

Before the Story:

Each year Karen's church celebrates International Migrants Day. Karen's church celebrated with a big open-door reception, a meal, and a giveaway. Karen's church also offered a workshop for anyone who wanted to learn more about starting their own small business and earning money to support their families. (Show photo.)

Share the Story:

Celebrating International Migrants Day

Karen woke up very excited! Today, Karen's church was celebrating International Migrants Day. Karen had worked all week on the presentation she would give about her church and their ministry to the migrant community. Her church had been planning this day for several weeks. Karen was hoping her friend Aaron would come to the celebration. She had been praying for him all week.

When Karen arrived at the church, she was so glad to see so many people there. She was especially glad to see her friend there. "Aaron!" shouted Karen. "I am so glad you came. I know it will be a great day of celebrating." "I am looking forward to the worship and the workshop," said Aaron. "Don't forget about the meal we will all share afterwards. It will be great!" replied Karen. "Let's go inside. I think the worship is about to start," Karen said to Aaron.

The worship service was filled with excitement, as people worshiped God, prayed, listened to a message, and enjoyed special music. Karen even played a special song on her violin. When Karen showed her presentation about the church's migrant ministry, all the people clapped! The church hosted about 90 migrants, some international partners, and church members who all had a great time together.

After the worship service and the workshop, it was time for the great giveaway. Everyone was given a bag filled with sugar, rice, cornmeal, bleach, soap, fish, and canned meat. The church gave away over 100 bags!

Karen invited Aaron to attend a special meal and to visit the church's clothes closet to find some clothes he might need. "Thank you for inviting me to this special celebration!" exclaimed Aaron.

After the Story:

1. **Ask:** How did Karen's church help the migrants who came to their church?
2. **Say:** Let's think of some ways we can help people who move to our town. What are some things our church and our family can do?
3. **Pray:** Thank you, God, for the ministry of Karen and her church to the international migrant community in Northern Africa.



Learning Activity:

Race to the Clothes Basket

Items needed: two laundry baskets; silly clothes

1. Set up the game by putting several items of clothing in each basket. Silly clothes like Hawaiian shirts, goofy hats, and hula skirts will make the game lots of fun.
2. **Say:** International Migrants Day was a great celebration at Karen's church and many people received lots of help for things they needed, including clothing.
3. **Say:** We are going to have a relay race with some funny clothes.
4. Divide into two teams and line up on the starting line. The first person on each team runs to the basket and puts on three items of clothing. They run back and take off the three items and the next person in line puts them on. Then that person runs to the basket and takes off the clothing, puts them in the basket, and runs back to tag the next person. It repeats until one of the teams has all its members complete the race.

Meet the Field Personnel:



Karen is a CBF field personnel appointed to pastoral ministry in Northern Africa. (Karen's last name and exact location are withheld for safety reasons.) She helps migrants and refugees find a better life and a more promising future.