

The magazine of Portobello Baptist Church

MESSENGER

www.portobellobaptist.co.uk • June/ July 2015

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



Scottish Registered Charity: SC015332

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]
June 7th Sun 01.30 p.m. Management Meeting

[check 'Buzz' newsheet for last minute details]

SCOTTISH BAPTIST PRAYER LINK

June 7th Chris Withers (Chaplain, I Rifles);
Ellon Baptist & Erskine
14th Scot. Bapt. Women's Fellowship;
Falkirk; Forres (The Lighthouse Church); Fort William
21st Scot. Bapt. Lay Preachers Assoc.;
Galashiels;
28th Beatrice Anderson (BUS Fin. Admin);
Gerrard Street; Gourrock

FUTURE SERMON PLAN

June 7rd Judges 1 & 2 – The need for a deliverer
14th Judges 3 – A terrible trio
21st Judges 4 & 5 – A super woman
28th Judges 6 – A man strong in his weakness
July 5th Judges 16 – A man weak in his strength

MAY OFFERING



3 rd	£1,008.00	17 th	£820.00	31 st	£726.00
10 th	£580.00	24 th	£822.00		

Building Fund total, so far :- £22,273.95

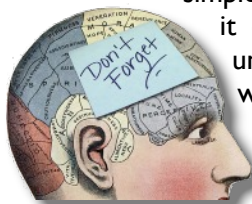
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"So I will always remind you of these things,
even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.
I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body."
(II Peter Ch 1 vs 12 – 13)*

Jill Price has an amazing memory that has stunned scientists. In 2006, her overdeveloped memory was described in a scientific journal article, "A Case of Unusual Autobiographical Remembering." Price has no special aptitude for memorizing lists of words, numbers, facts, or languages. But she does remember what happened to her on any given day over the last 30 years. Name any date and Price will tell you what day of the week it was, the weather, what she had for breakfast, the TV programmes she watched, and the people she spoke with.



Few of us have a memory like that. That's why we need reminders to complete simple tasks and keep our appointments. This is especially true when it comes to spiritual truth. The apostle Peter showed he understood the need of spiritual reminders when he wrote: "I will not be negligent to *remind* you always of these things Yes, I think it is right . . . to stir you up by *reminding* you Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a *reminder* of these things" (2 Peter 1:12-15).



Recently, as part of my personal prayer time, I actively recite to myself all of the good things that God has done in my life, and my churches, in the past. It is such a blessing to remember the challenges, and the way out that God provided, the way He provided material and spiritual resources for moving forward. I challenge you to do that.

- This builds faith: If you face a similar challenge you are encouraged to trust that God can do it again.
- This instills thankfulness: We humbly remember how good God has been.
- This creates community. Peter is reminding his readers. He is like iron sharpening iron, He is challenging them. So when we hear someone bemoaning the fact that things are not going the way they want, and that maybe God can't be trusted, we can lovingly challenge them to find Him in the new situation, as He was found in the past.

Can you find God in the past and the present, as you move into the future?

Your pastor,

THE CHURCH FAMILY

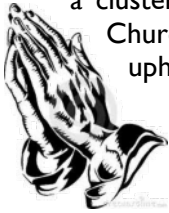
We continue to remember, in prayer, all those who have been so faithful in the service of the Church and are no longer able to worship with us:

- Ella Hill
- Olive Nicol
- Morna Vyse

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.



alert

(Eph 6:18) "praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"

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FLOWER CALENDAR 2015

7th Mrs G. Hunter in lieu of 14th
 J 14th
 U 21st
 N E 28th

5th
 J 12th
 U 19th
 L Y 26th

UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL EARTHQUAKE UPDATE



As you know, it has been a tragic few weeks in Nepal. A 7.8* earthquake struck Nepal just before noon on 25 April. Houses destroyed, ancient monuments and temples reduced to rubble, villages swept away, people traumatised.

