

Greetings from Scotland!

At the beginning of each month we try send an update report. Our sincere apologies to those who have not heard from us in a long time. We have been updating our newsletter email addresses as we had a computer crash earlier in the year and lost a lot of information, including several email addresses. One file in particular we did not realize we had lost, so we did not realize that we did not have contact with you. We have spent time looking addresses up on the internet, digging in old files, and making phone calls; if we still do not have the proper email address for you please send Ruth a correct one at [rebbrechin@googlemail.com](mailto:rebbrechin@googlemail.com)

Brechin has a single lane bridge that was originally built in the 1200's. It was rebuilt in the 1400's and basically stands today as it was rebuilt in the 1700's. It is quite unique with a double arch. When we moved to Brechin in 2002, we lived just outside of town. The only way into town was to cross this bridge. So, when we began to send out email updates we entitled it the *Bergen Bridge*, as we feel that we are your bridge to Brechin, Scotland.

We have purchased the old Jolly's Hotel a pub/hotel in city centre. The downstairs part that once was a pub and restaurant is becoming meeting rooms where we have our worship services and Bible studies, classrooms and office space for Brechin Baptist Fellowship. The upstairs has eight hotel rooms becoming a flat for our family. The original built as a 'Coach Inn' in 1834, it has been without tender loving care for a long time. We are having to totally gut rooms, re-do the electrical wiring and have put in central heating. Because we are changing the use of the building the 'powers that be' are insisting that we bring it up to 2008 code, so there is a lot of work that needs to be done – more than we ever dreamed when we purchased the building.

Our church attendance has grown considerably now that we are in our own place. We don't hear, 'How long you here for?' anymore. The people here are impressed that we have taken a well loved building and are doing something with it. We have had three Sundays this year with attendance over 50. In May, Jon baptized 4 individuals. Although we did not have the opportunity to lead all these four to the Lord; God had given us the blessing of watching their lives grow in Him.

Meanwhile, God is opening so many doors of ministry in this city; doors that we have not even pushed, and we know that God is at work here. We have been invited into the schools. Ruth teaches a children's club in the primary school during their Friday lunch recess. Jon has been invited to speak at assemblies at the high school and because the Church of Scotland is without a minister at this present time the primary school has asked Jon to be the interim chaplain for the school. This means that he speaks at the school church services along with assemblies. They have a Christmas, Easter and end of the year church service that the parents are invited to. What a privilege God has given us to be able to share Him and His Word. Jon has also been given the opportunity to speak at nursing homes and become chaplain to the city's football (soccer) club.

We want to thank you for your part in our ministry. Now that we have an email address for you, you should hear from us more often.

Your bridge to Brechin,

Jon and Ruth Bergen