

An Abundant Community living Abundantly

We all long for success in life. We all wish to get to the top of whatever game we're playing. Ambition is natural and a good thing because as we lift or uplift ourselves the expectation in the kingdom of God is that we will uplift others. I have said with my tongue in my cheek that I desire for all of you to be fabulously wealthy (the choice of the word wealthy is deliberate as opposed to rich). When you are all fabulously wealthy it must follow that the poor in our midst would benefit. God's generosity expects our reciprocal generosity to others.

I believe in abundance. It is God's plan for humanity. Jesus is clear that he has come to make possible this abundance and this abundance is accessed through us living abundantly; generously, even when we are not wealthy. You have to embrace the abundant life in faith. You have to pray obviously and then begin to live in that abundance even when the evidence is sparse and unconvincing. It's like deciding to go on a journey. When you have decided upon the destination then you must find the direction of the destination and then you must orientate yourself in that direction and whether or not there is a road going that way you must go ahead and make a trail in faith. The destination and the direction toward it however is sacrosanct and alongside it the faith to persevere. One thing is for sure though with this persistence and in spite of many false starts, the destination will eventually be reached with an enormous amount of gratification and gratitude always unleashes even more abundance. I believe in abundance, your abundance so that you may sow from the excess and bless the poor. But you have to desire this life that Jesus promises. Please don't suffer for Jesus. Open your heart and life to this abundance so that the poor who "will always be with us" may experience the beatitude intended for them: The Spirit of God is upon us all to preach good news to the poor. What, I wonder, is GOOD NEWS for the poor!

I believe in abundance because without abundance; wealth, there is nothing to sow from. There is no reserve and nothing from nothing leaves nothing. So I want you to believe in and embrace the Jesus inaugurated and Jesus facilitated desired state for Humanity. Until then the poor suffer and we live in poverty instead of living in wealth that gives life (to be distinguished from riches which does not).

So we are conduits of abundance: we receive abundantly from God and the universe and then we like God are equally generous to the world and people around us. There is nothing new here. We all know this principle well but we do forget it. That's why we have an annual DG campaign to revisit the issue of money and wealth and abundance and to put all things in their proper places once again; to be reminded- have our memories refreshed.

We will continue the conversation on Sunday and in next week's pew leaflet.

A wealth creating to do list: How do we cultivate wealth?

- ✦ See things as they are – open your eyes
- ✦ Breathe deeply – open your lungs
- ✦ Love freely – open your heart
- ✦ Think clearly – open your mind
- ✦ Be true – open your soul to God in prayer
- ✦ Feel deeply – open yourself to everything

- ✦ Laugh regularly – open and extend your capacity for being human
- ✦ Cry easily - open yourself to the softer feminine
- ✦ Jump spontaneously - open the door to the imprisoned child
- ✦ Believe in God - open yourself to Grace and Abundance and Mercy
- ✦ Praise effusively - open yourself to your true self so that you may see God and die and be resurrected again

God bless beloved

Michael