



Photo: Our Daily Bread

EYES TO SEE

I . . . will make you to be a covenant for the people and . . . to open eyes that are blind.

Isaiah 42:6-7

READ Isaiah 42:5-9

Genevieve had to be the "eyes" for her three children, each born with congenital cataracts. Whenever she took them into their village in the Republic of Benin of western Africa, she strapped the baby onto her back and held on to the arm and hand of her older two, always looking for danger. In a culture where blindness was thought to be caused by witchcraft, Genevieve despaired and cried out to God for help.

Then a man from her village told her about Mercy Ships, a ministry that provides vital surgeries to honor Jesus' model of bringing hope and healing to the poor. Uncertain if they could help, she approached them. When the children woke up after their surgeries, they could see!

God's story has always been about coming alongside those shrouded in darkness and bringing His light. The prophet Isaiah declared that God would be "a light for the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6). He would "open eyes that are blind" (v. 7), restoring not only physical sight but spiritual vision as well. And He promised to "take hold" of His people's hand (v. 6). He restored sight to the blind and brought light to those living in the darkness.

If you feel overcome by darkness, cling to hope as you embrace the promises of our loving Father while asking for His light to bring illumination.

By Amy Boucher Pye

PRAY & REFLECT

Heavenly Father, You desire that no one would live in darkness. Release Your love on those who are blinded in any way, that they might see. Amen

How has God opened your eyes, physically or spiritually? How can He remove the blinders you may have?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Isaiah 42:1-4 is the first of four "Servant Songs" in Isaiah (see also 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12). Various passages in Isaiah point to Israel, God's chosen people, as the servant (41:8; 44:21; 45:4; 48:20). While many of those prophetic songs do deal with Israel in the nation's circumstances at that time, New Testament scholars believe other passages find their ultimate fulfillment in Jesus the Messiah (42:1; see 11:2; 49:3, 5-7; 50:10; 52:13; 53:11), the one who came in the very form and essence of a servant (Philippians 2:5-8) - obeying to the point of death on the cross. This servant's heart was also displayed in Christ the night before the cross when He took the place of the lowest slave and washed His disciples' feet in the upper room (John 13:1-17). This striking example of the heart of the divine Servant was an example to teach us how to serve both God and one another. – By **Bill Crowder**

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