

SUNDAY LINE AND WORLD MINISTRIES



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Caring for children around the world

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'PREM SEWA' Boys and Girls Homes & Schools

in Napur & Manjari, India

Directors Frank Juelich and Bapu Desai



FROM DREAM TO FUTURE REALITY:

Shamroni comes from a Mavchi tribal background, from a village in an undeveloped, remote and hilly area of India. Her family, consisting of her mother, grandmother, grandfather and two sisters, live in a small, wooden hut. Her father is absent, often drunk, living in another village with another woman. He does not help in any way.

Shamroni first came to live and study at the Indira Bhavan tribal girl's home and school in 2013 when she was in the 2nd grade. Now

she is in grade 5. Her sisters, Priyanka and Roshani also study at the school and are in grades 9 and 11 respectively.

When Shamroni returns home during vacation times she goes with her sisters to the local market or farm to find daily work to help with their living expenses. She is a clever girl, who studies hard and wants to become a doctor after completing her education. She wants to be able to improve her family's situation and that of her community. Because of the education she is receiving at Indira Bhavan, the Prem Sewa School for girls in Manjari, this dream can become a reality.

YOUNG MEN - ACHIEVING THEIR DREAM

How rewarding it is for founder Frank Juelich to receive the occasional visit from some of the young men who formerly lived and were taught at the boy's school in Nagpur. All, except Sushil, are now living in Mumbai, the most populous city in India, once called Bombay.

- Sushil is 25 years old and a financial advisor in Nagpur.
- Kishor, 31, is a film editor with an animation company.
- Babasheb, 24, is an audio-visual technician.
- Krisha, 23, is a medical officer.
- Mangesh and Mahesh, both 30 years old, both athletes, work respectively as a gym trainer and a security professional.

Because these young men received an education at the Prem Sewa School in Nagpur, they have been exposed to a biblical message and a Christian life-style during their formative years. Now they have successfully moved into the opportunities that have opened for them.



THE SOUNDS OF JOY

During the Christmas season, Frank Juelich tells us that the girls and boys love the dramas, dances, special food and the host of other activities that take place as the children prepare to dazzle their audience with their creative ideas. He reminds us of the words of the hymn that come to his mind as he sees the radiant joy on the faces of his 'kids' and the sound of their happy laughter:

*“When all thy mercies, O my God,
my rising soul surveys,
transported with the view, I’m lost in wonder,
love and praise.
Ten thousand, thousand precious gifts
my daily thanks employ.”*



THE OIL OF HOPE!

Key Scripture: Matthew 25: 1-13

“The parable of the wise and foolish maidens”.

Have you ever felt that your life is nothing but a constant waiting game? Everywhere you go today, you have to wait. I just love the new automated phone systems? After you spend 10 minutes punching all kinds of buttons it's frustrating to hear a voice say: “Sorry there is no one available to take your call at this time. Please try again later!”

It seems that much of what we do involves some kind of waiting. In our parable the emphasis is also on waiting. We have a picture of 10 bridesmaids waiting for their groom to come. However, there is nothing they can do in their own power for this event to take place. The people in this parable can do absolutely nothing to bring about this meeting. So they are all sleeping - both the wise and the foolish maidens are sleeping.

For two thousand years Christians have talked about this meeting. We have even given this event a special name and have called it “The Blessed Hope of the Church”.

The problem is that five of these maidens were tired of waiting, and so we read that one half of them had given up hope. Sadly, many Christians have lost interest in this event because of the many storms which have taken a toll. So, many have lost sight of the meeting and the message: that someone is coming from the other side who is going to wrap up world's history. When that time comes, we can throw our calendars away. In the meantime, the storms of life have taken their toll, and many folk have just given up on the idea that their ship is coming in.

Someone once said: “It is a glorious thing to

be in a ship that may be shaken by storms and waves, but it is even more glorious to know that no matter what happens, it will reach its destination.” Our lives will not always be smooth sailing. There will be storms, and sometimes the storms will get very rough. When those storms hit, we are held in suspense wondering when and how it will all end.

