

SUNDAY LINE and World Ministries

PO Box 71588 Hillcrest RPO
White Rock, BC V4B 5J5

778-294-4040

Email: info@sundayline.com

www.sundayline.com



Caring for children around the world

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MissionsFest

Vancouver



Clockwise starting above: Helena, winner of Watoto drum draw; Cindy Meyer, Pat Kozak, Don Winsor and Dan MacTavish, interacting with attendees.

“UNDER THE SAILS”

Helena has become even more popular since she won the Ugandan drum at the Sunday Line Missions Fest booth the last weekend of January! Friends are calling and asking if they can borrow the drum for special events for their ministry groups. Helena, a post-grad student and part-time grade 7 teacher living in Langley, BC, is passionate about missions and evangelism. She has been actively

involved with a local bus ministry, with First Nations Ministries and with YWAM internationally in Bulgaria. It was a pleasure to gift her with this drum from the Watoto Children’s choir. “This is a good motivation to take up music once again,” enthused Helena.

More than 200 people entered the draw for the Watoto drum. It is encouraging to note that the

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CALCUTTA MERCY MINISTRIES HOPE HOUSE: KOLKATA, INDIA

In an on-going effort to supply holistic treatment to impoverished children, Hope House is being constructed as a specialized residential environment for children from challenging contexts, such as AIDS, prostitution or the slums. The girls will benefit from a supportive educational program and interactive play facilities in addition to one-on-one mentoring and psychological assistance supplied by the nurses-in-training at the neighbouring School of Nursing. Each child will develop the confidence and skills necessary to change their personal circumstances, while remaining connected to their families.



Huldah Buntain, founder of CMM writes: “Thank you so much for your email and for the good news it contained about Sunday Line’s wonderful donation to the Hope House. I know my daughter Bonnie will be thrilled. Please give my grateful thanks to the Sunday Line directors and tell them how grateful I am for their love and interest in this project. I know when the Hope House is completed, it will be such a tremendous help to meet the needs of hundreds of children from prostitute mothers.”

Phase 1 of construction is nearing completion and will accommodate 50 children before expanding to 200 children in its final phase. However, furnishings and operating costs for the start-up months are still needed. Huldah entreats, “Help us finish building the Hope House and open our doors to those who so desperately need a chance for good health, education and safety.”



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directors and volunteers participating in the Sunday Line booth had the opportunity to speak with and invest in the lives of at least 200 people plus many others who stopped by the booth and did not sign up for the draw.

The theme for the weekend, “**Mission: Being or Doing**” was of significance for the thousands who attended the workshops and plenary sessions.

WE HAVE A LIVING HOPE!

Key Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-4

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you"

When God told Noah to build an ark because He was going to send down the rain, it had never rained before and the people mocked Noah but Noah trusted God and he and his whole household were saved from the flood. When God called Abraham and promised to bless him with a child in his old age he trusted God, even though Sarah was good as dead, and God brought forth his son Isaac. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, Abraham trusted God that He would bring him back from the dead and God blessed Abraham for his obedience and provided a substitute.

In Genesis 39 we read that when Potiphar's wife begged Joseph to come to bed with her, he trusted God and told her he could not do such a wicked thing and sin against God. When she tried to force him he fled and went to prison rather than yield to temptation, and in time God elevated Joseph to the highest position in Egypt next to Pharaoh.

In Numbers 14:8-9 when God was ready for Israel to enter the Promised Land, Moses sent 12 spies to survey the land. Of the 12 spies, 10 came back with an evil report saying that there were giants in the land, but only Joshua and Caleb trusted God to take the land because they had confidence in God and not their own strength and abilities and they were the only two that entered into the Promised Land.

When we place our trust in God and His abilities, and not our abilities, that is when we begin getting our

lives in focus in living a God centered life. For this reason, God's works are recorded in the Bible. These biblical accounts are for us, so that we can see how God worked in the lives of others. It brings us to faith, to place our complete trust in God to also work in our lives.

God has promised to shield us with His power as we walk in faith trusting Him. What greater hope could be given to those undergoing persecution than the knowledge that God's power guards them from within, to preserve them for an inheritance of salvation that will be completely revealed to them in God's presence.

Note: we are kept by the power of God. It's not us holding on to Him. It's Him holding on to us. "Hold on to Daddy's hand," I would say to my kids as we crossed the street. And they would. But if they loosened their grip, it wouldn't matter because although they thought they were holding my hand, in reality, I was holding theirs, and as their dad I would never let go.

