

# Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: February 2011*

*A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith*

## Calendar

### w/c 30<sup>th</sup> January

30th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
30th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
30th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School (Sheila and Daphne)  
1st (February) 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
2nd 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
4th 10.00.a.m. to midday Open House  
5th 10.30.a.m. Town Centre Evangelism

### w/c 6<sup>th</sup> February

6th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
6th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
6th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School (Trish and Sheila)  
6th 5.45.p.m. "Together" (DVD: CH Spurgeon; The People's Preacher; part one)  
8th 9.30.am Prayer Meeting  
8th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
9th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study / Report (Istvan Salanki)  
11th 10.00.a.m. to midday Open House

12th 7.00. p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (Neil Richardson: *Keep Yourself Pure*)

### w/c 13<sup>th</sup> February

13th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Robert Goodgame)  
13th 11:00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)

13th 11.15 a.m. Sunday School (Daphne and Trish)  
13th 1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch  
13th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (DVD: CH Spurgeon; The People's Preacher; part two)  
15th 5.45 p.m. Lighthouse  
16th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
18th 10.00 a.m. to midday Open House

### w/c 20<sup>th</sup> February

20th 9.30.a.m. Prayer and Praise  
20th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service including Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)  
20th 11.15 a.m. Sunday School (Sheila and Daphne)  
22nd 9.30.a.m Prayer Meeting  
23rd 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
25th 10.00.a.m. to midday Open House

### w/c 27<sup>th</sup> February

27th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
27th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
27th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School (Trish and Diana)  
1st (March) 5.45.a.m. Lighthouse  
2nd Prayer / Bible Study  
4th 10.00.a.m. to midday Open House  
5th 10.30.a.m. Town Centre Evangelism

## News

Marc Khunan and Zach Mollallegn were received into the membership of the church at the Church Members Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>. We trust God's blessing upon them both as they seek to live for the LORD and serve Him among us.

Tom Asiedu is due to be away in Ghana visiting family until mid-February.

Vinay and Prathibha Kumar's first child was born on January 19<sup>th</sup> out in India.

## Notes

Feltham Bible Focus continues into this month with a visit from Neil Richardson. He is due to speak on the subject. "Keep yourself pure". This is set for February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.00.p.m.

Newspapers Evangelical Times (ET) and Evangelicals Now (EN) are both obtainable through the church. Please contact Sheila to get EN and Philip to get ET.

Flowers Do you want to contribute to the flowers displayed in church each week? Then please decide which week you want, put your name on the list in the entrance hall and pass your money to Trish at the appropriate time.

Evening Service During last year we commenced having an evening service, "Together", once a month. Consideration is being given as to whether this should be extended to other Sundays. If you have any thoughts / suggestions about this then please speak to Philip.

DVD At Together on 6<sup>th</sup> February and the afternoon service on February 13<sup>th</sup> we intend to watch a DVD about CH Spurgeon.

Membership As noted in "News" above Marc and Zach are now members of the church. Should you wish to consider becoming a member of Feltham Evangelical Church, then please speak to Philip.

Fellowship Lunch is due to be held on Feb 13th. This will be on a bring-and-share basis.

## Spiritual Notes Hospitality

We live in an individualistic age. This seems to be particularly apparent in the London area. Travelling on the Tube you are immediately aware how people, although close together, want to maintain their own personal space. However, as Christians, we are not called to individualism rather we are called to live out our faith "in community" together. One way which assists us in making this community experience a real experience is

that of hospitality. Peter urges the dispersed Christians **to be hospitable to one another without grumbling** (1 Pet. 4:9). Paul indicates in Romans 12:13 that we minister to the needs of each other by being **given to hospitality**. Hospitality is therefore an essential part of Christian living.

But what is hospitality? Literally the word, as used in the two afore-mentioned references, refers to the love of strangers. We are welcoming those who are normally outside our circle. So as families we can welcome people into our homes for a meal, a coffee or just some time to relax. The world is a hostile environment for spiritual people and many need "cities of refuge" to which they can resort in order to be refreshed. This is particularly so for those who live on their own. We should be looking out for those in need in the church and offering them hospitality. Gaius in 3 John 2-8 gives a great example of someone who is commended for his determination to welcome Christian strangers who are in need.

In welcoming people into our homes, we need to remember that this should be done with the right attitude. Hospitality can curiously become a cloak for selfishness. This happens when we invite those who are able to invite us back. Our LORD uses these words: **Then He also said to him who invited Him, "when you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."** (Luke 14:12-14).

The promise of blessing is also before us in Hebrews 13:2 where we are told that we may even entertain angels unaware by the giving of hospitality. This takes us back to Genesis 18:1-15 where Abraham and Sarah actually entertained the LORD Jesus Himself in His pre-incarnate state. As Christians we give because we love, not because we expect to receive back. The Lord graciously promises to bless if we give hospitality in the proper way, but we do not open our homes purely from the motive of getting that blessing.

As we think about who we invite we must remember that we should never be partial. Some Christians operate in a way so that they will only invite people whom they are friendly with. This is essentially selfish and can be divisive. We must remember that our God shows no partiality and so we must not show partiality. This becomes particularly heinous when we exclude people on the grounds of their jobs, their homes or perhaps worse of all their colour of skin. This should never be among the people of God.

You may feel that all this is well and good, but you are not able to give hospitality because you are too poor or because you do not have enough space in your home. In reply we might say that "where there is a will there is a way". Remember, you do not have to provide a feast for your guests; the warm welcome and time together is more important. Solomon gives us some perspective when he says **better is a dry morsel with quietness, Than a house full of feasting with strife** (Prov. 17:1). Perhaps if space is a problem you can take others out for a meal.

We must remember, as well, that we are not in a competition as to who can provide the most outstanding and elaborate hospitality. We are not to think about out-doing such-and-such a person because we provide a bigger range of puddings or whatever. Also, we should never act in such a way that others are intimidated as regards to their own offering of hospitality. This happens when others feel that they cannot cook as well as someone else in the church and therefore they do not open their homes to others. We should see to avoid this.

If we are the receivers of hospitality we should make sure that we receive such kindness in a godly way. Our LORD mentioned that we should be humble guests. He said: **"When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honourable than you be invited by him; and he who invited you and him come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, 'Friend, go up higher.' Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."** (Luke 14:8-11)

Not only though should we be humble, but we should also be thankful. When we have received from one another, in what ever way, it is good and right to be thankful. Paul enjoins thankfulness in Col. 3:15, In the context of building oneness among believers, when he says: **and let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.**

So hospitality is part of making sure there is a growing oneness among us. By opening our homes to one another we get to know one another. That is why an elder must be given to hospitality (see 1 Tim.3:2) because it is a key way in which he can get to know the people of the church.

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