

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter March 2008*

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 24th February

24th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
 24th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 24th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Diana Buah)
 26th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 27th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
 29th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 2nd March

2nd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
 2nd 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Philip Venables) with refreshments afterwards
 2nd 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Sheila Hume)
 4th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 5th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 7th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
 8th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; Alun McNabb (How many will be saved?)

w/c 9th March

9th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
 9th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Alun McNabb)
 9th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Trish Howard)
 9th 1.p.m. Lunch
 9th 2.p.m. Afternoon Service (Alun McNabb)
 11th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 12th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Report (Ken Morey)

14th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 16th March

16th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise
 16th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables) with Lord's Supper
 16th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Daphne Henderson)
 18th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 19th 7.30.p.m. Stanwell Cong. Church (K Brownall)
 20th 7.30.p.m. Hounslow West Ev. Ch. (A McNabb)
 21st 10.30.a.m Good Friday Service
 21st 7.30.p.m Hayes Town Chapel (G Crossley)

w/c 23rd March

23rd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
 23rd 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 23rd 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Diana Buah)
 25th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 26th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
 28th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 30th March

30th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
 30th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 30th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Sheila Hume)
 1st (April) 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 2nd 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
 4th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

Notes

Feltham Bible Focus This month we seek to get to the heart of God's purposes to save whom He wants. He is LORD. Alun McNabb is due to be the preacher on 8th March. His subject title is: "How many will be saved?"

Fellowship Lunch On Sunday Mr McNabb is due to be with us to preach the Word. We have a fellowship lunch on that day. The lunch is on a bring-and-share basis. Come to the lunch and why not stay for the afternoon service as well.

Membership The following are the present members of Feltham Evangelical Church: Maria de Campos, Audrey Carpenter, Pat Earle, Daphne Henderson, Trish Howard, Sheila Hume, Michael Loosley, Chinwe Onwuemena, Chuks Onwuemena, May Lin Venables, Philip Venables and Nihuska Villegas. They are the ones who have formally committed themselves to the church fellowship. If you would like to consider becoming a member of the church then please contact Philip.

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.

Heating Presently we have difficulties with the heating in the church premises because of the boiler having broken down. We pray God's hand in resolving this matter. In the meantime please wrap up warm and come and "enjoy" meeting with God and His people. Also when new people come among us make sure that the lack of warmth in the building is more than compensated for by the warmth of welcome from us!

Opportunities to serve We believe that God gives gifts to His church. If God is laying upon your heart the calling to certain ministry in the church then please speak to Philip. Notwithstanding this let us all be in prayer that God will be supplying gifts into His church here at Feltham Evangelical Church.

Prayer / Bible Study evenings on a Wednesday are open for all to attend. Genesis is the book we are presently studying. And at the moment we are looking at the life of Abraham. If you can attend that would be good.

Spiritual Notes What should I wear?

The LORD's call upon our lives is that **just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do** (1 Pet. 1:15). In all our ways we should show that we belong to the LORD; we are separated to Him. Accordingly, there are no parts of our lives which are off-bounds as regards to God being interested in how we conduct ourselves. One such area concerns how we dress.

First of all we need to establish clearly what drives us in our choice of clothes. In Rom. 12:1-2 Paul urges the Roman believers **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.** The pattern of this world should not be what gives the impetus regarding our attire, but what is according to the mind of the LORD. The glossy magazines, which advocate certain fashion styles, should be handled with care.

Normality

God is primarily interested today in our inner transformation rather than outward conformation. Accordingly our clothing should not be attention-grabbing. Rather it is our characters which should be attention grabbing. We see this with our Saviour; there was nothing about His attire which shouted for attention as he lived in this world. Is. 53:2b speaks of Him that **He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.** From this we deduce that His clothing as a man was according to the normal conventions of the day. A lot of fashion changes have no moral significance and in that sense we should happily fit in with the general styles of the day.

Beauty

The propensity to display and show ourselves off is prevalent in the world around us. And both scripture and experience indicate that this is something to which ladies are particularly prone. In Is. 3:16-24 we read **The LORD says, "The women of Zion are haughty, walking along with outstretched necks, flirting with their eyes, tripping along with mincing steps, with ornaments jingling on their ankles. Therefore the Lord will bring sores on the heads of the women of Zion; the LORD will make their scalps bald." In that day the Lord will snatch away their finery: the bangles and headbands and crescent necklaces, the earrings and bracelets and veils, the headdresses and ankle chains and sashes, the perfume bottles and charms, the signet rings and nose rings, the fine robes and the capes and cloaks, the purses and mirrors, and the linen garments and tiaras and shawls. Instead of fragrance there will be a stench; instead of a sash, a rope; instead of well-dressed hair, baldness; instead of fine clothing, sackcloth; instead of beauty, branding.** The action of the LORD shown here shows what He thinks of "the women of Zion" dressing like the world.

Rather the wholesome godly desire of a sister is shown in 1 Peter 3:4-5 where Peter addresses the wives and says **Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.** The Christian woman should NOT want people to immediately say "isn't she pretty", but rather "isn't she godly".

Modesty

To make sure that it is the beauty of the inner being which is on display the scriptures counsel that modesty should be found in the dress of a sister. Paul says **I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God** (1 Tim. 2:9-10). The inner beauty of godly character is seen in good deeds and NOT fancy clothes.

Male and Female

At creation mankind was created male and female. Such a distinction is important to God and should be displayed in the clothes that we wear. The law of God codifies this and says **A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing, for the LORD your God detests anyone who does this** (Deut. 22:5). No doubt such a distinction needs to be outworked according to the cultural standards of the day, but it must not be ignored.

Sensitivity

One driving principle of new Testament teaching is that we act in such a way towards one another so as to prevent each other from stumbling in our walk with God. The Lord in Rom. 14:13b says **make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.** Elsewhere the LORD Jesus says **I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart** (Matt. 5:28). Putting these two lines of truth together leads us to consider the need for us to dress in such a way so that my clothing does not give any encouragement for a brother or a sister to be led to commit adultery in their heart. Love dictates that the freedom I have in Christ is never exercised to harm someone else.

Similarly in church could it be the case that someone is being prevented from giving due attention to God's Word in the services on account of their attention being diverted by the suggestive attire of someone else in the congregation?

The way we dress then is important. In this study principles have been laid down. The implementation of them varies from age to age according to the changes of fashion. They also vary according to circumstance. Milking the cows on a farm requires different attire to attending a "posh" dinner. Nevertheless at all times in all circumstances we should be careful to uphold God's standards in how we dress.

