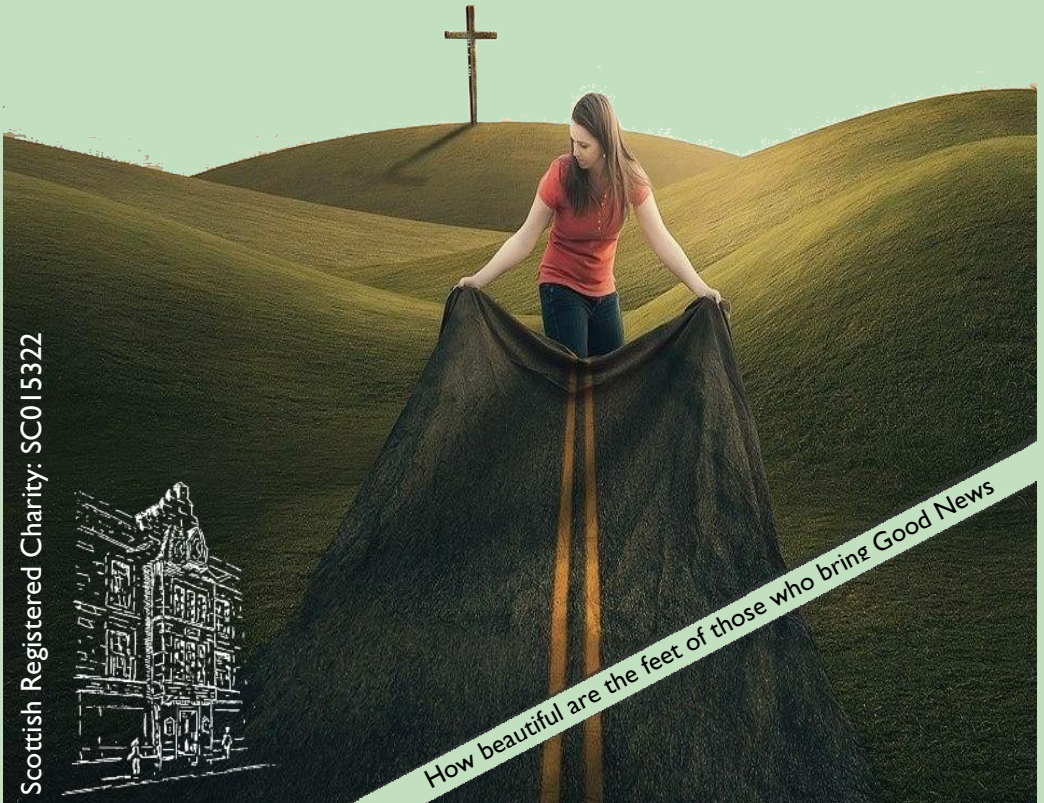


The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • August 2015

LET EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO,
LEAD OTHERS TO THE CROSS.



Scottish Registered Charity: SC0153322

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News

NEWS • TEACHING • ENCOURAGEMENT • LETTERS

dates for your diary

2015



	Tues	10.30 a.m.	Weekly Hour of Prayer [drop-in for all or part of the time]
August	9th	Sun 01.30 p.m.	Management Meeting
	27th	Thurs 07.30 p.m.	Quarterly Business Meeting

[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

August	2nd	Inverkeithing Baptist Church, Ross Brown Irvine Baptist Church
	9th	Islay Baptist Church, Jim McNulty Keiss Baptist Church
	16th	Kingspark Baptist Church
	23rd	Kirkintilloch Baptist Church, David Gordon Kirkwall Baptist Church, Tim Proudlove Knightswood Baptist Church, Gus Macaulay

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

August	2nd	Matthew Ch 16 vv 21 – 28 [Learning to die]
	9th	Matthew Ch 17 vv 01 – 13 [We saw His glory]
	16th	Matthew Ch 17 vv 14 – 21 [Mountain removal company]
	23rd	II Corinthians Ch 3 v 12 – Ch 4 v 2 [I can see clearly now]
	30th	Jeremiah Ch 1 vv 04 – 10 [Going with God's game plan]
September	6th	Psalms Ch 1 [Get into the habit of success]

JULY OFFERING



5th	£991.00	19th	£599.00
12th	£752.00	26th	£669.00

Building Fund total, so far :- £52,242.75

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"Upon THIS rock I will build my Church.
The gates of hell will not prevail against it."
(Matthew Ch 16 v 18)*



I preached on this text a couple of weeks ago and I found myself asking "What rock is Jesus talking about?" There are various valid interpretations, but one that caught my eye was the rock being Peter's faith in Christ. Therein we see the amazing plan that Jesus had – not to build a university, not to hold evangelistic campaigns, not to build a megachurch, but to invest His ministry in 12 ordinary disciples.

And that's what He still does.

He has entrusted to us the task of sharing His message, living His life in our community in Portobello, (And the many other communities represented in our church). Is that not risky? Churches have problems. Christians fail. When Paul wrote letters to the fledging Christian communities, he dealt with a smorgasbord of select sins.... Incest, greed, heresy, laziness, division, hypocrisy, excessive lifestyles, drunkenness..... is that enough to be going on with?

