

Forgetting Things Behind

BRISTO BAPTIST MAGAZINE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

BRISTO PRAYER DAY

24 November 2007



On 24 November we, as a church, met for a morning of prayer, singly and in groups. We were given the following key texts from *Isaiah*:

61: 1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

62: 6-7 I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord give yourself no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

After their time of prayer, each group reported on what the Lord had been saying.

1) Our focus should be on people, not buildings. We are increasingly international and this should be reflected in our witness. We

should be prepared to reach out to others, remembering that we are **in the world but not part of it**. Our witness should be marked by authority and a sense of community. Our actions and words should show Christ.

2) The church should be a place of healing where we can meet with God. It was suggested that we should develop a healing ministry, perhaps setting aside a separate room.

3) We need to spend time seeking God in prayer, giving thanks for what we have rather than simply asking that our needs be met. Prayer should be preceded by preparation.

4) The Christian life is not easy but a continual struggle. We need to trust God's promises.

The morning ended with a simple communion service and a fellowship meal together.

Christine Lumsden

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 6.30 p.m. - 9.30 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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COPY DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Sunday 24 February

for publication on

Sunday 8 March

Theme:

'Total Surrender'

www.bristobaptist.org

FROM THE EDITOR

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philipp. 3: 13b–14)



Forget what is behind.

Those wrong words, those wrong actions, those good times and bad times, those they are all in the past and each day that goes by, they recede further into the past. So forget them. If wrong and confessed, you have been forgiven. Move on!

Strain towards what is ahead. A vision for the future, a new thing God has planned for you, a new direction for your life? Maybe you can see it, maybe you can't, but it's there in the distance, ahead of you. Reach out for it. Strain for it. Pray earnestly about it.

Press on towards the goal. Don't give up or you won't have any chance of the prize God has for you! No matter what it costs, press on. Carry out the 'Nazareth manifesto' on the way, bringing healing and deliverance, binding up the broken hearted, setting captives free. May God richly bless you in 2008.

Robert Mill

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

A blessed New Year to you all! As we come into the New Year and the challenge of witnessing together as Christ's family to people around us in 2008, I would like again to offer to you the vision that Jennifer and I shared in our Christmas greetings to you. I want to emphasise that this is a vision, rather than simply an idea or an opinion. Where there are many people there are many ideas and opinions; but these are different from vision. Vision has to be something that comes from the heart of God and ignites our hearts. The vision below is a vision that can now be worked out in Bristo, if we embrace it together.

Visions from God to the church today are, I believe, usually broad. I am convinced that God wants Christians to take the responsibility in working out detail, applied to our particular culture and context. The ideas in this vision are also found in many



Rev. J. Purves

different parts of the universal church. This is a vision that has been birthed in many hearts around the world. It is often called the 'baptistic vision'. What is written here is in my words; but it is voiced by many whom I believe are rightfully hearing the heart of God. I am completely committed to this vision of church. And I would invite you to embrace this vision with me.

So here it is! And I submit it to you, as brothers and sisters, for your scrutiny. Is there an alternative vision that God is giving us? Please let us know, that we can test it too and see which is right.

Vision has to be something that comes from the heart of God and ignites our hearts.

FROM THE PASTOR

We believe that we are called to be a gathering community, a group of people from diverse backgrounds who are intentionally journeying together. We are persuaded that relationships of love and service are foundational for life. Through relationships God makes Himself known, expressing His compassion, grace, mercy, faithfulness, slowness to anger, love and forgiveness.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the centre of life. We are persuaded that the most important relationship for anyone is a relationship with Jesus Christ. All God's Promises, spoken of in the Bible, are fulfilled in and through Him. Through our baptism, we express our solidarity with Jesus Christ and all He stands for. By sharing in the bread and wine, we take to ourselves His flesh and blood. We recognise that Jesus Christ brings God's presence into this world.

Through Him comes peace, healing, deliverance and joy; righteousness, justice and return to God.

We believe that Christian living is about seeking to do what Jesus Christ does. We are persuaded that Jesus Christ brings focus and purpose to living. This means our seeking to bring good news to poor people; binding up the broken hearted; bringing release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind; liberating oppressed people; helping people realise that *now* is the time to know and receive God's blessing.