None of our UMN or hospital staff were killed or injured, and our offices and hospitals sustained only very minor damage. This meant we were able to leap into action quickly. With the generous help of our supporting organisations and individuals around the world, strengthened by the prayers of



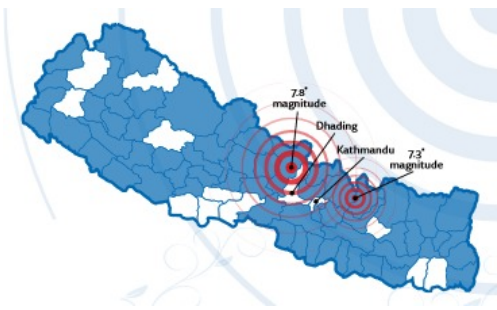
the world-wide church and assisted by expertise from a number of partners, we have been able to offer assistance to many affected by the earthquake.

DEVASTATED DHADING

Dhading district was one of the most affected parts of Nepal. UMN has been working there for nearly 20 years and has a very competent team there, strong local connections and several excellent partners. Our work in Dhading has included:

- Sending a small paramedical team from United Mission Hospital Tansen to Baseri VDC.
- Providing food, household utensils, hygiene kits and tarpaulins in three VDCs in the south.
- Providing relief materials to four VDCs in the far north of Dhading district. Three of these VDCs have no road access; suspension bridges are broken and walking trails are blocked by landslides. The only way in is by helicopter, but getting access to helicopters has been very difficult.
- Training local health facilitators in 14 VDCs in emergency nutrition.

Altogether, UMN will be providing emergency relief support to around 8,500 households.



Fullness of life for all, in a transformed Nepali society

SUPPORTING LOCAL PARTNERS

UMN's long-standing Disaster Preparedness Programme has trained local groups in emergency response. We have provided funding, vehicles and personnel to two of these organisations.

- Rescue Network Nepal has distributed packages that include basic shelter, food, tools and first aid to 1,500 households in Lalitpur and Makwanpur VDCs. They plan another distribution (that will also include mosquito nets) for 2,500 households.
- Nepal Christian Relief Services has distributed emergency food in collaboration with Practical Action, which provided tarpaulins, in two VDCs in Gorkha district, covering nearly 1,100 households. They are now planning to proceed to Ramechhap district.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

Psychosocial support is very important in helping people and communities recover from traumatic events.

- UMN's Mental Health Advisor Dr Stephen Coulter has been giving advice to school, church and I/NGO groups in Kathmandu, and has trained others to deliver this material also. UMN has produced a simple leaflet which lists the normal reactions to trauma, and how to cope with it effectively.
- Our mental health advisors are now planning psycho-social first aid training for Emergency Health Response Facilitators as part of integrated health delivery in Dhading.

UMN HOSPITALS

Thankfully, neither of our hospitals in Tansen or Okhaldhunga suffered major harm. Two guest houses and some staff quarters in Okhaldhunga were damaged during the 7.3* quake of 12 May. Patients from some of the older wards were shifted into the not-yet-completed new hospital building as a precaution.

- Both hospitals have been working to capacity, as well as reaching out into their local communities.

The Power of HOPE

See Jesus on every page of the Bible!

More than 200 Glimpses of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation.



by Shari Abbott, Reasons for Hope

As Christians we know that the Bible is much more than just words on a page. It is God's way of speaking directly to us. The Bible, from beginning to end, is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the One who spoke the world into existence and He is the One who will, in a time to come, make all things new (Revelation 21:5). He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8, 21:6, 22:13). His throne is established from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 41:13, 90:2, 93:2, Isaiah 63:16b, Micah 5:2, John 1:1-2). He is the Word of God.

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

How Do You Read The Bible

There are two ways to read the Bible. One is to read the Bible looking for Jesus. The other is to read the Bible looking for oneself. We live in a time that is becoming more and more self-centred. Never has man been more narcissistic and individualistic. It's a me-focused, "i-everything" culture. Community has broken down as modern communication has built a generation that is moving faster and faster, and farther away from God's intended design. There seems to be no rest for the weary and no focus for the future. With electronic "everything" to meet one's every need and want (and to meet it instantly) man is becoming more

and more i-focused instead of Christ-focused.

