

SUNDAY LINE AND WORLD MINISTRIES



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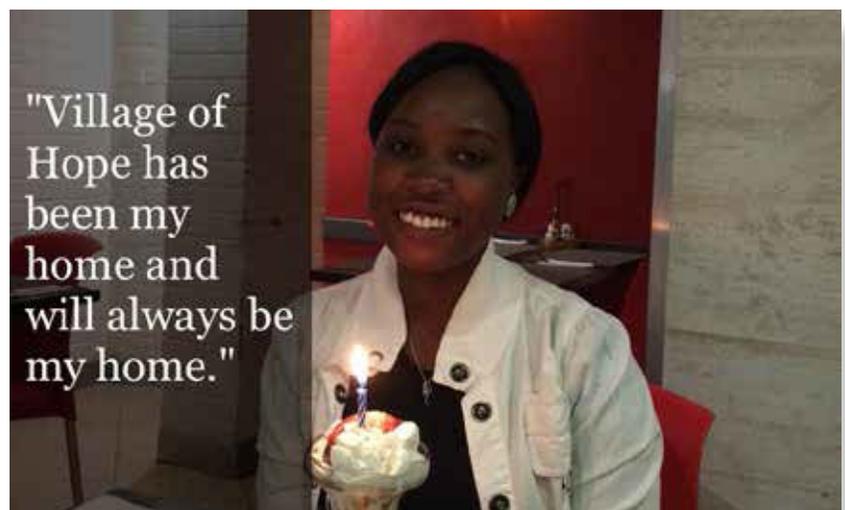
www.sundayline.com

Caring for children around the world

January 2016

VILLAGES OF HOPE AFRICA

with directors Sergio and Nancy Bersaglio



At the Villages of Hope, located in 8 regions throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, vulnerable children are loved and cared for so that they can have a lasting hope.

"HOPE FOR MY FUTURE"

From Zimbabwe, Pamela shares her story:

"Villages of Hope has been my home and will always be my home! When both my parents passed on, my young brother and I did not have anywhere else to go. Because we knew about Villages of Hope, we went to live there. For me to be where I am and be what I am today is because VOH played a major role in my life. First of all, VOH gave me Jesus and I am forever grateful for that.

I was also able to go to a good school and get a good education and was surrounded by people who motivated me and always gave me a reason to push on. At the moment I am studying for a degree in Accounting at the National University of Science and Technology. I want to become a chartered accountant. I also want to partner with the VOH and help out in any and every way that I can so as to give hope for the future of other children, just as I was also given hope.

Through staying at the VOH homes, God gave me a family and I now have many brothers and sisters. I managed to experience the love, joy, and happiness that come with having a family. This helped me be a person that can show others love and also be able to receive love from them. VOH gave me hope for my future."

WALKING AND PLAYING: Munu's Story

Munu joined the feeding program weighing only 7.32kgs. He had severe swelling of all his limbs and could not crawl or walk. Within a few weeks he gained over 2kgs. Munu has recently had his 2nd birthday and is now a healthy, happy little boy, he is walking and he loves to play!

