

# SUNDAY LINE and World Ministries



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*Caring for children around the world*

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*September 2015*

## Calcutta Mercy Ministries: *Kolkata, India*



*The Hope House team, including Mercy Hospital President Dr. Jim and Bonnie [Buntain] Long, and CEO Sanjay Prasad (wearing lanyard)*



*Board member Don Winsor with Pastor Philip at Hope House construction site*

### HOPE HOUSE NEARING COMPLETION

Huldah Buntain, founder of Calcutta Mercy Ministries Canada, writes: "I write to you because I am reaching out to our friends in Canada and sharing with them our newest project: the Hope House. This latest extension of Mercy Hospital's outreach program is dedicated to alleviating the tragic situation found in Calcutta's red-light neighborhoods. There are over 10,000 sex-workers in these areas, and studies have found that up to 40% of them may be children.

It breaks my heart to know that so many young girls are being forced, every day, to sell their bodies

for money to feed their family. We've already set up a medical clinic in Calcutta's largest red-light neighborhood and are providing free healthcare to those in need. But now we are taking a huge step forward and building a safe home for these trapped girls.

The Hope House will be like an orphanage – in that the girls will be living away from their family – but different than a rescue operation – in that families will volunteer to have their daughters grow up away from their dangerous home neighborhood. Our vision is to create a safe, productive, and

enjoyable campus for these girls to grow up into independent women, capable of creating a life for themselves and their families outside the red-light neighborhood."

The construction is nearing completion (total cost \$1.8 million), and God willing, we will be opening our doors within the first half of next year. In the meantime, we still need to finish and furnish the structure (at a cost of \$500,000), hire qualified staff (house mothers, cooks, teachers, health care workers, etc.) and raise six months worth of operating costs for the start-up and preparations for the first intake of children. We have a donor who is willing to match funds up to \$250,000 if we can raise the rest.

Don Winsor, a Sunday Line board member, travelled to India last November, to visit Kolkata and see the work that we have been supporting all these years. He met with Sanjay Prasad, CEO of Mercy Hospital (founded by the Buntains), and Pastor Philip gave him a tour of the hospital, nursing college, Hope House lands, as well as one of the bible colleges and boys schools, and attended a Sunday service at the main church campus. They even enjoyed a McDonald's chicken (not beef) Big Mac meal together.



*ABOVE: Hope House construction well underway: second storey with courtyard plans*



*Pastor Philip with his wife and two children*



*Roman and Pat Kozak's Victorian Tea is a celebration enjoyed each summer as they open their home to friends, ESL students and neighbours in their beautiful, backyard setting.*



# A WEDDING MADE IN HEAVEN

Key Scripture: Rev. 22:20

*“Even so, come Lord  
Jesus, come!”*

The next great event which will take place as far as the Church is concerned, is the translation of the Church, which we also call “the rapture”. Rapture comes from the Latin word “rapere” meaning to “snatch away” or “be caught up”. It is an excellent word to describe the catching of the Church into heaven.

The rapture of the church is the event when Jesus removes the Church (the called out ones) from the Earth. It is the glorious event we call the Blessed Hope and will be the final consummation of the work of salvation. It will be a time when all believers in Christ will receive their glorified bodies and be in God’s presence forever.

The rapture is described primarily in 1 Thess. 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-54.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: **“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”**

The Greek word for “caught up” is *HARPAZO*. The root meaning of this verb denotes a sudden, swift, violent act which is used four times in the New Testament to describe people being caught up to Heaven. It is used in Acts 8:39 where the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip from the Ethiopian eunuch. It is used by Jesus in John 10:12 to describe the wolf catching sheep. It is also used in Matthew 13:19 to describe the birds catching away the seeds blown by the wayside. It is used in Jude verse 23 to describe people being pulled out of the fire. Jesus used the analogy of a thief breaking into a house.

The coming of Christ will be like a thief...it will be sudden, unexpected and without warning.