While it's always important to apply the Word of God to our daily lives, we must not fall into the trap of reading the Bible as if it is all about us. It's not! The Bible isn't about us. It's all about Jesus! We should approach Bible reading with a desire to find Jesus on every page, in every historical account, every song, every prayer, every teaching—in everything! That's how we will come to know Him better. When we read the Bible looking for ourselves, trying to identify with various people of ancient times, more often than not, we miss Jesus. Before we get to our lists of "Jesus in the Old and New Testaments," let's first look at what God says about reading the Bible to know Jesus better.

Paul wrote to Timothy about the purpose and profit of God's Word and he did so in a progression of importance:

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Reading Scripture is profitable, first, for doctrine. That means "for teaching" — for teaching us about our Creator and His creation, about the fall of man, and about our Redeemer and His plan of complete restoration. When we understand who God is, who man is, what God has done for us and what God will do to restore all creation, then we are convicted (reproofed) and then we are humbled to receive correction and instruction from God's Word. We must know God's ways (be taught) and be convicted and humbled before we can apply biblical teachings to our lives (application of the "instruction in

JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In Matthew

He is God with us
He is the Jew's Messiah
He is the Messiah who is King

In Mark

He is the Miracle Worker
He is the Messiah who is Servant

In Luke

He is the Son of Mary
He is the Messiah who is Deliverer

In John

He is the Word who created all things
He is the Messiah who is God incarnate
He is the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life,
the Light of the world, the Gate of the sheep,
the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and Life,
the Way, the Truth and the Life

In Acts

He is the Spirit who indwells His people
He is the Strength and Power of the Church

In Romans

He is the Righteousness of God
He is the Law and Grace that sustains us

In 1 Corinthians

He is the Patience of God
He is the Power of Love

In 2 Corinthians

He is the God of all Comfort
He is the Sufficient Grace Give
He is the Strength in our weakness
He is the deposit of what is to come

In Galatians

He is our Liberty in which we stand
He is our Freedom by which we serve
He is our Life

In Ephesians

He is the Head of the Church
He is the Unity of the Body
He is our Glorious Treasure

In Philippians

He is the Joy of our life
He is the Peace of God
He is the Heart of our service

In Colossians

He is the Supreme Ruler over all
He is the Glory in us
He is the Godhead Trinity

In 1 Thessalonians

He is the Comfort in the Last Days

In 2 Thessalonians

He is the Coming King

In Timothy, Titus and Philemon

He is the Foundation of Truth
He is the Builder, Leader and Director
of His Church
He is the Faithful Pastor and Mediating Priest
He is the Assurance of our salvation

In Hebrews

He is Perfect Fulfillment
He is our High Priest
He is our Ever-Present God
He is the Captain of our Salvation
He is the Author and Finisher of our faith
He is our Everlasting Covenant

In James

He is the Power that fuels our faith
He is the One who matures our faith
He is the Healing that we need

In 1 Peter

He is the Bishop of our souls
He is the Chief Shepherd
He is Hope in times of suffering

In 2 Peter

He is our Example
He is our Purity
He is the Guard against false teaching

In 1, 2 and 3 John

He is True Love
He is the Source of Fellowship
He is God in the flesh
He is the True God

In Jude

He is the Revealer of apostasy
He is the Protector from falling
He is the Preserver of His own

In the Revelation

He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords
He is the Alpha and the Omega
He is the Beginning and the End
He is coming again and
He is the Maker of all things new.

Jesus is on every page of the Bible!
www.rforh.com

In Genesis

He is the Creator
 He is the Breath of Life
 He is Seed of the woman.
 He is the Promised Redeemer
 He is the Covenant Maker
 He is the Ark of Noah
 He is the Angel of God
 He is Jacob's Ladder

In Exodus

He is the Passover lamb.
 He is the Firstborn offered to God
 He is the Burning Bush
 He is the Righteousness of the tablets of stone

