

# **Feltham Evangelical Church** (Newsletter September 2007)

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

## **Calendar**

### **w/c 26<sup>th</sup> August**

26th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper  
26th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
29th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
30th 11.30.a.m. Jerry Haglund's funeral at Hanworth Crematorium (Committal)  
30th 12.15.p.m Thanksgiving Service for Jerry Haglund  
31st 9.30.a.m "Open House"  
1st (Sept) 3.30.p.m. Baptismal Service

### **w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

2nd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper  
2nd 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Philip Venables; refreshments afterwards)  
3rd 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting  
4th 10.00.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
5th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
6th 7.30.p.m Church Members Meeting  
7th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"  
7th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting  
8th 10.00.a.m. Leaflet Distribution  
8th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; Jim Downie

### **w/c 9<sup>th</sup> September**

9th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper  
9th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Andrew Hill)  
9th 1.p.m. Lunch

9th 2.p.m. Afternoon Service (Andrew Hill)

11th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
12th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
14th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

### **w/c 16<sup>th</sup> September**

16th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise  
16th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service with Lord's Supper (Philip Venables)  
18th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
19th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
21st 9.30.a.m "Open House"

### **w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

23rd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper (Micky Mollallegn)  
23rd 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Micky Mollallegn)  
25th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
26th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study / Report (Ron Hollands)  
28th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

### **w/c 30<sup>th</sup> September**

30th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper  
30th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
2nd (Oct) 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
3rd 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
5th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

## **News**

Jerry Haglund has now been received into the glorious presence of our Saviour. He passed away on August 13<sup>th</sup> after a brain hemorrhage. Amidst much ill health he served the LORD in the church here faithfully over the last seven years after his move from Northolt. Latterly he was a deacon of the church. We will miss him so very much. (See funeral details below)

Chinwe Onwuemena is due to be baptized on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Pray the Lord's blessing upon her as she obeys her LORD. (See details below).

## **Notes**

A Fellowship Lunch is due to take place on September 9th. Andrew Hill from the Slavic Gospel Association is due to be with us on that day. Accordingly he will be giving us some information on God's Work among the Slavic peoples on that day. The lunch is open to all and provided on a bring-and-share basis.

Funeral Our brother-in-Christ, Jerry Haglund, is now as mentioned above; absent from the body and present with the LORD. It is now our responsibility to "sow" his body in anticipation of the great day of resurrection. Accordingly on August 30<sup>th</sup>. at 11.30.a.m. we meet at Hanworth Crematorium for "The Committal". And then at 12.15.p.m. We meet back at the church premises for a "Service of Thanksgiving" for Jerry's life and for the Saviour who gave Jerry eternal life. After the services refreshments will be served at the church. Any gifts in memory of Jerry will be passed to the Soldiers and Airmen Scripture Readers Association (SASRA).

Prayer Meetings The summer holidays draw to a close and we now venture upon a "new term". In that context it is good for us to bring all of the people, activities and life of the church in the presence of God. Accordingly we have a week of special prayer meetings during the week which commences on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Let us pray together for the Lord's glory to be known in our midst. If you can make the special prayer meetings then that would be great. However, if you are unable to be in attendance then please make sure to pray at home or wherever.

Church Members Meeting On September 6<sup>th</sup> a meeting is due to take place for church members. Please pray that as the church members meet in fellowship there would be a knowledge of the LORD'S will and awareness of His presence.

Lighthouse. Commences a new year and a new term on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Pray God's hand upon this ministry as we seek to teach the truth of God.

Baptism On September 1<sup>st</sup> we have the privilege of seeing Chinwe Onwuemena publicly confess here faith in the LORD. Her baptism is due to be held at 3.30.p.m. on that day. Refreshments are due to be served afterwards.

Open House We continue to open our premises on a Friday morning for anyone to come in and join us for refreshments. From now on Friday mornings are "Open House" at the church as we invite those in the community to come in and join us.

## **Spiritual Notes** God helps those who help themselves

Last month we thought about the delightful issue of how God, in His grace, helps the helpless. And most importantly how He brings the spiritually destitute to salvation. As we have thought about salvation the

poignant thing to remember is that we were utterly without ability to help ourselves in this respect. However there are areas where we do have the relevant ability. All of us are able pray and most of us are able to read; so we must pray and read our Bibles. And most of us can get to a place where Christians gather "as church" to worship and praise God; so let us be there.

As a consequence of us choosing to help ourselves to know God better, through the proper use of means, praying, reading, church attendance, He graciously chooses to bless us. So for example John says concerning the book of revelation that **Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near** (Rev 1:3). So take the plunge read Revelation and get the blessing. Similarly for those who gather together in the LORD'S Name to consider His things Malachi says: **Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name** (Mal.:3:16).

We are beginning to get the message then that those who help themselves in pursuit of the things of God are blessed by Him. This principle though also applies with regard to us taking action to legitimately provide for ourselves. Those who are lazy and never help themselves by doing a decent days work are certainly not under God's favour. As \*Proverbs 13:4 says: **The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied**. On the positive side remember how blessed Ruth was when she diligently took action to provide for herself and Naomi (see Ruth 2).

At this point we must remember that God only blesses those who do what is honouring to Him and act according to His Word. Acting in a way which contravenes His Word in order to obtain personal gain is condemned of God continually throughout scripture. The LORD, for example, in Jeremiah 5 continually tells the people of Judah that they help for themselves in the ways of sin. Such conduct will lead to His devastating judgement.

Notwithstanding the truth that we have established that God blesses those who help themselves in pursuit of Him and that which is good, there must be the acknowledgment that the ability which have to read or to walk comes for Him. He give the helpless the abilities to help themselves so that He can bless them. As James says: **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights** (James 1:17). As God is the Giver of the gifts we must use them for His glory. Accordingly we must confess that the ability to walk, read, speak, labour, pray etc. all comes from God. It is really a universal truth that as the LORD Jesus said: **without me you can do nothing** (John 15:5b). Every breath that we take is ultimately given by God. Our lives are in His hands.

With this in mind our study then migrates on to the theme of our co-operating **with the workings of God**. **Paul summarizes the content of his ministry along these lines. He says We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me** (Col. 1:28-29). Accordingly, if we are truly laboring for God, as Paul was, then we are only doing so because of His energy is in us.

Similarly we remember that when he raised Lazarus from the dead He asked others to perform certain of the work. In John 11: 38-43 we note how he asked the bystanders to remove the gravestone and the grave clothes. Only the LORD could raise the dead, but others could help. Are we willing to be co-labourers with the LORD in His great work?

This applies in all realms but particularly as regard to our spiritual welfare. Paul when urging the Philippians to make spiritual progress says: **continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose** (Phil. 2:12b-13). God helps us and we help ourselves. In spiritual progress; both go together.

Finally we might note that if the LORD blesses all who use their abilities to pursue Him then so should we. This is true godliness. Again the scriptures have examples of this. John, as an instance says to the chosen lady **It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us** (2 John 4). Let us then be ever blessing those who use their abilities to pursue the LORD.

So does God help those who help themselves? In a sense that is true if properly understood in a restricted context.. But more correctly the following two statements are more biblically accurate.:

- God helps the helpless.
- God blesses those who use their abilities to pursue Him and do good.

