

“Reflections”

“Mirror, mirror on the wall - who’s the fairest of them all?” It’s easy to look at the outward appearance but what’s happening in your heart? The UCB Word For Today daily bible readings for 25th and 26th October are titled “Mirror, mirror on the wall (1) and (2)” and looks at the following aspects:

(1) The clay doesn’t ask, “Why did you make me this way?” (Isaiah 45:9 CEV) - A lot of us are unhappy with what we see in the mirror ... God never intended our looks as a statement of our value to Him, or to others. Here are some scriptural truths worth considering:

- (a) **Resenting your looks just puts you at odds with God.** He intends you to be His clay container; a practical, usable vessel; not a fancy ornament for display. Your value isn’t in how you look, but in what you contain - the life-changing message of God’s grace!
- (b) **Resenting your looks results from false comparisons.** Today we’re driven to become reflections of some unattainable ideal. Unhappiness over your appearance results from ignorance of God’s marvellous and creative purpose for you. This will become clear to you when (see Hebrews 12:2)

(2) “Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous” (Psalms 139:14 NLT) - So, how should you view the role of your physical appearance?

- (a) **With gratitude.** Thank God for the unique person He created you to be. You’re not the result of random genetics. You’re a genuine ‘one-off,’ designed by God to fill a slot no one else can fill. He is what makes you who you are! So give God thanks;
- (b) **With understanding.** Discover God’s purpose for your life. You weren’t designed to impress others or to seek their approval. In God’s eyes, your looks are not the measure of your worth. Start seeing yourself as God sees you. Ultimately, His opinion is the only one that matters - see 1 Samuel 16:7. Rejoice!

So, next time you’re in front of a mirror, take a good look at yourself and reflect on the above scriptural truths. **And remember: God won’t be finished working on you until He’s made you just like JESUS!**



Hollybush Newsletter
November - December 2013



Jim’s Jottings

November - the time when nature settles down and adopts a period of dormancy and quiet reflection. Nothing seems to be happening - but it is. Slowly and silently everything is consolidating in preparation for warmer weather and longer summer days. All that God has made is constantly alive - waiting for the right moment. The trees, crops in the fields are putting their roots down further.

Then December reminds us that we are headed for the greatest event in history - the birth of the Christ-child our Saviour. And in a few days B.C. becomes A.D. for us believers, a foretaste of our salvation - “Hallelujah” - and the rest is His-story!

And out of the cool dank darkness of our winter, springs Eternal Life and we are the recipients of his divine grace and forgiveness. And the divine plan enlarges in our very beings - to be born again, Spirit-filled, putting our roots down and growing up into Him - no longer a baby, but our Glorious Wonderful Saviour - every day and every moment.

Sincerely,

In the love and strength of our Wonderful Redeemer

Pastor Jim

The Sunday morning bible study on “Discipleship” started on 12th May and concluded on 13th October - five months of looking at many aspects concerning our personal development from our relationship with Jesus. Have you noticed a change in your own life?

Website: www.Hollybushchristianfellowship.co.uk

Email: hbcfoffice@gmail.com

or check out our facebook page at: Facebook Hollybush

Tel: 01845 587386

Programme: November 2013 - January 2014

November

- 1st Lesley Davis - Southern Light Community Church, Sheffield
8&9 Rev. Cleddie Keith & Team (USA) - Conference "Follow Your God Given Passion" (10am, 2pm and 7pm each day)
15 Team from Horizon Life Training Centre (Killinghall)
22 Paul Bedford - Senior Leader, Hope House Church (Barnsley)
25 Jim & Cynthia at Edinburgh Aglow International meeting
29 Celebration meeting - Speaker TBC
30 Prayer for Israel meeting

December

- 6th George Verwer - Special Projects (Operation Mobilisation)
13 Steve Ward & Team - South Elmsall, West Yorkshire
20 Janine Stellatos - Director, Metro World Child (Kenya)
22 Christmas Outreach - 10.30am meeting only
25 Christmas Day (remember our Saviour's birth with joy and thanksgiving)
29 Christmas Outreach - 10.30am meeting only
31 New Year's Eve Party - 7.15pm and welcome in the New Year

January 2014

- 3rd Kingsley Armstrong - Joshua Trust (Northallerton)

COME AND BE EXPECTANT!

Fellowship Christmas Meal

This year, we will have our Christmas meal at an outside venue and this is in the throes of being planned. We will notify the Fellowship as soon as all the details have been finalised.

Prayer Pointers for this season

Sunday School Junior Church - the Team met last Sunday afternoon (20th October) to discuss the current situation and the way ahead. Two age-based groups were mooted: the younger group will meet in the Granary and the older group will meet in the small church. Larger chairs and tables are required for the older group and these have now been ordered.

Because several people are willing to help, everyone on the team will need to be a member of the Fellowship for at least three months and will need to have DBS (previously CRB) clearance in place before commencing. This will take time, but hopefully everyone involved will be compliant with these requirements before the recommencement of Junior Church after the February 2014 half-term break.

Please see Joanna if you need any further information with this. Do pray for all those involved with Junior Church.

The Bus Outreach - that it goes out regularly with committed and dedicated teams. Please see Louise Wright or Gill Wilson if you want to know anything further about this ministry or if you are interested in becoming involved as part of the team.

New Fellowship Group (Darlington area) - please pray and bless those opening their homes for a mid-week fellowship / bible study / prayer time - 7.30pm to 9.00pm. The first one is at the home of Mrs. Vera Nicolson (25 West View, Darlington, DL3 8BP) on 29th October.

All those in the Darlington area are welcome. Details of future meetings to be announced.

Craft and Chatter

Every Wednesday 1pm - 4pm... COME AND JOIN IN!!

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday Evening at 7.30pm - Come believing!

**ANY PRAYER REQUESTS PLEASE PHONE THE OFFICE ON
01845 587386 TO BE ADDED TO THE PRAYER CHAIN.**