

SUNDAY LINE AND WORLD MINISTRIES



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Caring for children around the world

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MERCY MINISTRIES: Calcutta, India

A HEART OF COMPASSION AND CHRIST'S LOVE:

as told by Hulda Buntain



Hulda Buntain with Bible School graduates

"It is not how much you do, but the love you put in the doing that counts", spoke Mother Teresa to Hulda Buntain while in their Calcutta hospital shortly before her death. "Mother, if we don't put Jesus' love in our doing all our work is in vain," replied Hulda. "**That is what I mean!**" added Mother Teresa.

of the 3 schools, we now have 700 churches. It is only through compassion and Christ's love that these graduate pastors are now able, every day, to carry on all of our Calcutta Ministries in the States of Orissa, Jharkhand and North Bengal.

Thank you Sunday Line and World Ministries – I do not have sufficient words to express my gratitude for the faithful donations which have been such a tremendous help to train hundreds of national pastors in three Bible Schools. Each State has its own language and it is wonderful to know that, because

EDUCATION AND CHURCH PLANTING:

A Ranchi Bible School graduate is responsible for the ministry in the village of Ghaghra. Though started in a small way the ministry now involves a large church and a school with thousands of students.

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THE BEST IS, GOD IS WITH US!

Key Scripture: Revelation 19

"Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready."

This is the event which every believer has been waiting for . . . the final union between Jesus and the Church. The lyrics attribute glory, deliverance and power to God. It is a song of rejoicing and triumph of truth over evil.

To understand and appreciate the symbolism of this joyous passage we need to have some understanding of the marriage customs of the East.

A Jewish betrothal was considered much more binding than our present day engagement which we celebrate in our culture. The betrothed couple was for all intents and purposes already looked upon as being married. During the time between betrothal and the marriage ceremony, the bridegroom paid the customary marriage dowry to the father of the bride (see **Genesis 34:12**).

The betrothal period was a time of preparation and adornment of the bride, who was to "make herself ready" for the great event. In the company of his friends, the bridegroom

then proceeded to his own home or the house of his parents. The climax was the solemn and joyous wedding feast.

The imagery of marriage occurs frequently in both the Old and the New Testaments. Many of Jesus' parables centered around a wedding (**Matthew 22:2-14; Mark 2:19-20**). The apostle Paul made use of this imagery in **2 Corinthians 11:2** and **Ephesians 5:25-33**.

Jesus is our heavenly Bridegroom. The bride is the true Church and includes everyone who has entered into a relationship with Jesus. We belong to Him as His bride. We are His, He is ours and He will never leave us.

But, you might be wondering, what about the Old Testament believers who lived under the Old Covenant. Are they excluded from the wedding feast? And the answer is no - they are not excluded from the wedding feast. Even though the Old Covenant was only a shadow of the New Covenant, the Old Testament saints were all looking forward in faith to the coming Messiah.

Jesus had this to say about the Old Testament saints:

Luke 13:28-29: *"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out."*

Revelation 21:12 tells us that the heavenly city will have a great, high wall with twelve gates and with twelve angels at the gates. And, on the gates are written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, indicating that the Old Testament saints will not be excluded from the wedding feast.

As the Bridegroom, Jesus paid the dowry price, not in shining silver or gold . . . but He paid for His bride with His own blood which He shed at Calvary.

In John 14 Jesus made it clear that He was returning to His Father's house to prepare a home for His bride. In the meantime the church is to make herself ready for the coming Bridegroom. In the parable of the ten virgins in **Matthew 25:1-13** Jesus illustrates the necessity of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Throughout His teachings Jesus made it clear that heaven is a real place. Most people base their expectation on whether they get to heaven on how well they perform in this present life regardless whether they have a personal relationship with Jesus or not.

Many people ask if God really does exist, why do the righteous and innocent people suffer while the bad people prosper? Why do so many crimes go unpunished while those who do good often get unrewarded?

Asaph in Psalm 73 seemed to ask the same questions . . . and almost gave up on his faith.

Psalm 73:2-5: “**But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; [he confirms] I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.”**

But in **verses 17-20** Asaph finally discovers the answer: “**Until I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. Surely you place them on slippery ground; surely you cast them down to ruin. How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors! As a dream when one awakens, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.”**

Like Asaph we must remember that it is the end view that is important. Eternity offers only two choices . . . either heaven or a place called hell.

Mark Twain made a joke of heaven and hell. He said we should go to heaven for the climate, but to hell for the company. It's funny but it won't be a joke for anyone who does end up in hell.

Voltaire, the famous French author, philosopher and atheist was asked if he could say something of comfort to a friend who was dying. Voltaire replied: “*I don't think I can. The thought that there might really be a hell plagues me continually.*” Voltaire admitted that there actually might be a place called hell.

Jesus spoke of hell 33 times and described its horrors in graphic detail. See **Matt. 3:12, Matt. 13:41-42, Matt. 25:46, Luke 16: 19-31.**

The Bible makes it very clear in **Revelation 21:27:** “**Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.”**

When John Wesley, the father of the Methodists, lay dying on his deathbed in his room in London England before He passed into eternity, he marshalled all the strength he could and said these famous last words: “**The best is, God is with us.**” To that comment we all say “Amen” **Even so. Come Lord Jesus!**

Thank you once again for your faithful giving as we reach out to help innocent children whom that the world would like to forget.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Roman

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A group of High School students stand in front of their school, the first class in this recently constructed building.

On weekends, while still at Bible School, a student will go to a village that God has laid on his heart, play guitar, sing, perhaps bring a message using puppets and visual aids. As there is little form of entertainment, the villagers begin to anticipate these visits. Once known, the student will begin teaching the children and, since the parents are often illiterate, they are eager for their children to have an education. Upon graduation, the student has already gained the favour of the villagers, a school is opened and in a short time it becomes a church.

Graduate Bible School students go the remote areas where the villagers welcome a school for their children. A chapel is constructed in the school and services are held each morning. Parents come to see their children sing and in this way they are won for Christ.

Hunger is prevalent among the children and often the only good meal they receive is at school. Each day, in the streets and in the school feeding programs, 25,000 are fed.



Hulda stands beside one of the 500 children each month who receive blood transfusions to treat the dreadful disease of leukemia.

HOSPITAL MINISTRY:

The Calcutta hospital is one of our greatest arms of evangelism. Five chaplains, graduates from our Bible Schools, go from bed to bed each day praying for the poverty stricken sick and suffering patients.

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The SUNDAY LINE FELLOWSHIP group meets in the White Rock/South Surrey area each Sunday and Wednesday morning. Please feel free to join us for worship and teaching should you be in the area. We are a fellowship of believers whose desire is to reach out to those in need. For information please call Sunday Line at **778-294-4040**.