

## Thought for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October based on Isaiah 45. 1-7

In this reading God is speaking to Cyrus, the Persian king chosen to deliver the Israelites out of Babylonian captivity. Although Cyrus is a foreigner, he does not know God and anything of God's people Israel.

God assures him that he is both known and chosen and that he has a role to play.

In the church, we of course place emphasis on knowing God, it is vital to our faith. We encourage worship, prayer, contemplation, and Bible study, all in the hope that this will lead us into a deeper relationship with God. It takes time to develop this deep desire to know God, to know ourselves and to know one another. A life time even.

When I conduct a funeral service, I find that I often say:

*'We will be hearing part of this person's story and each of us know a different part, the full story is known only by God'.*

It always makes me stop and think about my story, what is it like? What is your full story like? What does God know?

If God knows me by name, then God knows my story, my beginning, and my end. Knowing me by name means knowing the very core of me.

There is an American TV programme called Cheers, its theme tune includes these words...*we want to go where everybody knows our name.*

Isn't that going to God? Where God knows us?  
Understands us? Knows our hearts desire?

If you've not shared your story with God recently and not sought to find God, then maybe, just maybe, this reading will put desire in your heart to go and do just that...*go where GOD knows our name.*

Revd Tonya

