

Title: A Miracle Happens

Theme: God is almighty and can take care of His people in any situation.

Scripture verse: "...So that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord is mighty..." (Joshua 4:24). (Nancy and Shelvis quoted this verse in a recent thank-you letter.)

Materials needed: Electronic pictures of Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather and Baby Jordan from wlgwin@att.net and a globe and map of Africa from the Presbytery headquarters

You can see Baby Jordan and his parents in a CNN interview on:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/bestoftv/2013/02/02/nr-brooke-baby.cnn>

Sermon: God called young Pastor Shelvis Smith-Mather and his wife, Pastor Nancy Smith-Mather, to go to South Sudan in Africa as missionaries. Their job was to help people in South Sudan who were fighting to become friends again. Becoming friends again after a fight is called "reconciliation."

When Pastor Nancy was going to have a baby, they were told that South Sudan is a dangerous place to have a baby. So they decided that she should go home to the US to have their baby. In October 2012, two months before the baby was due to be born, Pastor Nancy was ready to go to the US. Then suddenly the baby was born too early and he needed very special care.

God had already prepared that very special care. First, a medical missionary team helped the baby into the world, and someone brought a homemade breathing machine to help Baby Jordan breath. Then God helped them find a special baby bed for Baby Jordan to travel in to a big hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. God had people get an airplane and tickets and passports and visas - and even an ambulance at the Nairobi Airport to take Jordan and his parents to the big hospital.

Many people were praying and praying for Baby Jordan. In the little hospital in South Sudan where Baby Jordan was born, sick people and children stood in the doorway to his room and prayed for him. The news of his birth quickly came to the US and many Americans began to pray for him too.

God answered all of those prayers graciously and today Baby Jordan is healthy and growing! He and his parents traveled to the US for a visit and then returned to South Sudan.

Let us pray: Loving, heavenly Father, thank You for Baby Jordan's safe birth. Thank You for his parents. Thank You for all the people who helped him and his mother when he was born. Thank You for all the people in South Sudan and the US who prayed for him and his family. We praise You and thank You because You are mighty and You protect Your people. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

