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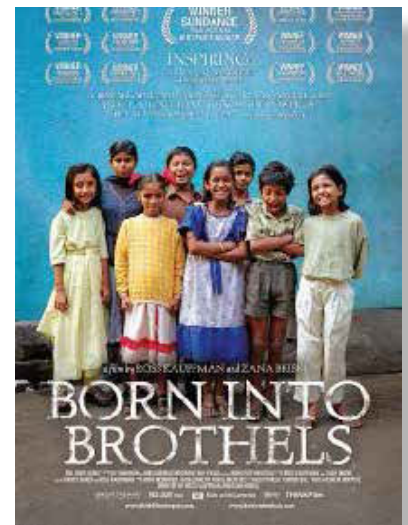
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Caring for children around the world

February 2015

Calcutta Mercy Ministries: *India*



*Academy Award for Best
Documentary Feature*

President Bonnie Long with her mother Huldah Buntain

HOPE HOUSE: Compassion = Hope

For many baby girls born into the brothels of Calcutta, a life in the sex-trade industry is almost a certainty. Without a permanent residence outside the red-light neighbourhood, their chances of growing into a healthy and successful adult are small. Hope House will supply the need for a 'safe-home' for at-risk girls. It is the compassionate response to the 2004 Award winning film, *Born Into Brothels*, which depicts life in the red light district through the eyes of several children.

The vision for Hope House has been in effect for the best part of a decade; the need to raise funds for property far enough away from the red-light district yet close enough for family visits. There are many rescue projects for girls already in prostitution or trafficking. This is different, in that women volunteer their daughters at a young age. This will create a generational change, a permanent mark in the community, allowing the daughters the opportunity to break the recurring debilitating

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cycle of poverty and prostitution, and have a changed life.

Throughout the years and during the process of securing land, confidence and credibility has been gained in the community by opening a free Health Clinic for women in the sex-trade industry and building a laundromat to provide them with alternative job opportunities.

Property has now been found, purchased and Hope House sits on resort land – an oasis away from the red light district - and is ready to receive up to 100 girls under the age of 5. With nurture, care, and education these young girls will grow to be the nurses, doctors and educators of the next generation.

**February Project for
Calcutta Mercy Ministries:
The purchase of furniture and
monthly sponsorship for
the girls of Hope House.**

TOP: Sonargachi Alleyway

MIDDLE: Sonargachi Medical Clinic

*RIGHT: Hope House under construction
on resort land*



**2014: A Year of Milestones
for the Buntain family!**

For the Buntain family 2014 was a celebration of 60 years of ministry in India. As well, in December, family and friends met together in the Vancouver area to celebrate Huldah's 90th birthday and to rejoice with her in the faithfulness of God in and through her life.

THE COMING GLORY

Key Scripture: Titus 2:11-14

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” TNIV

One of the things that we constantly hear mentioned in the news today is the flu virus. It is all around us and can attack anyone that does not have a strong immunity against it. Likewise, in Paul’s letter to Titus he is warning Titus about the viruses that are attacking the church. He refers to these viruses as ungodliness and worldly passions.

Ungodliness can be defined as a lack of reverence toward God. Worldly passions can be defined as a floating mass of thoughts, opinions, speculations, hopes, impulses, aspirations which people try to seize but are impossible to accurately define and yet they are a real power. Worldly

passions surround us like the air we breathe. And like the air, we take it in unconsciously with every breath that we breathe.

As Christians we therefore need to build up a strong resistance against the viruses of living ungodly lives and following worldly passions. To accomplish this we need the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. We want to build up our resistance, therefore Paul tells us in verses 11-12, **“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say NO to ungodliness and worldly passions...”**

Paul goes on to say in verse 13: **“That we are to live self-controlled and upright, and godly lives in this present age, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.”**

Few Christians today would challenge the fact that we are approaching the consummation of this age. Consummation for the Christian does not mean the end but rather it means having received the fulfillment of our hope.

Many Christians seem to think that the hope of the church is about the church receiving glory. We have become so centered in teaching that the glory is all about us, when in fact it is not about us, but rather it is all about Jesus, it is all about Him and His glory revealed at His coming. And the glory that Paul refers to will come with the rapture or catching away of the church ... it is also called the 2nd coming of Jesus. Therefore, Paul writes this letter to Titus to instruct him how the people of God should be living as we wait for the appearance of the coming glory.

Many people today ask: If Jesus is King, where is His kingdom? Is it off on some distant planet? The Holy Spirit makes it clear that Jesus’ Kingdom is not off in some distant planet or star, but that His kingdom is present in the hearts of all those who love Him regardless of age, race or color.

As King He gives us His Holy Spirit who makes these unconditional demands in our lives:

He denounces sin.
He denounces dishonesty, greed and selfishness.
He demands selfless love.
He challenges us to live nobly and godly in this world.

As King, He has the power to change and transform the greatest of sinners.
As King, He is the Savior of sinners.
As King, He is the author of peace, and He is the hope for the world.
Many people claim to believe in God and Jesus but their lives do not line up with their beliefs.

Jesus is not King of their thoughts.
Jesus is not King of their imaginations.
Jesus is not the King of their actions.
Jesus is not the King of their social lives.
Jesus is not the King of their personal lives.

In fact, if Jesus is not 'Lord of All' then He isn't 'Lord at ALL'! We are outsiders ... totally lost ... and according to the words of Jesus, will be banished into everlasting darkness where there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Without doubt, the greatest hope for the church today is the return of Jesus coming in His glory. Not only does the Bible teach it, but it is in the hearts of people everywhere as there is a growing feeling of impending catastrophe and judgment coming upon the world.

Many today say, as they did in Peter's day in 2 Peter 3:4, **"Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."** The Bible tells us that just as the world perished under the flood in the days of Noah, the heavens and the earth will also face a fiery judgment in the coming future.

Referring to the end times in the history of Israel, Jesus had this to say in Luke 21:24: **"Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."**

Today Jews are returning back to Israel from every corner of the world. They are coming in unbelief and the Bible makes it clear that one day these Jews will recognize Jesus as Messiah.

The signs of Jesus' return is all around us, but

like the Pharisee of Jesus' day, the church is still looking for some greater sign. When the Pharisees demanded for Jesus to show them a sign, what Jesus said then is also appropriate for the church today: Matthew 16:2-3: **"When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times."**

Whatever view a person may have about the return of Jesus, the one thing that leaves us no doubt is that Jesus is coming. Our generation will be without excuse if we fail to recognize the signs of the times we're living in. The same Holy Spirit who empowered the early disciples to turn the world upside down is at work in the world today.

In closing: Every king has a coronation. What a sight that will be for all believers who have acknowledged Jesus as King. Our seats for this great event have already been saved. The ticket is Jesus in our hearts by His Holy Spirit. The only thing that it cost us is placing our faith in Jesus, His finished work, and His soon return to take us to be with Him.

Pat and I want to encourage everyone to keep on keeping on as we fix our eyes on our soon coming King!!

On behalf of the ministries we support, we give our heartfelt thanks for each one of you, and keep you daily in our prayers.

May you continually sense His Love, Peace, and Presence no matter what you may be experiencing, knowing that all of these are only momentary afflictions in light of the eternal joy that awaits each one of us.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Roman
and Pat Kozak*