In Leviticus,

He is the Tabernacle
 He is the High Priest.
 He is Fire of Burnt offering on the altar
 He is the water of cleansing in the laver
 He is the Light of the Lampstand
 He is the Sweet Savor of the altar of incense
 He is the Ark that holds the Law and Covenant
 He is Presence on the mercy seat of reconciliation
 He is our Perfect Sacrifice
 He is our Thankful Offering

In Numbers

He is the Builder of nations recorded in genealogy
 He is the Pillar of Cloud by day and Fire by Night
 He is the Water in the desert
 He is Aaron's Rod

In Deuteronomy

He is the prophet like unto Moses
 He is Moses's voice
 He is the Hope of Promised Inheritance

In Joshua

He is the Commander of the Lord's Army
 He is the Victory in the battle
 He is Joshua (means Yahweh is salvation), who delivers His people

In Judges

He is the Judge and Lawgiver
 He is the Strength of Samson
 He is the True Nazarite
 He is the Deliverer from injustice

In Ruth

He is the Giver of Bread to the hungry
 He is Rest for the Weary
 He is the Kinsman Redeemer

In I & II Samuel

He is the Trusted Prophet.
 He is the Faithful Priest
 He is the True King
 He is the Ebenezer Stone of Help

In Kings and Chronicles

He is the Eternal King, the Seed of David
 He is the Sovereign King of kings, greater than Solomon
 He is Elijah's mantle
 He is Shiloh
 He is the True Temple

In Ezra

He is the Faithful Scribe
 He is the Priest who proclaims freedom
 He is the Restorer of Worship

In Nehemiah

He is the Rebuilder of the broken walls
 He is the Restorer of broken people
 He is the Uniter of people to work together

In Esther

He is the Advocate for His people
 He is Mordecai's courage
 He is Esther's willing service
 He is the Protector of His people
 He is the Salvation of Israel

In Job

He is the Ever-living Redeemer
 He is the Mediator between God and man
 He is the Answer to all Job's question
 He is the Power of Restoration

In Psalms

He is our Song in the morning and in the night
 He is the Lord our Shepherd.
 He is the Lord our High Tower
 He is the Lord our Redeemer

In Proverbs & Ecclesiastes

He is True Wisdom
 He is the Meaning of Life
 He is the Hope we have

In Song of Solomon

He is the True Bridegroom.
 He is the Author of faithful love
 He is the Song of songs

In Isaiah

He is the High and Lifted-up One
 He is the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father
 He is the Prince of Peace
 He is the Branch of Jesse
 He is the Suffering Servant
 He is the Branch of the Lord who Saves

In Jeremiah and Lamentations

He is the Weeping Prophet.
 He is the Tree planted by God's water
 He is the Bearer of God's wrath
 He is the Righteous Branch, a just King with power
 He is the Restorer of Israel

In Ezekiel

He is the wonderful Four-faced Living Creature
 He is the Watchman
 He is the Glory of God
 He is the Voice of the Almighty

In Daniel

He is the Fourth Man in the Fire
 He is the Crushing Stone
 He is the Ancient of Days
 He is Messiah, the Coming Prince

In Hosea

He is the Faithful Lover
 He is the Forgiving Husband

In Joel

He is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit
 He is the Spirit's power

In Amos

He is the Warning of judgment to come
 He is the Arms that carry us
 He is the Deliverer of justice to the oppressed
 He is the Tabernacle of David

In Obadiah

He is the Judge of Evil-doers
 He is the Hope of Edom

In Jonah

He is the Greater Missionary, sent by God
 He is the One Who Rose from death to prophesy to the lost

In Micah

He is the Ruler from out of Bethlehem
 He is the One who casts our sin into the sea
 He is the Promise of Peace

In Nahum

He is the Prophet of destruction
 He is the Punisher of sin
 He is the Proclaimer of future peace
 He is our Strength and Shield

In Habakkuk

He is the Cry to God
 He is the Strengthen of faith and trust

In Zephaniah

He is the Plea for revival
 He is the Warrior who saves

In Haggai

He is the Rebuker of lack of care
 He is the Encourager who mobilizes work
 He is the Restorer of the lost heritage

In Zechariah

He is the Fountain for cleansing
 He is the Branch, a Servant and Man
 He is the Stone with seven eyes
 He is the Angel of the Lord
 He is the Staff, Beauty, broken for us

In Malachi

He is the Abundant Gift-giver
 He is the Sun of Righteousness, with healing in His wings.
 He is the refiners fire and fuller's soap

righteousness” Paul spoke of). Reading the Bible “looking for Jesus” will produce great fruit in us as we come to know Him better. The better we know Jesus, the more His Word will pierce our hearts and transform our minds.

