

SUNDAY LINE AND WORLD MINISTRIES



PO Box 71588 Hillcrest RPO
White Rock, BC V4B 3Z0

778-294-4040

Email: info@sundayline.com

www.sundayline.com

Caring for children around the world

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WATOTO Child Care Ministries

Kampala and Gulu, Uganda, Africa



An older brother welcoming a new brother into the family



*Gary and Marilyn Skinner,
Watoto Founders*

If you have ever heard the Watoto Choir sing with enthusiasm, meaning and celebration of life you will not forget their name! But what does Watoto mean? In Swahili it means children. Watoto is a holistic care program that was initiated in Uganda as a response to the overwhelming number of orphaned and vulnerable children and women. Its purpose is to rescue an individual, raise each one as a leader in their chosen sphere of life so that they in turn will rebuild their nation. Today, Watoto is impacting the lives of more than 2,500 children who have been orphaned and abandoned.

In October 2012, 39 girls and 42 boys were welcomed to the Watoto family. The children, aged 6-10 years, were mainly from the surrounding community and were identified as vulnerable children needing to be rescued from dire situations. They can now look forward to the prospect of a new and better life. It is our prayer that these children will find the love, purpose and acceptance they long for as they start a new chapter of their lives.

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WHY IT HAD TO BE!

Key Scripture: Isaiah 53:4-6

“He was wounded for our transgressions...”

This month as we approach the Easter season I would like to look at the crucifixion story and see why “*it had to be*” by way of using contrasts.

When we say that Jesus took our sin it is only partially correct. In fact it is more correct to say that our sin was *placed upon* Him. When Jesus became sin for us, it was not according to His will, but according to the will of His Father. Sinfulness was never in any way an expression of Jesus’ nature. He was never conceived in sin and had always lived a sinless life to which His Father attested: **“This is my son in whom I am well pleased.”**

Contrast 1: The sins that we bring upon ourselves we do *actively*, as a free act of our volition. When Jesus took our sins He did not do it actively; our sins were placed upon Him. He took them *passively*. In fact Jesus did not embrace sin but surrendered His will to the will of His Father. If it were possible He would rather have not taken them at all.

In Luke 22:41-43 we have Jesus praying: **“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”**

In a few short hours, the Son of God who had never known sin was suddenly going to take on the full blow of humanity’s sinfulness. Hundreds of years earlier, the prophet Isaiah foretold this actual event:

Isaiah 53: 4-6: **“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him ... all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”**

Contrast 2: When it comes to the matter of physical death the situation is exactly reversed. We die quite *against our will*; we do not enter life actively wanting to die, nor do we actively seek death. Jesus on the other hand came to die and also died precisely when *He chose* to die.

In every one of the first three gospels Jesus is portrayed in some capacity as a man; however, in John’s gospel the apostle presents Jesus as the Son of God who was from everlasting to everlasting (John 1:1-5). In John’s gospel Jesus is the Word that was with God and was God, and that being the case, when it came time for John to record the death of Jesus he also describes how different the death of Jesus was from every other human.

Contrast 3: In describing the death of Jesus, the gospel of Matthew uses the Greek word *aphemi* (Matt. 27:50) meaning “to give up”, and in Mark 15:37 and Luke 23:46 both writers use the word “*ekpneo*” meaning “to breathe out”. Both of these Greek words essentially *have the same meaning* and are the equivalent to our English word “expire” which is a term commonly used for the death of ordinary human beings.

However, in John 19:30 John uses a completely different word with a *completely different meaning*. In describing Jesus’ death John uses the Greek word “*paradidomi*”. Nowhere else in the Greek version of the Old Testament is

this word ever used on the occasion of an act of dying. It has a very specific meaning. It means “to deliver up” and was used with the idea of handing up ...handing over ... handing down and always is used in the context of a free will transfer ... and never surrender. **If Jesus was truly the Son of God, then He could not have died a death as is common to every man and furthermore Jesus could not have died under the hand of any man.**

In the final 3 hours of His life Jesus had passively taken on the sins of all humanity according to the will of His Father and when the price had been paid for humanity's crime Jesus cried out: “Tetelestai”, meaning “It is finished”.

