



Worldwide Children's Fund

A Ministry of Sunday Line Communications Society

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Cathedral of Praise: Daily Feeding Program

Manila, Philippines

Directors David & Beverley Sumrall



A hot meal is so significant for the children who receive a daily meal prepared at the Gerard-Chapman kitchen in Manila and distributed by volunteers from Cathedral of Praise.

Director, Beverley Sumrall, writes: "I try to describe in words how the feeding is, but I just thought I would send a little photo one of the girls took recently. It might help describe how these children live their lives and what a daily hot meal every morning means to them. What a difference you are making Sunday Line!"

In a recent letter, Beverley recounts the history and value of the feeding program; a story we want to share with you: "I want to express my thanks to you and to the partners of Sunday Line for the continued love and support of our street children in Manila.

Bernice and Velma visited us a number of times and loved these children. They participated in the feeding themselves, and had such a heart to support and feed these precious little ones. Honestly when Velma went to heaven, I thought that would be the end of an era. But then I found out that the partners of Sunday Line had hearts that just don't stop loving, just don't stop giving to the Lord and to these children.

Over the years we have certainly grown in our methods and effectiveness in feeding the kids. From almost random selection on the streets at night, we went to being in one location for a week. That worked so well we ended up going to one location for a quarter at a time. This allowed us to solidify the people in the area in their walk with the Lord and let them see a different path to walk in life.

So many people who are living in poverty at that level are also very fatalistic, thinking, "My mother was born here, I was born here, my child was born here, that's just the way life will always be." To get people looking upward to the Lord and understanding that He will be there for them, that takes time.

Now, since the later part of 2015, we have been focused in one massive area of Manila called "Happy Land." Believe me when I say there is nothing happy about Happy Land. It is a slang word taken from a Filipino word naming the area. Sewerage flows freely all over the ground we walk on. Those living in make-shift shanties are considered the blessed ones. Children live on the streets. When asked when their birthday is they have no idea; no idea how old they are. They simply exist. And existence in Happy Land is a rough and tumble, day-to-day struggle. Disease and malnutrition runs rampant. Children who are blessed to go to school do not prosper there because they cannot focus on their lessons. Eventually most drop out after one to three grades.

Then, a few years ago when a super storm hit the center of the country, we made the most amazing discovery. One of the relief organizations we worked with was giving what they call "manna packs" – a box of rice/soy based meals that simply could be cooked with water. One box had enough packs in it to last a family for 30 days.

We were amazed by a totally unexpected side effect of this distribution. From members of our church who had relatives in the area, we started hearing about elderly people who had not walked in six months who were now up and walking around again, finding new found strength in their bodies. We soon realized this was not a miracle but simply a result of nutrition. That sparked the idea of sourcing these "manna packs" ourselves and targeting this massive poverty-stricken area called "Happy Land." If nutrition helped these elderly souls so much, how much more would it help give a child a chance in life; help them focus in school. Let them at least grow up and make their own decisions about how to live life.

So, for almost two years now, we have been feeding 2,200 children every morning with a hot nutritious meal, cooked on site, at the Gerard-Chapman Benevolence Kitchen, in Tondo Metro Manila. All meals are cooked and packaged there, then taken to Happy Land and neighbouring Aroma for distribution. The children are taught memory verse songs from



the Bible and if there are adults involved in their lives, they are taught the Word of God as well. We bought an old container van and turned it into a make shift chapel on Sundays and a Medical Clinic on Saturdays. Members from our church manage this clinic and our young people preach the gospel every Sunday and hold children's church for the kids.

As a result, we have seen children now walking, talking, reaching, studying, learning - all because of daily nutrition! When we first went to the area we found kids who were hostile, sad, and with dark and dull eyes. Now these same kids come running every morning with joy on their faces and light in their eyes. The transformation is astounding. They are flourishing at school and passing their classes. They are getting to know Jesus and making Him their friend and help in life. Parents are being saved and having their lives cleaned up as well. It is a long slow process working with them because many of them are into drugs or have been imprisoned for serious crimes. We have held mass weddings for couples who wanted to be married, held various medical and other workshops and clinics, started Bible studies, seen people water baptised – and now we 're hearing testimonies of men able to find work on the docks or on a ship or in the market areas. The miracles continue - and it's all because people have cared enough to love them with meals.

These meals come to them from our members EVERY day, seven days a week no matter what. In the midst of the worst storms the meals are there just as much as on a sunny day. Of course, there are many expenses involved in the program, but that is why we are so thankful for the love and support of Sunday Line. Because of you, we are able to do the things we do. We cook, we add the flavours the children find delicious, we distribute daily.

Sunday Line, thank you for making miracles happen. We love you and appreciate you so much. What a difference you are making!"

WHY IS GOD MINDFUL OF MAN?

Key Scripture: Psalm 8

“What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?”

As we look at the creation account in Genesis 1, we can see that God carefully had “Adam” in mind to be the climax of creation.

1. Adam was created last.
2. Adam was the product of divine deliberation.
3. The description of the creation of Adam is more intensive and extensive than any other detail.
4. The verb used to create Adam is *BARA* which always involves a special act of God.
5. Adam is made to reproduce his kind.
6. Once Adam is on the scene, God pronounces the created world as “very good”.
7. Adam is the only one made as *SELEM* “in the image of God”.

