

What is SEMS?

The aims of the seminars are:

- to provide a meeting for those engaged in regular Word ministry in local churches in Sussex so that they may be encouraged, challenged, informed and assisted in carrying out their responsibilities as servants of Christ and his church.
- to invite a range of speakers to address a variety of subjects. In each programme of meetings we would hope to provide: encouragement in thinking through important spiritual and theological issues in the light of the Scriptures; ministry aimed at further equipping us to be accurate in our handling of God's word; reminders of vital lessons from church history and assistance in addressing issues related to leading a local church such as evangelism, training, prayer.
- to encourage evangelical ministers across the spectrum of evangelical churches to engage with one another about ministry in a helpful way.

Who organises SEMS?

The seminars are organised jointly by
David Sprouse
(pastor of Cuckfield Baptist Church)
Phil Wells
(pastor of Calvary Evangelical Church, Brighton)
Stephen Bowen
(vicar of St John's, Felbridge, East Grinstead)
Graham Nicholls
(pastor of Haywards Heath Evangelical Free Church)
Jon Hobbs
(vicar of Maresfield and Nutley Parish Churches)

The organisers are committed to what are often called "Reformation Principles" – scripture alone, Christ alone, grace alone, faith alone, to the glory of God alone. In the line of the Reformers we continue to be persuaded of the need to examine and re-examine all we do in the light of scripture.

SEMS is a ministry of the Sussex Gospel Partnership (SGP). SGP is a partnership of Bible-centred churches in Sussex working together to train leaders, strengthen and plant churches, and advance the gospel.

For more information see www.sussexgospelpartnership.org.uk

A few other things about SEMS

Each morning will commence at 10.00am and conclude at 12.30pm. Coffee will be served from 9.30am

Following the seminar, there will be an informal lunch from 12.30 to 1.30, which will provide further opportunity for discussion and, as appropriate, prayer for one another. Those attending may bring their own packed lunch or order sandwiches in advance at a cost of £3.

The cost of each seminar will be £5 but there is a discount for those who pay for the whole year's programme in advance.

CDs of ministry are available at £2 (including p&p). Most SEMS are also available as MP3 downloads from the website.

The seminars will be held at Cuckfield Baptist Church, Polestub Lane, Cuckfield, West Sussex, RH17 5EU

Directions can be found on the website.

There is ample car parking at the Church.

For further information or more copies of this programme, please contact:
The Administrator, Veronica Campen
1 Ruthven Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5HE
Tel: 01444 455363, email: veronica@campen.co.uk

You can also download a copy of this programme from our Web site:
www.sussex-ems.org.uk



Sussex Evangelical Ministry Seminars



2010 – 2011

www.sussex-ems.org.uk

Monday 11 October 2010

Preaching Living Hope

Phil Wells

The Western world we live in has so much pleasure, ease, and affluence, yet the common experience of depression and even suicide indicates that our culture struggles profoundly with hopelessness. The Christian has to learn to live in the tension between the "already" and the "not yet". So how can we preach and teach the "not yet" so that believers can live lives that are full of hope? And how do Christ, heaven, hell, judgment, resurrection, the second coming (and the millennium!) all fit together? This can't be left to a handful of specialists, but needs to be part of our ordinary ongoing word-ministry.

Phil will explore this theme and give worked examples of how we might preach this to our congregations, he will also address how we might engage with "living hope" in our own hearts - attacked as they are by disappointment, failure, or indeed, success.

Phil Wells is pastor of Calvary Evangelical Church, Brighton and a member of the SEMS organising group.

Monday 29 November 2010

Preaching Galatians

Nick McQuaker

Galatians could be described as Paul at his most grumpy, Paul at his most galled, or Paul at his most grieved. But perhaps what we should see is the guts and the glory as Paul fearlessly attacks those who were leading the Galatian believers astray whilst skilfully setting forth the real gospel as Christ-centred, Abrahamic promise fulfilling, utterly liberating, life-transforming truth. It's a little letter with a powerful punch. This SEMS will be aimed at helping us preach the message with the same impact in the contemporary context.