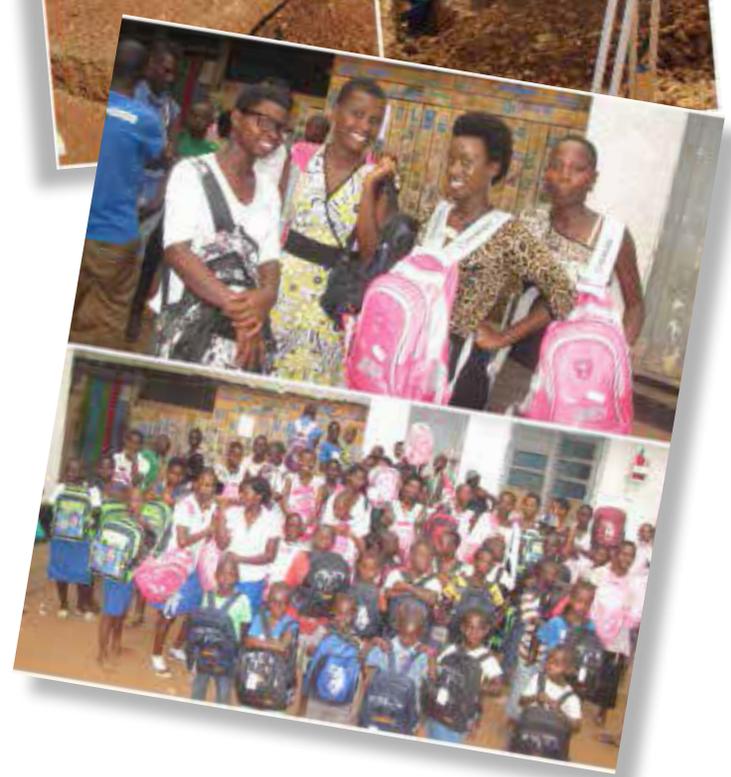
Throughout the program his mother learned many necessary parenting skills and is excited to now be able to care for her son in a healthier way.

NEW POSSIBILITIES

In Zambia, receiving an education is a blessing. Sadly, many children are not able to attend school. Even fewer students have the opportunity to continue their education into the high school years.

In Chongwe construction on the first phase of the VOH High School has begun! The building is scheduled to be completed in time for the beginning of the new school year in January and many children will now have new possibilities opened before them.

The children at VOH Burundi were excited to receive their new school bags, books, pens, shoes and other basic requirements for their school year.



Missions Fest Vancouver:

January 29-31

If in the Vancouver area, we invite you to come to the Canada Place Convention Centre, stop by the **Sunday Line booth J05**, talk with us, sign up for the annual Watoto drum draw, and discover ways to support and serve our Mission Partners. For more information visit:

www.missionsfest.vancouver.ca

HOLD ON TO YOUR DREAMS

Key Scripture: **Joshua 14:6-13**

“Now give me this hill country!!!”

In today's passage we see that after the people of Israel had crossed the Jordan and conquered much of the land, Caleb came to Joshua with a request.

Caleb reminded Joshua that he was only 40 years old when Moses sent him and Joshua, together with 10 other men, to spy out the land of Promise. But, as we recall from the story recorded in Numbers 13, only Caleb and Joshua came back with a good report. The other ten spies came back with a bad report.

The inhabitants of Canaan were like giants, but only Caleb and Joshua believed that God would give them the victory. The other ten spies complained that the Canaanites were too great and that they, in comparison, felt like grasshoppers. The problem was that these ten men were looking on the bigness of the enemy and not on the bigness of God who had delivered them out of Egypt.

Because of their unbelief God placed a judgment on the whole nation, that all of the men who were 20 years of age and older would never enter the Promised Land. Instead of an 11-day journey the people would have to live in the wilderness for another 40 years. Only Caleb and Joshua would survive to see the day when they would cross over the Jordan River into the land of Promise.

Now 45 years later Caleb tells Joshua: **“I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then.”**

What an amazing statement. At the age of 85 Caleb still felt like a 40-year-old. What a great attitude to have at 85. It goes to show you that a lot of getting old really depends on our attitude towards it. At age 85 Caleb refused to step down. He still had a dream to fulfill.

In verse 12 he says: **“Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.”**

Caleb was still holding onto his dream. It was engraved in his heart, and for 45 years he refused to let go of it. He refused to let his old age take his eyes from the goal.

We need to get a grasp of what this means. Caleb wasn't just waiting for 1 or 2 years or 10 years or 20 years or 30 years or 40 years...but waited 45 years. I don't know about you but 45 years is a very long time to be hanging onto a dream.

Many would think that Caleb must have gotten a little down once in a while wondering whether his dream would ever come true? I'm sure he had to face many challenges, where he could have said, *“I quit! I'm fed up with waiting...I'm fed up with living with grumblers...I'm fed up with living in the desert...I must have had a nightmare when I dreamt it...It just isn't going to happen!”*

But despite the long period of waiting, Caleb **never let go of his dream**. Despite the constant rebellion of the people he was with, Caleb **never doubted God** and despite the complaints from people, and the many battles, Caleb **never doubted his dream**.

