

The Upstretched Hand

Matthew Huffman, the son of missionaries to Salvador, Brazil, awoke one morning complaining of a fever. As his temperature soared, he began to lose his eyesight.

His mother and father put him in the car and raced to the nearest hospital. As they drove, the boy lay in his mother's lap, listless. Then suddenly, he put one hand into the air. His mother took it gently and pulled it down to his body. He extended it again. Once more, she pulled it down.



A third time, he reached into the air. Confused at this unusual behavior, she asked her son, "What are you reaching for?"

He answered: "I'm reaching for Jesus' hand."

With those words, Matthew closed his eyes and slid into a coma from which he never awakened. He died two days later, a victim of bacterial meningitis.

Matthew did not have a long life, but he learned the most important lesson a person can discover before he or she dies. He learned for whom to reach in the hour of death.

Matthew's upstretched hand was more eloquent than any prayer he might have made. It said in action what words could never fully convey.

But the nearness of death is not the only time to be reaching for Jesus. We should be seeking His hand of strength, protection, love and wisdom every day of our lives.

The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God (Psalm 14:2).

– Beecher Hunter