

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

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Association Minister Message

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ABUNDANCE. “When Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ Jesus said this to test him, for Jesus himself knew what he was going to do.” (John 6:5-6). There are many requests from people or organizations that solicit our support. Many of them truly need assistance and it becomes heart-wrenching not to assist all of them in some way. We also have our commitments to certain “missions” that we regularly support. We have been blessed with *ABUNDANCE* with time, talents, and treasures; we can assist in different ways.

The story from John turns things upside down. The disciples were overwhelmed by the size of the crowd, and they needed to be good hosts and feed the people. But how? Jesus had a plan that out of scarcity there would be *ABUNDANCE*. Andrew tells Jesus a boy has five barley loaves and two fish, “*But what are they among so many people?*” Jesus had all the people sit down, took the loaves and fish, blessed them, and passed them around to the crowd. After the crowd was satisfied, there were twelve baskets of leftovers. *ABUNDANCE* miracle! Jesus was the miracle worker! Another historical interpretation offers another perspective of the miracle. It is reported that when the baskets were passed around, many in the crowd offered and gave what they had because of the generosity of the boy.

In our day we have many people who recognize need and are challenged to make a difference. In response they give of their God-given blessings to make *ABUNDANCE* possible. Jesus performed miracles in many ways, and we know the results. “*HOW*” it happened is the “*Jesus Mystery/Divine Mystery*” for *ABUNDANCE* results. The miracle is generosity, compassion, and love for one another. Miracles are evident through the medical profession, cooks/chefs, personal generosity, embrace of others, care for disadvantaged, and welcoming others into our faith community. It takes all of us to join Jesus in doing *ABUNDANCE* miracles. BLESSINGS ALWAYS.