

SUNDAY LINE AND WORLD MINISTRIES



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September 2014

IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS:

Summer Kids Klub, Surrey, BC



Eryk and Devon



Bible Story



Kids



Prizes

The Metro Kids Sidewalk teams are mobilized for the summer! Two Kids Klub teams visit eight courtyards of major apartment complexes in the inner city of Surrey, BC every week, all summer. "It's fun," 10 year old Kathryn enthused when asked what she liked best about the team coming to her neighbourhood. "Awesome!" declared both Devon and Eryk. "I like coming to see the leaders and to connect with them," added Devon.

Complete with games, songs, engaging lessons, and treats for everyone, the kids participate, listen and learn values that will shape their future. "If for some reason the team is not able to come, the kids get on my case. They love it when they come," commented the apartment manager who has made the arrangements for the last 3 years.

Continued on page 4

GOD'S RESPONSE: *THERE IS ONE GOD!*

Key Scripture: 1 King 18:16-40

*“O Lord, God of
Abraham, Isaac and
Israel, let it be known
today that you are God.”*

At the beginning of Solomon's reign, the king said: "There is one God". Fifty years after the death of Solomon, no one in Israel could say that there is one God.

In 50 years Israel went from a people united in worship to a nation confused and divided. The people assumed that all religions were essentially the same, and therefore the God worshipped was a matter of personal choice. Only a few years earlier the presence of God had filled the temple, and now the knowledge of God was all but lost.

Verses 19 and 20 describe a showdown that took place on Mount Carmel: The prophet Elijah was on Mount Carmel and was facing 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. Even the wicked King Ahab was there. But Elijah was not looking to be politically correct. Unlike King Solomon who wanted to please the people, Elijah instead gave this challenge to the people of Israel: 1 Kings 18:21 **“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is god, follow him.”**

Elijah was not interested in being politically correct. He appealed to the truth. His challenge to the people is like someone saying today: "If Allah is

god, then leave the church and go to the mosque. If Siva is god or Vishnu, then adopt Hinduism!"

Verse 21 tells what the people's response was: **“The people said nothing!”** The people couldn't decide what was true; they didn't know what to say. So Elijah's task was to confront the people with the truth.

Elijah invited the prophets of Baal to prepare a sacrifice and then call on the name of Baal to manifest himself by sending fire. The prophets of Baal gave themselves to the challenge and called on their god: **“Oh, Baal, hear us.”** They danced around the altar and worked themselves into frenzy.

The hours went by, but despite all of their efforts verse 29 tells us **“that no one answered”**; there was no one there. Their worship was nothing more than an exercise in self-expression. They were talking to themselves, they were singing to themselves, they were dancing to themselves, but no one answered. That's because Baal was nothing more than a human invention.

There are many churches today that are struggling to find ways to stimulate worship. What happened at Mount Carmel is happening in churches everywhere today. In an effort to be culturally relevant, churches have lost the sense of God's holiness and the weight and glory of His presence. So churches everywhere are talking to themselves, singing to themselves, dancing to themselves, but God isn't listening. Like the prophets of Baal, churches are finding themselves desperate in their efforts to provoke a response from God. They are trying everything that they can think of to arouse the people to have a God experience.

After spending hours of talking, singing, and dancing to Baal, Elijah had some words of advice to give them: Verse 27 tells us: **“At noon Elijah began to taunt them. ‘Shout louder!’ he said. ‘Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.’”**

Verse 28 tells us what they did next. **“So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.”** But there was still no response, no one answered. God had raised up Elijah for this day and this hour. Elijah knew the true, living God and his mission was to be God’s spokesman for Israel to return the people back to the true God.

The lesson for the church today is: ***If true worship is to be restored to the land, then the truth of God’s word must be proclaimed in all of its power.*** The truth needs to be taught. The truth needs to be sung. The truth needs to be preached. The truth needs to be prayed and the truth needs to be practiced.

Elijah then took 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel and had a trench dug all around the 12 stones and prepared an altar in the Name of the Lord and laid the seed, the wood and the cut pieces of bull on it. Then he had the altar drenched three times with so much water that it even filled the trench.

Verse 36-37 tells us what Elijah began to pray: **“O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God.”** The fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the soil, and licked up all of the water in the ditch.

You can just imagine the shock of everyone. Now comes the most wonderful part of the story. The fire fell on the sacrifice, and not on the people. There were thousands of people there that day, but when God’s fire came, it did not fall on them. God’s fire was diverted onto the altar and sacrifice.

Something similar happened a long time ago on another day...on a different hill....another sacrifice was offered. When Jesus was nailed to a cross on Calvary, the judgment of God fell on Him. By falling on Jesus, God created room for everyone, from every nation, to worship the only true God.

All heaven is centered on what Jesus has done. The same is true of all true worship today. Israel is a microcosm of the universe. Verse 39 tells us what the people did: **“When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried: The Lord – He is God! The Lord - He is God!”**

What took place that day on Mount Carmel must also take place in our personal lives and in our churches today. In these latter days, God is once again sending the Spirit of Elijah to the church to return to the true heart of worship.

It is all about exalting Jesus and not about entertaining ourselves.

Thank you once again for helping to make a difference in a fallen world.

Blessings and love,

Pastor Roman & Pat Kozak



We trust you enjoy receiving the mission updates and devotionals.

- To keep us updated with an address change, or
- should you no longer wish to receive this monthly letter, or
- would prefer an emailed version,

... please contact the office using the mail, phone or email information listed on the front page.

Continued from front

Leanne, a mother watching from the side-lines, attended the ConnXion program for Grades 5-8 when a child. Now her two young children help to carry the heavy containers from the bus so the team can set up quickly and they can all participate in the outdoor activities.



“I Wake Up and I Thank the Lord for Helping”



Jordan, acting as Sam, with a lesson on encouragement from Mary.

Jordan is a seventeen year old ball hockey enthusiast who is beginning his senior High School year. Last Spring a friend dragged him into the courtyard to watch the Kids Klub activities. He liked what he saw and

volunteered to help. Soon he realized that he was good at assisting with the games, the songs, the dramas - and he loved doing it. Gradually he began to gain an understanding of God’s love and care for him and now has the confidence to call himself a Christian. The depression he has experienced since age ten is gone. “I can enjoy life now; I can look to the future,” he says with a smile. “I’d like to get involved with Youth Justice Programs against bullying. Now I can stand up and help others because I know what it feels like. I’m thinking of going into the ministry when I finish High School. I wake up and I thank the Lord for helping.”



Savana loves the cheering and the singing... and it looks like she quite enjoyed winning the opportunity to pop a water balloon on Jordan’s head.



Sarah



Shafik

Graduation for Sarah and Shafik

Two of Sunday Line’s sponsored Watoto children, Sarah and Shafik, have recently been resettled with their biological families. Sarah will live with her father and complete her hair dressing course at the Hope Vocational Institute. Shafik will continue his education at the local school. Both have been wonderfully impacted during their years at Watoto and we congratulate them on making these positive steps in their lives.