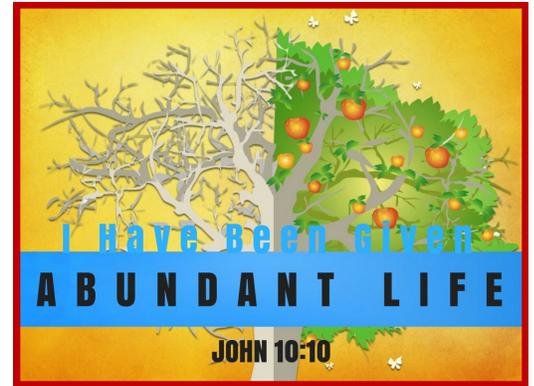


There is help...there is hope...there is healing

John 10:10

*I came so that they might have life
and have it more abundantly.*

Melanie Frei President's Report October 24, 2020



Something Beautiful

I don't know what you have brought with you to this meeting today. Is it fear for your health or the health of those around you? Is it anxiety over the election and the unknowns of the future? Is it despair over a financial problem that you don't know how to solve? Or frustrations over the many changes that you have to deal with because of our pandemic? Is it sorrow over the death of a loved one? I'm sure that every one of us has come here with something.

In this term, I want to concentrate on ministries that help people discover the rich life that God has for each one of us. I believe that discovery needs to begin with our own individual lives.

So I ask you again...what have you brought with you to this meeting?

As I consider all the riches we have in Christ, I can always rest in the knowledge that Jesus really does have the answer for all our fears, our problems, our anxieties, or whatever tears up our peace.

Listen to these precious words from our first pope, Peter, as he shepherds his flock. He writes:

Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

So this must be our first response. Cast your cares upon him! Then, the Apostle Paul tells us just how to do that:

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

*Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you."* (Philippians 4:6-9)

There is an expression I really like that I learned from reading books set in the Regency period. It is usually given as a question when one character sees another upset—"What has cut up your peace?" So today I ask you, "What has cut up your peace?" Have you cast it on Jesus? Have you given it to him in prayer and petition, with *thanksgiving*? Are you disciplining your thoughts to that which is pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, and worthy of praise?

Let us embrace the abundant life that God has for us—in the midst of our trials—and then let us lead others to the answers that Christ has for their lives as well.