



## **REACH THE WORLD** **(Children's Story)**

**May 8, 2021**

**Clair Sanches, Children's Ministries Director**  
**Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists**

*[Optional: examples of museums or old paintings, map showing Germany, picture of the "Hand" drawing to show]*

Hi, Kids.

Have any of you ever visited a museum which has a lot of old paintings? A lot of the time we look at paintings, but we don't always know the story behind the painting. Why did the artist draw this? Why this subject? Today I want to share a story with you about an artist called Albrecht Durer.

He lived a long time ago. Actually, more than 450 years ago. That really is a long time. He lived in a village close to Nuremberg, which is in Germany. He lived there with his family. Can you guess how many children were part of this family? Well, it was eighteen. Eighteen! Can you imagine that? To be able to feed the family, the father worked as a goldsmith. A goldsmith is someone who works with gold and makes things like eating utensils, goblets, and other useful and decorative items. He worked nearly eighteen hours a day.

Now, two of the children born into this household had a particular dream. They both wanted to become artists. They also knew that their father could not afford to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the school there.

The two boys talked and talked about their dream, and one night they finally worked out a way for them both to go to school. They tossed a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with what he earned, support his brother while he attended school. Then, when the brother who won the toss had finished his studies in four years, he would support the other brother at school.

They tossed a coin and Albrecht won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, paid for his brother to go to school. At school the teachers there were very excited about Albrecht's work. He made etchings, wood carvings, and oil paintings. In fact, he was so good that he was better than most of his teachers. By the time he was nearly finished at school, he was already earning quite a bit of money from things he sold.

When Albrecht finished his studies, he returned to the village where the Durer family lived. They organized a big party for Albrecht, celebrating that he was finally home. After the meal Albrecht got up and wanted to drink a toast to his brother, who for years had worked so that

Albrecht could go to school. He said: “And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to go for your dream, and I will take care of you.” Everyone turned to look at Albert. But what they saw was someone who was crying. He was shaking his head from side to side and said: “No, no, no, no.” He stood up and held out his hands and said: “No brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis. So badly in fact that I cannot even hold a glass much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother ... for me it is too late.”

Albrecht Durer’s work can be found in many museums around the world. But the drawing that most people have seen is the picture of two hands joined together. It is simply called “Hands”. Albrecht decided to draw the hands of his beloved brother.

Wow! What a story. Would you be willing to do something like that for your brother or sister? Such an unselfish thing to do. It cost Albert a lot to keep his promise. He could no longer draw or paint. He had offered up everything, just like the widow in the Temple who gave her last coin.



In Matthew 25:34-36 we read the story of the sheep and the goats, when the sheep and goats were separated (sheep on the right and goats on the left).

We read from verse 34-36 the following: “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I

needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Then the people ask when did we do this? (verse 37-39). “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’”

And in verse 40 we read, “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

My prayer is that you will remember this and act on it. Think of others before yourself and do it gladly. Because then we make God very happy.

Let’s pray.

All Bible verses are taken from the New International Version (NIV).

Story information on Albrecht Durer from Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albrecht\\_D%C3%BCrer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albrecht_D%C3%BCrer)

Picture from google images:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=albrecht+durer+habnds&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwix6N3m4ejrAhUQTBoKHYvIBIAQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=albrecht+durer+habnds&gs\\_lcp=CgNpbWcQAzoECAAAQZoCCABQrBZYvBxg-x1oAHAAeACAAVuIAegDkgEBN5gBAKABAaoBC2d3cy13aXotaW1nwAEB&sclient=img&ei=tnFfX7E1kJhpi5GTgAg&bih=969&biw=1920&hl=EN#imgsrc=zDO0auWQJJ64VM](https://www.google.com/search?q=albrecht+durer+habnds&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwix6N3m4ejrAhUQTBoKHYvIBIAQ2-cCegQIABAA&oq=albrecht+durer+habnds&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQAzoECAAAQZoCCABQrBZYvBxg-x1oAHAAeACAAVuIAegDkgEBN5gBAKABAaoBC2d3cy13aXotaW1nwAEB&sclient=img&ei=tnFfX7E1kJhpi5GTgAg&bih=969&biw=1920&hl=EN#imgsrc=zDO0auWQJJ64VM)