

Feltham Evangelical Church *Newsletter: August 2010*

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Calendar

w/c 25th July

25th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper
 25th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 25th 11.15.a.m. Sunday School
 27th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 28th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 30th 10.00.a.m. Open House

w/c 1st August

1st 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper
 1st 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 4th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 7th 10.30.a.m. Town Centre Evangelism

w/c 8th August

8th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper
 8th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Neil Kinghorn)
 8th 1.00.p.m. Fellowship Lunch
 8th 2.00.p.m. Afternoon Service (Neil Kinghorn)
 10th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 11th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study

14th 7.00.p.m. Feltham Bible Focus (Philip Venables; Coping with stress)

w/c 15th August

15th 9.30.a.m. Prayer and Praise (Phil Symes)
 15th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Phil Symes) including Lord's Supper
 21st 9.00.a.m. "Clear-up"

w/c 22nd August

22nd 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper
 22nd 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 24th 9.30.a.m. Prayer Meeting
 25th 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 27th 10.00.a.m. Open House

w/c 29th August

29th 9.30.a.m. Lord's Supper
 29th 11.00.a.m. Morning Service (Philip Venables)
 30th 10.30.a.m. Fellowship Day
 1st (Sept) 7.30.p.m. Prayer / Bible Study
 3rd 10.00.a.m. Open House
 4th 10.30.a.m. Town Centre Evangelism

News

Michael Venables, Fabio de Campos and Joshua Venables are due to be away at camp in Wales from 31st July. This is with Christian Camps in Wales. Pray to the LORD for a good time for them.

Bita Garahbagi commenced a new job on July 19th with Citizens Advice Bureau in Walton. She is also recovering from a broken foot sustained on July 3rd.

Notes

Feltham Bible Focus this month gives us an opportunity to look at the issue of stress and how we cope with it. The meeting takes place on August 14th at 7.00.p.m.

Sunday School During August there will be no Sunday school during the morning service. The teachers, Sheila Hume, Trish Howard, Daphne Henderson and Diana Asiedu are taking a well-earned rest. Please continue to bring your children to the services, though, so that they can learn of our God in the service.

Fellowship Lunch On August 8th Neil Kinghorn is due to be with us. He serves God with London City Mission and has particular responsibility to work with The Ambulance Service and on the Olympics sites. On that day we plan to have a fellowship lunch together. This is to be on a bring-and-share basis. Please note that in the afternoon Neil is due to tell us something about the work he is involved in in serving the LORD.

Clear-up On Saturday 21st August we plan to spend the morning clearing up the church premises. Come along and lend a hand if you can.

Parents and Children are welcome to drop in at the church building to spend some time together on the mornings of August 3rd, 10th and 24th. The building is due to be open from 10.15.a.m. Please note parents have responsibility to supervise and care for their own children at these times.

Fellowship Day On the August Bank Holiday Monday, August 30th, we plan to have a day together as a fellowship. The plan is for this to be based at the church building and include lunch together. We plan to start at 10.30.a.m.

Open House is taking a three week break this month. Accordingly on August 6th, 13th and 20th there will be no Open House.

Spiritual Notes *Be careful who you marry!*

It has been said that the second most important decision in life is who you marry. The most important decision, of course, is whether or not we commit ourselves to Christ Jesus the LORD and be saved. The right choice in respect of a marriage partner is vital because the closeness of the marriage relationship means that we are immeasurably impacted by our husband / wife. We are therefore going to seek to discern some principles from God's Word which will guide us in this important matter.

You may not marry It is important to establish initially that it is not the calling of every Christian to be married. Paul gave the counsel **Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion** (1 Cor 7:8-9). Similarly in Matthew 18:12b the LORD speaks of those who **have renounced marriage because of the kingdom of heaven**. So let us make no imposition that everyone should find a marriage partner. But for those who seek

marriage they should.....

Marry another Christian. The act of a Christian marrying a non-Christian is seen by God as a serious disobedience to His command. The LORD says in 2 Cor. 6:14 **Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?** Joining in marriage with an unbeliever then is strictly prohibited in scripture. The issue is laid bare in Ezra 10:2a where we read that **Shecaniah son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, said to Ezra, "We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the peoples around us...."**

Marry in the LORD In 1 Cor 7:39 Paul speaks about, what most Bible versions, refer to as marrying in the LORD. This seems to reflect a degree of unity between husband and wife which goes beyond that of just finding another Christian to marry. It means that you share common views on many basics of the Christian faith and how we live this out. If this is not the case then you may find that the marriage is dominated by continuous disputes and bickering. It may mean as well that husband and wife end up attending different churches which is always unsatisfactory. This means that you must talk seriously about many issues before you are married. The book by Brian and Barbara Edwards: "No longer Two" is a great help in making sure we discuss relevant issues.

Be in the right place As Christians we do not go to church to find a marriage partner. However, if we do not go to church then we are unlikely to find a godly person to marry. If you commit to being in the right place in your life, which is always the place where God wants you to be, then you can trust Him to direct you in His ways. The principles of Proverbs 3:5-6 are tried and tested: **Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.** If there are not people of your age in your church then make sure that you link up with others of your age who are in other good churches in the locality. God makes a way for those who seek to honour Him.

Seek counsel. The major consequences of committing to a lifetime with someone else mean that we should always be careful to make sure we seek the wise advice of others. In Psalm 71:18 we read **Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.** Older ones in particular have learnt things which can help us. Falling in love can lead to blindness; we just do not see the dangers of this potential marriage because of a failure to see the character deficiencies of the other person. In particular we need to respect our parents in this matter. Unless, our parents are non-believers and their advice is completely anti-Christian then we should take careful heed to what they say.

Be godly The best marriage partner you can have is a godly one. To have a husband or wife who longs for God and to serve him and live for him is such an amazing blessing. However, such a person is only likely to be attracted to another who is godly. Young Christian sisters if you want to attract a husband who is godly then do not dress and make yourself up like worldly girls. A godly man is primarily looking for **your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight** (1 Pet. 3:4). Young men in Christ give yourselves to prayer and the Word; a godly sister will only be interested in a brother who wants to know God.

I am married to an unbeliever. You may say that all the information above is all well and good, but here I am stuck with an unbelieving spouse; what am I to do? The first thing you may need to do is repent. It may be that you have ended up in the position through a sinful rejection of God's commands. If this is the case you need to repent of this. Then, you must set yourself to pray for your husband / wife; that above all that they would be saved. Related to this is the need to pray for yourself that you would be a good witness for God in the marriage. Peter gives the wise counsel that **Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives** (1 Pet. 3:1-2). And in all this you should get the church to join you in praying. How we should all in the church be longing that those with unconverted spouses have the joy of seeing their husbands / wives saved.

And finally let us be careful to handle these matters with prayerful care. If you hear that someone is to be married there is often a knee-jerk response to offer effusive congratulations. However, the couple may be completely unsuited and a disaster may be at hand if they go ahead and marry. And even worse if there is a believer marrying an unbeliever then the matter is simply sinful. So be careful how you respond to the news of a planned marriage.

Christian marriages, when found to be healthy and strong, are an amazing power for good. As much that lies within us then let us make sure that marriages are arranged according to God's pattern. And remember if we refuse to follow God's pattern then we are always headed for problems.