



A Haystack Prayer Meeting Resource for Children Grades 1-5 #1

Children Reaching Out to Others

Missionaries of care of care and concern

Edgar and his best friend Chantel were walking down the street to the library. It was Saturday and they each carried homework to do there. As they walked, they talked about their summer vacation. They had been to church camp together and remembered the fun they had there.

Chantel said, “Edgar, do you remember Marsha from camp?”

Edgar said he did and then asked, “What about her?”

Chantel replied, “She’s sick and in the hospital. My Dad told me.”

Edgar said, “Can we see her?”

When Chantel reached home she asked her Dad if she and Edgar could visit Marsha in the hospital. Chantel’s Dad said he would find out. He called the hospital and learned Marsha had gone home. He then called her family to see if the children could visit her there.

Later that day, Edgar, Chantel, and Chantel’s Dad went to Marsha’s house. Her small house had a big garden with flowers and vegetables. Marsha’s Mom let them in and offered them a drink of water. Marsha was lying down on a couch reading a book. Her dog was sleeping at her feet.

Marsha recognized them right away and said, “Hey, you guys, I’m glad to see you. This is my dog Ruffian and you already met my Mom. That’s my little brother Malcolm.”

Chantel was feeling shy but asked, “Marsha, what’s wrong with you? Why were you in the hospital?”

“Oh, there’s something wrong with my blood. I hope they figure it out soon as I am tired of being poked by a needle. And I want to be back in school. Being home is so boring!” Marsha showed them her arm with its many band-aids.

After a little while, Marsha’s Mom thanked them for visiting and said they were always welcome. The children and Chantel’s Dad left. In the car they talked about Marsha. They wondered what they could do to help her.

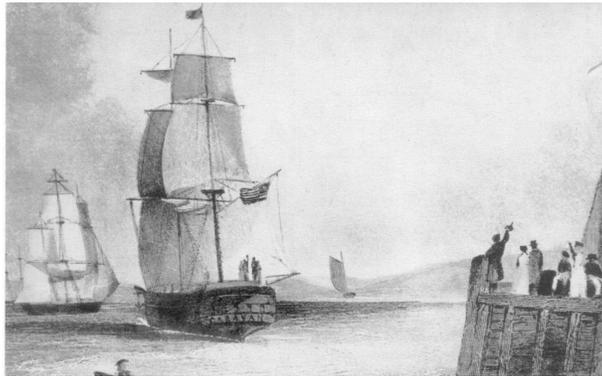
They decided that they would ask Pastor Joan to have the church pray for her.

Edgar said, "I could walk Ruffian for her."

"Maybe we could help her with her schoolwork on the weekends," Chantel added. And the Church School kids could make her some cards."

The children felt good about seeing Marsha and helping her. They knew how much kindness meant to someone having a hard time.

+++



Jesus said, "Love one another." We show that love by our acts of kindness and in other ways. Two hundred years ago a group of college students felt called by God to go into the world beyond the United States and share the story of Jesus with those they met. This call came while they were in a prayer meeting beside a haystack. The first group of missionaries from the US were sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. They sailed to India on a voyage that took many months. Since that time thousands of missionaries have been sent out into the world to share God's love with other people. Sometimes people are called to serve a long way from home and other times it is right next door. Anyone of any age can be a missionary of God's love, as were Edgar and Chantel.

Possible Questions for discussion by the youth:

- 1) How does it feel to have a sick friend or family member?
- 2) What are some things you can do to make them feel better?
- 3) Who could you invite to help you as you helped them?