

# **Feltham Evangelical Church** *Newsletter: January 2010*

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

### **Calendar**

**w/c 27<sup>th</sup> December**

27th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
 27th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (George Verwer)  
 30th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 2nd 10.30.a.m. Open Air

**w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

3rd 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
 3rd 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables); refreshments afterwards.  
 3rd 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 3rd 6.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting  
 4th 7.30.p.m. Prayer Meeting  
 5th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
 5th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 6th 7.00.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
 6th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 8th 9.00.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
 8th 10.00.a.m. Open House  
 9th 9.00.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
 9th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (Peter Mead: *Tell Me about the Lord's Return*)

**w/c 10<sup>th</sup> January**

10th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Gary Donaldson)  
 10th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Gary Donaldson)  
 10th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 10th 1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch  
 10th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (Gary Donaldson)  
 12th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting

12th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 13th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Report (Istvan Salanki)  
 14th 7.30.p.m. Church Members Meeting  
 15th 10.00.a.m. Open House

**w/c 17<sup>th</sup> January**

17th 9.30.a.m. Prayer and Praise  
 17th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables) including Lord's Supper  
 17th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 19th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 20th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 22nd 10.00.a.m. Open House

**w/c 24<sup>th</sup> January**

24th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
 24th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
 24th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 26th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 27th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study (Gerald Yuen)  
 29th 10.00.a.m. Open House

**w/c 31<sup>st</sup> January**

31st 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Peter Philpott)  
 31st 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
 31st 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 2nd (Feb) 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 3rd 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 5th 10.00.a.m. Open House  
 6th 10.30.a.m. Open Air

### **Notes**

Ladies Study Day On January 23<sup>rd</sup> Hayes Town Chapel invite all ladies connected with the church to join them for a special day of studies between 10.00.a.m and 4.30.p.m. Elaine Campbell from Africa Inland Mission, is due to be the speaking on issues relating to missionary work.

Week of Prayer A New Year gives us a new opportunity, in faith (see Spiritual Notes below), to seek the loving hand of our Father as regards to His work in Feltham Evangelical Church. Accordingly the first week of January sees us with extra prayer meetings arranged for us to meet together to pray. Please come to one or more of these meetings if you can. Alternatively, make a point of praying at home for all the people and activities of the church.

Fasting As we have a week of prayer why not consider fasting as well to give emphasis to your commitment to God and His ways. How about forgoing a meal or two to devote yourself to prayer.

Church Members Meeting On January 14<sup>th</sup> a Church Members Meeting is scheduled. Pray God's hand upon Church Members as they meet together in fellowship.

Feltham Bible Focus enters its fourth year on January 9<sup>th</sup> when Peter Mead from Operation Mobilisation is due to be with us. He is due to speak on the important, but much neglected subject of the Lord's Return.

Gift Aid If you give to the church and are a taxpayer then why not consider using the Gift Aid Scheme. Using this scheme allows the church be gain extra benefit from your giving. This is a wise way to make your giving more effective. Please see Sheila for more details about this.

Fellowship Lunch On January 10<sup>th</sup> Gary Donaldson who is UK Secretary to the Lanka Evangelical Fellowship of Churches is due to be with us. At the afternoon service on that day he will inform us of something of the work which God is doing in Sri Lanka. Before that, between the morning and afternoon service we plan to have lunch together; this is due to be on a bring-and-share basis. .

Open House re-commences for the New Year on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the timing is being slightly altered. We intend to open from 10.00.a.m. to midday. Please pray that the opportunity for people to drop-by on Friday morning might be used of God to help people contact with Himself.

## News

Michael Loosley has spent most of December in Ealing hospital after collapsing at the hospital when he went there for examinations. He returned home on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Rosalena and Christian Cleofas are due to be away in Spain until early / mid January visiting Rosalena's sister.

Shonnelly and Michaela Layne are due to be away in Grenada until February.

### **Spiritual Notes     *Have Faith in God.***

Will 2010 be a successful year for us individually and as a church? As we stand at the threshold of a New Year we might wonder what it holds for us. As we look ahead, though, we can be clear that if it is a year full of faith then it will be a successful year. But what does that mean amidst the realities of life?

God's Word asserts that **without faith it is impossible to please God** (Heb. 11:6a). Life is about pleasing God. When we please God we live life to the full. Faith must be in evidence for there to be pleasure for God in our lives.

But what is faith? Faith always looks to God. Faith does not depend upon circumstances or feelings, but depends upon God. In exercising faith I bring my mind, will and heart to rely on God. Amidst all the changing experiences and emotions of life faith continually cries: "God is able". This gets us to the heart of the great faith chapter of the Bible; Hebrews 11. Here we have a catalogue of men and women who amid the changing happenings of life looked to God and relied upon Him knowing that He is able. And as they did this, God was pleased, and they knew success in their lives.

A false teaching that pervades in certain areas of the Christian church is that faith always leads to good health and material prosperity. This is contrary to Scripture and contrary to experience. Hebrews 11:33-38 shows how the faithful can have differing experiences consequent upon their faith. For those in vv33-35a things went wonderfully; they were delivered and preserved in remarkable ways. For those in vv35b-38 things went disastrously; they were afflicted and suffered terribly. However, both groups are said to have been possessors of faith. To that extent both had great success because they each had great faith. Let us be clear then that absence or presence of faith cannot be deduced from looking at someone's circumstances.

This is so important for us to be aware of. We must have faith. Through having faith we may be given a whole range of outcomes and experiences by God ranging from the wonderful to the disastrous! But as long as we have faith then we can judge that our lives are a success. Faith then always looks to God; it does not look to outcomes. Faith does not say that I want this therefore if I believe God it will come to me. Faith says I believe God and trust Him to do what is for His glory and for my benefit.

Not only is faith the means by which I live amidst the changing circumstances of life, it is the means by which I know God. To this extent we can conceive of faith as a pipeline. Faith as a pipeline connects me with God and thereby releases into my life the reality of the life of God. Wisdom from God, Spiritual power, the peace which passes understanding, love and joy; all these come by faith. In fact, through my faith Christ lives His life through me. This is an amazing concept, but surely it is the implication of Galatians 2:20: **The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

Without faith we have no life from God in our lives. In such a situation we live according to the ways of the world. This being so we are dependent upon our circumstances and feelings for our fulfilment. However, faith raises us up beyond this world. John puts it like this: **everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God** (1 John 5:4b-5). We must notice that faith that is truly effective and transforming is only faith that faith which acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God.

So in view of all this what must we do to have faith? Essentially faith is connected with prayer. In looking to God we pray and in looking to God we have faith. However, such trust in God must operate along guidelines and they are found in Scripture. The Lord Jesus says with regard to the disciples praying to Him that **I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father** (John 14:13). Asking in Jesus Name means asking that which is in line with His character. We find out what this is by studying scripture.

Let us then venture into 2010 in faith trusting in God. Thereby we can be assured that we will have a successful year because **Without faith it is impossible to please God** (Heb. 11:6a)