

# **Feltham Evangelical Church** *Newsletter May 2008*

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

### **Calendar**

#### **w/c 27<sup>th</sup> April**

27th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper  
 27th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
 27th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Trish Howard)  
 29th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 30th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
 2nd (May) 9.30.a.m "Open House"  
 3rd 10.30.a.m. Open Air

#### **w/c 4<sup>th</sup> May**

4th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper  
 4th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Philip Venables) with refreshments afterwards  
 4th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Sheila Hume)  
 5th 8.45.a.m. Church Outing to Littlehampton  
 6th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 7th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 9th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"  
 10th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; Wes McNabb (Are Men Superior to Women?)

#### **w/c 11<sup>th</sup> May**

11th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper (Tim Whitton)

11th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
 11th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Trish Howard)  
 11th 1.p.m. Fellowship Lunch  
 11th 2.p.m. Afternoon Service (Tim Whitton)  
 29th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 14th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
 16th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

#### **w/c 18<sup>th</sup> May**

18th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise  
 18th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Bernard Lewis) with Lord's Supper  
 18th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Daphne Henderson)  
 20th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 21st 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 23rd 9.30.a.m Open House

#### **w/c 25<sup>th</sup> May**

25th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper  
 25th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
 25th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Diana Buah)  
 28th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study  
 30th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

### **News**

Virginia Nyas has been admitted to St Peters Hospital as a result of falling on April 14<sup>th</sup>. She is being provided with assistance to seek to make her more stable.

Darlene Cunningham is due to start a job working on Health and Safety issues at the BBC on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Daniella Lee is due to be away in South Korea for two weeks from April 26<sup>th</sup>.

May Lin Venables had an operation on April 7<sup>th</sup> to destroy kidney stones and insert a stent to drain away fluid from her kidney. In the mercies of our Father the process so far has gone very well.

### **Notes**

Church Members Following on from the church Members Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> Comfort Kalu and Daniella Lee have become members of the church.

Ceiling in Main Hall. The start-date for the work has been held-over for a week and so now work is due to start on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mobile Phones. Please could you make sure all mobile phones are turned off during the services so that there is no unnecessary disturbance.

Church Outing. Our Church Outing is due to take place on May 5<sup>th</sup> and we plan to leave the church premises at 8.45.a.m. Littlehampton is our scheduled destination for the day. All connected with the church are welcome. We plan to travel in at least one mini-bus; numbers permitting. If you want to come, then please put your name on the list in the entrance hall to the church building by April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Fellowship Lunch. On May 11th Tim Whitton from Amyand Park Chapel is due to be with us. He works an evangelist with the Open Air Mission. At the afternoon service he will give us some insights into his work. Between the two services we also plan to have bring-and-share lunch. We look to our God to give us a good day of fellowship and we thank Him for all of the good times we have had "in church" when we had the fellowship lunches.

Open Air Work. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we plan to commence Open Air Work in the Town Centre. We meet at the church building at 10.30.a.m. to pray. We then plan to go and give out leaflets and preach in the town centre. Tim Whitton (see above) is due to be assisting us in this work.

Feltham Bible Focus On May 10th Wes McNabb, pastor of The Slade Evangelical Church in Plumstead is due to be preaching. He will lead us in a study exploring the different roles of men and women; "Are Men Superior to Women?"

## **Spiritual Notes**    **What is the gospel?**

We so easily used to the word "gospel" and yet are we really sure what is meant by the word? We know that "gospel" is a key Bible word. We know that it tells us of a great message. We may even know that a loose translation is "good news". But what is the message and why is it good news? So let us engage with this word "gospel" and see what we can discover from the Bible.

Paul asserts the importance of the gospel to himself when he says that **I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes** (Rom. 1:16a). Let us use this statement as a means of unpacking the meaning of "the gospel" to our own hearts.

### **Power of God**

Paul speaks in another place of **the glorious gospel of the blessed God** (1 Tim. 1:11b). Thus we establish immediately that the gospel is God's message. It is not a message contrived by men, but it is a message given by God. God as the blessed God is ever to be praised and He has given this glorious message.

But not only is the message from God it is also a message full of power from God. When Paul speaks of this power in Rom. 1:16 he is using the word which in English has been used for "dynamite". The gospel is an explosive message and that power is from the eternal Lord God. God is so interested in this message that he has implanted within it all the power needed to transform lives.

### **Salvation**

The mention of transforming lives brings us to the heart of what the gospel does. The critical problem which afflicts the whole of mankind is that of sin. Sin is so serious that God has declared it to be a capital offense. Sin leads to death. The pay back for sin is always death (see Rom 6:23). The plight of the whole of mankind is therefore desperate. Romans 1:18-3:20 gives a detailed portrayal of this terrible situation.

The gospel though tells of a rescuer. Paul declares that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners** (1 Tim. 1:15). John says of the mission of our Saviour, when he first came, that **God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him** (John 3:17). Further, Peter tells us that He is the only one who can rescue us from the terrible experience of eternal death. He said to the rulers, elders and teachers of the law **Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved** (Acts 4:12).

So actually how does Jesus Christ rescue us. Peter again instructs us here when He says that **He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree** (1 Pet. 2:24a). The tree of Calvary is the place where the pivotal act of salvation took place. At the cross the **the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all** (Is. 53:6b). At the cross the LORD took the place of all His people. He took their sins. And He had the full judgment of God poured out on Him. We deserved it, He took it for us. The wrath of God which should have been ours forever was born by him in totality at the cross. This is what John means when he says **He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world** (1 Jn. 2:2 E.S.V.). Sins must be punished with the wrath of God. But, most wonderfully our LORD Jesus at Calvary took our place and bore that full judgment. That is propitiation. He gave His life that we might live. Peter puts it like this: **Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God** (1 Pet 3:18)

How wonderful is this gospel message. Notice that it is a message which focuses on neither sickness / illness nor poverty. The focus is on the problem of sin. This is mankind's key problem; all other problems are derived from it. Sin is about failing to meet God's perfect righteous standards. It is not loving him with all our heart, mind and soul and our neighbour as ourselves.

### **To all who believe**

The gospel is a beautiful message. It is written in blood; the blood of Jesus. The victory of the cross of our Lord Jesus is seen to be all-prevailing by His resurrection from the dead. Salvation comes to us at the moment when we die to ourselves and receive fullness of life through believing in Christ who is alive forevermore. Paul's summary of his ministry at Ephesus gives us the gist of what we have to do. He says of this ministry **that I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus** (Acts 20:21). We must repent of our sins and believe in Christ.

However, we must stress that salvation does not automatically come. The gospel message is a message that has to be received. We must acknowledge that it is true and then fully give ourselves, in trusting obedience, to the one who is the essence of the message Jesus Christ the LORD.

So that is the gospel. It is a message of rescue. It is a message of life. It is The message beyond all messages Let us believe it; to not believe has the most terrible consequences. Paul says in this context to the Thessalonians: **He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power** (2 Thess. 1:8-9). Oh trust now in the once crucified Saviour, salvation He offers to you. Remember now is the day of salvation. If we die without Christ there is no hope of salvation. In Hebrews 9:27 we read: **man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment**. But Paul could say **there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus** (Rom 8:1)

What a beautiful message this is. The whole of eternity will be spent for the Christian contemplating what Christ has done for us in Christ (see Rev 5:9-14). Alleluia what a Saviour; that is the gospel. He is the gospel.