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04th February 2007

Spiritual Adultery

“You shall not commit adultery.” **Exodus 20:14** “If there is a man who commits adultery..., the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.” **LEVITICUS 20:10** God’s commandment against adultery is clear. His declaration of severe and permanent consequences is also clear. The world we live in has become openly tolerant of that which God repeatedly condemns. Sadly, this same tolerance has even infected the Lord’s church. However, individual adultery will be a topic for another day. Did you know that unfaithfulness to God is also characterized as adultery?

Beginning in 1050 B.C., God’s kingdom, the physical descendants of Abraham, received their first earthly king (at their foolish request) and remained one nation for about 120 years. In 931 B.C., following the reign of only their third king, Solomon, they divided into the northern kingdom known as Israel and the southern kingdom known as Judah. Speaking through Jeremiah, God said, “And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce...” **Jeremiah 3:8a** God says He divorced Israel because of her faithless adulteries. Therefore, His bride fell in 722 B.C., never to be restored physically.

Jeremiah prophesied to Judah in the years preceding her fall in 586 B.C. God said, “...yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also.” **Jeremiah 3:8b** ““And in spite of all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but rather in deception,” declares the LORD.” **Jeremiah 3:10** Judah did not learn from the demise of the northern kingdom and did the same.

Today, the churches of Christ (**Romans 16:16**) are the children of God (**Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:26**) and the bride of Christ (**Matthew 25:1; Revelation 18:23; 21:9; 22:17**), and we must learn from these Old Testament examples. “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.” **Romans 15:4**

Now, it is a fact that God hates divorce; He says so himself. ““For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel.” **Malachi 2:16** Nevertheless, if we are found unfaithful and adulterous, He will divorce us, the new Israel, just as He divorced the Israel of old. Divorce from God means an eternity of separation from Him and His favor. Further, it is evident that one cannot separate or divorce himself from the church of Christ and think that he is not divorcing God also.

In the last days, the church is God’s bride. “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful.” **Hebrews 10:23** How about us? Are we faithful? We had better be. This divorce has consequences that are far too serious.

Faithfully yours (and His),

Bill Elliott

ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Morning Bible Study and Sunday School	9:00
Sunday Morning Worship Assembly	10:00
Sunday Evening Worship Assembly	18:30
Wednesday Ladies Class	10:00
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	19:00

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mike Baisley
Cell: 083 500 7271
Braam Le Roux
Cell: 072 195 6104
Hugh Granger
Cell: 082 290 1223

EVANGELIST AND BIBLE TEACHER

Bill Elliott
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WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY

Weekly singing at 19:00 at Adriaan and Gaby le Roux's home.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Bible Class at 10:00 - Lesson by Gaby and tea is to be hosted by Paddy and Penny.

Midweek Bible Study at 19:00

FRIDAY

YoUth — Trip to Hemmingways for Putt Putt and games @ the Magic Company. Meet at Hemingways at 19:30.

Young Adults — Get together - venue to be advised.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bill Elliott as he finalizes matters for his return to South Africa.
Pamela Granger's sister in law **Sandi Smith** for continued recovery and strength following her discharge from hospital.

Please forward your prayer requests for inclusion in the bulletin.

EVENT PLANNER

In order to prevent "event collisions" at the church, an event planner has been put up on the notice board. Before planning events at the building please check the planner and enter the dates and times of your events. Thank you for your co-operation in this respect.

QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The quarterly Congregational Meeting with representatives of the Leadership Committee will be held this evening at 18:00. Members are encouraged to attend and raise matters for discussion.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

TODAY

SONG LEADER	AM Q. Le Roux	PM Q. Le Roux
OPENING PRAYER	AM H. Granger	PM B. Le Roux
LORD'S TABLE	AM I. Engelbrecht	PM M. Baisley
SCRIPTURE READING	AM N. Lentz	PM N. Lentz
SERMON	AM Ray Voogt	PM G. Baisley
CLOSING PRAYER	AM G. Baisley	PM H. Kirby
FLOWERS	Louise Crossley	

NEXT WEEK

SONG LEADER	AM M. Baisley	PM M. Baisley
OPENING PRAYER	AM G. Baisley	PM H. Kirby
LORD'S TABLE	AM N. Lentz	PM B. Le Roux
SCRIPTURE READING	AM B. Le Roux	PM Q. Le Roux
CLOSING PRAYER	AM K. Brandstetter	PM C. du Preez

BENEVOLENCE REMINDER

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: Rice 500gr and Samp 1kg.**

STORK PARTY REMINDER

To be held for **Violet's daughter, Vuyo**, on **10 February 2007**, at Pearl & Noel's home, 55 Hillcrest Drive, Beacon Bay at **14h00**. Please bring a plate of eats.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Sunday AM Worship	90
Sunday PM Worship	56
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	50

BIRTHDAYS

Tracy Burke on 5th and Veronica Elander on 6th February. ~~Congratulations~~ — may you all enjoy your special day!

APOLOGIES

Bill Elliott sends his apologies to members at Keam Road, who have been in contact via e-mail. He is currently overwhelmed with personal responsibilities ~~and commitments and has not been able~~ to respond personally to communications received.

WEED GIRL REQUIRED

The services of an experienced Weed Girl is required to tend to the church's garden. Please see Gaby Le Roux should you be able to assist.

BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

All news items and prayer requests for the bulletin may be forwarded to Pamela