

# *Trusting in God*

## BRISTO BAPTIST MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007



### BULGARIA VISIT

Eleven folk from the church – Jim, Jennifer and David Purves, Sam and Sally Kawamura, interns Lesley Armistead and Matt Baines, Adam and Caroline Connell and Robert and Andrea Mill – travelled to Bulgaria at the beginning of July for a week sharing with the church at Lom followed by a few days of rest and fellowship together.

The programme at Lom included taking part in morning and evening Sunday services at the Lom church as well as weekend services at two of its satellite



house churches, at Vassilitsi and Mominbrod. One man was so blessed in the ministry time at Vassilitsi that he invited some of us back to his house to pray for his sick wife. We prayed for her under a tree in their garden while another family member dashed

off to buy Coke so that they could offer us hospitality.

Members of the Bristo team took part in worship and/or gave messages at each of the four services and everyone was involved in some way at some time or other.

*Continued on p.9*

# Service Times

## Sunday

Morning Celebration (including Junior Church) ..... 11.00 a.m.  
Evening Celebration ..... 6.30 p.m.

## Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday

Cell Groups (refer to weekly sheet for times / locations) .....

## Monday

Prayer Meeting ..... 10.00 a.m.  
Badminton Club ..... 6.00 p.m. - 10 p.m.

## Tuesday

Home from Home ..... 1.00 p.m.

## Friday

IT Youth Club ..... 7.45 p.m.

## Saturday

Morning of Prayer ..... 9.30 a.m.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

*“Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey”*



When the hymn writer John Sammis wrote that well known hymn chorus, he really knew something about our relationship with God. It goes right back to the beginning of human history. When Abram heard God’s voice telling him to leave home he had no idea what sort of journey he would undertake or what would happen on the way. But he **trusted** God and **obeyed**, and so received God’s blessing.

God still works in this way. This issue contains several articles about people who have trusted God. People like Terry and Ruth, who have trusted Him as they travelled to Nigeria. People like the team who went to Bulgaria in July, who trusted Him as they worked with the people of the church in Lom. And people like Joshua and Doreen who have joined us from America.

What journey will *you* take? Trust God and obey Him.

**Robert Mill**

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Theme:  
‘One People, One  
Purpose’

[www.bristobaptist.org](http://www.bristobaptist.org)

## FROM THE PASTOR

## PASTOR'S LETTER

**Trusting in the God who keeps Promises**

Dear Friends,

To speak of 'trusting in God' can represent the worst in religion. Superstition. A refusal to face the world as it is. A way of validating fanciful and selfish behaviour. This happens at times. Usually when people have not heard of God's Promises, or have forgotten what they are about.

But when people discover that God is a God of Promises that He speaks out and that He fulfils these Promises, what a difference this makes! So important is this core of Promises, that the two parts of the Bible are actually named after them - 'the Old Testament (Covenant, or Promise)' and 'the New Testament



**Rev. J. Purves**

(Covenant, or Promise)'.

I believe that the most meaningful thing that a man or a woman can do in their life is to learn to trust the Promises that God has actually made. Because God keeps His Promises. Jesus says that learning to trust God's Promises is like planting a tiny seed in the ground and watching it grow (**Matthew 13: 31-32**).

He also said that a tiny seed planted in this way, in our hearts, would be the key to seeing great things happen through prayer

**I believe that the most meaningful thing that a man or a woman can do in their life is to learn to trust the Promises that God has actually made.**

## FROM THE PASTOR

(Matthew 17: 20-21).

What did He mean by this?

I can see from the Scriptures that Jesus taught the importance of focusing on and trust in God's Promises. His Promise to bless all peoples in the world. His Promise to bless those who would obey Him, making priests of God, with the ability to bless and bring healing and hope into the lives of people around us. His Promise to forgive us our sins and bring us into special relationship with God, through the King that He would appoint to rule for ever.

But there's more than this. Not only has God promised to keep all the special Promises (Covenants) that He makes, He has already fulfilled them! They have come to pass! They have been brought to realisation through Jesus

(2 Corinthians 1: 20), and through relationship with Jesus we can now come into this reality of God's blessing (Ephesians 1: 3). God has kept His Promises.

