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# KEAM ROAD BULLETIN

29TH OCTOBER 2006

## WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF “CHURCH”?

Today, “church” is generally viewed as an organization designed, built, and operated by the will and decisions of men and/or women. It is perceived like a club that one voluntarily joins and in which one participates to the degree one feels comfortable and chooses. Since one pays the dues to be a member of a “club”, one has the right to determine his degree of involvement. Perhaps this arises from an errant view of weekly giving. But nobody pays dues for membership or to “join” the church. In fact, “joining” the church is not even a Biblical description. One is added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47) when one accepts His terms for membership.

Payment for membership in the Lord’s church was “the blood of the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) However, this concept of joining the church is widely held by the world, both religious and irreligious. Sadly, it is also the view held by many who profess membership in the church of Christ. However, this view is ENTIRELY foreign to the Biblical concept. In the beginning, Christians (the church) had no such foolish notions!

A brief study of the word “church” is in order. It appears to be derived from the Greek kuriakos, meaning belonging to the Lord. The Greek ekklesia and the Latin ecclesia are of particular interest. Ecclesia is the word from which we derive the idea of ecclesiastes, or church matters. Ekklesia is the Greek word that the Holy Spirit used, rendered “church” in nearly every English translation, to designate God’s people. It appears about 116 times in the New Testament. Ekklesia was a word already in the Greek vocabulary prior to the writing of the New Testament. In common Greek usage, ekklesia denoted an assembly. In the sermon that cost him his physical life, the inspired Steven used ekklesia (Acts 7:38) to refer to God’s Old Testament chosen ones (Israel) in the wilderness.

Seeing that the word “church” itself has no inherent religious meaning, it simply refers to a recognizable group or assembly. When one is a member of the church described in the Bible, he is a member of the church of Christ - the one body attached spiritually to the one head. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4-6; Colossians 1:18; 1Corinthians 12:20,27) Among other descriptions, it is referred to as the church of the Lord, the called out body, the church of Christ, the church of God, the Way, the Saints, the household of God, and the church He (Jesus) purchased with His own blood. These are but a few of the Biblical descriptions of the saved, those chosen of God through Jesus Christ. It is, quite simply, the Lord’s church.

### ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Morning 10:00  
 Worship Assembly

Sunday Morning 9:00  
 Bible Study

Sunday Evening 18:30  
 Worship Assembly

Wednesday Ladies 10:00  
 Class

Wednesday Eve- 19:00  
 ning Bible Study

### LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mike Baisley  
 Cell: 083 500 7271

Dan Harding  
 Cell: 084 951 2436

Braam Le Roux  
 Cell: 072 195 6104

Hugh Granger  
 Cell: 082 290 1223

### EVANGELIST AND BIBLE TEACHER

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In the Bible, the church is distinguished by only one thing - its location - like Rome, Corinth, Galatia, etc. No church in the Bible is EVER distinguished in name by advocating some peculiar doctrine, by their special type of organization, by their special worship practices, or by their founder's name - other than Jesus Christ or God. Whenever a church is noted for its deviation from the sound doctrine of Christ and the Apostles, it is with a view toward warning that church of the Lord's displeasure and their impending peril. Read about the seven churches of Asia Minor in Revelation 2 & 3. Even then, these churches that were noted for their unsound doctrine and practices were distinguished only by their locations - Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Therefore, nearly all modern religious groups professing Christ must be questioned simply by virtue of their use of a name that is not found in the word of God.

Now, back to the original line of thinking about the church not being a "club" of sorts. The word "fellowship" meant a lot more to the early Christians than it does to us today. We generally think of fellowship as getting together to eat. The early church was in peril for their very existence. (Hebrews 10:32-33) They were viewed as heretics, fools, or criminals by most. (Acts 28:22) To them, fellowship meant sharing in danger, suffering, and persecution. (1Peter 4:16) It meant gathering together before or after work on the Lord's Day, a regular workday for most of them. (Acts 20:7) It meant continual devotion "to the apostles' doctrine and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42) It meant planning all their lives around risking their lives for the sake of the gospel. (1Corinthians 9:23) It meant sacrifice and effort in serving. (Matthew 20:28; 25:23)

To the first century Christians, the faith meant a lot more than just worshipping, and certainly a lot more than just worshipping if it was "convenient" and had a clearly defined starting and ending times. (Acts 20:7-9) Read just the first chapter of Philippians to see all the suffering, sacrifice, and risk that Paul and the church endured, and all the effort they expended in their faith. They did not limit their risk or effort to an hour or two a week, and it meant a lot more to them than "fitting in" with the world did. (Romans 12:2) They upset the world with their zeal. (Acts 17:6; Titus 2:14) They did not come together, worship, or study only if it was "convenient" for them. They made it a priority! They would not deny their faith even under persecution. (Acts 8:4; 5:42; 4:19) If they did waver, they received a stern warning, not comfort: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebrews 2:3)

