

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: April 2009*

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A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 29th March

29th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
29th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
29th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
31st 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
1st 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
3rd 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
4th 10.30.a.m Open Air

w/c 5th April

5th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
5th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables); refreshments afterwards
5th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
8th 7.30.p.m Stanwell Cong. Church (P Swann)
9th 7.30.p.m Hounslow West Ev. Church (J Downie)
10th 10.30.a.m. Good Friday Service
10th 7.30.p.m Hayes Town Chapel (G Thomas)
11th 7.00.p.m Feltham Bible Focus (Ken Morey; "...He was buried...")

w/c 12th April

12th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper (Ken Morey)
12th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Ken Morey)
12th 1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch
12th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (Paul Fountain)
14th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting

15th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
17th 9.30.a.m "Open House"

w/c 19th April

19th 9.30.a.m Prayer and Praise
19th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables) including Lord's Supper
19th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
19th 6.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting
20th 7.30.p.m Prayer Meeting
21st 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
21st 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
22nd 7.00.a.m. Prayer Meeting
22nd 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study
24th 8.45.a.m. Prayer Meeting
24th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
25th 9.00.a.m. Prayer Meeting

w/c 26th April

26th 9.30.a.m Lord's Supper
26th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (David Legg)
26th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
28th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
29th 7.30.p.m Prayer / Bible Study (Malcolm Evans)
30th 7.30.p.m. Church Members Meeting (AGM)
1st (May) 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
2nd 10.30.a.m Open Air

News

May Lin Venables is now due to have one of her kidneys removed on March 31st in Charing Cross Hospital.

Michael Loosley is presently being cared for in Franklin House Residential and Nursing Home in West Drayton.

Notes

Church Outing On May 4th we are due to have our annual church outing. We plan to have a day out at the seaside with Littlehampton being the destination.

Feltham Bible Focus This month on Easter Saturday, April 11th, Ken Morey is due to be preaching on the subject "...He was buried..." This is a great opportunity to have fellowship with those from other churches and hear God's Word. Come along if you can.

Fellowship Lunch Ken and his wife, Bep, are also due to be with us on Easter Sunday, April 12th. On that day we plan to have a fellowship lunch together. This is to be on a bring-and-share basis.

Mobile Phones Please make sure that your mobile phone is tuned off during the services so that there is no unnecessary disturbance.

Sri Lanka At the afternoon service on April 12th Paul Fountain from Amyand Park Chapel is due to give us a presentation about the work of God in Sri Lanka. He visited Sri Lanka in October / November last year.

Week of Prayer The start of the "summer term" affords us a further opportunity to make sure that all at Feltham Evangelical Church is happening for the glory of our God. Accordingly, during the week commencing on 19th April we have extra prayer meetings taking place (see calendar for details). Come and pray "in church" if you can. Otherwise pray to God at home, at work or wherever, for each other and the church.

Church Members Meeting The Church Members annual General Meeting (AGM) is due to take place on 30th April. Pray that God would be known among the members during this time of fellowship.

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.

Spiritual Notes *Are you a wimp?*

A wimp is a man who is failing to be what a man should be. He is "Weak-In-My-Personality". And there are an awful lot of them around. Immediately, people rush for a solution in encouraging men to be more macho. However, the cure for wimpyness is not found in bigger muscles rather it is found in the spiritual realm. In fact the most physically strong men can be just as much wimps as those of us who are less well endowed in muscular terms!

So what is this all about? We live in age where the role of men is seen to be very unclear. The leadership role for man has been undermined. Men used to be accepted as the provider / leader in marriage and family units. Today this has, in many ways, been lost. So how are men to save themselves from becoming wimps. Let us reiterate here that it is not through "pumping-more-iron" in the gym. Rather it is a man finding and fulfilling his God appointed duty in life.

The essence of true manhood is found in following Jesus and not in following our own schemes and inventions. The pattern was set right at the beginning of the ministry of our Lord Jesus when He called two men, Simon and Andrew, who were involved in one of the toughest pursuits around; that of fishing. However, to realize their full potential and become true men they had to obey the command: **"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men"** (Mark 1:17). This following of Jesus is understood to mean living for God and serving Him. To put it another way a man starts to be what he should be when he becomes a Christian. This means submitting to God's call to repent of our rebellion and self assertiveness and trust in Jesus Christ who died on the cross to take away our sins. It is a lie of the devil to think that men cease being real men if they become Christians. Rather, the truth is that we start to be true men when we embrace God's call upon our lives and start to follow Christ and fish for men.

However, although it is wonderful when men start to be true men in embracing the gospel, the fact remains that many Christian men have "lost the plot" and are essentially wimps themselves. Why can we say this? We say this because so many professing Christian men fail to fulfill their responsibilities, in the family, in marriage and in the church.

Sadly wimphood among God's people has a long history. In fact we can say that the first wimp was Adam. We read in Genesis 3:1-6 how he stood on one side and allowed his wife, Eve, to "face-the- music" from Satan who was embodied in the serpent. Genesis 3:6b says **She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.** We can so easily blame Eve for being completely deceived (see 1 Tim. 2:14). However, Adam's inaction substantially contributed to the disaster. He, alone, was given the command by God (see Gen. 2:15-17) and he should have made sure it was carried out in the family home. Sadly he did not. And how that continues today. Men stand on one side and allow the women to do the spiritual stuff with the children. Men sit at home while they send their wives and children to go off to church.

Where are the men who are gathering their family around them regularly during the week to read the Word of God and to pray? Where are the men who are there, in church, with their families setting an example in leading the family in the praise of our God? How many Christian wives are there around who are just longing for their husbands to get their act together and set the spiritual tone in the family? Remember that in God's arrangement leadership is male.

And again where are the men who are giving themselves to active involvement in the church? Where are the men who are devoting themselves to the church prayer meetings and thereby fulfilling Paul's injunction in 1 Tim 2:8: **I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing?**

Of course for many men other pressing demands in their lives hinder them from fulfilling their responsibilities. However, the old adage that "where-there-is-a-will-there-is-a-way" is apt here. Notwithstanding, the legitimate demands placed upon them by jobs or family commitments many have found a way of fulfilling their commitments. In fact, we can say that the key to avoiding wimpyness is to get the right attitude.

So what are some of the implications of the failure of men to "put-their-hands-up" and be true men:

- Ladies are having to get involved in roles / responsibilities which they should never have to.
- Role models are being lost to the oncoming generation. Wimps breed wimps! Boys growing up now in the church need to see displays of true manly godliness which they can model themselves upon.
- So many men are simply wasting their lives. God calls us to be **making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil** (Eph.5:16). Many are wasting their time rather than redeeming their time for God.

Come on then you wimps out there. Get out of your comfort zone and be something for God. In fact start to be a real man. However, having stated these things, we need to be brave enough to admit that the church has contributed to this malaise. This is what we intend to look at next month.

