

**NEWS from HMBC** (Harper Memorial Baptist Church)  
www.harpermemorial.net



These are exciting days at the church. At the end of June we welcomed Rhett and Susan Crabtree and the family from Ohio, back to Glasgow. Rhett had been placed with the church while on the Cornhill course last year and has now begun his ministry as our Pastor. Rhett is a gifted young preacher and we look forward to seeing how the Lord will develop the work under his leadership and ministry.

**NEWS from FMBC** (Faith Mission Bible College)  
www.fmbc.ac



The departure of Dr Sandy Roger, College Principal, at Christmas, inevitably led to a considerable increase in John's workload and responsibility with additional teaching as well as overall leadership of the College. At the end of May John was appointed Principal of the College with immediate effect. We are now looking at additional teaching staff, though it is likely they wouldn't start until October 2010. In the meantime we will need to make use of one or two more external lecturers.

John has a number of plans for developing the courses offered in various ways and for making the College known to a much wider Christian constituency. The Diploma in Expository Preaching course which we started last year, has proved both popular and worthwhile, and is a good model for other specialist areas of training. A major issue for the College is our application for accreditation as a sponsoring organisation for overseas students. This is a result of new Government regulations and is a time consuming and costly process.

In the autumn John will be starting a series of monthly teaching seminars in N Ireland in an attempt to take the College 'on the road' and, partly, to whet some appetites for full-time study.

We look forward to what will probably be a slightly increased student intake on October 1st, and John's own goal is to have 80 full-time students at the College within the next 5 years - up from the present 30. The number of part-time and on-line students also continues to increase, as does the number of those taking our introductory correspondence course, 'Into the Word'.

---

### **John and Caroline Brand**

4 Ramoth, KIRKFIELD BANK, Lanark, Lanarkshire ML11 9LA Tel: 01555 664787  
Caroline: Mobile - 07743 342443 E - caroline@thebrands.org.uk  
John: Mobile - 07789 675194 Office: 0131 672 0979 E - john@thebrands.org.uk  
www.thebrands.org.uk www.friendsofsudan.net

August 2009

# BRAND NEWS



She's done it! Last Tuesday Caroline passed the final stage of her Driving Instructor's course and is now a fully qualified instructor. It's been a long and, at times, stressful process but finally she's achieved it. At present she will continue with her franchise but before too long she hopes to launch her own driving school, with Iain working alongside her.

We're just back from a fortnight's break in Crail, Fife, making the most of our static caravan which we purchased at the end of last year and have so enjoyed on several occasions since. It has proved a great 'bolt hole', less than 2 hours drive from home and set in a stunning location overlooking the sea in what is known as the East Neuk of Fife. It's been great that a few friends have also made the most of the facility in recent months and if anyone else would like to use it, just drop us a line and we'll see what we can arrange.

The last 6 months have probably been the busiest and most pressured we have ever known, on a number of fronts but as we move into the second half of the year we gladly testify to some remarkable and clear answers to prayer which should make the next six months a little less stressful.

The main issue has involved John's mum who was hospitalised by the nursing home she was a resident in without consultation with or permission from us, which is required since John has Welfare Power of Attorney for her. We also discovered that they had had unsuitable medication prescribed for her which, combined with being in hospital, had a devastating effect on her and for a number of months her condition was dreadful and her quality of life seriously limited. Finally, after months of pressure and discussion, the drugs were withdrawn and she began to 'resurface' and regain something of her old self, though some long-term damage has probably been done. She eventually spent six months in hospital before we were able to move her to a small nursing home in Cumbernauld, at present on a trial basis, to see if she settles. (Contd...)

## NEWS of the FAMILY

The provision of the home was itself a remarkable answer to prayer. We visited two homes on the recommendation of a couple of expert authorities and, based on a 'gut' feeling, we prayerfully decided to investigate one of them, only to discover that the recently appointed Manager was an old friend from our Falkirk days. Ian was one of the young people in the Church where John was student assistant in his College days, and he has gone the second mile for us in expediting Mum's move. We are confident that if Mum will settle anywhere it will be here and we covet your prayers that she will not have to return to the totally unsuitable environment and regime of the hospital ward.

### Iain

At the time of writing, the other piece of main news is that Iain has had an offer on a house accepted and is now busy with negotiating with solicitors and mortgage providers. The house is in Carluke, about 5 miles from Kirkfieldbank, and is ideally suited for him as a single, first-time buyer. The housing market is now probably better than it will ever be again for Paul and Iain and Paul has also been getting advice about mortgages and is also looking at potential properties though, it has to be said, not with the same amount of enthusiasm. Earlier this year Iain got a job in Tesco's distribution warehouse near Edinburgh, though we hope he will take up his driving instructor's course again before too long. At least this job gives him some financial stability for the time being.

### Paul

Paul continues to work as a fitness instructor in New Lanark. Last season he set up his own hockey team which won all but one of their games and was promoted to the next league in the district.

### John

With the added pressures of work at the College - see College news article - John has had very little time for anything outside of home and work. He has been busy finishing a preachers' manual for the church in Sudan but, largely due to the issues related to his mother, has made very little progress on his Ph.D course.

### Monthly Prayer Updates

We send out monthly prayer updates to those supporters who specifically ask for them. We can do this by email or post and if you would like to receive a monthly update of commitments and items for praise and prayer, please drop us an email at [john@thebrands.org.uk](mailto:john@thebrands.org.uk) or write to us and we'll put you on the list.

## NEWS from SUDAN

The work of Friends of Sudan continues to grow and flourish. We are grateful to our three fellows Trustees who share the burden and it has been a special relief to have one of them, Graham Hamilton, take over all the financial accounting and recording that John has been doing. This has made a huge difference to the workload.

Next week, on August 6th, John returns to Khartoum for the 6th annual Preachers' Workshop and again this comes as the result of a number of remarkable answers to prayer. Following the Sudanese President's indictment by the International Court we were somewhat unsure how the visa process would go this year. Amazingly it was granted quicker than ever and, for good measure, instead of insisting that it be collected in person from their London Embassy they actually posted it back!

John had hoped to train some of the church leaders to do the training themselves but this really required someone to go with him or for a visit of twice the length, neither of which have proved possible this year. We would value prayer for this important and necessary development. We really must plan for a nationalisation of these workshops within the next few years.

John has recently completed work on a 70 page preacher's manual which will be given to each of the delegates at this year's workshop which runs from Monday 10th to Saturday 15th August.



There is more information about the work at  
**[www.friendsofsudan.net](http://www.friendsofsudan.net)**

### Mailing List

If for any reason you no longer wish to receive this prayer letter  
or  
if you presently receive it in the post and could access it by email,  
which would save postage costs, please do let us know