Jesus gave His whole life to and eventually died for the establishment and growth of the church. He "paid the dues" for all to be members of His church. Indeed, participation (fellowship) is optional, but the dues are already paid in full. Every person has the choice. Nevertheless, Jesus said that once the choice is made, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62) He rejects those who are unfaithful and unproductive in His service. (Matthew 25:25-26, 30)

So, the following questions must be asked. How can one that does no more than occasional (or even regular) attendance of Sunday morning worship escape the wrath of God. Just hearing about the Lord's work and the work of others, and even heartily agreeing with and approving them, does not suffice to save one's soul. (Matthew 7:21; James 1:22) How can one choose other things first and neglect church meetings voluntarily? What is more important than the few hours a week we gather to study, plan, and worship? How can one reasonably even question whether involvement in this divinely authorized organization is optional or not? (Ephesians 3:10-11) How can one choose other things or anything over the greatest thing ever created by God, His church, which is supposed to "shine as lights in the world"? (Philippians 2:15; Matthew 5:14-16)

Is this a hard lesson? Yes, it is. Is it a lie? No, it is not. Is it the truth? Yes, it is. (Romans 3:4) Am I happy to preach it? I certainly am not! As the apostle Paul said, "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears." (Acts 20:31)

**Tearfully yours in Christ, Bill Elliott**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MONDAY — PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

**Weekly singing practice at 19:00 at Adriaan & Gaby Le Roux's home. The practice has changed to a Monday for the next six weeks.**

### TUESDAY

**"If you love souls"** Lessons presented by Bill Elliott at 19:00.

### WEDNESDAY

**Ladies Bible Class at 10:00** will be hosted by Dot and tea arranged by Tippy and Joy.

**Midweek Bible Study at 19:00** presented by Bill Elliott.

### FRIDAY

**Youth** at the building @ 19:00. Bring your Bibles.

### SATURDAY

A bingo afternoon for the over 60's, the widows and widowers, in the fellowship hall at **2pm**.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for our members currently experiencing illness or poor health; Rodney Share, Basil Baisley, Wilson Crossley and Milly Crossley. Also please remember Gwen Taylor in your prayers at this time. Our students as they write their final examinations.

### OVER 60'S ANNUAL DINNER

The annual over sixty's dinner will be held on **SATURDAY 25th November** in the Fellowship Hall. Invitations are being distributed. Please confirm your attendance with **Braam or Petro** by **19th November** at the latest to facilitate arrangements.

### GREETINGS FROM THE UK

Frans and Olivia Rosema are well and send their love to the church. Frans has a new job as a Fabric Technologist in London. Their address is:

22 Wispington Close, Lower Earley, Reading, RG6 3BN, UK. Frans Cell No. is 0944 770 453 6390

### YEAR END CHRISTMAS PARTY

Donations are requested for this event organized

## BENEVOLENCE

We continue to encourage all to donate the required items, each week. We feed many needy families both within our church and members from the Buffalo Flats Congregation. **For next week please provide: Oil 750ml and Pilchards.**

### MONTHLY MORNING FELLOWSHIP TEA

Our monthly morning fellowship tea will take place this morning directly after the morning worship service. Ladies on duty are Veronica, Tippy, Celeste, Gillian and Lucinda.

### EVENING FELLOWSHIP TEA

Next Sunday evening the monthly evening fellowship tea will be held after service. Ladies on duty are Pam, Thelma, Myra and Kirsten.

### BIRTHDAYS

**This week, happy birthday to: Jason Le Roux** on 1st November and **Candice Nyemba** on 3rd November.

### ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Sunday AM Worship	103
Sunday PM Worship	69
Wednesday Bible Study	49

### BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

All news items and prayer requests for the bulletin may be forwarded to Pamela Granger on Cell: 082 898 8083 or e-mail: [hpls.granger@absamail.co.za](mailto:hpls.granger@absamail.co.za) by 16:00 on a Friday for inclusion.

## SERVING ROSTERS

### TODAY - 29TH OCTOBER

SINGING:	AM Q. Le Roux	PM Q. Le Roux
OPENING PRAYER:	AM A. Le Roux	PM Justin Le R
LORD'S TABLE:	AM J. Roberts	PM Bill Elliott
SCRIPTURE READING:	AM Jason Le R	PM A. Le Roux
CLOSING PRAYER:	AM S. Granger	PM R. Le Roux
FLOWERS:	Erika Roberts	
PREACHING TODAY :	AM Bill Elliott	PM Bill Elliott
SCRIPTURE READING	AM Philippians 1:3-7	PM Acts 15:1-5

### NEXT WEEK - 29TH OCTOBER

SINGING:	AM R. Share	PM R. Share
OPENING PRAYER:	AM S. Granger	PM R Le Roux
LORD'S TABLE:	AM I. Engelbrecht	PM Justin Le R.
SCRIPTURE READING:	AM A. Le Roux	PM Basil Baisley
CLOSING PRAYER:	AM Jason Le R	PM Mike Baisley
FLOWERS:	Pam Share	