In the case of a tragedy we may even know the outcome of the story before we read the whole book, but we read it anyway because we want to know how it could all come about - what went wrong, how could this all happen. From the very first pages of the Bible, God has already revealed how this tragedy all came into being. He not only tells us how it came into being, but he also tells about a great destination and how we can all get back on course with a navigator that He has provided.

Everyone has been given an opportunity to read the book, but not everyone believes it. I have read the book, and it has a fantastic ending. I know that when the storms of life come, I am assured that my ship will reach the harbor, not because I have placed my faith in the destination, but rather *because I have placed my faith and trust in the Navigator.*

Perhaps there is someone today who is facing some storm. Perhaps there is someone today who is facing an insurmountable crisis. So if the storms of life seem to be hitting you, my question is: “Who is navigating your ship? Who is in control?”

When you have Jesus as the navigator of your ship, He will never abandon the ship. He will be with you through the storm. He will be with you through the wind and he will be with you through the fire. He will be with you during the good times and He will be with you in the storm times because He has promised to take you to your destination.

When Jesus is the navigator all metaphors break down. Not only is He the Great Navigator, He is also the Good Shepherd, He is the Gate, He is the Bread of Life, He is the Light of the World, He is the Father who waits for us, He is the Provider, He is the Watcher, He is the Keeper, He is the Alpha and the Omega, He is the Solid Rock, He is the High Tower,

He is the Strong Fortress, He is the Resurrection, He is the Life - because He has already weathered the storms in His own life and knows how to take us through as well. We may not understand how the navigation will work, but we know the Navigator.

The most important life lesson is: Don't ever lose sight of the navigator. The wise maidens in this parable were living on the strength of that one principle. This doesn't mean that they had their heads so wrapped up in the clouds that they had forgotten all about the present. They didn't know if the bridegroom could come today, tomorrow or ten years from now, but there is one thing that is certain: He will come, and that is why Jesus tells this parable.

God knows that we all have busy lives and that is why Jesus doesn't condemn the wise maidens for sleeping. But in this parable there are also two kinds of sleep and they are different. The foolish maidens simply grew tired of waiting. They had given up on the bridegroom and they had gotten weary. Discouraged, they failed to keep a supply of oil for their lamps. Half of them simply had given up HOPE.

C.S. Lewis once had this to say about HOPE: *"Hope is one of the theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not as some modern people may think a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we have to leave this present world as it is. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in....aim at the earth and you will get neither."*

The foolish maidens had let the oil go dry in their lives. They had given up on the groom and finally they had let the oil in their lives go dry. Their lamps were giving off more soot than flame, and eventually they had no light.

How is the oil in your lamp? But, I can hear someone saying, "Oh pastor...you don't know I've prayed and prayed. I read the Bible and I come to church but my prayers are not being answered. I feel that my lamp is going dry." My answer to the

statement is this: Keep pouring in fresh oil! Keep on praying! Keep on trusting! Keep on believing!

If you let the oil in your lamp go dry then you have fallen into the enemy's trap to believe that the bridegroom cannot come and that he has forgotten about you. Listen: if you decide to believe this lie you will have changed your navigator. Not only that, you will have also changed your destination. When God called you He also promised you a destination.

In these times we must never let our oil run dry. We are not here to play religious games.

Like St. Francis of Assisi, we need to pray that *where there is hatred, we may give love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope.* When you keep your lamps full of oil you cannot lose.

Perhaps you have let the oil in your lamp go dry because of life's storms and trials, and maybe with the start of this brand new year it is the time to receive a fresh refilling of oil. If that is you, then God can refill the oil in your lamp. That is why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is your constant supplier of oil that will never run dry. His oil is refreshing, His oil will renew you, His oil will restore you, His oil will heal you, and His oil will sustain through all the storms of life as we wait for our Great Shepherd who will bring us to our final destination.

This is the "Oil of Hope" that keeps our lamps from going dry!

On behalf of the entire Sunday Line team we want to wish you God's Richest Blessings and for the Holy Spirit to pour His unending supply of fresh oil into your lamps for this New Year, as your prayers get answered while we, with great anticipation, await the coming of our LORD!

Blessing in Christ!

*Pastor Roman
and Pat Kozak*