There is a story of a young man who was being hazed by a college fraternity (hazing is an initiation ceremony) and was taken to a secluded spot where he was told to hold on to a knot at the end of a greased rope as his fraternity brothers lowered him into a dark well. Thinking they would pull him up after a few minutes, he was terrified to see them tie their end of the rope to the bar across the top of the well, leaving him suspended in midair.

"This can't be!" he thought as he called for help. But no help came. As he approached the fifteen-minute mark, his arms began aching and his shoulders felt as though they were on fire; he started to cry. Finally, unable to hang on any longer, he let go - and fell 6 inches into 2 inches of water.

Isn't that just like us? "Where are You, God? I don't know if I'm going to make it," we cry. We fret, blubber, and scream until we finally let go. And guess what we find? We discover that our Solid Rock, Jesus Christ, was there all along.

We have burning shoulders and aching arms for absolutely no reason. We try to hang on through our own efforts, by our own spirituality. We get disgusted with ourselves and worried we're not going to make it. If we would just let go of the rope and rest in what Jesus did on the Cross, we would realize it's not our puny efforts that will see us through but the power of God.

This is what Peter is telling the believers who were wondering when the persecution came down, if they

would be able to hang in there. 1 Peter 1:3-5 says: **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

Peter encouraged his readers to trust in Jesus, live obediently in hard circumstances and keep their hope fixed on God’s ultimate purpose of deliverance and their heavenly reward. To those who are feeling discouraged, displaced, depressed, or in danger, Peter addresses the issue by saying, “We have a living hope based upon the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.”

“A living hope” means that the believer’s hope is sure, certain, and real as opposed to the deceptive, empty, false hope the world offers. The living Christ is the source of our new birth and our living hope. My question is simply this: “Are you experiencing the living hope Jesus came to give you?” Unlike living hope, human hope tends to get weaker and dimmer, and finally dies altogether the farther one goes down the road of life.

I once considered myself to be a pretty good tennis player. In my imagination, I played just like the players that you see on television. But it finally hit me that, in reality, I was only an average player at best. Even if I practiced really hard, I knew it wasn’t going to happen. The hope that I once had is now gone altogether.

The same is true for all of us. As we go down the road of life, we check off more and more things we thought we would one day do or be. Regarding spiritual life, however, the opposite is true. The farther down the road we walk with Jesus, the more we realize that our hope doesn’t lie on this earth, but in heaven. We don’t need to be a people who wrestle with midlife crisis because our hope is not to make the New York Yankees or to make ten million dollars. Our hope is in heaven. And heaven’s getting closer every day.

In closing, I want to remind ourselves the example that Jesus gave us. In His incarnation Jesus placed His full trust and hope in the promise of His Heavenly Father. He knew that He had to go to the cross and even asked His Father to remove the cup from Him but in prayer submitted His will to the will of His Father. Jesus placed His full trust and hope in His Father, and because of His obedience and trust, God honored Jesus and raised Him out from among the dead and exalted Him to the highest place in Heaven and seated Him at His right

hand until He makes all of His enemies His footstool.

If Jesus, during the darkest hour of His life, had to place His full trust in God’s promises then it is incumbent upon every one of us to also follow the example of Jesus. Jesus trusted His heavenly Father because His trust was not based on the promises of man, but was based on a living hope in God and His promises.

HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN THIS LIVING HOPE? By entrusting yourselves to the truth of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection! As we celebrate the Easter season we are mindful to remember that our hope is not based on some fable or mythical story. Our faith is based in the truth that Jesus was the Son of God who died for our sins on Calvary’s cross 2000 years ago in our stead so that we can be forgiven and reconciled back to God who offers us a hope in this life and a hope in the life to come. That is something the world cannot offer.

I would like to close with a prayer I once read which we can all relate to:

*I asked God for strength that I might achieve.
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health that I might do great things.
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches that I might be happy.
I was given poverty that I might be wise.
I asked for power when I was young that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness that I might feel the need for God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for.
But everything that I had hoped for.
In spite of myself, every one of my unspoken prayers was all answered.
I am, among all people, most richly blessed!*

**On behalf of the entire Sunday Line team
Pat & I want to wish everyone a very
blessed Christ-centered Happy Easter, as
we continue to place our hope in what
our LORD has done for us.**

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Roman
and Pat Kozak*

