

Feltham Evangelical Church (Newsletter April 2007)

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 25th March

25th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
25th 11.00.a.m P Venables
27th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
28th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
30th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

w/c 1st April

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. P Williams at Stanwell Cong. Church
5th 7.30.p.m. B Edwards at Hounslow West Ev. Ch.
6th 10.30.a.m. Good Friday Service
6th 7.30.p.m. A Gibson at Hayes Town Chapel

w/c 8th April

8th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
8th 11.00.a.m P Venables
8th 1.p.m. Lunch
8th 2.p.m. P Venables
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 (N Richardson)

w/c 15th April

15th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise
15th 11.00.a.m N Wells (Lord's Supper)
16th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting
16th 8.30.p.m Leadership Meeting
17th 10.00a.m. Prayer Meeting
18th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
19th 7.30.p.m Church Members Meeting
20th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning
20th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting

w/c 22nd April

22nd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
22nd 11.00.a.m J Long
24th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
25th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study (P Symes)
27th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

w/c 29th April

29th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
29th 11.00.a.m P Venables
1st (May) 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
2nd 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
4th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

News

Chucks Onwuemena passed his two examinations earlier in March.

Pat Earle has been busy with family responsibilities. Gilbert is now staying at a flat in Bedfont pending refurbishment work on the house in Feltham. Meanwhile their daughter, Hazel, has been suffering much with severe pain associated with arthritis. Pray for Pat as she serves God in her family situation at this time.

Antonia Pecolados is due to be involved in a court case on April 2nd connected with her work.

Alice and Patrick Quarshie now have three daughters. Their third, Saffon, was born safely on March 21st.

Notes

Preaching Meetings. In the week preceding Easter we are again invited to the series of meetings arranged at local churches (see details at calendar above). These are occasions when we can hear good preaching and benefit from fellowship with others. If you would like to come, but have no transport, please see Philip.

Prayer With the passing of Easter we move into the "summer term". As we face up to all the issues and challenges which we face as a church it is good for us to pray. During the week commencing 15 April we have a "week of prayer". Make it a week to pray for all the people and all the work of the church. And, if at all possible, make a point to be at the special prayer meeting which have been arranged.

A Fellowship Lunch is set for April 8th, Easter Sunday. If you can, please come and join in this time together. The lunch is on a bring-and-share basis.

Church Members Annual General Meeting (AGM) Coinciding with the week of prayer we have the Church Members AGM, on April 19th. Pray for this time as the church members enjoy this time of fellowship.

Church Outing The outing this year is planned for May 7th and the destination is set to be Woodside Animal Farm and Leisure Park near Luton. The admission cost per person aged 2 to 14 is £3.00 and 15 and overs is £4.00 for entrance to the Park. As regards the means of transport a decision will be taken on this nearer the time dependent on numbers etc..

Coffee Morning On Friday morning from 9.30. to 11.30. we continue open up the church premises for anyone who wants to come and spend a time with us. We have seen a few people so far, but would long to see more come in to be interested in the LORD and His gospel.

Spiritual Notes Waste

"What a waste" sang Ian Dury in 1978 concerning what others might think about his choice of career. Sadly the same conclusion could be drawn regarding the chosen pathway of so many Christians. Either by willful desire or casual indifference they have fallen into the devil's trap and departed from God's pathway. "What a waste."

Our focus then is to look at the lives of Christians and ponder upon their usefulness or otherwise for God.

However, we must make the obvious point initially that the life of the non-Christian is a totally wasted life. To live the life which God has given without ever finding the way of faith which is in Christ Jesus is the essence of waste. How do we respond to this? We should be stirred. Remember the LORD Jesus **when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd** (Matt. 9:36). Similarly as we see the mass of people indifferent to the things of God we should be stirred. We should mourn over the situation of the unbelieving and do what we can to relieve their plight.

Notwithstanding this, the situation of many Christians is something to mourn over as well. If we consider the privileged position of the Christian. We have been taken from the broad road that leads to destruction and placed on the narrow road that leads to life (see Matt. 7:13-14). We are now owned by another, who is God over all, and not ourselves. Paul challenges the Corinthians like this **do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body** (1 Cor 6:19-20a). Quite simply our responsibility in this life is to glorify God. If we do such we will have NOT wasted lives.

However this begs the question how do we prevent the waste and ensure the glorification of God in our lives. Well, we must be focused. There is a general principle that the people who achieve anything in any sphere are focused people and if Christians are to achieve things for God they must be Christ focused. Remember that the focus of all of God's purposes is Christ Jesus. The immense privilege of the Christian is expressed in the term "in Christ Jesus." We have been placed in and at the heart of God's purposes. And so now we must go on looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (see Heb. 12:1). So easily with all the pressures and complications of life we lose our focus on Christ and that is always sad and dangerous. One key means God has given us to keep our focus is through the remembrance of the LORD Jesus in the Lord's Supper in communion together. We are now able to have this re-focusing once a week at Feltham Evangelical Church and so why not come to the celebration and get your life re-focused on Christ.

However, the re-focusing should take place every day as we spend time alone with the LORD. As we read the Word of God, the Bible and as we pray to our Father in heaven we are led to get the right perspective on life. Use the Lords' pattern prayer as a base for your praying and you will soon find yourself being fixed on the glory of God.

And then we can journey on for God. Start the day with God and you are most likely to have a day for God. "But I have no time" you say. But is it not true that everyone makes time for what they want to make time for? So remember that time is passing away and we must not waste it. Rather we should heed the exhortation of Paul to the Ephesians when he says that we should be **redeeming the time, because the days are evil** (Eph. 5:16). The idea here is that time is passing by and we need to take action to buy it back for God.

As we focus on Christ and retrieve our time for God there will be two particular areas where there will be an impact:

Family Families need to be built for the glory of God. Give time to your family and you are by doing so investing well for God's kingdom. This applies whether you are a husband, wife, parent or child. Remember the family is a critical building block in God's programme for mankind. When we are "family-building" we are NOT wasting our lives.

Church The church is the vehicle for displaying the glory of God in this age. All Christians should be committed to one local manifestation of God's church. In fact 1 Cor. 3:11-17 indicates that we will all have to stand before God and be judged concerning what we have put into a local church. Every Christian should be a committed member of a local church. So many are wasting their lives living on the periphery of the church; attending one or two services a week, never becoming members, never serving or praying together with other believers. Brothers and sisters in Christ; such should never be the case. Let each of us find a local church we can commit to as members (remember no church is perfect) and then COMMIT. Go to the prayer meeting and bible studies; support the activities as much as you can. Don't waste your life.

At this point it is sobering to consider the observation of Paul that he had no-one like Timothy because **all seek their own and not the things which are of Jesus Christ** (Phil.2:21). And that was said of Christians; how sad! Could it be said of you?

So God's will for us is that we should be moving forward in His ways. But remember that Satan has a strategy to nullify your usefulness. He wants you to waste your life. His transport policy revolves around de-railments and cul-de-sacs. He wants Christians taken off God's perfect paths: but we counter his strategy by prayer and Bible study. And finally remember as someone has said *"Only one life will soon be passed only what's done for Christ will last"*. Don't waste your life!

