

# SUNDAY LINE AND WORLD MINISTRIES



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*Caring for children around the world*

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**March 2014**

## GREAT COMMISSION MEDIA

*North Africa, Russia and Mumbai*



The purpose of Great Commission Media Ministries is to conduct high-impact Mega City Media Saturation Campaigns in cities with the message that God gives the power to change.

### **Written responses from the Great Commission Media TV programs to Muslim countries:**

**I lived a lonely and lousy life.** I felt only pain, suffering and bitterness. Not until I familiarized myself with your programs I understood that in the world there are people who know God and love him. From that moment I have faithfully watched your programs. I feel how my inner world is changing and transforming day by day. I feel clearly how God has become closer to me. *(Amal from North Africa)*

**I was born in 1984. I became a fanatic Muslim.** I tried to please God in all ways. I looked for the truth from Islam to find the purpose for my life. But I didn't find it. I began to suspect the message that my religion declared and my religiousness started to crumble. I was disappointed.

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# THE GIFT OF LIFE

Key Scripture: **John 10:10b**

*"I have come so that they might have life"!!*

**W**e've been Born Again! We have New Life! But do we really grasp what we have?

We neglect to meditate on its significance and true dimensions. We forget to remember what it cost Jesus to impart it. Taking it for granted, we become dull of heart and slow to give thanks. Thus our joy and confidence erodes away. Therefore it is worthwhile to review what this New Life, this gift of God, really is.

The Greek word for "life" is *zoe*. This is the root of the English words "zoo" and "zoology." *Zoe* is used of the state of existing and being animate which is common to all mankind, whether saved or unsaved. For example, Paul says to the idol worshipping Greeks at Athens, **"The God who made the world and all things in it . . . He Himself gives to all life (*zoe*) and breath and all things . . . for in Him we live (*zao--the verb form*) and move and have our being"** (Acts 17:25-28).

But in the Greek New Testament, *zoe* has a special meaning. It speaks of the life that God gives through Jesus to those who believe the gospel. In this usage, *zoe* is often modified by the adjective *aionios* [English: *eon*] which means "eternal", "everlasting", "of endless duration."

Scripture reveals that the source of this *zoe* life is God the Father. Indeed, Jesus calls Him **"the living Father"** (John 6:57), indicating that

*zoe* life is the very life that God has in Himself. Having life in Himself, the Father imparted this life to the Son: **"For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself"** (John 5:26).

In turn, the Son manifested this life to the world. John says: **"And the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us"** (I John 1:2).

The apostle Paul confirms John's testimony when he says that God's purpose **"Now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"** (II Timothy 1:9-10).

In our key passage we read that Jesus' foremost purpose in coming was to give "*zoe*" life. Life was certainly man's great need, for mankind was without life because of sin. We all were dead in our trespasses and sins. Being dead in sin involved not only alienation from God but also opposition to God. **"We were enemies"** (Romans 5:10), **"hostile in mind and engaged in evil deeds"** (Colossians 1:21). Moreover, we were **"foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our [earthly] life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another"** (Titus 3:3).

Clearly, because of man's sin and rebellion, our portion was a justly deserved death, not life. Yet God purposed to bring *zoe* life to the dead by causing death to fall on the only One who truly lived. At the cross, the penalty for sin fell on Jesus. Through His bodily death, the claim of God's judgement on sinners was satisfied.

On the basis of the shed blood of His Son, God could pardon sinners and impart His very life to them.

This is the reason for the gospel. Last month we explored the question as to whether the gospel of Jesus Christ has failed, and we came to the conclusion that the gospel will never fail because it has power to do things.

### What does the gospel do?

1. The gospel brings life: A person receives zoe life as he responds to the gospel. The gospel, is called **“the word of life”** (Philippians 2:16), which proclaims God’s offer to exchange His zoe life for man’s death.

2. The gospel brings faith: **“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgement, but has passed out of death into life”** (John 5:24).

3. The gospel brings repentance: **“God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life”** (Acts 11:18). Through repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ, zoe life becomes man’s portion. **“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”** (John 3:36).

The scriptures abound with similar statements connecting faith and life. For instance, **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”** (John 3:16) The zoe life which we receive is not a package that Jesus gives us. In fact, the zoe life we receive is Jesus Himself, for Jesus IS life. **“I am...the life.”** (John 14:25).

Being made alive in Christ transforms the course and outcome of our lives both in this

present age and also in the age to come. The apostle Paul states it this way: **“if we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied”** (I Corinthians 15:19 NASV).

But this is not the case because there will be a resurrection and in the resurrection, eternal life will extend to the sphere of the body. (John 5:28-29). What a glorious hope we have because we have placed our faith in the gospel.

Therefore beloved in Christ, let us not take this life for granted, let us not be ignorant concerning it, let us not trivialize it, let us not forget it, neglect it, or turn it into clichés. Let us not doubt or disbelieve it, let us not let this life slip from our grasp, or surrender it to the enemy of our souls.

Instead, let us consider that when we were born again we also received the zoe life of God who indwells us by His Spirit. Let us trust Jesus and His promises and His zoe life will cause us to grow and mature, and give us confidence in the day when we all shall stand before Him.

This is the (zoe) life that Jesus gives to all that profess Him as Saviour and Lord. This is the life that Jesus promises to everyone who has placed their faith in the gospel.

**Yes, truly indeed . . . the gospel is  
“The Good News”!!!**

***On behalf of all the  
children and volunteers  
at Sunday Line we want  
to give thanks for your  
faithful giving.***

***Blessings in Christ,***

*Pastor Roman*



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I became atheist. I started to do forbidden things to supply my needs. Anyway there was emptiness in my heart, my needs were not fulfilled. Eventually I began to pray to God and I asked Him to tell me the answer to my question: "What is the truth?" I was serious and so God found me. This is how I found salvation and Christianity. Now two years have passed from the time I was born again. Right now I go through very difficult times in my life. I still walk ahead in faith. *(Hassan from North Africa)*

### **RUSSIA: The Homeless Needy Child Gifts**

It is estimated that there are up to four million homeless children living in Russia, most live on the streets during the summer months, many end up living a life plagued with crime. To prevent this downward spiral, the children's ministry branch of GCM has sent finances to provide food, clothing and accommodation to children in the rehabilitation center in Tomsk, Russia. This institute helps the children and their mothers deal with drug and alcohol abuse. "If we don't take care of these children they will end up in prison. They will get hooked on drugs or alcohol. Some will give up and end their life," warns a care aid from the local church.



### **RUSSIA: The Imprisoned**

For the past 12 years to over 40 thousand children throughout Russia, Central Asia, the Ukraine and Asia, GCM Ministries has arranged for poverty aid to be taken to children in prison camps and detention centers.

There are an estimated 20 thousand children in prison camps in Russia alone. Life in these prisons is merciless. The children who suffer in frigid temperatures and with a lack of food are adversely affected and end up returning to a life of crime and hopelessness. GCM Ministries, working with local churches, has been able to deliver warm winter clothing food and other essential items to these children.



### **MUMBAI SLUM RALLY: Thousands Respond**

One of the most famous comedians in India gave his personal testimony at an open air rally in Dharavi, the world's largest slum, where some 9,000,000 people live. From this very slum, Johnny had started his climb to fame. Thousands related to his testimony and came forward at the altar call for prayer. GCM has printed a special edition of the evangelistic campaign book so these people will not be overlooked.