I believe that this tripartite vision should define and shape our future as church. And I invite you to embrace it with me, to the glory of God. Happy New Year!

In His love,

Jim

We are persuaded that relationships of love and service are foundational for life.

... seeking to bring good news to poor people; binding up the broken hearted; bringing release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind; liberating oppressed people ...

TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 2008

Welcome to the new year. 31st December marked an important deadline for the Church in that the annual return to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator was due by, and was submitted by, this date. The trustees have appointed a new external inspector for the accounts, and they have pointed out that for next year we'll be able to submit a much simpler annual return - which is great news because it will (hopefully) mean much less work, and much less stress for me.

Financially we continue to do well. Weekly offerings are continuing to average just over £800, which is above the figure on which we based our budget for the current financial year. Not all the repair work on the church and manse buildings will be carried out this financial year. The work will still need to be done, but at least it means we get to spread some of the spending over two years instead of it all coming in the one year, and it does mean that we'll not have to dip into our reserves so much this year

Our harvest appeal to support the Lom winter soup kitchen outreach raised just over £1700. Last year from special appeals and from the general offering we sent over £3500 towards this work. This year we plan to send the same amount of money, and the first £2000 was sent early in December. The balance will be sent soon. The appeal is certainly not closed, and if anyone would still like to give to the Lom appeal, please give the money to me, or place it in the offering marked as for **Lom**.

One final thing. It appears that the Inland Revenue are looking at Gift Aid claims made by charities, and in some cases are carrying out inspections. To get our documentation up to date I'll be asking anyone already registered for Gift Aid if they would sign a new Gift Aid declaration form. Should anyone else wish to register for Gift Aid please let me know and I'll let you have a form.

Paul Watson

BIRTH

We rejoice with the Allison family in the birth of Luke (8 lb. 13.5 oz) to *Laura and Jon-Paul Elliott* on 3 December. Congratulations to them both and to grandparents Jim and Linda.

MAGAZINE COPY DATES 2008

As most of you know, the Bristo Magazine is a bi-monthly publication and copy is normally due on the last Sunday of February, April, August, October and December with a slightly earlier deadline in June due to summer holidays.

Here are the copy deadlines for 2008. Contributions are, of course, welcome at any time – they will be saved until the next issue is due. It is much easier for the editorial team if everything does not arrive at (or after!) the ‘last minute’. Please send your items to either Robert or Andrea Mill.

Mar/Apr issue – copy due 24 February

May/Jun issue – copy due 27 April

Jul/Aug issue – copy due **15 June**

Sep/Oct issue – copy due 31 August

Nov/Dec issue – copy due 26 October

Jan/Feb 2009 issue – copy due 28 December

The Editors

A NEW YEAR THOUGHT

Here is a thought from Charles Spurgeon which is appropriate as we enter the New Year. It is based on the recurrent refrain in Psalm 137, “His mercy endures for ever”.

“God’s mercy has endured through all the year, it was connected with all the years that went before, it is gathering fresh force in the year that is current. So may I trust for the years that are yet to come that He who was yesterday so full of mercy, and is today so full of grace, will be for ever the same.”

Christine Lumsden

NIGERIAN NEWS (PART 4)**NIGERIAN NEWS, PART 4**

The most recent newsletter from Terry and Ruth was sent out on 22 November last year. Although those in the congregation with email should have seen it earlier we publish an edited version here for the benefit of those without email or who did not receive it when it was originally circulated. Please continue to pray for Terry and Ruth.

Hello again!

As with any good northern-Irish conversation, you can't proceed until a thorough analysis of the latest weather has been discussed! In the middle of November there was an almost overnight change in climate, with the arrival of the much talked about 'harmattan' or West African Trade wind. So the mornings and evenings have been a little cooler and there has been dust everywhere, both inside and out! We have much to be thankful for including good health and general safety and it's amazing how Jos has already become a 'home from home'. We want to thank you all for your prayers after the robbery in one of the SIM compounds here in Jos. The missionaries affected are doing remarkably well and we thank God for His continuing healing of

those involved. Please pray for wisdom in addressing security issues that have been highlighted as a result of this.

Work as usual...

Terry has now moved to the medical team, which is increasing his stamina in contending with long ward rounds! This is definitely proving to be a good learning ground given the breadth of diseases encountered on a daily basis. Sadly, many people present to hospital at an advanced stage of their disease, and so it is often difficult to prevent death.

