

newrestalrig

an evangelical church of scotland

Minister:
Rev. David Court

Session Clerk:
Mr. Harry Witherspoon

Address: 1a Willowbrae Rd, Edinburgh

Phone: (0131) 661 4045
Website: www.newrestalrig.com

PARISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2006

FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

In June of this year one of the friends of our congregation, Ian Murray, travelled back to Pakistan on a trip he describes as 'The Unforgettable Visit'. An account of that visit is printed below. It is a reminder to us, if any were needed, to remember Pakistan in our prayers.

It was with great relief that I found the old familiar feeling of arriving home when I disembarked at Islamabad International Airport despite, or perhaps because of, the unorganised hustle and bustle of the place.

I was on my way to help, in a small way, with the rebuilding of a Christian hospital that had been set up in a very Muslim area just a few years before. It needed rebuilding due to the effects of a devastating earthquake that struck last October reducing much of the habitation of this 'small' area of the Himalayas to complete ruin.

The hospital buildings had been well designed and built to specifications in reinforced concrete resulting in their surviving the quake in good shape. This is more than can be said for part of the doctors' housing which had been a bit of an afterthought and was not well designed. One German doctor had jumped out of bed at the shaking and fled outside to return later to find her place occupied by several large lumps of concrete. That building had to be largely rebuilt. This had been done very competently by several builders but their visas had run out during the finishing work and this was what I had to complete. Before my teaching days in Pakistan I had been an engineer here in UK and had acquired some building skills at MCS. I hoped this would suffice to do the work.

'My hospital', called Kunhar Christian Hospital (KCH), and run by my friend Dr Haroon Lal Din, did sterling work in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. All the work was done in tents till cracks in the structure could be checked. The hospital possessed the only electricity in a large area due to its generator and that was housed in a building whose damage was major and many believed that the worldwide prayer it attracted held it together till electricity was restored to the area.

KCH was joined in its Christian outreach in this disaster by another hospital just outside the earthquake area called Bach Christian Hospital where, many years ago, our youngest son Malcolm was born. How time flies.

We are approaching the 'unforgettable' part of my trip. For our time in Pakistan the family favourite holiday destination was the Kaghan Valley and if you ever had to sit through our deputation talks then the slides from that lovely place would have been a most acceptable part of the presentation. This was a days drive away from home and is a beautiful steep-sided valley stretching up from the town of Balakot to a breathtaking small lake at 10,000ft nestled at the foot of a 17,000 snow clad peak. It was the sort of place you are torn between boasting about and not mentioning lest you draw the crowds.

After I had established that the job I had volunteered for, I could indeed manage, I heard Dr Haroon say that he was going up the valley. He wanted to see if the Hospital could help a village with some of the funds that Christian groups (including Priestfield) had donated. I asked if I could go along to see how badly the valley had been affected. We drove the 15 mile from the hospital to the town of Balakot to be greeted by

a scene of utter destruction. The 6 months had been enough to tidy up the mess from the fallen houses but in the whole town I only saw one building still standing. It was a concrete shop. The rest was just rubble with a few sign of rebuilding of shops to relieve the scene. There was also the ever-present multitude of tents of course.

As we crossed the river we passed the site of a hotel that I remembered. There was nothing to be seen as both the whole structure and the land had vanished into the river 200 feet below. The road was missing in lots of places with dozers working to reopen it and only a one way track allowing us to progress. There was not much traffic as only 4-wheel drives were able to handle it. As we made our way slowly on I heard that all the government schools, hospitals, clinics and offices had collapsed in the earthquake. They were made of concrete and should have stood if the cement had been put in the concrete. A lot of schoolchildrens' lives were the cost of such corruption in this case.

The Village which consisted of about 90 families was just below the town of Kaghan most of the way up the valley. It lay just above the road and the villagers led us up the steep slope to a grove of trees and gave us tea while discussing what help we could arrange. Haroon was anxious to help but was trying to do so in a way that was assisting them without imposing our ideas and making them dependent on outside help - not an easy problem to solve.

While he was doing this I, without enough Urdu to follow the detail, was observing what was happening. Now ladies are hard to see in Pakistan if there are strange men around but they can usually be spotted in the distance going in and out the doors of the houses - tents here as no houses were standing. I saw a brief glimpse of one lady only. The discussion finished and a meal was enjoyed. Hospitality is taken very seriously here even in a ruined village. Then we left to go down to the road and on the way the villagers pointed out 'the' house. This was the house where the body of a lady, who had died a distance away, lay. The body had been brought back for burial and had arrived the night prior to the quake. In the morning the men had been digging the grave and about 80 women and children had been saying their condolences in that house when the earthquake struck. I did not have the heart to

FROM BRAZIL

Dear friends,

First all I would like to say thank you for your prayers during the time I was in Brazil. Perhaps some of you were thinking that I was on holiday, but I have to assure you that it wasn't really holiday! During my 10 weeks in Brazil I was sharing about my work here and also sharing the gospel with my friends there.

