

Feltham Evangelical Church (Newsletter March 2007)

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 25th February

25th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
25th 11.00.a.m G King
26th Midday Funeral Service for Miss Breen
27th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
28th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Report (R Asgher)
2nd 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

w/c 4th March

4th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
4th 11.00.a.m P Venables (refreshments afterwards)
6th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
7th 7.30.p.m.Prayer / Bible Study
9th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning
10th 10.00.a.m. Leaflet Distribution
10th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (K Wilson)

w/c 11th March

11th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
11th 11.00.a.m N Kinghorn

11th 1.p.m. Lunch
11th 2.p.m. N Kinghorn
12th 8.30.p.m. Leadership Meeting
13th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
14th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
16th 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

w/c 18th March

18th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise
18th 11.00.a.m J Long (Lord's Supper)
20th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
21st 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
23rd 9.30.a.m Coffee Morning

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

News

Nihuska Villegas is now a member of the church. She was welcomed into membership on January 28th. We trust the LORD's blessing upon her and us as we move forward in fellowship together.

Lillian Kerr is now back at home. She is recuperating, but is very weak.

Biju and Jincy Matthews are due to return to India on March 9th. We are glad to have had fellowship with them over the last nine months and trust God would lead them in all His / their ways.

Miss Breen is now "at home". She passed to be with the LORD on February 10th. She is now free from suffering in the body. So we sorrow not as those who have no hope. Nevertheless we miss her and there is sorrow. She served God in her generation and has now gone on to her reward. The challenge for us who remain is that we should follow the faith of such.

Tom Afiedu is presently in Ghana on a family visit. He is due back on March 6th.

John Moore is planning a further visit to India. He is due to be away for 4-6 weeks from February 27th.

Chucks Onwuemena is taking exams bearing upon his desire to become qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant. The exams are on March 1st and 8th.

Notes

Miss Breen's Funeral On February 26th we are due to mark the passing of Miss Breen to be with LORD with services at Hanworth Crematorium at 11.00 a.m. and at the church at midday. Pray that these services might be honouring to the LORD and a witness to His glorious grace as this was demonstrated in Miss Breen's life.

Neil Kinghorn who serves the Lord with the London City Mission among the London Ambulance Service is due to be with us on March 11th. On that day we are due to be having lunch together and a service in the afternoon at 2.00.p.m. The lunch will be on a bring-and-share basis.

Cranford Baptist Church On March 3rd at 3.00 p.m. there is due to be thanksgiving service at Cranford Baptist as Robin Asgher is recognized as pastor of the church there. Robin has lived in our church property for over three years now and we trust the Lord's blessing upon him, Muno and the church at this time.

Church Outing The outing this year is planned for May 7th. Further details of location etc should be forthcoming in due course.

Lighthouse / Sunday School It is good to have children with us in church. Pray for both the leaders/teachers and the children that through what the youngsters hear in church they might be blessed with salvation from the LORD.

Spiritual Notes Giving

The offering bag comes around on a Sunday morning and we suddenly feel we must put something in so we dig in our pockets for a few pennies and feel we have done our giving for another week. But is this the way it should properly be? Let us seek to find some guiding principles which will make us to consider aright how we should be giving.

Attitude

Paul is writing to the Corinthian Christians and he is encouraging them in their giving and he sums up by saying **So let**

each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7). Christians should be giving people who always remember the words of the LORD Jesus that **it is more blessed to give than to receive** (Acts 20:35b).

Regular

In 1 Cor. 16:2 Paul writes to the Corinthians that **upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store...**". Accordingly, on each Sunday we should make a point of laying aside a certain amount of money for the work of God. Just because we may not be able to be in church does not exempt us from this responsibility. Every Sunday we should set aside some money for the LORD.

Proportionate

But how much should we be giving? 1 Cor 16: 2 continues with the statement that we should be storing up **as he may prosper**. A proportion of what God gives us thereby during the previous week should be laid up for the LORD. New Testament teaching does not specifically indicate how much should be given. However, the Old Testament clearly teaches that the tithe should be brought to the LORD. Deuteronomy 14:22 says **"You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year**. A tithe is a tenth. As has been observed, if under law a tenth was given, then in this blessed day of grace, the tenth should be a minimum. However, as a slight twist upon this theme it is interesting that, before the giving of the law, Abram was already bringing a tithe (see Gen. 14:20 and Heb. 7:2)).

So to summarize we give proportionately, as the LORD prosper us, a tenth is a guide and suggested as a minimum. However, it must be said, that everyone must be persuaded in his own heart.

Motivation

Returning to Paul's instructions to the Corinthian Christians on giving we are struck by how Paul inserts one of his great descriptions of our LORD when he says: **for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich** (2 Cor 8:9). In giving we remember how much our LORD gave for us and to us. We also remember how our God is one who give liberally (see James 1:5) and when we give liberally we emulate him. Children of God should be like their Father.

Not for men

The Lord said **"Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly** (Matt 5:2-4). Let us not give for show.

Intelligently

The Philippian Christians provided for Paul on various occasions: **for even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities** (Phil 4:16). Each of us should be thinking about what needs there are that we personally can meet. This means that we are not obliged to do all our giving through the church.

Obligation

However, there are obligations to fulfill in providing for the ongoing church work. There are practical things associated with the church which require money; for example heating and maintenance. We should make sure the church is supplied with money for these things.

Moreover, God places upon us an obligation to provide for those who teach us the Word of God. Paul says to the Galatians **Let him who is taught the Word share in all good things with him who teaches** (Gal 6:6). We easily foist this responsibility on to the church, but from this scripture it seems to be an individual responsibility.

Individual

This reminds us that giving is an issue for each individual before God. No doubt the church leadership can guide as to certain causes which can be supported, but individuals must each move before God in this matter. Notwithstanding this, the one flesh relationship of marriage would indicate the appropriateness of married couples giving as one.

Wholeheartedly

In our LORD'S ministry **He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."**(Luke 21:2-4). In our giving wholeheartedness is of more value than a fulsome cheque from an even more fulsome bank account.

And when all this is done we remember there is a promised blessing. The LORD in Malachi 3:10 says **Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it."** Amen

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