

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: February 2010*

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 31st 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 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

w/c 7th February

7th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper
 7th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 7th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
 9th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 9th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 10th 7.00.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 10th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 12th 10.00.a.m. Open House
 13th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (Robert Strivens; *Does God love Homosexuals?*)

w/c 14th February

14th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Robert Strivens)
 14th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Robert Strivens)

14th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
 14th 1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch
 14th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (Robert Strivens)
 17th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 19th 10.00.a.m. Open House

w/c 21st February

21st 9.30.a.m. Prayer and Praise
 21st 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables) including Lord's Supper
 21st 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
 23rd 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 23rd 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse
 24th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 26th 10.00.a.m. Open House

w/c 28th February

28th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper
 28th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 28th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
 2nd (March) 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

Tuesday morning prayer meeting From this month we intend to add a further Tuesday morning prayer meeting each month. So from now on prayer meetings are due to take place at the Church Building at 9.30.a.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Supervision of Children. The Church takes responsibility for children during Sunday School and Lighthouse. However, at all other times parents have responsibility for their children. So parents if your children are not in either Lighthouse or Sunday School you must make sure that they are safe and not behaving in a way which might lead to unnecessary accidents or problems.

Refreshments From this month we intend to have refreshments available in the rear hall after the 11.00. a.m. service on each Sunday (except the third Sunday of the month).

Flowers Do you want to contribute to the flowers displayed in church each week. Then please decide which week you want, put your name on the list in the entrance hall and pass your money to Trish at the appropriate time.

Feltham Bible Focus sees us, this month, having a visit from Robert Strivens who is the Principal at London Theological Seminary (LTS). He will seek to give us biblical material to seek to understand God's view on the sensitive subject of homosexuality.

Fellowship Lunch On February 14th Mr Strivens is also due to be with us to preach God's Word. At the afternoon service on that day he will inform us of something of the work of LTS. He will also challenge us as to why we should all be concerned for the training of future church leaders. 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.

A Passion for Life special mission week is being organized by Ashford Congregational Church from February 13th to 21st. If you would like further information regarding this leaflets are available in the entrance hall at the Church Building.

George Verwer's message preached to the church on December 27th is available on DVD. If you would like a copy telephone 020 8777 5268 or e-mail george@verwer.om.org

News

Margaret Lee has now formally been welcomed into the membership of the church. We trust God's blessing upon her.

Roxanne Canzius has been suffering over these last few weeks with much weakness. She has had to have one stay overnight at West Middlesex hospital.

Spiritual Notes *Death and faith*

Death is the great leveller. Servants and masters, rich and poor, black and white; all are set to die. The principle of scripture is this: **man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment** (Heb. 9:27). According to the thinking of the world death is the end. There is no capacity in the world's thinking to think rationally and reasonably about death and what is beyond. With no ability to see anything outside and beyond this life, life becomes a meaningless thing. Solomon expresses it like this: **I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me** (Eccl. 2:18).

However, faith views things completely differently. Jacob in Genesis 47:27-48:22 knew that he was about to die. This is stated in 47:29 and 48:21. And yet after his chequered spiritual career as recorded in Genesis with all its mixture of faith and unbelief; scheming and dishonesty, misery and delight, he is now full of faith. This is confirmed in the Hebrews 11 that chapter of the heroes of faith, it is this part of Jacob's life, that is when he is dying, which calls attention to his faith (see Heb. 11:21).

There is now no misery with Jacob. He is not morbidly looking back over lost opportunities and wasted efforts. Rather he is a man looking forward. This is what faith does. Faith looks forward, faith is optimistic. Faith can act this way because God is in the future; He is alive and He is working for the glory of His Name and our benefit. Faith is the most reasonable and sensible response to any crisis in our lives. Let us look, then, at some of the reflections of faith in Jacob.

Faith wants to be connected with God's place.

The land of Canaan had been promised to Abraham's descendants by God (see Gen. 15:18). Jacob had hesitated to leave the land until God convinced him in a dream that this was right (see Gen. 46:1-4). But now Jacob was going to make sure that in death his connection was firmly re-established with Canaan and so he asked Joseph to bury him there with his fathers (see Gen. 47:29-30). By application we challenge ourselves as regards to where we desire to be. Do we long to know of our connection with the world or with the church? God's place on earth today is found wherever His people meet together as "church". This can be in a building, under a shelter or out in the open.

Faith worships.

Jacob got the outcome he wanted. He wanted Joseph to take his remains to Canaan and that is what Joseph promised to do. The worldly way is to say that he was fortunate or lucky to get this commitment out of Joseph. However, faith sees things differently; it appreciates that God is working in this situation. Accordingly, Jacob responds by worshipping the God who is good. Heb. 11:21b records how at this time Jacob **worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff.**

Faith appreciates God's goodness.

The difference between the Christian and non-Christian is very often seen most demonstrably in old age. The non-Christian is inclined towards bitterness. They look back on a life soon gone. Moreover, reduced energy levels and accompanying weakness gives the sense of not being able to enjoy life.

However, the believer has the great privilege of looking back and seeing how good God has been. Accordingly we read of Jacob that he says to Joseph **"God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and there he blessed me (Gen. 48:3).** Further he says to him **"I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too."** And finally we read of the God who **has been my shepherd all my life to this day. Are you a believer?** Is our faith demonstrated by our inclination to speak of God's goodness towards us?

Faith looks to the next generation.

The believer appreciates that the ongoing mission of the Kingdom of God does not terminate upon their decease. Genesis 48:4 indicates how the LORD had said to Jacob back at Luz that **'I am going to make you fruitful and will increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.'** Now with Manasseh and Ephraim in front of him he can see how this will have fulfilment. And he asks God **to bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly upon the earth** (Gen. 48:16b).

What of ourselves! Are we focussed upon the ongoing mission of God in this world? Or are we just think about our personal lot. Regardless of our personal circumstances, let us be fixing our vision of God building His church

Jacob then died in faith. Let us pray that should we be called to pass through death that we would emulate Jacob in having strong faith. But, we need to be reminded that in all circumstances we need to be strong in faith. In doing so we can be numbered among those who through faith see God and therefore have optimism in our hearts.

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