

## Focus on Fetteresso

The congregation participated in a Remembrance Day service this week. David Platt who is a visiting Reader from the Presbytery led the fellowship. The weather was cold and raw, however a straight to the point demonstration of the wonder of Gods Love in practice in times of conflict was sufficient to warm hearts and stimulate emotions.

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The address to the children reviewed different methods of remembering. This varied from creating lists, use of calendars, knots in the handkerchief, etc. The net result is that there are various ways in which we can remember. In the same way, God remembers us and always loves us.

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In his main address, following a minute of silence in remembrance, David focussed on the theme of Gods love. The key to receiving this love is to accept that we are sinners. There are times when the result of wars can appear to be part of Gods neglect. War is a time when Gods own creation appears to wreak havoc on itself. It is possible to ask the question "Where is God in all of this". Our answer is that it is not for us to questions Gods ways. We must accept situations as they are presented to us. This turmoil is a result of sin somewhere in the world. For our part, we must confess our sins and receive forgiveness. We then become Gods workers and are in a position where we can love others no matter what the circumstances. From this we can accept Gods commandment "That we will love one another". We can accept situations as God allows them to happen, whether it is peace or war. Through this we can always love others. Nothing can separate us from Gods love. To achieve this we require pray for forgiveness so that we can be released from sin and become Gods workers through delivering love to others by following Jesus. There is no requirement to be friends with everyone, however we need to love them, the Holy Spirit assists us to do this.

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The evening service was led by Keith Stewart and addressed by David Stewart, who is the Interim Moderator. David focussed on Gods Grace. To assess this he asked the questions: What is Grace, what is it worth, what does it do?

To answer this he told a story about four brothers who were Princes in a Kingdom, They all got into trouble in a distant land. The first brother settled with the natives and became self-centred. He judged things in his own way and not by Gods standards. The second brother chose to watch the first and to record all his mistakes, however contributed nothing to his society. The third brother built his own symbol of a God. He used the idol as a substitute. He was missing Gods Grace so thought he was doing well but in reality was failing. There are people who attend church and use this as their symbol of God. They are upright citizens; however do not have the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the end fail.

The fourth brother remained in contact with God and managed to find his way home where he was able to receive Gods Grace. In this, Grace is Gods action to wipe out our sin so that we can become perfect. We do not work for Grace. It is given to us free if we ask for it. It is difficult to accept a free gift, however if we take it we will be changed into people who can love others.

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Intimations include: -

- Catfish (Creative Arts for Children), 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 12.30-1.30PM.
- Here & Now Open Evening, 26<sup>th</sup> November 7.00-9.00PM.

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