

A Message from Jeanette Schaffer, Director Presbyterian Outreach Ministry May 2019

*“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said...” Matthew 28:6
“And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.” 1 Cor. 6:14*

Sunday, we celebrated the resurrection of our precious Lord, Jesus Christ. What a great reminder of the hope that is instilled in us, in knowing that because He lives, we also find our strength and life in Him. I think it's important for us to know the power of the life that is in us, because, as I'm sure you know, death tries to creep in, in so many ways. Each of us have had our own experiences with death, but God never intended it to rule over us. Even if you come to the end of your days on this earth, do not allow death to have victory over you. Remember these words, ““Jesus said..., “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live,” John 11:25.

The reason I am writing this is because so many of the people coming in to get help through this ministry have experienced many forms of death. It is interesting that among the youth of today, vampires and zombies are very popular. I believe the enemy is trying to implant thoughts of death, and not life into even the young. So many have experienced :

- Death of joy
- Death of dreams
- Death of hope
- Death of self-worth
- Death of purpose
- Death of meaning
- Death of pursuit of a fulfilling career
- and the list can go on and on.

I try and remind those coming in, that even if circumstances are not exactly as they had hoped them to be in their lives, or if conditions are hard at times, that ***in it all*** Jesus came to give us life more abundantly. **He came to cancel all that death stuff out.** Even the grave cannot hold us down, if we are in Him. **He is LIFE.** I want to repeat that. He is **LIFE**, and amazingly, His life is for us! As I tell the people coming in to the ministry, be encouraged. Drink of His **LIVING WATERS**. Not only in theory or philosophically, but literally and directly. As the opening Scripture states, He wants to raise us up by His power. We may suffer for a little while , but it is nothing compared to the Glory we have in Him. It is interesting that many of those coming in think that God has passed them by, and this hope is not for them. I try to explain to them that it is the furthest thing from the truth. I try and declare as strongly as I know how, **“Do NOT believe the lie that it is not for you. IT IS.** If you believe in our risen savior, then the same resurrection power is for **YOU.**”

It is such a joy when I get to witness the glimmer of that truth begin to shine in someone's eyes. If even for a moment, I get to see some hope take hold in their heart.

I pray the light of that truth will shine in each of our hearts and allow the life of our risen Savior to keep us burning brightly for Him. May it impact the world around us toward His abundant life.
GOD LOVES YOU.

Be very blessed.
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