

Feltham Evangelical Church (Newsletter July 2007)

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 24th June

24th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
24th 11.00.a.m P Venables
26th 5.45.p.m.Lighthouse
27th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
29th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

w/c 1st July

1st 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
1st 11.00.a.m P Venables (refreshments afterwards)
3rd 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
4th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
6th 9.30.a.m. Coffee Morning

w/c 8th July

8th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
8th 11.00.a.m M Wheway (SASRA)
8th 1.p.m. Lunch
8th 2.p.m. M Wheway (SASRA)
9th 8.30.p.m Leadership Meeting
10th 5.45.p.m Lighthouse
11th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study

13th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning
14th 10.00.a.m. Leaflet Distribution
14th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; J Singleton
(*Bringing up Children for God in an anti-God age*)

w/c 15th July

15th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise
15th 11.00.a.m P Venables (Lord's Supper)
17th 5.45.p.m.Lighthouse
18th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Report by I Salanki
20th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

w/c 22nd July

22nd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
22nd 11.00.a.m P Venables
25th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
27th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

w/c 29th July

29th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
29th 11.00.a.m P Venables
1st (August) 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
3rd 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

News

Chucks and Chinwe Onwuemena are now parents. On June 5th their daughter, Ashlee, was born. We trust them into the Lord's hand as a family. We particularly pray that Ashlee would be a great woman for God in days to come.

Margaret Alverio's father passed away on June 9th. Pray for Margaret, Julio and the rest of the family at this time that they might know the gracious ways of the LORD upon them. The funeral is due to take place at Mortlake Crematorium on July 5th at 11.00.a.m.

Daniella Lee commenced a new job with a Korean freight forwarding company in Hounslow on June 11th.

Bob Roaf is due to move away from us down to Bournemouth in the near future. This will be a big loss to the church here. We trust Bob into the LORD'S hands that He will be useful for the kingdom of God in the days ahead.

Tom, Diana, Tracy and Lucien Afiedu moved to a new home in Isleworth on June 18th.

May Lin Venables had a further hospital appointment on 11th June. Her kidney problem is still an issue, but not critical..

Notes

A Fellowship Lunch is due to take place on July 8th. Marc Wheway, who represents the Soldiers and Airmen Scripture Readers Association, is our preacher on that day.

Feltham Bible Focus This month on July 14th we welcome John Singleton from Southampton to be with us. He is due to preach on the very important subject of bringing our children up for the Lord's glory.

Lighthouse. reach the end of a further year on July 17th with the Parents Evening. Phil Symes is due to speak on that occasion. Let us pray about the Lighthouse group. The number of children has generally been lower this year. Please pray about all aspects bearing upon the Lighthouse group.

Bible Study On a Wednesday evening we continue to study different parts of the Bible. On July 4th we are due to commence a new study and go through the book of Malachi. If you are able to come then please consider joining the study. It may be a key way of God helping you in your spiritual life.

Spiritual Notes Making Strangers Welcome

The experience of an unchurched non-Christian coming into church has been likened to that of a Christian going into a betting shop. Both are going into environments with which they are totally unfamiliar and therefore do not know how they should act. Accordingly, it is a big challenge for Christians to know how to respond when strangers come into church so that they can make the strangers feel welcome.

Ruth, was like such an outsider when she came back to Judah with her mother-in-law, Naomi. She was a Moabitess; totally unfamiliar with how things operated in Judah. However, there was one person who went to great efforts in order to make her feel welcome. That man was Boaz. And from him we can

learn lessons for ourselves regarding how we respond to strangers when they come into church.

Necessity first brought Ruth into contact with Boaz. She and her mother-in-law had both returned from Moab without husbands (see Ruth 1). As a result, they had to find means for providing for themselves. Thus, Ruth, with Naomi's permission, went to seek to glean grain from behind the reapers (see Ruth 2:2). **And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz** (Ruth 2:3b). This is often what happens as regards people who come into church. Generally necessity brings them to us. They are either Christians who are seeking a church to attend or they are non-Christians who are seeking peace and hope. So how did Boaz respond to this unexpected visitor?

The first thing we notice about Boaz is that he operated his business in a spiritual manner. We note this from the greeting he shared with his staff. **"The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"** (Ruth 2:4b). When people come into Feltham Evangelical Church do they come into a spiritual place? The spirituality of the place is determined by the people in that place. Is each of us, through our devotion to God, contributing to creating a godly atmosphere in the church?

Sad to say that so often in churches visitors are just ignored, but not so in Boaz's field. Firstly, notice he is aware that there is someone new around and it seems that is Boaz's first thought when he comes back to his field (see v5). What about you? When you come into church do you make it a priority to welcome strangers or do your own friends come first?

Moreover, the question which Boaz asked indicated that he was immediately showing an interest in her. He asked his reapers **"Whose young woman is this?"** (v5b). No doubt, everyone is different, but everyone wants to be made to feel special. Without unnecessary prying, a gentle inquiry about where someone comes from or a little about their background can make people feel that someone is taking a genuine interest in them.

Having established who she was and why she had come to his field Boaz was keen to go out of his way to make sure she was welcomed and received among the reapers. When strangers come into church new people and new circumstances can feel very threatening. Ruth very probably felt threatened by the young men, but Boaz took action to counteract this and said to her **Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you?** (v9b). Similarly, for newcomers in church, a little discrete help with finding hymn numbers or Bible passages may reduce their discomfort.

In all this Boaz was keen to make sure that Ruth felt at home. There were young women within his fold and he wanted her to feel secure with them (see v8). As someone departs after a service a simple "hope to see you again." can be very meaningful and be an encouragement to someone to settle among us and to find their spiritual food in our midst from the Word of God.

Having sought to make someone feel welcome, our failing sometimes comes at the next stage when we seek to consolidate our welcome. Good "follow-up" comes when we seek, out of love and genuine interest to find out more about our visitor so that we can be of specific help to them. Boaz shows us a good example here. It is recorded of him in v11 that he said to Ruth: **it has been reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.**

Boaz showed his love by obtaining further information about Ruth. She was not just a name on a list, but someone he cared about. Do we care about others enough to want to find out about them? Furthermore, he uses this information to make sure that Ruth's needs are provided for. Accordingly in vv14-16 a strategy is put in place by Boaz to make sure Ruth's needs are met. Let us endeavour to show our real love for visitors by showing practical love through hospitality or whatever is necessary.

Are we a welcoming church at Feltham Evangelical Church? Let us take heed to the example of Boaz and make sure all visitors are made welcome and helped as they come among us. Who knows what great things may happen as a result. Remember that in due course Ruth is found in the genealogy of our Lord Jesus (see Matt. 1:5). It may be our welcome which leads to someone, in due course being used mightily by God.