But this is how it works. These are the people God has called to serve Him, along with the other churches, here in Portobello. We will sometimes be slow to hear. We will sometimes get things wrong. We will sometimes disagree. But He calls us to love one another as He loved us. How can we learn love if we are not thrown in with someone who is difficult to love? *"If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?"*

How can we learn Christlike acceptance of our family, without seeing them with the same grace that Christ sees us?



I will build my Church

Sleeves rolled up

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)

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.



(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"

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FLOWER CALENDAR 2015

A 2nd
U 9th
G 16th
U 23rd
S
T 30th

BMS WORLD MISSION MISSIONARY NEWS



SITONGUA & LYNNE LAUSSU

Dear friends,

We are just one month and one week into life in our new country and it has been a dizzying whirl of new experiences from the daily drone of the call to prayer,



early morning until evening, to the sights, sounds and smells of our new supermarket, the market place.

On arrival in the capital we were greeted by the sauna like humidity of Conakry and as we took in the traffic and bustle on our drive to the mission guest house, it was familiar in many ways but different too as we witnessed people placing their prayer mats facing Mecca and kneeling down to pray in the street. I felt such joy in being back in Africa. We thank God for safe travels and no problems getting baggage through customs.

Our team leader, Eric Bafende, met us at the airport and introduced us to fellow workers at the Mission Philafricaine guesthouse where amazingly enough our drivers licences awaited us. The following day we handed over our passports for the one year visa, and saw a little bit of the city. The heat was exhausting and our trip to the embassy was cancelled due to anti-government protests, but we did manage to get some shopping and a nice lunch next to the ocean. Looking out over the water, I was reminded that Scotland was 'over there somewhere'.

In two days our passports were returned complete with visas, praise God, so we

could leave for Labe the following day. The eight hour journey grew gradually longer as we had a couple of problems with the car, but I loved drinking in the countryside, everything is so green, and the people are so welcoming and hospitable. The trees are full of fruit, mangoes, oranges, avocados, just ready to fall into your hands. The view that really caught my attention though was in just about every village, no matter how large or small, there is a mosque. Pray for this country, that the light of Jesus would break in. After a long day and a welcoming meal, we were glad to arrive at another mission guest house and have a good sleep in the cooler climes of our new city and home, Labe.

Life in Labe

The centre of the city is built on a hill. On the summit of this hill is La Grande Mosque, the highest mosque in the city, not just in terms of altitude but also importance. The streets round the mosque get closed off to traffic at prayer times and the Imam there has the most authority. Labe is seen as the most important city in the Fouta Djallon, the home of the Muslim Fulbhe people group. One of the reasons the team is based here is because the city is seen as strategically important to impact with Jesus love. There are very few Christians within this people group, but there are some Christian organisations at work here, and Christians who have moved from other parts of Guinea and further afield, meet on a Sunday morning in a church set up. There are at least two known church gatherings and other Christians meet in homes. We meet with leaders from the different Christian groups once a month and as a team, we meet once a week to pray for each other, the work and the city. Pray that God would protect the unity among believers. Pray also that a contextualised church will be formed for

local believers who come from a totally different faith culture.

Surrounding the mosque is the market where we do our shopping. There is no such thing as a supermarket here, so you go from stall to stall in the maze of narrow passageways to find what you want. I enjoy seeing the different displays and am amazed at what is available, but it does take time. We buy rice by the kilo, mangoes by the mound and meat by the chunk. I try not to think about how many hands have handled that chunk of meat before me and it gets a good boil before eating. For bleach and household cleaner you go to the stall that sells electrical goods. That's where you can get a toilet brush too, of course! All the essentials are here. As you head down the hill there are lots of women selling fruit & veg at the side of the road and if you are driving you should beware of the motorbikes that buzz round like mosquitoes and the cows that often decide to have a snooze, bang in the middle of the street. Sheep and goats abound here also, but they seem to find more appropriate places for a sleep.

At home we are adapting to the kerosene fridge, water well and charcoal iron. Our house relies on solar panels which provide enough energy for lights and charging computers and phone but not much else. You would think I would be glad of the excuse not to do the ironing, but where fly is rife any eggs laid in damp clothing can be killed by a hot iron, hence the charcoal iron. Try not to get smudges on your nice, clean clothes.

Our priorities over the last weeks have been studying French, with lessons three times a week, learning our way around the city and meeting with team members and other folks around Labe. Sitongua visited the university centre of Labe and there are

many opportunities for student ministries. The university is 18km outside the city and life for the students is tough, with a lack of facilities - no library, no on campus accommodation and a few stalls that sell food. Some of the students are Christians and majority are Muslims. Pray for possibilities of offering seminars and workshops on a wide variety of fields such as administration, management and microfinance. Sports ministry is another possibility.

Friendships

The local people are very hospitable and friendly. In the search for a home we would drive to a potential area and ask someone if they knew of any homes to rent. Often they would take us to a place or phone someone who knew of somewhere. This led to us making our first Fulbhe friends and we have had meals with each other. Pray that this friendship would develop and grow strong. Sitongua is mentoring two boys at the moment. They are at that age where they need positive male role models, 10 and 11 years, but unfortunately their fathers are not around. Here, many children are left with grandparents, or other family as mum and dad go off to work elsewhere. They enjoy going to watch football or just chatting with their "big brother". My job is to provide the snacks!! Praise God we have found a good home to rent.

