

SUNDAY LINE and World Ministries

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Caring for children around the world

July 2014

Calcutta Mission of Mercy: *Hulda Buntain*



Grateful villagers receive help following cyclone

FISHERMEN CHURCH UPDATE:

A terrible cyclonic storm hit the coast of Orissa a few months ago and destroyed so many of the fishermen's villages. The fishermen depend on their boats to fish, which is the only means of livelihood for their families. Their huts and boats were destroyed and families were devastated.

What a blessing and testimony it was to the thousands of fishermen and their families when our Mission moved in with medical assistance. Our Clinic helped with medical assistance and we were also able to replace boats that were damaged, as well as give food and housing to these destitute families. Our compassionate ministries in these villages brought many families to the Lord.

UNREACHED VILLAGE AREAS:

With the monthly assistance received from Sunday Line, pastors are trained to minister in unreached village areas with the gospel. There are now 340 churches in Orissa, 250 churches in Jharkhand/Bihar and 200 churches in North Bengal, the Himalayan mountain region, and the State of Sikkim.

Every state in India has a different language, so it is necessary to train pastors in these different languages. Each year, our Bible Schools graduate wonderful, committed and dedicated pastors who go to remote villages in these States.

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THE HOPE OF GLORY

Key Scripture: Ephesians 1:18

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."

World War II was to be the war that ended all wars. It was a time of renewed optimism. Today, people are not living in an age of optimism, but rather one of pessimism and despair. This is most evident in the youth culture.

Since 9/11 the thought of disaster is on the minds of everyone, but especially so among the young. The U.S. alone has spent over a trillion dollars since 9/11 and yet we feel no safer. Today's technology is changing so fast that many jobs cease to exist. Long established companies are closing down. People are losing jobs daily. Retirement funds are running short, the banking system seems to be on the brink of disaster, and world-wide recession is always a topic of discussion. Premarital sex is now becoming the norm because there is no certainty that there is a future. Never before have so many teens found so little to live for.

Apart from faith in God, people really have no basis to hope at all. The text which we are studying today is one of many passages which focuses on the Christian's hope.

In Romans 8:24-25 Paul writes: **"For in this**

hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

Everyone wants to have something to hope for.

Abraham hoped for a land and he hoped for descendants.

When the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt, they anticipated entering into the Promised Land, which would be their inheritance.

Israel's inheritance was to be more than just a piece of land. When Jacob had deceived his father and obtained his blessing, he fled from his brother Esau. He probably never intended to return while his brother remained alive. But Jacob had a most unusual dream just before he left the land of promise.

Jacob's dream caused him to view this land differently. Somehow, this land was special; it was the place where God met with men. It would not be until much later that the significance of this dream would be realized in its relationship to Jesus Christ.

Even the Old Testament saint came to realize that their inheritance, their "land", was not the physical land, but rather a heavenly place which God is preparing for all of His people. The writer of Hebrews put it this way: **"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth."** (Hebrews 11:13-14)

And so the Old Testament showed that Israel's real inheritance was God Himself, not just a piece of land where He would manifest His presence. The Levites, who were the priest-

hood, received no land allotment after they entered Canaan. God told them that He was their inheritance.

From the Old Testament to the New, God made it plain to us that those who would find Him to be their inheritance would not be just Israelites, but those who trusted in Him from among the Gentiles as well. Ezekiel 47:22: **“You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the aliens who have settled among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.”**

This inheritance, shared by believing Jews and Gentiles, is the inheritance of the promised blessings of God, accomplished by Jesus Christ.

As believers in Jesus Christ we have so much to hope for:

First of all, we have hope in a promised inheritance: Our inheritance was purposed by God in eternity past through salvation by the death of His Son. Our inheritance is presently unseen, but will be fully realized when Jesus comes.

Secondly: Our hope is one which is beyond the grave. The tomb is empty. Jesus is alive so therefore we have hope, even in the face of death.

Thirdly: God has offered us this hope through Jesus: **“Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace (GLORY) to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** (1 Peter 1:13).

You might be asking, “Why should I hope?” Because it will be a time of glory!!!! The glory of the United States is its air force and military might. The glory of Rome is St. Peter’s Cathedral and the Pope. But none of this will compare to the glory that is coming.

1. **It will be glory for our Lord Jesus.** The first time Jesus came as the lamb for the slaughter. The next time Jesus comes He will come with His heavenly host and He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords.

2. **It will be glory for the Church.** When Christ who is our life appears in all his glory, we shall also appear with Him. We will have received our glorified new bodies and be just like Him.

3. **It will be glory for Israel.** Israel will be re-gathered in her own land, and enjoy a chief place among all the peoples of the earth.

4. **It will be glory for certain Gentile nations.** When Jesus comes with all of his angels, he will sit on his throne and judge the nations, and divide His sheep from the goats.

5. **And finally it will be glory for the physical earth.** When Jesus comes to establish His kingdom on earth, the entire earth will be full of His glory. The curse will be lifted and the earth will be renovated back to a garden paradise.

In this age of despair, there is only one solution: Jesus Christ. He is the only One who has provided the forgiveness of sins, and the hope of eternal life, and He is the One who will return to this earth, and take His rightful place as King!!

Dear reader, Jesus is the only hope to a sinful, fallen world!!!

Thank you for your continued support as we reach out with hope to the children of this world.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Roman
and Pat Kozak*



Continued from front

Many times the new graduates face opposition and persecution, but it is because of love and the compassionate ministries, that we now have so many churches and hundreds of families won for Christ. It is difficult to tell people in poverty stricken areas that God loves them unless we do something about it. This is why we continue with our educational, feeding and medical projects.

COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES IMPACT LOCAL VILLAGES:

In the villages, parents have not had the opportunity for education so they are grateful when a school is commenced for their children using the church building. When the parents come to hear their children sing and read the scriptures, families are won to Christ.

Hunger is so prevalent, and, for many of the children, the school lunch is the only good meal they get in the whole day. In Puri, Orissa, our Pastor conducts an infant milk feeding program which has saved the lives of hundreds of babies.

One of our newest programs is Rural Clinics. In villages where it would be impossible to open a church or even a Christian school, villagers welcome a medical clinic. One of our pastors is in charge of this Clinic with the help of a medical team. Once we obtain the favour of the villagers, the doctor's table becomes the pastor's pulpit, and on Sunday we have church.

When a child in India is deformed because of a cleft palate, crippled, blind, or has any other medical deformity, families are ostracized. When these children are sent to the Mercy Ministries hospital for surgery and they return to their villages transformed due to their respective surgeries, it electrifies the village. These testimonies have been instrumental in the growth of our village churches.



Rice dishes full



Villagers line up for medical aid



HEMA'S STORY:

Hema sat drawing a little flowerpot on a piece of paper as her mom watched patiently nearby. Smiles were intermitently exchanged between them along with a few words in Bengali. It was not hard to see that they shared a special bond. Hema was only six months old when she received her first cleft lip surgery, and she was fortunate to receive the second before turning three. The surgeries and follow-up care provided by Mercy Hospital for Hema were free. Now, the only care Hema requires is speech therapy, which will help improve any remaining difficulties she has with talking.