BEHOLD...A NEW THING

Isaiah 43:19

CHILDREN'S SERMONS

2024-2025

cbf OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS

CHILDREN'S SERMON FOR TOGO

Good morning, everyone! Raise your hand if someone has ever helped you feel better. We have lots of people in our lives who can help us feel better. Your family can help you and so can your teachers. Your friends can help you feel better as well. But sometimes we are physically hurt and we need a doctor or nurse to help make us better.

Karen Alford is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel in Togo, which is a country in West Africa. There, she helps people physically heal. She takes care of their wounds and listens to their hurts. She helps them physically and helps them have hope in their lives again. She helps them see how much God loves them. God is using Karen to do new things in the lives of others.

In Isaiah, the Bible tells us that God is doing a new thing. God provides water in the desert and a way for the people to live. Sometimes it is hard to see a way forward in our lives. Sometimes, bad things happen or things just don't look the way we thought they would. But God is still working. God uses Karen to remind the people of Togo that God is there with them. Karen helps people like Afro, not only with caring for his wound, but also with answering questions and just being a friend. Now, Afro wants to go back home and tell everyone about how God is working in his life. Each person who comes into the clinic leaves feeling a bit of relief and joy that they have been listened to and cared for. We need each other. This week, I hope that you will be open to helping others who need it. By helping, you can share God's great love with them. Let's pray:

Loving God,

Thank You for all the things You do in our lives. Help us to remember that You are still working, even when we can't see it. Help us to trust in You. We love You, Lord. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON FOR THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

Good morning, everyone! When you are in a car and don't know where you are going, you can look at street signs to help you. Maybe you look for the name of a specific road or you look to see how much further you must go. But what if the street signs were in another language? It would be hard to know where you were going if, for example, you saw these street signs (show the pictures of the signs). You would need help to know what to do. It's the same for people who come to the United States. People who don't speak English need help understanding what they are supposed to do and where they are supposed to go. They need help to learn where the grocery store is, help to find housing, help to know what our road signs mean and more. That's where Pilar and Elket come in for migrants coming from Mexico. Elket Rodriguez is a Cooperative Baptist Field Personnel on the U.S.-Mexico Border. There, he works with migrants and with churches to help migrants have what they need, including food, housing and access to care.

Nine years ago, Pilar was one of those migrants. Her home wasn't safe and she had to stay in the United States. But she didn't know much about the United States. She had a lot to learn about how things work here. Five years ago, Pilar began an organization called Migrant Journey. She helps people understand the United States and get the resources and assistance they need. She answers questions and helps them find things like the grocery store and the bank. Elket helps her get the information she needs so that migrants can have their questions answered.

God used a difficult time in Pilar's life to show her how she can help others. Now, God is doing new things in her life and in the lives of the migrants she helps. Thanks to Pilar, Elket and others, these migrants can have safe places to stay, enough food to eat and assistance for things like job training so that they, too, can live the American dream. We can't always see how God is working in our lives, but we can trust that God always is. And that is great news! Let's pray:

Loving God,

Thank You for helpers like Pilar and Elket. Thank You for the helpers in our own lives. Show us how we can help others as well. It's in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

If you got off the train and saw the name of this town, you would definitely need help to pronounce it! https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/read/articles/small-town-with-big-name

This is a sign for a bus stop in Germany. But if any of us saw this sign, we wouldn't know what it meant.

https://www.rawpixel.com/image/6027480/red-bus-stop-sign-free-public-domain-cc0-photo

Stop sign in Japan

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Japan_road_sign_330-B.svg

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