Despite this, it's always encouraging to see people recover when you had given up hope of survival. One such miracle is a young lady with AIDS who presented in an almost comatose state. In spite of best efforts to treat her she remained bedridden and barely conscious for almost one month. Then over the course of about 3-4 days she made a dramatic recovery and was eating, talking and walking! When she returned to clinic she was unrecognisable – she looked so healthy! Here she is a few days

NIGERIAN NEWS (CONT.)

before discharge with one of the house officers and Dr Truxton – consultant at Evangel for 34 years!



Ruth is continuing to learn a lot in obstetrics and gynaecology. There are many tribal beliefs surrounding birth and recently one mother signed herself out of the hospital when in labour because she needed a Caesarean section, but she would have been looked down upon in her village if she did not deliver naturally. We have no way of knowing how the mother or baby did, but we pray that there were no

complications. One afternoon was also rather busy when 3 women from the local government hospital arrived in the full throes of labour, but all needing Caesarean sections for different reasons. The other hospital had no lights, so sent the patients to us for their operations with a brief apology! *Please pray that the hospital would be successful in finding a new consultant for the Obs. & Gynae. Department. Please also pray that we would have (and use!) opportunities to share our faith in the hospital.*

“Transition House”

In mid November we attended an open morning at “Transition



Outside the hospital gates

NIGERIAN NEWS (CONT.)



The surgery block

House”, a hostel for orphans and former street-children. This is run by City Ministries, under a partnership between SIM and ECWA. They have 6 locations in the Jos area that house approximately 200 children full-time and minister to hundreds of others part-time. They make a huge positive impact and give hope to many children. *Please remember the staff and their work in your prayers.*

Thanks everyone!! We really appreciate all your prayers and encouragement. Please let us know how we can be praying for you.

Love, Terry & Ruth

THE PAST IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY

At the LighterLife conference in September one of the key phrases that stuck in my mind was from the guest speaker, the former athlete, Kriss Akabusi. He said “The past is for reference **not** for residence”.

How appropriate for Christians!

If we get stuck in our traditions and on doing what we have always done, then we can miss out on what God is doing now. More importantly we may miss the opportunity to take part in His new and exciting ways of reaching out to the people and culture of today.

He is calling all of us to be priests with roles to play in reaching the lost.

So this year, let’s move out of our comfort zone and allow the Spirit of God to take us boldly into the future, referring to and learning from the experience of the past but without getting stuck there !

Andrea Mill

BOOK REVIEW

Revival in Rose Street by Ian L S Balfour

To mark the bicentenary of Charlotte Chapel, which falls this year, Dr Ian Balfour, honorary elder and former secretary, has written its history. Of particular interest to us here in Bristo is the reference (pp. 2–3) to our foundation in 1765. Through the Anderson family, who provided three of our pastors between 1835 and 1884, we are linked with Christopher Anderson who began the small fellowship in 1808. (Chapter 2) Charlotte Chapel is now the largest Baptist Church in Scotland in terms of membership.

Dr Balfour's meticulously researched account takes us on a journey of two hundred years. He covers various themes, the different strands of Scottish Baptist life, the impact of succeeding pastorates, the spiritual life of the congregation, including its many organisations, and, in the closing chapter, looks forward to the twenty-first century, bringing the story right up to date. One of the highlights is the section from which the book derives its title. Dr Balfour devotes three chapters to the subject of revival (pp. 90-116) which occurred during the ministry of Joseph Kemp following his visit to the Welsh revival of 1904-5, an event which still resonates over a hundred years later.

As well as a record of the Chapel's history, the book gives us a glimpse of Edinburgh life during these two hundred years, particularly in the copious illustrations from various archives, both in colour and black and white. There are also some personal mementoes which provide a touch of humour.

Revival in Rose Street is a beautifully produced book, with the additional bonus of an accompanying CD containing background material for those with a more academic bent. All in all, Dr Balfour has provided a fitting record of Charlotte Chapel's history, which should be a worthwhile source for future historians. It is available from Wesley Owen or from the Chapel office at only £10, a subsidised price, for which those who made this possible deserve our thanks.

Christine Lumsden

LOCATION



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Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

Isaiah 43: 18 NIV