

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter November 2007*

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 28th October

28th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
28th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Phil Symes)
30th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
31st 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
2nd 9.30.a.m "Open House"
3rd 8.30.a.m. Autumn Clear-up

w/c 4th November

4th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
4th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Philip Venables)
including baptism with refreshments afterwards
6th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
7th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
9h 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
10th 10.00.a.m. Leaflet Distribution
10th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; Gwynne Evans

w/c 11th November

11th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
11th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (David Mead)

11th 1.p.m. Lunch
11th 2.p.m. Afternoon Service (David Mead)
13th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
14th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
16th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 18th November

18th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise
18th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Michael Gray) with
Lord's Supper
20th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
21st 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study / Report (Robin
Asgher)

23rd 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 25th November

25th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
25th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
27th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
28th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
30th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

News

Chuks, Chinwe and Ashlee Onwuemena are due to be away in Nigeria from November 6th to seek to finalize their status in the UK and to visit family.

John Ferreira plans to be baptized upon confession of his faith in our LORD Jesus at the morning service on November 4th.

Audrey Carpenter has once again had difficulties with her leg. She is well, in herself, but her leg continues to cause her problems.

John Moore had a problem with dizziness and thus had to stay overnight in hospital on October 20th.

Micheal Loosley continues to suffer much bodily weakness. He spent time in hospital in October as result of a bowel problem. Moreover, an ulcerated foot is causing significant trouble at the present time.

Notes

Feltham Bible Focus continues this month on November 10th when Gwynne Evans, Pastor of Hayes Town Chapel, is due to be the preacher.

Fellowship Lunch On November 11th David Mead is due to be with us. On that day we plan to have a bring-and-share lunch basis. So bring some food or drink and then come and share in this time together. David serves the Lord in Italy.

Autumn clear-up. On The morning of 3rd November (from 8.30.a.m.) we intend to clear up the grounds of the church premises. Amyand Park Chapel have kindly offered to lend assistance. If you are able to assist then that would be good.

Invitation Leaflet June Waggot's "Reach for Me" card has now been made into an invitation card. If you can make use of these please take some from the entrance hall and pass them on

Prayer Partners As a church we need to be zealous in our praying. One means by which we can develop our prayer life is through committing ourselves to one-or-two other people to regularly pray. This can not only lead to strengthening in our personal lives, but also in the life of the church. Think about whether this might be something you would consider.

Spiritual Notes Who is first in my Life?

The call of God upon our lives is most profound and all-prevailing. The image which surrounds this call is that of the cross. Accordingly, before we address ourselves to what God requires of us we are wise to consider what God required of His Son.

The only way of salvation is that of the cross and the only One who can bring salvation is the Son of God; Jesus Christ the LORD. And He did it. He bore the cross, His cross for me. We so easily read that **the Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me** (Gal.2:20) and yet do we realize that his experience was that of giving Himself totally so that we might be saved; so that we might be blessed. Consequently we sing "you gave up everything for me; suffered at the hands of those you had created" (see Praise! Hymnbook; 743).

The question then comes if He gave up everything for us then how much will we give up for Him? This leads us into the teaching which God has for us concerning the lifestyle that pleases Him. Such a lifestyle is a cross centered and patterned lifestyle. **And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple** (Luke 14:27). These are the searching words of our Lord Jesus.

Let us think then of what it is to live the life of the cross. The image we have to have fixed in our minds is that of a convicted criminal in Roman times. He has been sentenced to die and that death was the death of a cross. He is given a cross and forced to bear it to the place of his crucifixion. If you saw such a man there would be three conclusions you would reach:

- he has finished with this world
- he is finished with living his own life
- he is destined for another world.

These three things are the axioms which should govern the life of the Christian. Our lives should be finished with this world, a denial of our own lives and focused on the next world.

Paul summarizes these essentials when he says **you are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body** (1 Cor 6:19b-20a). Accordingly, how sad it is that Paul has to report to the Philippian Christians that he has no-one like Timothy **for everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ** (Phil. 2:21). Remember in saying this Paul is writing about the Christians that are around him. How distressing it must have been for Paul to have seen so many Christians putting their own interests before Jesus Christ.

And is it any different today? How many among God's people say; I will give more when I have more money. They say I will go to church when I have the time or it is convenient for me. They say they are concerned about others, but they never call them or visit them. They have homes and provisions, but fail to **offer hospitality to one another without grumbling** (1 Pet. 4:9). Our lives then should be cross-shaped lives governed by the desire that Christ would always be pre-eminent.

Our attitude to God is also shown in our attitude to the place where God has promised to dwell. In the Old Testament God chose to place His Name in the city of Jerusalem. That was His special place on earth. And in particular the temple, in Jerusalem was the focus of His operations and delight. Accordingly, you could tell how much a person was delighting in God by how much he was delighting in God's place. Read Psalm 122 and you will see the delight of a man who was appreciating the house of the Lord and Jerusalem wherein it stood.

Likewise today God has His special place. It is not a building; it is a people. When Christians gather together, being properly constituted as a church, then that is God's special place. And, as a general rule, you can tell how much someone is delighting in God by how much they are committed to their church. The writer to the Hebrews therefore urges us to **not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching** (Heb. 10:25).

Some say I will put God and His place first when I have resolved my present problems and I find I am in better spiritual shape. The reality is though that such people generally never sort themselves out. The antidote to all our failings in this realm is to put God first. The believers in Malachi's day were failing in their giving and seemingly were oblivious to their failure (see Mal. 3:8-9). **Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it** (Mal.3:10).

This immortal word from the LORD follows all of us down the ages who refuse to put God first. He says put me to the test and see what I will do. If we put him first he promises to bless.

This abiding challenge / promise ties in with two abiding principles of God's Word. They are:

- **Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained** (1 Sam. 2:30b) is what the LORD declares.
- **Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows** (Gal 6:7). Someone who gives the cross priority in His life will know the blessings of the cross. Someone who puts themselves first will only be blessed by themselves and that is miserable.

Let us then heed God's call and put Him first in our lives. We will never regret that; neither in time nor in eternity.