The Greek word for air is *AER* meaning the part of the atmosphere that we breathe...and not the upper atmosphere.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 focuses on the instantaneous nature of the rapture and on the glorified bodies we will receive. **“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”**

The reason for the removal of the church is because the Earth has been judged and found guilty of sin. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and in God’s justice and righteousness He must deal with the penalty of sin.

Today, there are three types of people living on the world: there is the Jew, the Gentile and the Church. God must still deal with the sin of Israel, and He must deal with the sin of the Gentiles. However, God has already made a provision for the Church. That is why God sent His Son who dealt with the consequences of man’s sin, and all those who place their faith in Jesus have been delivered from the coming wrath of God which the Bible refers to as a time of trouble and tribulation.

The rapture will start a whole series of important events to accomplish God’s purposes:

1. For Jesus to receive all true believers to himself.
2. For the national salvation of Israel.
3. For the overthrow of the anti-Christ and Satan himself.
4. For the judgment of the sin of the nations.
5. For Christ to establish His millennial kingdom upon Earth.

When God created the Heavens and the Earth, time was a central part of the plan of creation. When Jesus came to the Earth, He came in time... and He walked on the Earth for a period of time amounting to 33 ½ years. His mission and ministry had a beginning and ending. Likewise Jesus’ coming for the Church will mark off another beginning of time which is recorded in the book of Daniel as the

70th week of tribulation (which we will discuss in a future devotional) and will end with the return of Christ to Earth in glory and power to rule and reign.

In the tribulation God focuses His attention on the world, but particularly on Israel. While this does not necessarily indicate that the Church could not also be present, it does bring into question why the Church would need to be on the Earth because that would defeat the work of Christ. In 1 Thessalonians 5:9 Paul says, **“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

The longing for the Rapture and the return of Christ has motivated generations of Christians throughout the ages. Even the apostle Paul longed for the imminent return of Jesus as displayed in his epistles.

The first time Christ came, He came as the lamb for the slaughter. He took the punishment for mankind's sin and He paid the price. All those who have placed their faith in His finished work are invited to be His called out ones...the Church.

The next time Christ comes, He is coming for His bride...for His Church...and He is coming for a wedding, but sadly not everyone will be invited. What is further unique about this coming of Christ is that He will not come down to Earth, but He is coming in the air, for a wedding which will be made in Heaven. This wedding will be like nothing ever experienced here on Earth.

Let's see what the Bible has to say about this great event:

Revelation 19:6-9: **“Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’ (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’”**

Weddings can be a spectacular affair. People spend thousands of dollars trying to produce that perfect moment in time. The bride is dressed in her pure white wedding dress; the groom stands nervously at the front of the Church. It is a very

special moment. Most couples look for a marriage that will last and make them happy! We sometimes refer to such marriages as a “marriage made in heaven.” The problem is that they still have to be lived out here on earth. That, alone, makes them all less than perfect. This marriage, however, will be 100% successful. For the bride this wedding will be a time of great joy and rejoicing. But for others, it will be a great time of sorrow.

For those saved in this the Church Age, the end times shape up like this: in the Rapture, the Church will be caught up in the air to meet Jesus. We will first be escorted to the BEMA Judgment Seat of Christ. The BEMA Judgment Seat is not a place of condemnation, but rather a place of receiving rewards. Every believer's works will be tested and rewarded.

Those who are left behind will have to face a terrible time when God will pour His wrath out upon the whole earth in judgment. People will actually seek death, but will not find it. God's purpose in the Tribulation is two-fold:

1. to bring people to the saving knowledge of God, and
2. to purge the earth of all sin.

The book of Revelation ends with these words of Jesus:

**“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”**  
(Rev. 22:12-13)

This is our great Hope...the great event that all creation has been waiting for. What a glorious day that will be!!

***“Even so Come Lord Jesus, Come!”***

**Thank you once again for your  
faithfulness in helping the needy children  
of the world.**

***Blessings in Christ,***

*Pastor Roman  
and Pat Kozak*

