

SUNDAY LINE AND WORLD MINISTRIES



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Caring for children around the world

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'PREM SEWA' MINISTRY OF LOVE EDUCATION SOCIETY

Frank Juelich and Bapu Desai, Nagpur & Manjari, India



GAINING CONFIDENCE – NEW POSSIBILITIES

The children who come to Prem Sewa are from poor homes where they have next to no opportunity to flourish physically and academically. One of the many ways that these children benefit when they come to the school is to be involved in team sports such as cricket and soccer, or 'football' as it is known in India.

In July a soccer tournament was held on the Prem

Sewa compound. Teams from other areas came to compete and it was the Prem Sewa boys who took home the prize. This then allowed them to move forward into the August tournament. The whole city of Nagpur competed and the Prem Sewa team made it into the quarter finals. Events like these allow the boys to gain confidence, to grow as a team, and to stretch themselves towards new possibilities.

VANDANA'S STORY:

Vandana comes from the Bhil tribal group of Central India. Her family is poverty-stricken; her parents are manual laborers, working for daily wages. She lives in a rented room with her two brothers, one who studies in the 9th grade and one in the 11th. During the summer school vacation, they all go out and work for daily wages to help their family.

While working in a mill, Vandana had an accident but by the grace of God she was saved and did not lose her life. Prem Sewa has been Vandana's school since 2008 when she began studying in the 5th grade. This year she is taking grade 11 science courses and studying hard to become a nurse so that her family can overcome their poverty.



SUVARTA'S STORY:

Suvartha comes from a Mavchi tribal background - from a very backward, remote and hilly area where there are no roads or electricity. Her family lives in a small wooden hut.

There are 7 members in her family including her parents, brother, sister and grandparents. Her mother works as a farm laborer. Unfortunately, her father does not help the family financially as he is an alcoholic. Whenever she goes home for summer vacations, she works for daily wages and tries to help her mother provide for the family.

Prem Sewa has been helping Suvartha since 2003 when she began living in the home and studying from grade 1. She is an intelligent girl and has done well in her national exams. This year she is taking 12th grade science and hopes to become an agricultural officer. Prem Sewa is dedicated to seeing her fulfill that dream!



DIRECTOR FRANK JUELICH COMMENTS: The print shop at the boy's Nagpur complex is a real blessing. Not only are song books and translated portions of the Old and New Testament printed but the school kids also benefit. The students, some only waist-high, come, invade the shop and gaze in wonder at the machines that cut, stitch and punch holes for the spiral binding. They then walk proudly away with their new note books back to the class room.

IT HAD TO BE JESUS

Key Scripture: Isaiah 53:4-6

*“He was wounded for
our transgressions”*

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.

In 2 Corinthians 5:21 the apostle Paul writes: **“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”** 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 or in any sense an expression of Jesus’ nature. He was never conceived in sin and had always lived a sinless life to which His Father attested to by declaring: **“This is my son in whom I am well pleased.”** (Mark 1:11; Matthew 3:17)

When Jesus took our sins He surrendered His will to the will of His Father. In other words - 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 the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for His Father to remove the cup that He was about to drink. 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.

We will never truly understand the agony of what Jesus had to endure during the three hours that Jesus hung on the cross. He endured for us an eternity of punishment, and was utterly forsaken by both men and God.

When it comes to the matter of physical death 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 describing the death of Jesus, the first three gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke recorded Jesus’ death using terms which were commonly used. Matthew uses the Greek word *APHIEMI* (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’s gospel (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 either the Classical Greek nor in the Greek version of the Old Testament is this word ever used on the occasion of an act of dying.

The Greek word “paradidomi” has a very specific meaning: it means “to deliver up” and was used in a wide range of contexts with the idea of handing up, handing over, handing down and always is used in the context of a free will transfer and never a surrender. As an example in the Old Testament the word “paradidomi” is used whenever God delivered or handed over the Israelites into the hands of their enemies.

The reason that John uses this special word in describing Jesus’ death is clear. 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, as the perfect lamb, had passively taken on the sins of all humanity according to the will of His Father, and when the time had come and the price had been paid for humanity’s crime Jesus cried out: *TETELESTAI*, meaning **“it is finished”** and having finished His work Jesus quoted these final words which we find in Psalm 31:5: **“Father into your hands I commit my Spirit.”** As the Son of God, Jesus had to have died a supernatural death...in fact as the author of life, He could only die one way...under His own hand.

Many different writers throughout the years have written books on the question as to who really killed Jesus. Some have blamed the Jews, some the religious

leaders, some have blamed 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.”**

We find further evidence to this fact as we look back in the Old Testament at one of the most celebrated days of the entire year which was known as the Day of Atonement. On the Day of Atonement the lamb of the sin offering did not die under the hand of just any common man, but died under the hand of one specific person holding a specific office. That specific office was called the High Priest.

It was the specific office and duty of the High Priest, not any common man or men, to act as the executioner of the sacrifice. Furthermore, by virtue of his office, he was allowed only once a year to take the blood of the sacrifice into the most holy place of the tabernacle into the presence of God and sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat for the sins of the nation.

The writer of the book of Hebrews makes it clear that this Old Testament ritual was only a copy and shadow of the superior sacrifice which would be made by Jesus when He died on the cross. Hebrews 10:8-10: **“Therefore, when Christ came into the world, first he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them’ though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, ‘Here I am, I have come to do your will.’ He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”**

In His death, Jesus became both the sacrifice and also the sacrificer. In His dying, Jesus, as the High Priest, became His own executioner and afterwards carried His own blood into the presence of His Father in heaven.

As Tertullian, who has been called “the Father of Latin Christianity” and “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.” Origen observed that when life was no longer needed, since Jesus had completed the work of His Father’s will when He laid down His life, Jesus laid it down when He chose to lay it down.

When the Roman centurion soldier, who was a man of authority witnessed how Jesus had dismissed His spirit with authority commanding His own life to cease, it caused him to declare in Matthew 27:54: **“Truly this was the Son of God.”**

The profound difference in the way Jesus died can be summarized in a series of contrasts:

- Jesus died on the cross...but not because of the cross.
- We are humbled in death...Jesus humbled Himself.
- We are subject to death...Jesus became subject to death.
- We are offered in death...Jesus offered Himself.
- We surrender to death...Jesus embraced death.
- In death we are forced to relinquish our spirit... in His death Jesus dismissed His Spirit.
- Our death is passive...Jesus’ death was active.
- Our lives are short...Jesus life is endless.
- Our death is the final triumph of flesh over spirit...Jesus’ death was the triumph of spirit over flesh.
- We are defeated in death...Jesus conquered death.

In conclusion, the design and plan of salvation had to be from a mind far beyond human capacity or thinking. Everything that has taken place had to be no one other than the very Son of God!

It had to be Jesus!

Thank you once again for your continued faithful support.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Roman
& Pat Kozak*

