

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter December 2007*

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A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 25th November

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)
27th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
28th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
30th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 2nd December

2nd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
2nd 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Neil Richardson) 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 10.00.a.m. Leaflet Distribution
8th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus; Paul Garner (*Genesis 1; Its meaning and implications*)

w/c 9th December

9th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
9th 11.00.a.m Morning Service (Paul Garner)
9th 11.20.a.m. Sunday School (Trish Howard)
9th 1.p.m. Lunch

9th 2.p.m. Afternoon Service (Paul Garner)

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

w/c 16th December

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 (Diana Buah)
18th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
19th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
21st 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 23rd December

23rd 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
23rd 11.00.a.m. Christmas Family Service (Philip Venables)
25th 10.00.a.m. Christmas Day Service

w/c 30th December

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)
2nd (Jan) 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
4th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

News

Daphne Henderson is due to be away from 18th December visiting a friend in Canada.

Lillian Kerr continues to suffer health problems through her emphysema.

Notes

Feltham Bible Focus continues this month on December 8th when Paul Garner from Biblical Creation Ministries is due to be the preacher. He will be dealing with the subject: Genesis 1; its meaning and implications.

Fellowship Lunch Paul Garner will also be with us on the following Lord's Day. 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 a time together.

Christmas Cards In these days of recycling and concerns about diminishing rain forests it is worth considering how we use our resources. Accordingly, this year why not consider reducing your Christmas Card list by **not** sending to others in the church? Instead, put the money you save towards a good cause. Put your saved money in an envelope, mark it Christmas Cards and put it in the offering bag. Any monies collected this way will be passed to London City Mission.

Fire Plan We now have a "Fire Plan" in place in the event of an emergency. It would be good if those of us who regularly use the building would familiarise ourselves with the content. A copy is on the noticeboards.

Sunday School Daphne, Sheila, Trish and Diana continue to serve the LORD by teaching the children alongside the main service on a Sunday morning. In the "Calendar" this month details of who is teaching each week are included. Please pray for God's working among the teachers and the children.

Calendars We have purchased some Living Word Calendars from Day One Publications. We can use these as gifts to those who are connected with us as a church or as individuals. Please pray and ponder upon giving these to a neighbour or someone you are in contact with.

Leaflet Distribution On the second Saturday of the month we continue to distribute leaflets among the local residents. Recently we have been distributing the "Welcome" cards and "Reach for Me" cards. In November we went to Chertsey Road, Larkham Close and Briarwood Close. Please pray about this work and that people might be contacted for the gospel of our God.

Christmas Day After the service on Christmas Day anyone connected with the church is invited to stay behind and enjoy a Christmas lunch together. If you intend to stay you must inform May Lin Venables by December 22nd so that the relevant catering can be set in place.

Lighthouse draws to the end of a further term this month. We thank God for His mercies upon the two groups. It has been good to see more children coming in recent weeks. The term finishes with a Parent's Evening on December 18th. So we must continue to pray for the Lord's hand on the Lighthouse.

Spiritual Notes What about those who have died in Christ?

2007 has seen the passing of two Christians who faithfully served the LORD at Feltham Evangelical Church. Margaret Breen and Jerry Haglund both died in Christ. But we might wonder what is their experience now? How is it with them? Where are they? What are they doing?

With the LORD

Miss Breen and Jerry are **away from the body and at home with the Lord** (2 Cor 5:8b). To be in the presence of the LORD expresses the very heart of the believer's eternal experience. Accordingly, Paul can say to the Thessalonians **and so we will be with the Lord forever** (1 Thes. 4:17b). When we arrive at our eternal heavenly home our fixation is not with the furnishings, but with the host. Our primary interest will not be with one another, but with our Lord and Master. But what else would we expect? We owe everything to this LORD; he died on the cross to give us life. Therefore, as those who owe Him so much surely it is reasonable that He is the focus of our heavenly experience. As Samuel Rutherford puts it:

The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear bridegroom's face,
I will not gaze at glory,
But on my King of Grace -
Not at the crown He giveth,
But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Immanuel's land.

Await a new body

God has destined new bodies for us. Resurrection bodies which will be **like his** (our Lord's) **glorious body** (Phil. 3:21b). However, these bodies will not be received until the great day of resurrection. Paul refers to this in 1 Thes. 4:16-17. Specifically Paul gives the order of events there and says **the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air** (1 Thes 4:16b-17a). Great will be that day when we are clothed upon with immortality. Our full humanity will be restored; body and soul together we will be new forevermore.

There is no grief.

The throne-sitter in Revelation 21:4 says of God: **He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.** It is beautiful not just to think of tears drying up, but of them being wiped away by our God. Crying and pain are finished. It would seem clear then that the believer who is now with Christ does not have any appreciation of what is happening here below on earth. If the believer in heaven did know of the affairs of this world then there would be grief. This must be the case because even the best things in this world are contaminated by sin. And a true knowledge of sin always brings grief. We cannot say then that our loved ones are looking on at us now from heaven. It is only God and the angels who are observing us.

Fulfillment

Built within each human heart is a longing for fulfillment. We as, Christians have been able to find rest in our Saviour. We have found Him as the One who brings fulfillment. Such experiences are foretastes of heaven. One of the elders in Rev 7:16-17a describes the experience as follows: **Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.** Here is contentment; here is fulfillment. However, we must also remember what happened at the beginning. In Gen.2:15 we read that **The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.** Fulfillment entails activity initiated by God centered upon Him. So we also read in Revelation 7 that **they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple** (Rev 7:15a). In line then, with our creatorial destiny fulfillment involves active service for the Master.

Worship

If there is one thing that sums up our eternal and enduring experience; it is the unending and unfading worship of God and His Son. This leads us into Revelation 4 and 5. Notice in these passages we see the twenty four elders; a term which represents the redeemed people of God throughout all ages. In chapter 4 they worship the great Creator God, in chapter 5 they worship "the Lamb"; our LORD Jesus and say **"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation"**(Rev 5:9b). How wonderful it is that Miss Breen and Jerry are part of that chorus at this very moment as they focus on the worship of our God and His Son with an ever new song. There are no dull church services there!

So we conclude and are surely led to think about the glorious inheritance that the saints of God will enjoy "by-and-by". However, we must also ponder upon what this means for us here now. We are, now, a people of heaven. Accordingly, in our lives we should be finding these heavenly themes expressed in our experience.