Psalm 8 is a reflective exposition based on the Genesis 1:26-31 account. The key question that the Psalmist raises, as he reflects at the entire creation, is “What is it about man that makes him so special and the object of divine interest and attention?”

We might expect the answer to be...because God; you have created him in your image! But, instead the Psalmist describes what it means to be “the image”:

- Man is assigned to a status slightly lower than God (Auth. reads “angels”)
- Man is crowned (by God) with his own attributes of “glory” and “majesty”.
- Man is assigned responsibility for governing all creation.
- Man is to specifically rule over the entire animal kingdom.

For the present, man’s dominion over the earth is an intellectual one. Man is master because he has superior intelligence. He can fly higher than birds, run faster than a cheetah, lift greater loads than an elephant, and swim further than the fishes of the sea.

But, the one central issue that the Old Testament teaches, from the beginning and consistently throughout the Bible, is that God is supremely interested in moral issues, and it would appear that this is the kind of dominion appointed to Adam.

All of the long Old Testament narratives show that God is consistently judging men. God demands righteousness and punishes sin, and He treats man as a moral being with the intellect, ability and responsibility to make moral choices. Throughout the Old Testament God shows Himself as pleading, forgiving, pleading and forgiving again. He chastens and finally, after long and patient waiting, finally brings judgment.

The same patience that bore so long with a rebellious nation of Israel is now what is prolonging the gospel age that we now live in. Yet God cannot leave the guilty unpunished and one day there will be a final Judgment Day.

God had placed Adam in an idyllic garden where all of his needs would be met (physical, aesthetic, social, personal, and spiritual) all symbolized by the Tree of Life. Adam was given freedom of choice to accept or reject divine “image” status symbolized by giving him the opportunity to make a choice between blessing (Tree of Life), and between Cursing (Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil).

God even created Eve to be Adam’s helper who was to complement and be Adam’s counterpart in the governance of God’s creation. The earth belonged to God and Adam was given charge of it. Adam was to walk with God and obey God as His representative on earth. However, by Adam’s deliberate act of rebellion, he repudiated his status of the “image of God”. He, in essence, told God: “I want to do it my way”.

Satan’s lie to every person on earth is that he or she can become like gods on deciding what is good and what is evil. Because of Adam’s rebellion, God became displaced and Satan became the God of this world.

In Adam’s rebellion, he not only repudiated the “image of God”, but also ruined the “super good” harmony in the universe. All relationships in the universe were disturbed:

- Between God and Adam
- Between the Man and the Woman
- Between Adam and the universe

- Between God and the universe

It was this dysfunction created by the sin of our first parents which resulted in the fundamental depravity of all humanity. Adam as the head of mankind lost the "image of God". Mankind today bears the "image of a fallen Adam".

Adam's rebellion caused him to be expelled from the garden. He had disconnected himself from God. God removed His blessing from the land, and now man would have to work by the sweat of his brow in order to live.

Even though sin continued to abound, God still provided grace. The only problem was that the world then and also now does not understand that the only reason why God has not completely obliterated mankind is because of God's grace.

God had given Adam understanding of His will and the freedom of choice, to do His will; to act "As His Image" and govern all His creation as He would govern. In return God would provide for all of Adam's needs as represented in the garden, and in the cool of the evening He would walk with Him.

Despite the Fall, man is and always will be the crowning point of creation. He is God's splendid masterpiece possessing moral and intellectual powers. The theory of evolution breaks down every time it is applied to man. There is absolutely not one scientific fact which can sustain the theory that intellectual man resembles the ape. It takes a whole lot of imagination to believe that theory.

In Israel's failure to act as God's image, God would eventually send His own Son. Jesus would fulfill the role of Israel as God's representative on earth. Colossians 1:15 tells us that Jesus is the **"image of the invisible God"**. Hebrews 1:3 tells us that the "Son is the exact representation of God's being". In fact the majority of the New Testament epistles are all about how we are to live our renewed lives....in Christ....**as the "image of God"**.

The mystery of God, hidden in ages past, now is becoming known to the rulers of this world that, through the Church, God is building His kingdom here on earth. When we receive Jesus as Lord, we become the children of God.

John 1:12: **"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God-children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will,**

but born of God."

Our moral nature is changed from that of the world to that of Christ. 1 John 3:2: **"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as he is."**

This hope is not limited to the New Testament but also declared in the Old Testament.

Psalms 17:15: David says: **"And I – in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness."**

For this very reason, God deliberately created a world peculiarly suited for man, over which man could have dominion. Man's duty was to extend the boundaries of the original Garden of Eden until the earth became a paradise.

As God's image the first Adam, who was head of the human race, failed to keep God's image and God's likeness, and the only reason that God did not destroy His creation then and now is because of His grace and mercy.

God in His foreknowledge had already prepared a plan of restoration for all of His creation.

The very seed of woman would become the Son of man and Son of God, as God's Image to bring a distorted world and universe back into harmony with God.

One day Jesus, "The Last Adam" and express image of God, will come again to complete the purposes and plan of God where the first Adam failed. In the meantime, our prayer is for God's Kingdom to come, here on earth as it is in heaven.

Beloved in Christ: Despite what is happening in the world today, we know that Jesus is coming again to take His lawful throne as Lord and King of all the earth.

God is faithful and just to hear our hearts cry.

Thank you for your faithful giving to help us carry a message of hope to the needy children of this world!

*Pastor Roman
and Pat Kozak*