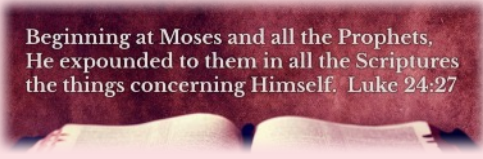
Years ago a Christian fad was born with the introduction of WWJD bracelets. The acronym stood for What Would Jesus Do? While it’s an interesting thought, it’s not a very good question because the answer is most often subjective. The idea was to consider a decision you are facing and determine how Jesus would respond in the situation.

A better question, that has biblical answers, is What Did Jesus Do? (WDJD) The answer to that question is not subjective, because the Bible accurately records who Jesus is, what He did and what He will do. When facing a decision, think about what Jesus did and what He taught. Remember that in everything Jesus did, He surrendered to the will of His Father. Let God’s Word teach you and always trust that His Holy Spirit will direct you.

Finding Jesus on Every Page of the Bible

We all know that the New Testament books speak clearly about Jesus. His birth, earthly ministry, death and resurrection are recorded in the Gospel accounts and His instruction for those who belong to Him completes the New Testament teachings. It’s surprising to many that the Old Testament is also all about Jesus. While it records historical events of real people and real places, everything points to Jesus in pattern, prophesy and type. Every page “whispers” His name. Jesus confirmed this when He walked and talked with two men on the road to Emmaus.

Don’t read the Bible looking for yourself. Read it daily, LOOKING for Jesus – the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). He’s there on every page! Here’s a list to help you “see” Jesus on every page.



Beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,
He expounded to them in all the Scriptures
the things concerning Himself. Luke 24:27

Jesus is The Great I AM who is beyond our full comprehension. One day we will see Him face-to-face and we will fully know that HE IS EVERYTHING! He is our Saviour, our Reconciler, our Redeemer, our Mediator, our Refiner, our Advocate, our Prophet, our Priest, our King, our Bridegroom, our Physician, and more!



He is our
ALL in ALL!



TO KNOW THAT

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT ME

AND YET LOVES ME

IS INDEED MY ULTIMATE CONSOLATION.

R.C. SPROUL

Grace Gems!

IS THE BIBLE THE WORD OF GOD?

(J. C. Ryle, "Inspiration" 1877)

Is the Bible the Word of God?

Then mind that you do not neglect it. Read it! Begin to read it this very day. What greater insult to God can a man be guilty of than to refuse to read the letter God sends him from heaven? Oh, be sure, if you will not read your Bible, you are in fearful danger of losing your soul!

Is the Bible the Word of God?

Then be sure you always read it with deep reverence. Say to your soul, whenever you open the Bible, "O my soul, you are going to read a message from God!"

Is the Bible the Word of God?

Then be sure you never read it without fervent prayer for the help and teaching of the Holy Spirit. Humble prayer will throw more light on your Bible than any commentary that ever was written. You will not understand it unless your heart is right. You will find it a sealed book without the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

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

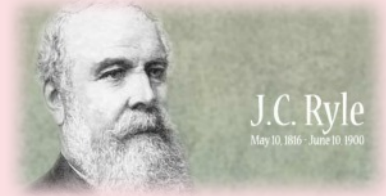
NAME:
EMAIL:

PHONE:

Its contents are often "hidden from the wise and learned, and revealed to babes."

Is the Bible the Word of God?

Then let us all resolve from this day forward to prize the Bible more. God has given us the Bible to be a light to guide us to everlasting life. Let us not neglect this precious gift. Let us read it diligently, and walk in its light.



(www.gracegems.org)



CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