I want to encourage you all, over this period, to search the Scriptures and to discover more about these Promises of God. To plant them in your hearts, and let faith grow. To discover what God has promised for your life and the lives of people around you. And to reach deeper into the rich life of being joined to Jesus Christ, so that your faith may become more and more fruitful.

Learn to receive blessing. Learn to be a blessing. More and more. And watch what God will do!

In His love,

*Jim*

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**TREASURER'S REPORT: AUGUST 2007**

The money raised for the Lom Orphanage appeal has now been sent. A total of £2800 has been raised and sent. We should shortly hear how the money has been spent, and hopefully receive some photographs which we can publish in the magazine. Thanks again for all your hard work. Nearly £300 will be added to this with money claimed back through Gift Aid. We look forward to the next set of fund-raising events which are already planned.

Last year we averaged about £900 per week in regular offerings. This year we're averaging just over £670 a week in regular church offerings and GAYE income. If we're careful this will meet most of our budgeted running costs, though a rise in our monthly gas bill from £255 to £460 means this may have to be reviewed. However as I mentioned in the last issue of the magazine, this year we have a great deal of exceptional expenditure in the form of essential building repairs, meeting current health and safety legislation, and garden maintenance. With this level of weekly income, the costs of these repairs will have to be met from reserves. We have potentially a huge financial deficit this year. This will have to be met from our reserves.

Not long to go now before Alltnacriche. The prices as already advertised are: £65/adult, £35/child and £50/students; or £170 per family. I'll be happy to receive a deposit or a balance any time between now and the weekend.

**Paul Watson**

**WEDDINGS**

*Laura Allison* married *Jon-Paul Elliott* in Bristo Baptist Church on Friday 6th July 2007. As Jim was in Bulgaria the service was conducted by Pastor Billy Scobie from Abundant Life Church, Hawick. The service was attended by lots of family and friends and it was a wonderful day for everyone. The Bride, the Groom (and the Church!) all looked lovely. Laura and Jonny are now settling into their new home and are very grateful for all the support they have received.



**Linda Allison**

## WEDDINGS

*Svitlana (Sveta) Kostrikina and Brian Barclay* were married in Bristo on Saturday 30 June. The service was taken by our pastor, Jim Purves. Lots of folk from the church were there as well as Sveta's mother who had travelled all the way from the Ukraine. Afterwards we all gathered upstairs for the reception. Sveta



and Brian thank everyone for their presents and for all the help they received from many people in organising what turned out to be a lovely day. We pray for Brian and Sveta, and for Sveta's daughter Lena, as they settle down together as a family.

**Robert Mill**

## BAPTIST UNION ASSEMBLY

As intimated in our last issue, the Baptist Union Assembly takes place in the Rothes Hall, Glenrothes from *Friday 2 to Saturday 3 November*. Gill Schärer and Andrea Mill have agreed to be our delegates. There is a varied programme of seminars, Bible studies and worship as well as business sessions. It is still possible to register as a visitor. For information see the BU website. ([www.baptistassemblyinscotland.org.uk](http://www.baptistassemblyinscotland.org.uk)).

Programme highlights are:

*Friday* 2.30-5 p.m. **Leading in today's world** BMS leadership in Mission past and present Speaker: Jill Garrett, Director of Leadership Development, Caret

6.30-8 p.m. **The marks of good leadership** Speaker: Gary Nelson, General Secretary, Canadian Baptist Ministries

*Saturday* 11.30 a.m.-1 p.m. Jill Garrett **Following in today's world**

6.30-8.30 p.m. Gary Nelson **Following God's call into leadership and service**

**Christine Lumsden**

## MISCELLANEOUS

**RUTH BELL GRAHAM, 1920–2007**

Some of you may have heard that Ruth, wife of the evangelist Billy Graham, died on 14 June at the age of 87. Hers was a lifetime of dedicated Christian service, as she supported her husband in his worldwide ministry. Although I never met her personally, I well remember when she spent time with Billy during the All-Scotland Crusade which ran for six weeks at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow in the spring of 1955. She caused a sensation in dour Presbyterian Scotland, her style and appearance totally unlike the prevalent norm of appropriate behaviour for a Christian woman. But what was apparent was her love for the Lord and for people.

What can we learn from Ruth's example of Christian service? Above all, was her trust in the Lord, to be totally in His will, revealed through His word and in prayer, taking time to listen to God. This is the secret of true Christian fellowship.

