

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: November 2008*
A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith
Calendar

w/c 26th October

26th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
 26th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Norman Wells)
 26th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School
 29th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 31st 9.30.a.m "Open House"
 1st 10.30.a.m. Open Air

w/c 2nd November

2nd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
 2nd 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 2nd 11.20.a.m. Sunday School
 4th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 5th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study (Phil Symes)
 7th 9.30.a.m "Open House"
 8th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; Brian Edwards
 (Does the resurrection matter?)

w/c 9th November

9th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper (David Mead)
 9th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (David Mead)
 9th 1.p.m. Fellowship Lunch
 9th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (David Mead)
 11th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 12th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
 14th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 16th November

16th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise
 16th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Graham King) with
 Lord's Supper
 16th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School
 18th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 19th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
 21st 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 23rd November

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

w/c 30th November

30th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
 30th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 30th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School
 2nd (Dec) 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 3rd 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study (Malcolm Evans)
 5th 9.30.a.m "Open House"
 6th 10.30.a.m. Open Air

News

Stan and Virginia Nyas moved to Weymouth on October 8th. We miss them, but trust God's blessing upon them in their new situation.

Maria and Fabio de Campos are, for the time being at least, seeking to make their home in Portugal. Again we miss them very much. Let us pray that God would use them greatly back home in Portugal.

Darlene Cunningham is due to return to Trinidad towards the end of this month because her work permit is now running out.

Notes

Feltham Bible Focus continues this month on November 8th. This month we welcome Brian Edwards to preach on matters appertaining to the resurrection of our LORD Jesus.

Fellowship Lunch. On November 9th we welcome David Mead to be our preacher for the day. David has served the Lord in Italy for more that forty years. On that day we plan to have a bring-and-share fellowship lunch together. In the afternoon on that day David will speak to us about the work of God he has been involved in.

Food Preparation It is good for us to be able to share meals together as a church. We thank the LORD for His good blessing upon us during these times. One caution we need to continually have in mind is that of making sure the food we share together is appropriately prepared. Let us therefore make sure that any cooked food is thoroughly cooked.

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

Spiritual Notes

Your Word Matters!

It used to be said that an Englishman's Word was his bond. Regrettably, we might not be able to say that so easily today. However, it should still be true that a Christian's Word is his/her bond. As we consider this issue of the words that we say, we want to look at two particular issues; truth and reliability.

Truth.

In Proverbs 6:16-19 we learn that of the seven things the LORD hates and two are to do with the wrong use of the tongue. These are **a lying tongue** and **a false witness who speaks lies**. We are called upon to speak the truth.

We live in a culture where lies are seen as acceptable. In the office environment if someone does not

want to take a phone call they are always “in a meeting”; whether this is a lie or not does not seem to bother people. Multitudes of examples could be drawn from other environments. There is an epidemic of lying in our society. Accordingly we should be completely counter-cultural as we seek to speak and uphold the truth.

This brings us to our LORD'S teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. The culture at that time was to swear oaths to back up what you said (see Matt. 5:33-37). It seems that the more important the thing you swore by then the more likely your statement was to be true. The LORD renders this approach null and void when he says that the Christian should **let your `Yes' be `Yes,' and your `No,' `No.'** **For whatever is more than these is from the evil one** (Matt:5:37). We should never need to back up our statements with oath taking or whatever; we must be careful always to tell the truth. Others should know from their experience of us that we always strive to speak truth. There should be no need for oath-taking to reinforce what we say. This is the kingdom standard for God's people.

Reliability

Not only should we be truthful people, but we should also be reliable people. If we promise to do something or be somewhere at a certain time then we should endeavor, as much as lies within us, to fulfill our commitment. In demonstrating this reliability we are showing forth the fruit of the Spirit. This is because in Galatians 5:22 one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit is **faithfulness** which includes the idea of performing our undertakings.

Of course, though, there will be times when we are prevented by circumstances from keeping an appointment. For example, a delay in traffic might prevent us from getting somewhere on time. In such a circumstances we should be careful to phone ahead to alert anyone who may be affected by this. Mobile phones have made it far easier for us to accomplish this.

This leads us to the importance though, of making sure that we only make commitments when we have truly considered beforehand whether or not it is feasible for us to keep them. To not do this is really an example of selfishness. This is because if we make rash statements about what we will do with no real determination to keep the commitment then the failure to keep to our promise inevitably leads to someone else being harmed. The second great commandment is **You shall love your neighbor as yourself** (Matt 22:39). We are called to be selfless people and not selfish people. Let us then make sure we do not abuse others by making rash promises.

Whereupon we must consider our Saviour who, in the deliberations of the heavenly sanctuary, made the commitment to perform the will of God by giving His life for His people (see Hebrews 10:1-10). And he fulfilled every aspect of what he determined for Himself to do. No rash promises here and how we thank God that He did what He set out to do for us.

Nevertheless, sometimes we will fail and we will let people down. In such circumstances we should be quick to make contact with anyone who has been affected by our failure to keep our word. We should make explanation and apologies as necessary. Remember, in this context, the words of the apostle Paul to the Philippians **in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others** (Phil. 2:3b-4). Always our attitude should be that others are more important than ourselves.

At this point we might wonder whether we are at liberty to break our word. Psalm 15 tells us of the godly man who is able to approach the LORD. One characteristic of this godly man is that he **swears to his own hurt and does not change** (v4b). Keeping our Word is more important than guaranteeing ourselves a good reputation or pleasant circumstances. The great Christian of the nineteenth century CH Spurgeon suffered much in his defense of the scriptures partly because he refused to reveal certain information he had agreed with another man should not be released.

As Christians then we should be truthful and reliable people. Our God is truthful and reliable; we should seek to emulate Him. In fact, as God's people we should have the likeness of our Father in our lives.