

We Are All Family

by Reverend Victoria Ney

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Some time ago, Peter Arnett, was a CNN television commentator and reporter. He has had experiences that make him a fascinating storyteller.

One day he was asked if he had an inspiring story to tell. Peter said, "I've got a wonderful story from when I was in Israel. I was in a small town on the West Bank, when an explosion went off. Bodies were blown through the air. Everywhere I looked there were signs of death and destruction.

A man came running up to me holding a bloodied little girl in his arms. He pleaded with me and said, 'Mister, I can't get her to a hospital! The Israeli troops have sealed off the area. No one can get in our out, but you're press. You can get through. Please, mister! Help me get her to a hospital. Please! If you don't help me, she's going to die!'"

Peter told how he put them in his car, got through the sealed area, and rushed to the hospital in Jerusalem. The whole time he was hurtling down the road to the city, the man was pleading from the backseat for him to go faster. He felt the little girl's life was ebbing away.

When they finally got to the hospital, the girl was rushed to the operating room. The two men waited in the area on a bench. Peter said they just sat there in silence, too exhausted to even talk.

After a short while the doctor came out of the operating room and said to them solemnly, "She's dead."

The man collapsed in tears, and as Peter put his arm around the man to comfort him, he said, "I don't know what to say. I can't imagine what you must be going through. I've never lost a child."

The man looked at Peter in a startled manner and said, "Oh mister! That Palestinian girl was not my daughter. I'm an Israeli settler. That Palestinian is not my child. But, mister....There comes a time when each of us must realize that every child, regardless of that's child's background, is a daughter or a son. There must come a time when we realize that we are all family."

When I read that story, I saw all the more clearly why Jesus came into the world. He came to break down the partitions that we have constructed that separate us into different groups. He came to make us one family.

Will you pray with me?

God of all, we lift our voices in prayers, for you have lifted us to new life in Jesus Christ. Have compassion on the whole human family, take away the arrogance & hatred that infect our hearts, break down the walls that separate us, unite us in bonds of love, and through our struggle & confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony. Make us one with all your children, that we may serve the Lord Jesus Christ and live lives that are pleasing to you.

We pray in the name of the one who is the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus. Amen.