Nick McQuaker is Director of Training and Development for the Sussex Gospel Partnership. Previously he was a pastor at Haywards Heath Evangelical Free Church where

he had ministered since 1996. For many years, he has been involved in training others to teach the Bible both in the UK and overseas.

Monday 24 January 2011

Equipping the church to give an answer

Richard Cunningham

Our society seems to be increasingly hostile, secular, relativistic and diverse. Perhaps more than any other, this generation of ministers therefore needs to be equipped to give a reason for the hope that we have, and in a way that is not seen as intolerant and immoral. During the morning, Richard Cunningham will outline the place for apologetics including the place of reason in preaching. He will also give some idea of what apologetics might look like in action, providing principles for how we might engage not only our culture but those in our congregations who are so influenced by it.

Richard Cunningham has been Director of UCCF: the Christian Unions since early 2004. Immediately prior to that he was Executive Director of the Areopagus Trust, developing initiatives in confronting secular thought in universities across Britain and Europe and, at the same time, was Director of Evangelism at St Andrew's Church, Oxford. He has previously served on UCCF staff as Evangelism Trainer.

Monday 21 March 2011

Jonathan Edwards and Spirituality

Garry Williams

'The writings of Jonathan Edwards are permeated with a deep sense of the reality of God. In particular, Edwards and his wife were profoundly affected by their knowledge of 'the excellence of Jesus Christ'. His practical spirituality was undergirded by a theological analysis of the human person and the way in which the Holy Spirit works in an individual. These sessions will introduce the spirituality of the Edwardses, set out some of the biblical analysis that lay behind it and the lessons for us today.'

Dr Garry Williams previously taught Doctrine and Church History at Oak Hill Theological College. He now oversees the activities of the John Owen Centre, linked to the London Theological Seminary. He is also Visiting Professor of Historical Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary and teaches on the ThM programme. Garry's long-term project is to publish a biblical, historical, and systematic study of the doctrine of penal substitutionary atonement.

Monday 9 May 2011

The church and older people:

The challenge and the opportunity

Roger Hitchings with Peter Diack

There are now more people aged over 65 in the UK than those under 16. With some exceptions, society tends to value the younger over the older and though the Bible teaches that older people are to be viewed as of great value and bearing particular dignity, the church does not always reflect this. It is vitally important, therefore, that we think through the challenges and opportunities we face as churches to ensure that we reach out effectively to older people, care appropriately for them and use the much untapped grey-haired resource that Christ has given to his church. In the first session Roger Hitchings will plot this changing demographic showing its impact on society and the church and remind us of the Biblical principles that should shape our response. In the second session Roger and Peter Diack will give us examples of the kinds of things we could do practically to engage older people in the church and reach out effectively to them in our communities.

Roger Hitchings is the pastor of East Leake Evangelical Church, South Nottinghamshire. He is the former Director of Age Concern, Birmingham, a trustee of the charity Pilgrim Homes and an author of books and articles on Dementia and Care of the Elderly. Peter Diack serves All Saints Church, Lindfield as pastor to the local Residential Homes and had a key role in the establishing of a Christian Care home in Lindfield.

SEMS Registration Form 2010/11

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone Number _____
 Email address _____
 Church _____
 Position held _____

Tick the boxes for the relevant seminars and lunches

Seminar	Attendance £5 per seminar*	Lunch £3.00 each#	
11 October 2010 Phil Wells			
29 November 2010 Nick McQuaker			
24 January 2011 Richard Cunningham			
21 March 2011 Garry Williams			
9 May 2011 Roger Hitchings			
Total			

*If all seminars are booked in advance one seminar is free!
 i.e. Total for all 5 is just £20.

#Lunch must be booked at least ONE week prior to the seminar

Is a receipt required? YES/NO

If lunch is requested, do you require a vegetarian option? YES/NO

Please send bookings to

The Administrator, Veronica Campen
 1 Ruthven Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5HE
 Tel: 01444 455363, email: veronica@campen.co.uk
 Cheques should be made payable to SEMS



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