My Talks:

Sunday

Morning service - twice

Evening service - 10 times

Tuesday evening meeting - once

Wednesday evening meeting – twice

Friday evening – once

Sunday School:

Adult - 7 times

Children – once

Holiday club:

2 days

Youth Camp:

3 talks in 2 days

School: Rio once - Bahia 3 times and Vila Velha - once

Projects visit: -2 ASSEMER and Sacar Project

I was so nice to see all my old friends and brothers and sisters in Christ in Brazil. I plan to visit Brazil again in two years time.

Thanks again for all your support and prayers and please pray for Brazilian Church.

ask how many had survived when the walls crumbled and the very heavy roof had collapsed on top of them. I am sure it could not have been more than a handful. Add to that disaster the school children who perished in the two village

CHANGES TO THE CHURCH FAMILY

NEW MEMBERS

By Profession of Faith

Miss R. Murray 10 Marionville Avenue
Miss K.Meaney 11 Mountcastle Bank
Miss M.MacAlpine 38 George Crescent, Ormiston

By Transfer Certificate

Miss H.Brant 336/1 Restalrig Drive
Mr&Mrs E.Clark 15 Glenlee Gardens
Mr&Mrs C.Watson 40 Kirk Street
Mr&Mrs M.Plchot 64 Gibraltar Gardens, Dalkeith

DISJUNCTION

Mrs S.Faions 23 Christiemiller Avenue

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Miss M.C.BDias from:Faith Mission Bible College to: 43 Hawthornvale

DECEASED

Mrs. M.Wilson 12 Duddingston Square West
Mr F.Lorimes 3 Abercorn Road
Mrs. M.Davidson 6 Mountcastle Gardens

schools and you will not be surprised that it will be a long time for that village to get back on an even keel. The replacement of the material things like houses schools will take more than 2 or 3 years but the mental scars much longer. Why does it always seem to happen to the poor?

When I finished what I had gone to do I went to pick up Isabel, Karen and her daughter to attend the 50th anniversary at Murree Christian School. That was a happy time with many old friendships with fellow staff and students renewed in beautiful mountainous quake free Murree.

The arranged programme meant that a group

of us went up to see Balakot together but I just couldn't take Isabel up to visit our beautiful Kaghan Valley.

An unforgettable visit -the first part remembered with much sadness over destroyed lives and homes -the second part remembered with joy in meeting old friends.

Prayer for the earthquake area and the continuing mission effort would be much appreciated.

ANNOUNCING...

Homely Hour

Homely hour resumes on the 12th of October at 2:30pm in the Upper Hall. New Members will be made especially welcome.

Women's Guild

The Guild meets fortnightly on Monday evenings in the Church Centre at 7:15. All are welcome. Here is the schedule for the next few weeks.

- 2nd Oct. - Welcome meetings.
- 16th Oct. - Energy Efficiency Advice
- 30th Oct. - Informal Meeting

Tear Craft Sale

Last October we held our first Tear Craft Sale at New Restalrig. After such a successful morning, we plan to host another on Saturday 7th October, 10am until 12 noon. As well as fair trade crafts and cards, tea and coffee will be served.

Soup Lunch

On Sunday the 8th October there will be a soup lunch in the upper hall, in aid of the work carried out by Tear Fund. Further details from Patricia Sharp, Church Representative for Tear Fund.

Weekend Holiday Club Pyramid Rock

This was our theme for our weekend holiday club we had jointly with Holyrood Abbey church. We all had a great time and the children enjoyed it too! We had over 30 children every day for the whole weekend. It was so good see lots of children learn about God - that he is a planner, a helper, a provider, one who forgives and a great King. We would like to say thanks all for your prayers and to everyone who helped in any way.

Sunday Club

Praise God for this new term! We had a lovely summer break and thanks to everyone who helped at Salt Club over the summer. Please pray for more leaders for Sunday school and C4U (Thursday evening Club). If you are interested on help please come to speak to the minister or myself. For Sunday school we continue to operate a rota system that will mean one month on and one month off for leaders.

Dates to Remember

- 8th Oct. - Tear Fund Service
- 19th Nov. - Fun Day
- 16th Dec. - Christmas Party
- 17th Dec. - Family Service

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Submissions for the November Newsletter should be sent to David Urminsky by 27th October. Submissions can be e-mailed to editor@newrestalrig.com or you can phone 0131-467-3319.