

Preaching today

AM: BILL ELLIOTT

PM: BILL ELLIOTT

ATTENDANCE STATS.

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP: 104

SUNDAY PM WORSHIP: 64

WEDNESDAY EVENING: 51

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS: R3426.00

WEEKLY BUDGET: R3 500.00

SERVING ROSTER

Today – 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. '06

**SINGING**

am – Quintin Le Roux

pm – Mike Baisley

**OPENING PRAYER**

am – Ivan Engelbrecht

pm – Daniel Kovacs

**LORD'S TABLE**

am – Con Badenhorst

pm – Adriaan Le Roux

**SCRIPTURE READING**

am – Rodney Share

pm – Justin Le Roux

**CLOSING PRAYER**

am – Braam Le Roux

pm – Chester Woodhall

**FLOWERS**

Pamela Granger

Next Week – 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. '06

**SINGING**

am – Mike Baisley

pm – Mike Baisley

**OPENING PRAYER**

am – Justin Le Roux

pm – Ivan Engelbrecht

**LORD'S TABLE**

am – Rodney Share

pm – Gavin Baisley

**SCRIPTURE READING**

am – Dan Harding

pm – Quinton Le Roux

**CLOSING PRAYER**

am – Jason Le Roux

pm – Jason Le Roux

**FLOWERS**

Brenda Baisley

**TEA DUTY (AM):** Veronica,  
Tippy, Celest, Gillian, Lucinda

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Thelna Birkholtz and Ordene Engelbrecht on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jackie Oelofse on 27<sup>th</sup>

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Chester and Angela Woodhall on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Church Office Hours:** Tuesday - Friday : 9.00 am - 1.00 pm

**Service Times:** Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School: 9.00 am, **Sunday Services:** 10.00 am and 6.30 pm

**Mid-Week Bible Study:** Wednesday : 7.00 pm, **Last Wednesday of each Month** - Singing

**Ladies Mid-Week Bible Study:** Wednesday: 10.00 am



**EAST LONDON – CHURCH OF**

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2006

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**What's the Truth about Truth?**

I introduced this question last Sunday morning to begin a series of lessons for the next few Sunday mornings. It is an important question. It is directly prompted by the question Pilate asked of Jesus as he considered the accusations brought before him against Jesus: "What is truth?" John 18:38

Pilate could have asked this question with any one of several attitudes or motivations, such as disgust, ridicule, aggravation, or sarcasm. Nevertheless, it was prompted by the answer Jesus gave to one of Pilate's earlier questions: "Are you a king?" John 18:33

Sometimes Jesus masterfully answered questions that needed to be asked, even when they were not asked. Sometimes He answered in a manner to expose and silence His opponents in the folly of their attempts to trap or outwit Him. In the case of Pilate, Jesus answered in such a way as to divert this mockery of a trial to the central conflict of the matter. It was the fact that he came to proclaim truth that had set Him at odds with His nation and the religious leaders of His day. Truth in religion is never popular or well received, and it never has been by the majority. Nevertheless, truth is a subject that merits serious consideration.

Jesus told Pilate that His kingdom was not of this world, this realm, or from here, depending on the translation you read. (John 18:36) Clearly, He is contrasting the nature of His kingdom with those seen and made of, by, and for men. Having admitted to being a king, Jesus further told Pilate, "For this reason I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37) Here, Jesus diverts the discussion from kings and kingdoms to what was

world for the very purpose of speaking the truth. Being king was not His primary focus; He was already King of kings, and Lord of lords, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Since in His last hours in human form Jesus stated His mission and purpose as being about truth, should not the truth also be of paramount importance to us? Earlier that last evening, Jesus had stated privately to His apostles, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me.” This means that Jesus is the very embodiment of these things; He is the Truth.

The world sees “spiritual truth” from many different perspectives. Their views of spiritual truth are *not consistent* with their views of worldly truth, wherein logic and reason are expected. I submit that spiritual truth should also be based on a recognizable standard, one that can be agreed upon by all rational human beings. However, “...even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools...” (Romans 1:21-22) Sadly, this story is as old as time itself.

Let us take a good look at the evidence for Jesus being the Truth and the Divine Messenger of God’ s Word. The choice is really quite simple. Either there is a true and living God Who has revealed Himself to us through Jesus, or there is not. If Jesus is not the truth, then “...we are of all men most to be pitied.” (1Corinthians 15:19) If Jesus is the truth, then His church does not need to be pitied, but rather embraced. What do you think? Moreover, what (or Who) do you think the truth is? I submit that your eternal life depends on your response to this question.

In Christian Love

Bill Elliott



**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CELLPHONE IS SWITCHED**

**OFF**

**PRIOR TO SERVICE**

## BENEVOLENCE AND FUND RAISING

Thank you very much to all those who have helped with our Benevolence Ministries. Please continue to do so, as these people are in great need of the love of Christians and of Christ himself.

**RECIPE BOOK:** Erika Roberts is planning to publish a church recipe book to raise funds for the benevolence ministry. Members are requested to forward their favourite recipe to Erika for inclusion in the recipe book.

**HUNGRY HARRY:** For next week – Soup Packets and Tea Bags (26)

## VISITORS

Thank you for coming to worship with us. Every one of you is very special to us and to God Himself. Please speak to one of our members if you have an interest in our Bible studies or pastoral counselling services.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Millie Crossley, Louise Crossley, Jean Goldswain, Rod Share, Johan Smulders, Muriel Schultz, Maelin Santa Maria, Basil Baisley and family, Chris Blom and family and May de Bruin. Expectant mom Genieve on the pending arrival of her first child. Erlinda and Ismael Piedad.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please update your directories with the contact details for Bill Elliott – Cell No. 084 738 1041, e-mail Bill@ElliottEnterprises.com

## CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

**WEDNESDAY: 25<sup>TH</sup> January '06 – Ladies Morning Classes at 10:00.** The Topic will be “Our Spiritual Warfare” Ephesians 6: 10 – 20 God has a plan for you.

**WEDNESDAY: 25<sup>th</sup> January '06 at 19:00 – Bible Study – Acts with Bill Elliott.**

**SUNDAY: 29<sup>TH</sup> January – Tea after morning service.**

All updates and or news items for the bulletin are to be forwarded to Pamela Granger by Friday 16:00. Cell: 082 898 8083 Work: Tel 745 2081 Home 735 4612 E-Mail hpls.granger@absamail.co.za