

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

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

### **Calendar**

#### **w/c 25<sup>th</sup> April**

25th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Zac Mollallegn)  
 25th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
 25th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 27th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 28th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study (Phil Symes)  
 30th 10.00.a.m. Open House  
 1st 10.30.a.m. Town Centre Evangelism

#### **w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

4th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
 4th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
 2nd 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 3rd 8.45.a.m. Outing to Littlehampton  
 4th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 5th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 7th 10.00.a.m. Open House  
 8th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (Brian Allenby; *The Worth of Work*)

#### **w/c 9<sup>th</sup> May**

9th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Brian Allenby)  
 9th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Brian Allenby)  
 9th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 9th 1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch  
 9th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (Brian Allenby)  
 11th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
 11th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse

12th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study

14th 10.00.a.m. Open House

#### **w/c 16<sup>th</sup> May**

16th 9.30.a.m. Prayer and Praise  
 16th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables) including Lord's Supper  
 16th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 18th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 19th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 23rd 10.00.a.m. Open House

#### **w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

23rd 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper (Graham King)  
 23rd 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Graham King)  
 23rd 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 25th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting  
 25th 5.45.p.m. Lighthouse  
 26th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 28th 10.00.a.m. Open House

#### **w/c 30<sup>th</sup> May**

30th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper  
 30th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)  
 30th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School  
 2nd (June) 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study  
 4th 10.00.a.m. Open House  
 5th 10.30.a.m. Town Centre Evangelism

### **Notes**

**General Election** On May 6<sup>th</sup> the church premises are due to be being used as a polling station for the election due to be taking place on that day.

**Church Outing** We plan once again this year to visit Littlehampton on as a church on May Day Bank Holiday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We plan to leave at 8.45.a.m. We are due to travel by coach. Payment is on a voluntary contribution basis. If you are coming then remember to bring clothing suitable for the potential weather on that day.

**London City Mission** celebrate 175 years of evangelising for God in London on May 16<sup>th</sup>. On that day we intend to use part of our service to join with them in thanking God for the ministry which he has given them.

**Town Centre Evangelism** On the subject of evangelism we have now been going out for Open Air Witness in the town centre for two years. Tim Whitton from the Open Air Mission has been regularly with us over that time. Pray for this aspect of the church work and join us if you can. We plan to continue to go out on each first Saturday of the month.

**Child Protection Policy.** Please note that the church has a copy of this in place. All of those involved with children's activities in the church (Lighthouse and Sunday School) should familiarize themselves with the contents. If necessary please see Trish for a copy.

**Bible Study** This month we are due to draw to an end in studying Hebrews on a Wednesday evening. Thereafter we plan to move to the old Testament and study the book of Ezra. It is good for us to study the Bible together so come along if you can.

**Feltham Bible Focus** focuses this month upon the the issue of work and how valuable it is in the sight of God. Brian Allenby, from Christians at Work is due to be speaking of the subject "The worth of Work."

**Fellowship Lunch** On May 9th<sup>th</sup> we plan to have a fellowship lunch together. This is due to be on a bring-and-share basis. All are welcome. In the afternoon Mr Allenby, who is our preacher for the day, is due to speak on the subject "Unemployment, redundancy and seeking work."

### **News**

**Abigail Morrison** was taken quite seriously ill on April 18<sup>th</sup> and had to be hospitalized for a time. Happily she is now recovered.

**Tom Asiedu** is hoping to be able to get back from Ghana. He is presently caught up in the hiatus in air travel caused by the volcanic ash..

## **Spiritual Notes      Why were we not consulted????!!**

In the midst of life all of us are caught in situations where plans are laid, by others, which impact upon us. Sometimes, roles might be reversed and such planning might have to be done by ourselves. This is a common experience in all organisations whether it be in the workplace, in a family, in a church or wherever. The question arises as to how we, as those affected by such arrangements, respond when we are not happy with the plans.

In this context it is interesting to consider the Ephraimites and how they responded to the conquering of the Midianites by Gideon and the people of Israel. The specific passage is in Judges 7:23 – 8:3.

In calling together a force of men to attack the Midianites Gideon had drawn from the tribes of Manassah, Zebulun, Asher and Naphtali (see Judges 6:35). In due course, through the marvellous workings of God, an army of three hundred men gathered from these tribes defeated the vast hordes of the Midianites (see Jud. 7:1-22). It was an incredible victory! In seeking to eliminate any future threat from the Midianites Gideon enlisted the support of the Ephraimites to assist with the cleaning up operations. They duly got involved and were most successful. Their success included capturing two Midianite princes, Oreb and Zeeb (see Jud. 7:23-25).

We look at all this and wonder at such a mighty triumph wrought by God through His people and wonder what could be wrong. However, we soon find that the Ephraimites were miffed. Instead of looking to see how glorious this triumph was in the working out of God's glorious purposes they were occupied with self-interest. Their "noses were put out" by the fact that Gideon had not approached them when he was gathering his force from the tribes of Israel (see Jud. 8:1). They effectively say "why were WE not consulted in the first place!!!!???" Their response seems to be so out-of-order and yet how often we see this replicated today. In church life when something works out in a way that they do not like then they take issue with the way things have been done.

Notwithstanding how he might have felt Gideon is so amazingly gracious in his response. When you think about how much he had risked through fulfilling God's call on his life and how he had seen God mightily at work we could almost have excused Gideon for exploding at the the Ephraimites. Nevertheless, he quells any potential bad feeling by his wise and godly response. He draws the attention of the Ephraimites to how much God had used them in gaining His victory and most graciously downplays his own role (see Jud. 8:2-3).

When we stop and think about it how up-to-date and familiar this all sounds. How often do we hear people complaining in offices, factories (and yes very sadly churches) that "I am not happy because I was not consulted". Or people say "Nobody spoke to me about this new arrangement and so I am not going to co-operate".

In the situation, as described in Judges 6-8 it is no doubt possible to say that the Ephraimites had a case. There is no reason given as to why Gideon chose from the tribes which he did. But when you think about:

- the pressure on Gideon; he was facing a humanly impossible task. The fact that he double-checked God's calling in Judges 6:36-40 through the putting out of the fleece indicates how overwhelming he felt his task to be.
- The fact that the outcome was a great victory for God.
- The Ephraimites had a great role to play in achieving the victory.

When you think about these things the attitude of the Ephraimites surely seems to be completely outrageous.

So the next time you think about complaining that the proper process has not been followed think about these things first and seek to get some perspective:

- Think of the pressure that those in leadership may well be under. In the church think about the spiritual opposition which the elders are facing. We are not here saying that any deceit or malpractice by the elders should be excused. However, think about giving the benefit of the doubt when the elders do not happen to speak to exactly everybody or call a meeting at the right time when they are seeking to make a decision to move the church forward.
- Think about the outcome. Is what is taking place as a result of the decision in harmony with God's word. It may not be exactly what you want, but are you going to stage a boycott or raise a complaint just because it was not organised exactly the way you wanted it.
- Are you able to fulfil your ministry for God? If you are then praise God.

So the next time you want to take issue with the way decisions have been arrived at at home, work school or in church remember the selfish pre-occupations of the Ephraimites. And remember for for the sake of our LORD to determine to not cause an unnecessary fuss.

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