

SUNDAY LINE and World Ministries



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Caring for children around the world

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Watoto Child Care Ministries *Uganda, Africa*



A FAMILY SETTING:

The children who live in the Watoto villages feel comfortable and at-home. The setting, 9 houses positioned in clusters, reflects a familiar traditional dwelling for people in Uganda. Each house provides all the essentials of a basic home. The outdoor spaces have sports fields and landscaped areas that give the children plenty of space to play and develop their social skills.

When the orphaned and vulnerable children are placed in this type of loving, family environment, with a mother and siblings who love them, they find a place that they can call home. At the heart of every Watoto village is this welcoming family structure.



The villages present an eco-friendly environment as Watoto implements better ways of building sustainable and cost-effective homes and villages by harvesting rainwater and using solar energy. As the children witness this progress, they learn, too, to become leaders who will bring sustainable change to their nation and beyond.

FATHER'S HEART

Through a program called Father's Heart, men from Watoto Church commit themselves to becoming father figures and positive male role models to a specific Watoto home. They visit whenever they can to help the children with their homework, to play with younger children and to disciple the older boys.

LETTERS FROM SUNDAY LINE SPONSORED WATOTO FAMILY:

Sunday Line sponsors 1 mother and 6 children who are thankful for the opportunity to grow and develop in the Watoto setting. Their regular letters greet us in the name of Jesus Christ and express thanks for showing our love through sponsorship.

Mama Eunice writes: "I always give glory to God Almighty for the gift of life. I am serving with Watoto for the 5th year. My children have grown and become more responsible. The oldest will be joining university next year. The youngest will be graduating to primary one. The oldest is a guitar player and all my children love singing and serving God."

7 year old Zara writes: "I am very fine and enjoying school because I am in a new class. My teachers are lovely. My Christmas was fun. I ate cake and I got a gift. I promise to work hard and excel."

12 year old Sadat writes: "My best hobby is basketball. I was playing it with my best friends and it was so cool and interesting."



*Above Left: Zara
Above Right: Sadat
Right: Mama Eunice
Below: Zara's Artwork*



MY GOD, YOUR GOD!

Key Scripture: John 20:1-9

"The Resurrection"

Mary Magdalene is the woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons, and was one of the first to come to the tomb very early Sunday morning while it was "still dark" to discover that the Lord's body was gone. She immediately ran to tell Peter and John.

Both Peter and John ran together to the tomb. John outran Peter and hesitated about going in while Peter, who came up behind him, ran straight in. The body of Jesus was definitely gone. Where were the guards? Who had moved the stone? What was going on?

Neither Mary Magdalene, nor Peter, nor John understood that Jesus had risen from the dead. All they could think about was, "Who stole the body of Jesus?"

As John entered the tomb he looked closely and saw the linen cloth in which the body of Jesus had been wrapped and the face cloth that had covered Jesus' head neatly folded. The passage tells us that John believed: **"He believed"**. (John 20:8)

But what did he believe? Did he believe that the body of Jesus was really gone? Did he believe that someone had rolled the stone away and stolen the body? Or did he believe the impossible - that Jesus had truly risen from the grave?

John realized that Jesus had risen. The grave

cloths were still exactly in the same place as he remembered when the body of Jesus was placed in the tomb. Nothing had been moved.

When Peter and John left the tomb, Mary remained behind weeping and when she looked inside the tomb, she saw two angels dressed in white sitting at each end of the cloths where the body of Jesus had been laid.

"The angels asked Mary, 'Woman, why are you crying?' She replied, 'They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put Him.'"

This was the darkest moment of her life - Jesus' body was gone. Then Mary turned around and saw someone she thought was the gardener. Jesus asks Mary the same question the angels asked: **"Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"**

Hoping this 'gardener' can help her, she pleads with Him: **"Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."** (Verse 15) Jesus answered with one word: **"Mary."** It was the voice she knew so well. Recognizing that it was Jesus, she called, **"Rabboni"** (or teacher). In Aramaic **RABBONI** means 'Master'.

Mary had found Him and wanted to hold Him but Jesus tells her not to cling to Him because He **"must first return to the Father, to my God and your God,"** and He tells her, **"Go and tell the others."**

The significant point in this passage is that Jesus had not yet ascended to His Father, and His God. The question we must ask is in what way could His ascension change the situation,

allowing those He loved Him to touch Him afterwards?

There are several remarkable things about this passage.

Jesus' first appearance is not to one of the eleven disciples, but to Mary Magdalene. She was never one of the apostles. She would never write a Gospel. She would never become a great preacher. Secondly, Mary was the only person who saw the resurrected Jesus prior to presenting His blood in the Throne Room of God. Afterwards, He presented Himself to the other disciples.

There are only 2 other times in the entire Bible where Jesus refers to His Father as 'God'. The first is found in Hebrews 10:7 when Jesus entered into the little baby that Mary was about to give birth to declaring, **"Then said I, Lo I have come to do thy will, O God."** The 2nd occasion was at the cross when Jesus cried out, **"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"** (Matt 27:46).

What is clear is that Jesus, the Son of God, in all 3 occasions had come to do the will of God - **His God and our God**. Jesus submitted His will to God in the incarnation. And He submitted His will by becoming the sacrificial lamb to shed his blood on the cross. And now, in His final act, Jesus still had to enter into the very throne room of God in heaven to present His undefiled blood, before His God and our God.

Later that day Jesus appeared to His disciples who were assembled behind closed doors, and willingly let them touch Him. They thought that He was a ghost or an apparition, to which Jesus challenged them to touch Him. (Luke 24:38-39) **"Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see; for**

a spirit doesn't have flesh and bones as you see me have."

From that day, Jesus' Church would be referred to as His Body. Ephesians 5:30 puts it this way: **"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."**

It is the resurrection which separates all other belief systems from Christianity. Without the resurrection Christianity is meaningless. As Paul puts it: **"If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is also in vain."** (1 Cor. 15:14)

What does the resurrection prove? It proves 3 things:

- *First* it proves that God was satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice.
- *Second*, it proves that Jesus destroyed Satan's power over death.
- *Third*, a new order of life has been established. Jesus became the first born from the dead, so that many could become the sons of God.

It is Christ's resurrection which gives us the assurance that the sting of death has been destroyed.

What a glorious Saviour we serve!!!

Thank you to all of our faithful donors for your continued help as we reach out to the needy children.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Roman
and Pat Kozak*