**Christine Lumsden**

**.NEWS FROM PERU**

We recently had an email from Miguel Palomino of FATELA, who worshipped in Bristo some years ago. He asks people to keep on praying for Peru. After the devastating magnitude 8.0 earthquake he went to Lima in late August carrying some aid from his church in Miami. He writes, "It's just a little but it will help hundreds of believers who have lost everything. Thanks."

Our prayers are with Miguel and the people of Peru at this time

## BULGARIA VISIT [CONT. FROM P.1]



### Worship in the Lom church

It was wonderful to hear people who don't normally speak in church deliver messages that touched lives as they shared from the heart. It was also amazing how when two different people spoke their messages linked together beautifully.

Friday evening worship at Lom included an extended time of ministry lasting two hours. This involved the team members trusting in God that He would work,

although the Lom folk were very open to receiving whatever blessings He would send upon them. Several people were healed of various ailments for which we praise God.

For most of the time the team was split up, with the seven younger members (Sam, Sally, Matt, Lesley, David, Adam and Caroline) working amongst the youth of the Lom church, and Jim, Jennifer, Robert and Andrea socialising with the older folk and going to some of their homes. We experienced some marvellous expressions of Christian love and hospitality.

One day, all of us and many of the Lom fellowship went to



Inside the Belogradchik orphanage.

## BULGARIA CONTINUED...

the nearby Belogradchik fortress and saw the incredible natural rock formations, and then went on a few miles to the famous Magura cave system which has prehistoric rock art in its caverns, one of which is huge with wonderful acoustics. A chamber orchestra performs there once a year. We all sang "My Jesus" 50 metres underground!

Another highlight of the trip was when the Lom church took us

to the banks of the Danube just outside Lom where we all had a barbecue. It was a lovely evening of fun and fellowship ending with an amazing sunset.

On the Sunday evening we ate with the Lom fellowship in the church and received feedback about our week with them. It was very moving to hear how encouraged in their faith their young people were from spending time with our young Christians.



**Picnic on the Danube river**



Overall, we all came back humbled and blessed – having received much more than we gave.



**Robert and Andrea Mill**

**Worship in the Lom church and at Mominbrod**

## HELLO FROM JOSHUA AND DOREEN

Greetings to our new friends and family at Bristo Baptist. Doreen and I (Joshua) are so glad to be with you after many months of preparations and waiting to get the chance to come and join the kingdom work here in Edinburgh. Doreen and I come from America as students. Doreen after having studied at a Bible college for three years began her nursing studies at a University and is now going to be taking her second year at Napier University this coming semester. I am a student at Ozark Christian College and will have one year of studies left after my year at Bristo to complete my two degrees, a Bachelor of Theology and a Bachelor of Christian Ministry. I heard about the internship at Bristo through my college, and after a few months of emails with Jim, we worked out the details that made it possible to come here. We are very excited about joining this church and receiving the chance to partner with you in ministry. This next year I know God will be working on both of our hearts, and pushing us to do



things foreign and familiar.

Doreen and I come from larger churches in America and are looking forward to seeing how God works in different settings, so this next year we really hope to get to know all of you and watch how God makes you a blessing in our lives. Working in a smaller context is very valuable and stresses relationships, which Doreen and I quite enjoy. We are excited to work under Jim, and learn from him this next year, as we know you love him very much, and we get a great opportunity to live with Matt Baines in the church flat. And even though he is not Scottish, we still like him ... so far. Thank you for allowing us to come as we take another step with our walk with Christ putting our trust in the Lord.

**Joshua Williamson**

## NEWS FROM NIGERIA

*Terry and Ruth Johnstone have recently left Edinburgh for six months' service at Evangel Hospital in the city of Jos, NE of Abuja, the capital of Nigeria. Evangel is a 150-bed general hospital founded by SIM in 1959. Evangel is now under the auspices of the Evangelical Churches of West Africa (ECWA). Many of you will have seen their prayer letter that was emailed to the fellowship in the middle of August. We have just received more news from them:*



### **Hello!**

Greetings from rain-soaked Jos! We can't believe we've only been here for less than two weeks – in some ways it seems like a lot longer! Here is a wee report on how we're getting on ...

