

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: May 2009*

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A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

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 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
2nd 10.30.a.m. Open Air

w/c 3rd May

3rd 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Peter Philpott)
3rd 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables); refreshments afterwards
3rd 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
4th 8.45.a.m. Church Outing to Littlehampton
5th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
6th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
8th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
9th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (Alun McNabb; How many will be saved?)

w/c 10th May

10th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Alun McNabb)
10th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Alun McNabb)
10th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
10th 1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch
10th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (Alun McNabb; Things I have learnt in serving the LORD for over 50

years)

12th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
12th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
13th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
15th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"

w/c 17th May

17th 9.30.a.m. Prayer and Praise
17th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables) including Lord's Supper
19th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
21st 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
22nd 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
24th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"

w/c 24th May

24th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Johnny Long)
24th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Johnny Long)
24th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
27th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
29th 9.30.a.m. Open House

w/c 31st May

31st Lord's Supper
31st Morning Service (Philip Venables)
31st 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
2nd (June) 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
3rd 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
5th 9.30.a.m. "Open House"
6th 10.30.a.m. Open Air

News

May Lin Venables had one of her kidneys removed in an operation on March 31st. She is now making good progress. We thank the LORD for His mercies.

Bob Roaf has now moved back to live in Feltham to be near to his mother who is in poor health. It is good to have him back in the area.

Lillian Kerr has now moved to reside in Derwent Lodge Care Home in Feltham.

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. We plan to leave at 8.45.a.m. We plan to travel by coach. Payment is on a voluntary contribution basis.

Feltham Bible Focus This month on May 9th, Alun McNabb is due to be preaching on the subject "How many will be saved?" Come along if you can.

Fellowship Lunch Mr McNabb is due to be with us on May 10th. On that day we plan to have a fellowship lunch together. This is to be on a bring-and-share basis. Please note as well that in the afternoon Mr McNabb is due to speak about what he has learnt in over fifty years of service for the LORD.

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.

"Open House" continues to draw a nucleus of attendees on a Friday morning. All are welcome to drop in. Pray that all the contacts we have through this ministry might come to find Christ and know God thereby.

Spiritual Notes *Are we making wimps?*

Having stated in last month's Spiritual Notes that there are wimps around, we need to be brave enough to admit that the church has, in various ways, contributed to this problem. We have failed men, by creating the impression that being a Christian man means being a wimp. In this article we intend to look at three ways where this has happened. There are no doubt other issues, but these three will hopefully make us to be thoughtful about how we "do church".

Distorted view of Jesus. Look at the role models men have and we soon realize that they are not "wimpish". However, this is often just the image we present of our role model; Jesus. We present a feminized version of our LORD. He is seen as a weak man who would not say "boo-to-a-geese". Rightly we have presented Him as the true gentleman who took children into His arms. However, we have failed to present Him as the mighty conqueror. As an example let us read these words concerning our LORD.

With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:11-16)

This is one portrayal of our Saviour. He will never fall wimpishly and acquiesce to the demands of His enemies. Rather He is the victor; every knee shall bow at His Name (see Phil. 2:10). This leads us to consider Him as the great eternal judge. In the sovereign arrangements of God, **the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,** (John 5:22). Hence we see our LORD Jesus as the Mighty One in Revelation 20 sat on the Great White Throne. He decides the eternal fate of all; He is no wimp.

Let us then get right views of our great Lord and God. This is so important because the essence of being a Christian is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. For men there is no attraction in signing up to follow a man who is a wimp. But when we accurately portray the mighty conquering LORD then the response is very different.

Spiritual Warfare. Self-evidently warfare is not for wimps. To be fit to be a soldier we have to be highly trained, committed and willing to risk all for the cause. And one of the images used in the New Testament for living the Christian life is that of spiritual warfare. Paul tells us that **our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms** (Eph. 6:12). In the ensuing verses he tells us of the armour that we need to engage in this warfare. Paul also exhorts Timothy to **endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus** (2 Tim 2:3).

Sadly, we can give the impression to people that if they become Christians then life will be easy from here-on-in with little or no difficulties. Such sentiments are denied by the clear teaching of Scripture. Experience also teaches us that there are many battles to fight in living for Christ. The imagery from the Old Testament substantiates the warfare view of the Christian life. Read the book of Joshua and see how much fighting had to be undertaken in order Israel to come to possess that which God had promised to them.

Accurately portraying Christianity as being a religion where we war against all the enemies of God is something that draws men. This is because men naturally have aggressive tendencies and they are ready for a challenge. What better way to release these energies than fighting the **good fight of the faith** (1 Tim. 6:12).

Goals. Men are task orientated and gain satisfaction in achieving goals. In the New Testament God sets Himself to be the One who is working to achieve things for His own glory. Our Saviour, for example, said that **I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.** (Matt. 16:18). Also, we notice that when the LORD sent the seventy out in Luke 10:1-17 he gave them certain duties to fulfill. Then there is the great commission itself: He said to them, **"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation** (Mark 16:15). All these are goals that God sets Himself to accomplish.

Remember, as well, Paul was told by the LORD concerning his ministry in Corinth **"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city"** (Acts 18:9-10). Consequent upon this, Paul was spurred to engage in eighteen months of ministry in Corinth. He had a goal to accomplish for God and He served God diligently with that end in view.

All of this teaches us that God is continually giving big missions to His people. And it is men who primarily are galvanized by these goals. In the scripture it is the men who have these goals set before them as a general rule. And as these goals are understood and reached for by the men then the women gladly follow their lead. Remember the order in God's ways is for the man to take the lead (see Eph. 5:25-33 for example).

Too easily in churches we have settled down into cosy maintenance mode with no thought of praying for and grasping what God wants us to move forward to. In such situations men can find themselves to be lost as regards to how they fit in. Our God is a God who thinks big and when when start to think big as churches then we will see men "buying in" to what we are about.

Let us as a church then take heed to making sure that we are aware of how God would want us to be organizing ourselves particularly in view of the need to have men making progress for Christ among us.

