

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: October 2011*

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 25th September

25th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Robert Goodgame)
 25th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Andy Osgood)
 25th 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Sheila and Comfort)
 27th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 27th 5.45 p.m. - Lighthouse
 28th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study
 30th 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House

w/c 2nd October

2nd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
 2nd 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Neil Richardson)
 2nd 11.15 a.m. - Sunday School (Daphne and Comfort)
 2nd 5.30 p.m. - Together
 4th 5.45pm - Lighthouse
 5th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Zach Mollallegn)
 6th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 7th 10.00 a.m. to midday - Open House
 8th 10.30.a.m. - Town Centre Evangelism
 8th 7.00. p.m. - Feltham Bible Focus Alun McNabb; *What does a Christian Look Like?*

w/c 9th October

9th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Alun McNabb)
 9th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Alun McNabb)
 9th 1.00.p.m. - Fellowship Lunch
 9th 2.00.p.m. - Afternoon Service (Alun McNabb; My 10 biggest blessings")
 11th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 11th 5.45 p.m. - Lighthouse
 12h 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study

13th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 14th 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House
 15th 9.00.a.m Clear-up

w/c 16th October

16th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer and Praise (Alan Michael)
 16th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Alan Michael) including Lord's Supper
 16th 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Sheila and Diana)
 16th 5.30.p.m. - Equip (Evangelizing Muslims; Robin Asgher)
 18th 5.45 p.m. - Lighthouse
 19th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Robert Goodgame)
 20th 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 21st 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House

w/c 23rd October

23rd 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)
 23rd 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Robin Asgher)
 23rd 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Trish and Comfort)
 25th 9.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 26th 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Marc Khunan)
 27th 6.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 28th 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House

w/c 30th October

30th 9.30.a.m. - Lord's Supper (Dave Legg)
 30th 11.00.a.m. - Morning Service (Dave Legg)
 30th 11.15.a.m. - Sunday School (Sheila and Trish)
 1st (November) 5.45.p.m. - Lighthouse
 2nd 7.30.p.m. - Prayer / Bible Study (Zach Mollallegn)
 3rd 6.30.a.m. - Prayer Meeting
 4th 10.00.a.m. to midday - Open House

News

Daphne Henderson is due to have an operation on her foot on October 12th.

Notes

Feltham Bible Focus is next due to take place on October 8th. The subject is "What does a Christian Look Like?". Alun McNabb from Stafford is due to be the preacher.

Fellowship Lunch is due to be held on October 9th. This will be on a bring-and-share basis. Mr McNabb is also be with us on this day. At the afternoon service Mr McNabb will speak about his experiences of God's goodness to him as he shares with us "My 10 biggest blessings"

Harvest weekend is on 8/9 October.

- This provides a good opportunity to introduce friends, family, work colleagues to the church.
- If you would like to bring some produce to be displayed in church for harvest then please make sure it is at the church by 9.30.a.m. on 8th October. All the collected provisions will be distributed to the local Age Concern operation.
- The collection / offering on October 9th will be passed to help the work of the Lanka Evangelical Fellowship of Churches. They work to build Christ's kingdom in Sri Lanka.

Web-site The Church website provides a means for people to find out about the church. The web-site address is: www.felthamevangelicalchurch.org.uk. Pray that the web-site might be useful in the service of our God. Also remember that if you miss a sermon at church or want to listen to one again then many of them are on the web-site

Food Provision We continue to be blessed by the LORD in enjoying times when we can have food together. As a cautionary reminder please remember to cook any food properly so that we do not encounter any unnecessary health problems.

Men's Conference On 8th October Hayes Town Chapel host a morning of studies on discipleship and prayer.

Early Morning Prayer From this month we plan to have a prayer meeting at 6.30.a.m. This gives us a further opportunity to seek the LORD for His way into the church.

Clocks change On 30th October the clocks go back one hour and so remember to change them so you can be in church on time.

Equip On 16th October Robin Asgher joins us to instruct us on reaching out with the gospel to Muslims.

A Gospel Mission is being held at Calvary Baptist Church from October 1st to 7th. Pray for them that they would see fruit for the LORD. If you want to attend details are on cards in the entrance hall.

Clear-up On 15th October we plan to have a day clearing-up the outside of the church building. Zach is co-ordinating this.

Spiritual Notes The receiving of the Word

How is our attitude to the Word of God? Paul remarks to the Thessalonians **that we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe** (1 Thess. 2:13). Are we, like the Thessalonians, receivers of the Word, as the word of God or are we rejecters of that word?

We need to establish in our minds first of all that the Word of God is wholly relevant to us. It is a book which we need to have in our lives so as to live a life which is for the glory of God. **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path** (Ps. 119:105). is how the psalmist sets forth his personal need of the Word. Paul, in 2 Tim. 3:14-17 reminds Timothy of how the Word is needed to bring us to Christ and then how it has everything to help us live for Christ.

The Word of God when soberly assessed is seen to be essential for our lives. However, like when someone is prescribed essential medicine by his doctor only benefits when he takes it, so we only benefit from the word when we receive it. And when it is received it brings blessing.

But what do we need to have in order to receive the word? We need to have faith. In Hebrews 4:2 we read these words addressed to the Hebrew Christians **For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.** The writer here is referring back to the Israelites who came out of Egypt and how they received no blessing from the Word because they did not have faith. If there is no faith then there will be no benefit from hearing the word. The healthy order is for us to accept the Word as the Word of God, to realize our need of that word and to accept it into our lives. When this happens we are displaying faith. However, for there to be true faith there has to be an attitude of humility.

Alas the whole process so easily gets re-railed because of a lack of humility. Pride is the problem. A multitude of reasons can be the immediate cause of our rejecting the Word of God, but the ultimate cause is pride.

When we are truly humble we are committed to having the Word enter our lives. When we are proud we do not want to be troubled by the Word; we want to rule our lives ourselves. However, this becomes very awkward for those whom profess to be Christian. How can they reconcile being a Christian with resistance to the Word of God? One way of doing it is to just allow the Word to affect us externally so we get surface transformation and not heart transformation. But God is a “heart surgeon” and not a “cosmetic surgeon”. And the indispensable surgical instrument he uses to change hearts is the Word of God. We ask the question then do we want the word to get under our skin or do we just want a little skin massage?

It is pertinent to note that when there was a great transformation in 3,000 lives on the day of Pentecost we read that **When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart** (Acts 2:37a). It does not say that they were cut in the skin! Real transformation comes when the Word reaches our hearts.

The Pharisees were masters at making sure that the Word only had a cosmetic effect. In Mark 7:13 the LORD condemns them by saying **you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.** Immediately before this statement the Lord had exposed their trickery in how they adopted a strategy to get around the commandment to honour your father and mother. They wanted to put on a show of obeying the Word, but it was all cosmetic. Are we guilty of this? God wants to do heart surgery. Are we willing to go “under the knife”? And in all this remember that **the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart** (Heb. 4:12).

Will we then receive or reject the Word. We profess to be a Word of God church. Are we really a Word of God church? As we ponder such a question individually and collectively let us remember:

- When we truly receive the Word it always leads to blessing.
- We must pray to the LORD that His Word would reach our hearts.
- We must be humble before God and His Word. Any pride stops the blessing