### **Home sweet home**

When we arrived we were very

surprised to learn that we would be living in the home of one of the missionary families who are currently back in the US – 4 bedrooms, hot showers, a gardener and a cleaning lady! Definitely not what we were expecting, but it has been great. We're living on the hospital compound

and there are lots of other families nearby so it has been good getting to know them.

### **Working 9 'til 5 ...**

Well, not quite! Work starts each morning at 7.30 with a report on all the admissions and deaths in the hospital from the previous day. (Thankfully we don't have too far to walk to get there!) So far, Terry's been on the paediatric ward and Ruth's been doing medicine. Both are full of various tropical diseases that we had only seen in textbooks before coming here, so we felt a bit like fish out of water initially. The

hospital is pretty basic, but has a very Christian emphasis – morning reports

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and all tutorials are started by praying! Patients have to pay for their medical care, so most of the time you can't do all the tests/investigations you

would like to do as the patient may not be able to afford them. We'll start to do a few on-calls soon, but so far it has been great having weekends and evenings off together.

### **Where's the nearest Tesco's?!**

Eating here is a lot more of a strategic mission than eating at home! Fruit and veg all have to be soaked in disinfectant for half an hour before eating, all our water needs to be boiled and filtered and the weevils need to be picked out of the rice before eating! Love ly!!! However, with the help of a few

recipes from home and the internet we've been putting our home economics skills to good use and definitely surviving OK! We normally eat in the hospital canteen at lunchtime, which is actually tastier than the Western or NRIE!!! (and a lot cheaper!). Shopping is an interesting experience in itself – the vast array of goods and cacophony of noises definitely challenge the senses, but most things can be found at a good price by shopping around and asking the locals.

### **Social life?**

Darkness descends very suddenly around 7 p.m. and it's not really advised to travel too far after this time, especially as public transport finishes about this time and walking at night is not recommended! All our neighbours are really friendly and there are some medical students here who have joined us for the many games nights we've had so far! We're in the process of acquiring a car, so hopefully we'll be able to get out a bit more in the evenings. Also, when we get the hang of all this cooking malarky and are more confident that we won't poison our guests, we'll be

able to have people round for dinner.

### **Raindrops keep falling on our heads ...**

True to our Northern Irish roots, we feel that we couldn't let this letter be sent without some brief comments on the

**We've just started getting lessons in one of the main local languages (Hausa) which will be useful, especially communicating with patients and bartering with market sellers.**

weather! This is currently the rainy season, so most days have a few hours of torrential rain. Temperatures have generally been around 22–26°C, although you will still see people out and about with woolly jumpers and hats and coats. Apparently it will get colder as we move into the dry season in October, so maybe we should have packed our thermals!

### **“How to be Nigerian”**

This is the title of a book we saw in a bookshop earlier today. However, on a brief perusal of it, it is safe to say that in six

months neither of us will become Nigerian! They are a very friendly, hospitable people but there are lots of cultural etiquettes that will take a long time to get the hang of and we will probably offend a few people along the way! Hopefully no one will take it too personally... We’ve just started getting lessons in one of the main local languages (Hausa) which will be useful, especially communicating with patients and bartering with market sellers.

That’s all for now! There are loads of opportunities to get involved in different things around Jos, so hopefully over the

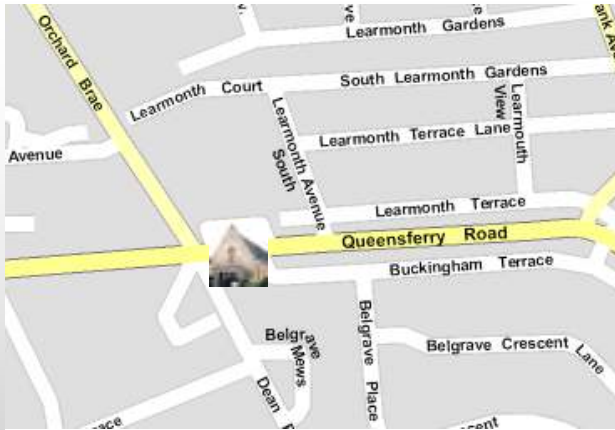
next few weeks we’ll be able to try a few out and see what else we can do outside of our hospital work. Look forward to hearing from you soon and all visitors are very welcome!

Lots of love, Terry & Ruth xx

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**Terry and Ruth  
Johnstone**

LOCATION



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May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 15: 13**