After waiting for about two months from the arrival date in Guinea, we have now moved into our new house. The house had been unoccupied for the past three years, this means a lot of repairs had

to be done in it. There are many children in the neighbourhood and many women. We are still at the phase of research to see possible ministry involvement that will meet people's need.

I am really looking forward to feeling settled and unpacking the suitcases. The owner of the house is also becoming a friend. He and Sitongua get on very well and he has shown us where to get good workmanship at a fair price, not the foreigner price, for items required for the house. Sitongua has been fasting during the month of Ramadan, the holiest period for the Islamic faith. As a result of his fasting alongside Muslims many friendships are being developed.

We commit these friendships to God and pray that in due time He will bring fruit from them.

So in Labe, so far so good. We praise God for His goodness in looking after us, providing for us and putting us into contact with people. We are very conscious of your prayers for us as we settle here and ask you to keep on praying.

Love

Lynne & Sitongua



GOD, NOT GOOGLE

My daughter, Noelle, came home from school and her right eye looked red. Do you know what I did right away? I googled “pinkeye” to read about its symptoms and treatment.

I have a feeling you’ve done this too.

Having the Internet is like having a doctor at your side. You have instructions to practically any problem you face online which is great ... or is it?

Our growing dependency on data may be eroding our dependency on the Divine. After all, the answers to our questions are on our smart phone, right in our back pocket. While there’s nothing wrong with seeking information online, there is something terribly wrong when we constantly turn to Google before we turn to God.

I Lift My Eyes To ...

“I lift up my eye to the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Remember the declaration found in Psalm 121:1-2,

Imagine if it were re-written this way:

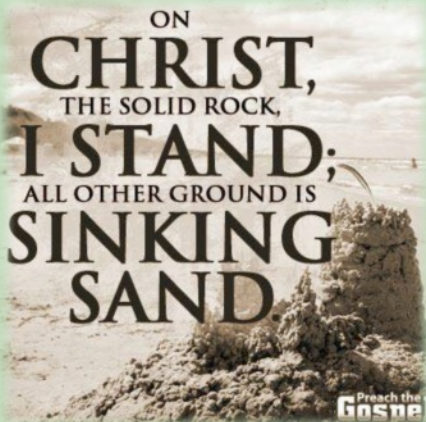
“I lift up my eyes to my phone – where does my help come from? My help comes from Google, the holder of all information.”



Now, most likely you disagree with the belief that Google holds all the answers, but many times our actions shout the opposite. We solve problems online. We look for answers in experts. We go to God in prayer only when nothing else seems to be working in our family.

In this digital age, we can get our wires crossed. The answers to your family’s problems aren’t found on homepages or search engines. The answers you need are found in the ancient pages of God’s Word and by speaking to the source of wisdom Himself.

One study has found that on average, people use their mobile devices 150 times a day. Imagine if we prayed that often! What if instead of habitually reaching for our phones, we reached out to God in prayer?



CELEBRATE RECOVERY @ P.B.C.

Think about it. Could you go a whole day without talking to God? Probably. Could you go a whole day without your cell phone or any Internet access? Ouch, that would hurt more wouldn't it? We are ever dependent on our calorie trackers, social media posts, playlists, texts, and emails.

Remember the words of the Psalmist: I lift my eyes to the mountains. You don't have to wait until a vacation to experience the calming effect of being in nature. You can simply look outside the window as you talk to the Creator of it all. There's a richness only silence and stillness offers but we seldom have the patience to wait on God in our 140-character tweet world.

Today our idols aren't golden calves or wooden images. They're phones and tablets and laptops and DVRs. Of course technology should be used and can be used for good in your life. But if you follow the culture's growing dependence on technology, you won't need God nearly as much as you need WiFi.

Blessings, Arlene Pellicane



VISITOR RESPONSE

I am a visitor and would like

- Information about the Church
- A visit from the Minister
- Information about becoming a Christian

PLEASE FILL IN YOUR CONTACT DETAILS BELOW
and either place in the offering bag, hand to a steward or post to
189 Portobello High Street, Portobello, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU

NAME:
EMAIL:

PHONE:

Celebrate Recovery is into its 2nd year at Portobello Baptist Church and is progressing well. We have reached lesson 6, ACTION, which is part of "Stepping out of Denial into God's Grace".

We enjoy praise and worship, fellowship and Bible based teaching in order to help us recover from various hurts, hang-ups and habits.

The meetings take place on a Monday evening throughout the year from 7.30pm until 9.30pm in the church cafe and are open to everyone.

If you are interested please do contact Robert Burns or Denise Halcrow Burns.
(Denise)

GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

Bible Giving Cards are available for £1.00 to enable someone to give a gift to The Gideons International in memory or recognition of someone – In memory, With sympathy, Congratulations, Just to say, Happy birthday & Wedding anniversary. If interested, please speak to either Allistair or Ewan

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

