

Focus on Fetteresso

Our visiting minister this week was the Reverend Michael Phillippo who delivered a sincere and meaningful lesson to assist us in focussing on how much God knows about us. The readings read by Avril were taken from John 1:43-51 where Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael and from Psalm 139:1-18. In the lesson Michael illustrated how God knows us completely, in fact better than we know ourselves. Sometimes it seems we are not sure where God is, however he always remains faithful and holds on to us. This was illustrated through looking at three aspects in the nature of our lives.

1. We lead our lives with so many hidden secrets, Michael works with the deaf community. He utilised an illustration of how people with hearing impairments have such open communications. This is what God is looking for in communications with us.

2. In the reading from John, there was a situation where Nathalan had so many prejudices against anything from Nazareth, which proved to be unfounded. We have these same prejudices in our lives and they can reflect in our communications with God. We require to develop an ability to explore what we don't know with other people. From this we can develop our characters such that we can learn more about Jesus, see through our prejudices and have a better relationship with God.

3. In his third illustration Michael utilised the woman at the well who had a shady past and avoided others. She was a social outcast but Jesus spoke to her and demonstrated that he knew so much about her hidden life. Jesus did not condemn her and instead showed his love for her. As a result she became open and it changed her life. In the same way God wants us to be open and show what he has done in our lives.

The evening service led by Roslyn Duncan focussed on prayer and what it can do for our lives. As part of our lives, we require to foster our relationships where we devote quality time to be with those who we love the most. In the same manner we require to spend time with God. This is a combination of worship, confession, thanksgiving and intercession. We

need to see God as our father and approach him as children, we require to request and not demand, be honest and tell God what he already knows. By doing this we will understand ourselves better. As part of our conversation with God we need to listen to find out what he wants from us.

This is the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Roslyn stressed how the congregation at Dunottar have been praying for other churches in the area. She stressed how they have prayed for the congregations in Stonehaven to find an opportunity to come together for combined services in a constructive and meaningful manner.

The following intimations were made: -

- A second edict was read to confirm that the Reverend Dr. Fyfe Blair will be preaching as sole nominee this Sunday. This is an opportunity for all members to vote to confirm our eager anticipation of Fyfe joining us in the near future.
- Another Alpha course is starting this week. The course will be run in the church during the day on Wednesdays. Contact Brenda.
- Word for Today is available for purchase in Here & Now.
- A planned visit to Mototo in Uganda will be made from the 21st July to 3rd August. A meeting will be held at 7.30 on the 26th January with commitments to be made 2 weeks after this.