Psalm 31:5: **“Father into your hands I commit my Spirit”.**

As the Son of God and as the author of life, Jesus could only die one way, supernaturally under His own hand. Many have written books on the question as to who really killed Jesus. Some blamed the Jews, the religious leaders, the Romans and some have blamed all humanity. But the truth is that no one person or persons actually struck the blow that killed Jesus.

Jesus made it clear in John 10:18: **“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”**

In His death, Jesus became both the sacrifice and also the sacrificer. As Tertullian, who has been called the “Founder of Western Theology” put it: Christ when crucified spontaneously dismissed his spirit with a word, and thus prevented the office of the executioner.”

When the Roman centurion, a man of authority, witnessed how Jesus had dismissed His spirit with authority, it caused him to declare in Matthew 27:54: **“Truly this was the Son of**

God”. For who else could give such a command in such a circumstance and see it instantly carried out?

For God's plan of salvation to have succeeded, these are some of the things which **“had to be”**:

The universe *had to be* what it is in order to support planet earth. The earth *had to be* what it is to support the different forms of life; Adam *had to be* created in a body in order that he could be redeemed; Eve *had to be* taken out of Man to preserve mankind; Eve's seed *had to be* undefiled in order for her to become the mother of all living; the forbidden fruit *had to have* the nature of death in it; the penalty of death *had to be* a drawn out process; the cross *had to be* invented; crucifixion *had to be* what it was in order to fulfill the plan of redemption; Jesus *had to be* born of a virgin woman; Jesus *had to be* both the sacrifice and high priest; the resurrection of Jesus *had to be* to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and the Holy Spirit *had to be* given in order to bring souls into the kingdom.

My friends ... these are all the things which had to be. The design and plan of salvation *had to be* from a mind far beyond human capacity or thinking. Everything that *had to be* brings us to only one single conclusion! From beginning to end, no man or men together...no matter how intelligent or creative they were could ever possibly devise such a great plan for the salvation of man. The verdict is clear: **It had to be Jesus, the Son of God!**

On behalf of all of the Sunday Line volunteers, we want to wish you a very Blessed Easter Season

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Roman



The Watoto Childrens Choir with our Sunday Line Hosts

WATOTO CHILDREN'S CHOIR HOSTED BY SUNDAY LINE IN WHITE ROCK, BC

We were so blessed to host the Watoto Children's Choir the last weekend of January. Not only did the children sing and share with passion and proficiency but they warmed our hearts and homes with the abundance of their joy. To see a presentation by the children in your area go to: www.watoto.com/the-choir/see-the-choir.



MISSIONSFEST VANCOUVER DRAW WINNER: The Miracle Gift

Marvin Lentz with daughter Christal, recipient of the Sunday Line Missions Fest 2013 draw - a beautiful Ugandan drum previously played on tour by the Watoto Children's Choir.

"I see this gift as one destined to go to my daughter Christal," comments her father, Marvin. "From a dad's perspective the drum could not have been given to a more suitable person – and she is elated! Christal is a real special gift from the Lord and singing has always been a part of her life. At the age of 5 she would be bopping around to the Watoto Children's Choir music almost daily. When she heard the Singing Christmas tree production in Edmonton she decided to climb to the top of the 20 foot spruce tree on our property and sing."

"The gift of this drum will not only get great use but it will always be a reminder of how our Heavenly Father gives good gifts to his children. This year at Missions Fest Vancouver Christal and four of her friends came to be a part of the great 30-year celebration. Each one of their lives were changed - or, better stated - rearranged by the Holy Spirit that weekend. The drum is now a visible reminder of God's great plan for Christal and was exceptionally providential."

Christal's father, Marvin, has just moved to Vancouver to work with Missions Fest locally and internationally for the next couple of years. His desire is that all would be propelled to action in some way to touch just one person in our world today with an expression of divine love.

"This drum is likely to be the very thing that not only confirms and reminds us of God's calling in Christal's life but also that which propels her into following the call of God. The song 'Touch Your People Once Again' comes to mind as I give thanks to our Heavenly Father for this special gift from Sunday Line and all who may have had a part in this drum being such a special and timely gift."