Many good things have come about because someone had a dream.

We can learn many valuable lessons from Caleb which are applicable to us today:

- We should never let go of our dreams, no matter how old we are.
- We should never let go of the promises given us by the word of God, no matter how long we have to wait.
- We should never let the voices of grumblers affect our dreams or our faith.
- We should never let our age affect our attitude. As someone once said: “our altitude will be affected by our attitude.”

What made Caleb different? What made Abraham different? What made Moses different so that at the age of 80 he answered the call of God to go and set his people free?

It was because they had dreams to be fulfilled. My question is: do we still have dreams which need to be fulfilled? Remember this: **we are never finished until God says we are finished.**

Noah knew that God wasn't finished with him; Abraham knew that God wasn't finished with him; Jacob knew that God wasn't finished with him; Caleb knew that God wasn't finished with him; Joshua knew that God wasn't finished with him; David knew that God wasn't finished with him, and so did Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Isaiah... and the list goes on... and God hasn't finished with us either.

And so, since God called us and saved us, we are never finished until God says so.

The problem with our western culture today is that we have turned things all around. We are living in the age of information, in an age of productivity, in an age of speed, energy, looks, ambition and youth. Corporations are looking for young, vibrant, attractive, energetic executives and sadly this culture has also infiltrated the church today. This has become a great tragedy for the church.

The first tragedy is that today's churches are beginning to resemble corporations. Secondly, the elderly are no longer appreciated. Third, and most tragic of all, is that the church has begun operating in its own power instead of the power of the Holy Spirit.

What we must never forget is that the church is not a corporation geared to productivity, creating careers and consuming youthful energy. Rather the church is a family which grows together through enriched relationships.

Age has one great advantage in that it is loaded with time-seasoned life experiences that can supply a greater perspective on things.

In Psalm 37:25 David says: **"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread."**

Years on the road gather experience, as temptations are overcome, and skills are learned.

With age, serious believers become valuable mentors.

Young believers are constantly being tempted to defect. The educational institutes are anti-Christian. The world in general is anti-Christian. Young people are constantly bombarded with the media, music, technology and hype telling them about the great things the world has to offer. The

pressures of the world to lure young people away from attending church are staggering.

What the church has failed to appreciate is that it is the gray-haired people who have felt the pain of life, understand discouragement, understand disappointment and temptation, understand the loss of loved ones, but through it all are still believing God - still trusting God - and are still travelling toward their dream.

Job 12:12: **"Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?"**

And so the lesson that the church can learn from the lives of Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, and David, is that the church should prize spiritual depth over high energy, and should seek out the dreamers.

We should seek out the older folk who sparkle. We should seek them out because they have lived through many of life's trials and through it all have never abandoned their faith.

As we look back in history, Ronald Reagan turned 70 just 17 days after entering the office of the President of the United States. Abraham left Ur at 70 years of age. Aaron was 83 and Moses was 80 when they left Egypt. Benjamin Franklin was 79 when he became the governor of Pennsylvania. Winston Churchill led Great Britain at age 76. Albert Schweitzer was still practicing missionary medicine at age 90. Jomo Kenyatta made Kenya an outstanding African nation at age 80. Cecil B deMille produced the movie "The Ten Commandments" at age 75. Laura Ingalls wrote most of the stories of "Little House on the Prairie" between ages 70 to 90 years. Michelangelo created St. Peter's Basilica in Rome after the age of 70. And the list goes on.

So, in conclusion, **if God has given you a dream, don't ever let go of it. Like Caleb, let your attitude - and not your age - determine your altitude and by God's grace keep on keeping on!**

***On behalf of Sunday
Line's board and team of
volunteers, Pat & I want to
wish each and everyone a
Very Blessed New Year!***

*Pastor Roman
& Pat Kozak*

